

**THE GIVING NEST
PRESCHOOL in PLUCKEMIN
PARENT POLICY & PROCEDURE HANDBOOK
2026 – 27 School Year**



**The Giving Nest
Preschool
In North Plainfield**
300 Clinton Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07063
Phone: (908) 754-2060
Fax: (908) 668-9766
Director: Amy Maioriello

**The Giving Nest Preschool
In Watchung**
225 Mountain Blvd.
Watchung, NJ 07069
Phone: (908) 222-1003
Fax: (908) 222-1150
Director: Kathleen Smith & Tara
Grunther

**The Giving Nest Preschool
In Pluckemin**
P. O. Box 94
279 Route 202/206
Pluckemin, NJ 07978-0094
Phone: (908) 658-9665
Fax: (732) 318-6254
Director: Barbara Maxwell

**The Giving Nest Preschool
In Warren**
109 Washington Valley Road
Warren, NJ 07059
Phone: (732) 893-8222
Fax: (732) 893-8221
Director: Angela Waryn

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POLICY #1 Parent/School Tuition Agreement for the 2026/2027 School Year

In order to secure your child's enrollment, you must:

- 1. Complete, sign and submit The Giving Nest Application and Parent/School Tuition Agreement.** Pay the first of ten tuition payments and a \$75.00 registration fee per family. Our refund policy is as follows: we will refund your payment minus the registration fee, up until June 1, 2026. If you request to cancel enrollment after June 1st you will receive a refund once your child's spot has been filled. If you withdraw your child from our program, we will need a dated and written notice.
- 2. Pay the second payment on or before June 3rd. You will receive the 2026/27 Admission Packet filled with information and instructions in May. If we have not received this second tuition payment by June 1, 2026, your child will no longer be registered for September.** (If your child withdraws from school during the school year you must write a letter a month prior to the month you will be leaving. We will then apply this payment toward your child's last month's tuition at the Giving Nest Preschool).
- 3. New Families with Regards to the First and Second Tuition Payments and \$75.00 Registration Fee.** The first Tuition payment & a \$75.00 Registration Fee Per Family: This payment is due upon enrollment. The Second Tuition Payment: This is due 30 days after you register your child or before your child begins school, whichever comes first.

Tuition Payments:

1. Tuition envelopes will be sent home the last week of each month to be used for the upcoming month for tuition.
2. Tuition payments are due on the first of the month.
3. If payment has not been received by the last day of the month, the student will not be permitted in class until payment is received.
4. If there is a balance on your tuition account, your child will not be eligible for extended care, enrichment classes and/or any special programs.
5. There is no tuition refund if your child is absent from school due to illness, domestic problems, or family vacations (**even extended vacations that the child may be away for months**).
6. Returned checks are assessed at a \$35.00 fee.

Extended Care Payments:

1. Invoices for permanent extended care will be sent home at the beginning of the month included in your tuition invoice. Invoices for "as needed" extended care will be sent home after the month is over.
2. If no payment has been received by the end of the month the student will not be able to be in extended care the following month.

Acceptance Policy: The Giving Nest Preschool admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

POLICY #2 NONDISCRIMINATION OF STUDENTS

Admission to the Giving Nest Preschools shall be made without regard to race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, disability, age or gender.

POLICY #3 TUITION PAYMENTS

Typically, the Giving Nest Tuition is divided into ten (10) equal payments due on the first of each month. As explained in our application and in our Parent/School Agreement, your first payment is due upon registration; your second payment is due by June 3. If you sign up after June your second payment is due 30 days later. There are eight (8) more payments due by the first of each month from October through May. Please use the payment envelopes provided for you during the school year. Tuition payments may be placed in your 'Child's Personalized Information Folder' or they can be mailed to our P.O. Box Address: The Giving Nest Preschool, P.O. Box 94, Pluckemin, NJ 07978-0094. *There will be no tuition refund if your child is absent from school due to any illness, domestic problems or family vacations (even extended vacations that the child will be away for months).*

Policy #4 SANITATION & HYGIENE

1. **Handwashing**: Children will be brought to the bathrooms for potty or for handwashing within the first half hour of school.
2. **Sanitizing/Disinfecting**: All hard surfaces and frequently touched surfaces will be wiped down throughout the day, before and after use as well as at the end of each day. Any toys that go into a child's mouth will be put into the sink for a disinfecting process.
3. **Medify Air Purifier**: Every classroom has an Air Purifier machine.
4. **Shared Spaces**: All indoor shared spaces (the bathrooms, gym room, hallways, kitchen) and classrooms will be cleaned throughout the day and deep cleaned at the end of each day.
5. **Personal Belongings**: Children may not bring in any personal belongings aside from what is approved. No toys or personal items from home will be permitted. Rest time items will be sent home at the end of each week; bedding should be laundered and returned at the beginning of the week.

POLICY # 5 HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

1. **New Students**: Before a new student can enter the Giving Nest Preschool we must have completed on file, a completed Universal Medical Form and Immunization Records. As your parental responsibility it is imperative that you keep the Immunization Records up to date.
2. **Returning Students**: The state mandates that children attending school must have documentation of an annual physical and that any new immunizations must be documented and recorded. This form MUST be completed by your child's health care provider and returned to school.
3. **All Students: Seasonal Flu Vaccine** – The current seasonal flu vaccine is required every year by December 31st for children 6 to 59 months of age. We need documentation from your child's physician each school year when they receive the seasonal flu vaccine.
4. **Required Immunizations mandated by the State of New Jersey** (If you have any questions, we have a Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule in the office)

- ✓ A minimum of four doses of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT) vaccine is required. One dose must be given on or after the fourth birthday.
- ✓ A minimum of three doses of polio vaccine, (IPV) is required. One dose must be given on or after the fourth birthday.
- ✓ One dose of rubella (German measles) vaccine given on or after the first birthday. If MMR is given before the first birthday, the child is identified and revaccinated.
- ✓ One dose of mumps vaccine given on or after the first birthday.
- ✓ One dose of varicella for all students.
- ✓ HIB four (4) doses for all students. Two doses of measles-containing vaccine given on or after the first birthday, preferably as MMR, no sooner than one month and no later than the routine interval of two months following the first dose and a second dose by the fifth birthday.
- ✓ Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine for all students entering kindergarten and/or turning five years of age. Upon receipt of the first dose of Hepatitis B vaccine a child is granted admission to school until the completion of the Hepatitis B series (this should be completed within a few months and at the discretion of the doctor).
- ✓ Influenza Vaccination is required yearly.

Exclusion Due to Contagious Illnesses: Children who are obviously ill with fever, diarrhea, vomiting, green-runny nose, puss/oozing eyes, or conditions (i.e. Ringworm, head lice, chicken pox, measles, mumps, pink eye, fever over 100.4 degrees, etc.) will not be admitted to the program, it is a danger to other children and staff members at our facility. If you have any doubts about your child's health, please call the school before leaving your home to be sure they may attend. If your child appears to be sick or has any of the above symptoms while at school, we will notify the parent or guardian immediately, and it is necessary that the child be picked up within 15 to 30 minutes of notification. Parents will be notified if there is a diagnosed case of a contagious illness in their child's class.

POLICY #6 SICK CHILDREN **(Management of Communicable Diseases)**

1. We try our very best to keep the Giving Nest a healthy place to send your children, but we need your help!
2. Please keep your child at home if he/she is not feeling well.
3. Any child with a communicable disease* or exhibits one or more of the following symptoms should not attend school. If such symptoms occur at school, the child will be removed from the group and parents will be called to take the child home.
 - ✓ Severe pain or discomfort
 - ✓ Severe diarrhea
 - ✓ Axillary (forehead) temperature of 100.4 or over
 - ✓ One or more episodes of vomiting
 - ✓ Lethargy
 - ✓ Severe coughing
 - ✓ Yellow eyes or jaundiced skin
 - ✓ Red eyes with discharge
 - ✓ Infected, untreated skin patches
 - ✓ Difficult or rapid breathing
 - ✓ Skin rashes in conjunction with fever or behavior changes
 - ✓ Skin lesions that are weeping or bleeding
 - ✓ Mouth sores with drooling.

- ✓ Stiff neck
- 4. Once the child is symptom-free for 24 hours or has a health care provider's note stating that the child no longer poses a serious health risk to himself/herself or others, the child may return to school unless contraindicated by the local health department or the Department of Health. This policy conforms to the Manual of Standards, DCF.
- 5. *See the NJ Department of Health communicable disease quick reference guide on page 8.

POLICY #7 ON RE-ENTERING SCHOOL AFTER ILLNESS

1. Children with minor illness may return to school when they are symptom-free, fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours or have a health care provider note.
2. A child may return to school with strep throat only if he/she has been on an antibiotic for a full 24 hours.
3. A child with a diagnosed illness, serious illness, communicable disease or injury will require a physician's note to return to the Giving Nest at the Director's discretion.
4. A child may return to school after chicken pox when all blisters have developed scabs.
5. The Giving Nest maintains an Illness Log of all sickness reported to or manifested at the school.
6. Parents will be notified if there is a diagnosed case of chicken pox, conjunctivitis (pink eye), Coxsackie virus, Fifth Disease, Strep Throat, Covid/Flu or Lice in your child's class. A notice will be sent home to the children who are in the same class as the sick child.

POLICY #8 (PEDICULOSIS) HEAD LICE

Head lice can affect anyone, does not discriminate and can be very "pesky". It can be a common occurrence in schools, especially during the fall and winter months. We make every effort to keep our school lice free.

We will...

1. Notify you immediately if we have a reported case of head lice.
2. Notify you if we have heard that a surrounding public school has a case of head lice.
3. Once you get this notification, we encourage you to be proactive by:
 - ✓ Checking your child's head daily by using a **Nit Comb**.
 - ✓ Not sharing brushes, combs, hats, etc.
 - ✓ Keeping long hair in a ponytail, braid or a bun.
 - ✓ Applying gel or hairspray in your child's hair (it inhibits the lice from attaching to the hair)

Please help by...

1. Should you detect any lice/nits, notify the school immediately. Please be assured that your call will be kept completely confidential.
2. Treat your entire home as well as the people in it.
3. Bag any items that are not washable, wash anything washable in hot water, vacuum all carpets and furniture.
4. Most Important – DO DAILY head checks using a **Nit Comb**.

Returning to school...

1. Your child may return to school 24 hours after receiving treatment and all nits have been removed.
2. A parent is asked to be present for the re-inspection for head lice by the office staff prior to admission to the classroom.

POLICY #9 ALLERGIES

The goal of the Giving Nest Preschools is to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students. Each year we have a number of children with a variety of allergies (eggs, peanuts, milk, mangos, watermelon, apples, strawberries, raw vegetables, sesame seeds, chalk, latex, etc.) at each of our locations. The Giving Nest is not a "Peanut Free, Milk Free, etc." school.

The Giving Nest Policy & Pledge with Regards to Children with Allergies...

1. Upon your request, the director, teacher and assistant will contact you to discuss your child's allergies.
2. We will keep your child's required medication and the physician's paperwork that has his/her signature and detailed instructions in a cabinet that is inaccessible to the children.
3. Paperwork that needs to be completed by the physician will be given to the parent if they list an allergy on the application.
4. That our staff members are trained in the use of an Epi-pen, In-haler and Nebulizer.
5. At least 2 staff members will be in the building at all times that are CPR and First Aid Trained.
6. That an "Allergy List" will be posted inside the teacher's closet and in her lesson plan book. Specifics about the allergy will be noted on the list.
7. The office has a detailed list of "All" the children that have allergies at our school with specific information and that the extended care staff has the same information in their extended care notebook.
8. All tabletops are cleaned first with a Soap & Water solution and second with a Disinfectant solution before and after lunch and snack time.
9. The children will clean their hands with soap and water before handling food.
10. When there are special occasion snacks: Birthdays, holiday parties, star of the week snacks etc., you are welcome to provide your child with his/her own snack if you prefer.

What we expect from Parents of Children with Allergies and/or the Child's Pediatrician:

1. That you note allergies to the Giving Nest application.
2. That you provide the SCHOOL OFFICE with any necessary medication and the required physician paperwork. We cannot have any medication on the premises without the paperwork AND medication.
3. All medication must be:
 - a. Labeled with the child's name, the prescribed directions and should not be expired.
 - b. Stored in the original container.
 - c. If two Epinephrine pens are noted on the container, both are required to be sent in.
4. If you note any allergy/medical condition on the application but your child does not require medication, we need paperwork completed by the pediatrician stating as such.

POLICY #10 DISPENSING MEDICATION

The Giving Nest Preschool in Pluckemin will administer prescription and non-prescription medication ONLY if the following steps listed below are followed:

1. A statement from the private physician indicating the condition, the diagnosis of the condition for which the medication is being prescribed, and the length of time that the medication should be taken in school, as well as the possible side effects of the medication.

2. The parent's written permission for the Director and office staff to administer the medication with specific instructions on how to administer the medication. (Parents should note the time that the prior dose was given and whether the child is to receive more than one dose per day at school.)
3. The parent must supply the medication in its original container, which must be appropriately labeled by a pharmacy or physician.
4. This medicine will be stored at school. It should never be in the child's backpack or lunch box.
5. Non-prescription medication shall be administered only after receipt of written approval from the child's parents.
6. The school director must approve all medication to be administered in school.
7. The only individuals permitted to administer medication in school are the director, the assistant director, or an office staff member. If these individuals are not available a teacher may administer the medication.
8. A medication log will be filled out each time medication is administered.

The school Director must approve all medication to be administered in school. The only individuals permitted to administer medication in school are the director, office staff or the parent. In the event none of the above individuals are present, the teacher may administer the medication. A medication log will be filled out each time medication is administered.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS & ADMINISTRATORS N.J.A.C. 8:57-2.2-2.4; 2.6

Report IMMEDIATELY suspected and confirmed cases (by telephone)

- Anthrax
- Biological intoxication (e.g., ricin, abrin, cerberin, harmful algal bloom)
- Botulism
- Coronavirus (novel, causing severe acute respiratory syndrome e.g., SARS, MERS)
- Diphtheria
- Foodborne intoxication (e.g., ciguatera, paralytic, shellfish poisoning, scombroid, mushroom poisoning, tetrodotoxin, staphylococcal enterotoxin B)
- Free-living amebic infection
- Haemophilus influenzae (invasive)
- Hantavirus
- Hepatitis A
- Influenza A (novel)
- Measles
- Melioidosis
- Meningococcal disease (invasive)
- Mpox
- Plague
- Poliomyelitis
- Rabies (human)
- Rubella
- Smallpox
- Viral hemorrhagic fever (e.g., Ebola, Lassa, Marburg)

Also immediately report (suspected or confirmed):

- Outbreak of **ANY** communicable disease
- Act of bioterrorism
- Potential public health emergency

Additional Information

Next business day reports must be made to the Local Health Department (LHD) by electronic case report (eCR) or reporting into CDRSS if established and authorized by NJDOH; other reports must be made by fax or secure email.

Chlamydia trachomatis, influenza (other than pediatric mortality), and Lyme disease are reportable via eCR only.

*Nationally Notifiable Conditions are also reportable. Check the NJDOH reporting page annually for updates.

**Sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis are reportable to NJDOH via CDRSS.

***Report HIV to NJDOH via ELR as per nj.gov/health/hiv/for-professionals/for-providers.

Report NEXT BUSINESS DAY confirmed cases and positive point of care test results

- Alpha-gal syndrome
- Anaplasmosis
- Animal bites (human), rabies exposures, and post-exposure prophylaxis administration
- Arboviral disease (e.g., Bourbon, Cache Valley fever, Heartland, Japanese encephalitis, La Crosse encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, yellow fever)
- Babesiosis
- Bacterial tickborne disease (e.g., *Borrelia miyamotoi*)
- Brucellosis
- Campylobacteriosis
- *Candida auris* infection or colonization
- Carbapenemase-producing organism infection or colonization
- Chancroid**
- Chikungunya
- Cholera
- Coccidioidomycosis*
- COVID-19
- *Cronobacter* infection (invasive, <12 months)
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Cyclosporiasis
- Dengue
- Eastern equine encephalitis
- Ehrlichiosis
- *Escherichia coli* (shiga toxin-producing strains-STEC)
- Extrapulmonary nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) infection
- Giardiasis
- Gonorrhea**
- Granuloma inguinale**
- Hansens's disease
- Hemolytic uremic syndrome, post-diarrheal*
- Hepatitis B/Hepatitis C (newly diagnosed in NJ, perinatal through 36 months, pregnant women)
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)***
- Influenza-associated pediatric mortality
- Jamestown Canyon virus
- Legionellosis
- Leptospirosis
- Listeriosis
- Malaria
- Mumps
- Pertussis
- Powassan
- Psittacosis
- Q fever
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)-associated pediatric mortality
- Rubella (congenital syndrome)
- Salmonellosis
- Shigellosis
- Spotted fever group rickettsiosis
- Group A Streptococcal disease (GAS, invasive)
- Group B Streptococcal disease (invasive, <3 months)
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (invasive)
- Syphilis (all stages, including congenital)**
- Tetanus
- Toxic shock syndrome
- Trichinellosis
- Tuberculosis**
- Tularemia
- Typhoid fever
- Vancomycin-intermediate* and vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VISA*/VRSA)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Vibriosis
- Viral encephalitis
- West Nile virus
- Yersiniosis
- Zika virus

How to report to public health

- Report to LHD where the case resides. If residence is unknown, report to the LHD where your facility is located. LHDs must be able to receive immediate disease reports 24/7/365.
- Check NJDOH disease reporting website (QR code or nj.gov/health/cd/reporting/) for information needed to report and how to find local health departments.
- In case of immediately reportable situations and other public health emergencies, only if the LHD is unreachable, contact NJDOH at 609-826-5964 or on the emergency after-hours number 609-392-2020.

Reporting Website



POLICY #11 RELEASING CHILDREN

- All parents and/or guardians must complete a **Permanent Pick-up Permission Form** before the first week of school. This form requests a list of the names and phone numbers of individuals (relatives, friends, parents of classmates) who have your permission to pick up your child from school. This form is included in your admission packet.
- Students will be released **only** to a parent or person listed on the pick-up form. The teacher keeps this form in the classroom, and a copy is kept on file in the office. Please inform anyone picking up your child that they will be asked for identification if we do not know them.
- If someone other than the parent or persons listed on the permanent pick up form is to pick up a child, the parent must complete a *Temporary Pick Up Form* (these forms are available in the office at any time or can be found on our website) -or- send an email request to us at gnoofficepluckemin@gmail.com or pgivingnest@gmail.com.
- If a non-custodial parent has been denied access or granted limited access to the child via court order, the Giving Nest must have documentation to this effect on file. Otherwise, the child will be released to either parent.
- If a child is not picked up at the end of his class, he/she will be sent to the aftercare room. Every attempt will be made to contact the parent. The parents will be charged \$20.00 for every 15 minutes they are late picking up.
- If a child is not picked up by the closing of the school day, our procedure is as follows:
 - a) Staff members will make every effort to contact the parents of the child or any of the individuals listed on the emergency card on file.
 - b) If the staff member in charge is unable to contact anyone by 5:00 p.m., it will become necessary for her to call the *24-hour State Central Registry Hotline (1-877-NJ-ABUSE)* to seek assistance in caring for the child until a parent or authorized individual is able to pick up the child.
- If the individual picking up a child appears to be intoxicated or physically or emotionally impaired, the child will not be released. All staff members have the right to make this decision based on observation. Should this decision be made, the school will make every effort to contact another authorized person to pick up the child.

POLICY #12 DISCIPLINE

At the Giving Nest positive discipline means training and helping children to achieve self-control; it doesn't mean punishment. Punishment tells children what they should not do; positive discipline tells children what they should do. Punishment teaches fear; positive discipline teaches self-esteem. Positive Discipline is a process of teaching children how to behave appropriately. It respects the rights of the individual child, the group, and the adult.

Our staff is trained extensively in our discipline policy/philosophy. Our policy/philosophy is based on the following beliefs:

1. A well-prepared, organized classroom encourages positive behavior.
2. If a child is actively engaged in an age appropriate and stimulating small group activity behavior problems will be minimal.
3. Discipline means training and helping children to achieve self-control.
4. Discipline NEVER means PUNISHMENT.
5. There should be consistent, clear rules that are explained to children and understood by adults. Children are taught the rules through role-playing.

6. Children learn by modeling appropriate adult behaviors.
7. Children learn by taking ownership of their behavior and they should be given logical consequences and choices when appropriate.
8. Good choices/behavior should be recognized not his/her person. (For example: Never say "Good boy/girl" rather say "You are sharing the blocks – great job!").
9. Bad choices/behavior should be corrected not his/her person (For example: Never say "Bad boy/girl" rather say "At the Giving Nest we do not throw blocks").
10. Anticipate problems and potential problems and act upon them quickly.
11. Adults should assume leadership and follow through consistently and fairly.
12. Provide the structure and support children need to resolve their differences.
13. Share ownership and responsibility with the children. Talk about our room, our toys.
14. Re-direct to a new activity to change the focus of a child's behavior.
15. Provide individualized attention to help the child deal with a particular situation.
16. Have the child sit with you for a few minutes so he/she may gain self-control. (We use one minute for each year of the child's age for how long they sit).
17. Divert the child and remove them from the area of conflict.
18. Provide alternative activities and acceptable ways to release feelings.
19. The following things are **PROHIBITED** while disciplining a child: Hitting, shaking, any corporal punishment, abusive language, ridicule, harsh, humiliating or frightening treatment, or any form of emotional punishment; any form of child abuse and/or neglect; withholding food or emotional responses or stimulation or rest/sleep; and making children stay silent or inactive for an inappropriately long period of time for the child's age.
20. A child will **NEVER** be disciplined for not eating, sleeping or for soiling himself. Nor will any child be disciplined by withholding: playground privileges or loss of snack or lunch.

POLICY # 13 EXPULSION

Unfortunately, there are reasons we have to expel a child from our program either on a short term or permanent basis. We want you to know we will do everything possible to work with the family of the child(ren) in order to prevent this policy from being enforced. The following are reasons we may have to expel or suspend a child from this center:

IMMEDIATE CAUSES FOR EXPULSION

- The child is at risk of causing serious injury to other children or himself/herself.
- Parents threaten physical or intimidating actions toward staff members or other parents.
- Parents exhibit verbal abuse to staff, other parents or other students in front of enrolled children.

PARENTAL ACTIONS FOR CHILD'S EXPULSION

- Failure to pay/habitual lateness in payments.
- Failure to complete required forms including the child's immunization records.
- Habitual tardiness when picking up your child.
- Verbal abuse of staff, other parents or children while on school premises.

CHILD'S ACTIONS FOR EXPULSION

- Failure of child to adjust after a reasonable amount of time.
- Uncontrollable tantrums/ angry outbursts.
- Ongoing physical or verbal abuse of staff or other children.
- Excessive biting.

SCHEDULE OF EXPULSION

- If after the remedial actions above have not worked, the child's parent/guardian will be advised verbally and in writing about the child's or parent's behavior warranting an expulsion. An expulsion action is meant to be a period of time so that the parent/ guardian may work on the child's behavior or come to an agreement with the center.
- The parent/guardian will be informed regarding the length of the expulsion period.
- The parent/guardian will be informed about the expected behavioral changes required in order for the child or parent to return to the center.
- The parent/guardian will be given a specific expulsion date that allows the parent sufficient time to seek alternate childcare (approximately one to two weeks notice depending on risk to other children's welfare or safety).
- Failure of the child/parent to satisfy the terms of the plan may result in permanent expulsion.

CHILD WILL NOT BE EXPELLED

If a child's parent(s):

- Made a complaint to the Office of Licensing regarding a center's alleged violations of the licensing requirements.
- Reported abuse or neglect occurring at the center.
- Questioned the center regarding policies and procedures.
- Without giving the parent sufficient time to make other childcare arrangements.

PROACTIVE ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO PREVENT EXPULSION

- Staff will try to redirect the child from negative behavior.
- Staff will reassess the classroom environment, appropriateness of activities, supervision.
- Staff will always use positive methods and language while disciplining children.
- Staff will praise appropriate behaviors.
- Staff will consistently apply consequences for rules.
- Child will be given verbal warnings.
- Child will be given time to regain control.
- Child's disruptive behavior will be documented and maintained in confidentiality.
- Parent/guardian will be notified verbally.
- Parent/guardian will be given written copies of the disruptive behaviors that might lead to expulsion.
- The director, classroom staff and parent/guardian will have a conference(s) to discuss how to promote positive behaviors.
- The parents will be given literature or other resources regarding methods of improving behavior.
- Recommendation of evaluation by professional consultation on premises.
- Recommendation of evaluation by local school district child study team.

POLICY #14 FOOD and HYDRATION

- **SNACK TIME:** All **Chick-a-dee and full day** children should bring in their own '**SMALL SNACK**'. The snack should be in a **disposable baggie or a disposable container** (yogurt) that is **labeled** with your child's first and last name.
- **HYDRATION:** To ensure that all children stay hydrated, we require that all children bring a reusable water bottle (no baby bottles) filled with **COLD/ROOM TEMPERATURE WATER** every time they come to school. The lid and the bottom of the water bottle must be labeled with the child's first and last name. Children will have access to their water bottles any time throughout the day. If your child is on a special diet, please inform the school.

- **LUNCH TIME: Except for half day Bluebirds and Cardinals**, all children will have lunch while at school. All **containers** and **lunch boxes** should be **labeled** with your child's first and last name. Pack a healthy lunch such as a small sandwich and cut up fruit, crackers and small pieces of cheese. Include a drink-something that can be thrown away when lunch is over (Juice Box). Please do not send in soda or candy. Lunches, snacks and drinks cannot be refrigerated or heated.
Any food that has been opened but not eaten cannot be returned home.

POLICY #15: QUIET REST TIME

The Giving Nest will provide quiet rest time for children who attend school for four or more consecutive hours. (Rest Time is not required for our Bluebirds or Cardinals). Each child will be provided with a cot for use during rest time. (Each cot will be disinfected daily.) Children must bring in a large beach towel stored in a sealed bag that is large enough to hold a folded beach towel. The towels and bag must be labeled with the child's first and last name. During the Chick-a-dee and Duckling rest time the lights are dimmed, and the children watch an educational and developmentally age appropriate, video for no more than 30 minutes. Napping items will be sent home at the end of every week. Please wash and dry accordingly and return during the beginning of the next week.

POLICY #16: BATHROOM, DIAPERING & POTTY TRAINING

Before the children go outside or have snack or lunch, they take a trip to the bathroom with the teacher and the teacher assistant. If your child needs help with snaps, zippers or buttons they are there to assist. If a child requests to use the bathroom at any time, he/she will be taken immediately. The teacher will also ask if anyone else would like to visit the potty at this time. This is a good reminder for those children who get involved in play and forget to ask or those that may be too shy to ask. The Children who are in the Chick-a-dee and Duckling classes do not have to be potty trained. The teacher or the teacher assistant, when needed, will change children that wear diapers. Children in the **Bluebird and Cardinal must be potty trained.** Bluebird and Cardinal children are encouraged to be as independent as possible while in the bathroom. If your child is still in diapers, please put **two diapers** or **pull-ups (with Velcro only)** and **wipes in a labeled baggie** in his/her backpack. **The Giving Nest does not do formal potty training.**

POLICY #17: DELAYED OPENINGS & SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In case of severe weather and there is a school closing or delayed opening, as soon as a decision has been made you will be notified as follows:

- You will receive an email blast with either:
 - Notification that school will be closed for the day.
 - Notification of a delayed opening arrival time for all students
 - There is NO EARLY CARE on a delayed opening day but there will be aftercare.
- Channel 12, News 12 NJ

If, during the course of the morning, a delayed opening changes to a closing you will receive a second email blast informing you of the change and channel 12, News 12 NJ will be updated. We will alert you the night before a storm if it is possible.

POLICY #18: CLASS TRIPS

The Giving Nest does not go on Class Trips that require transportation. We bring “Class Trips” to the Giving Nest. For example, during Community Sing we will have the fire fighters come with their truck and we will have other visitors depending on our yearly schedule. We also will have a farmer that will bring chick eggs that we will take care of and watch hatch from their eggs or we will have real chickens, and we will feed them and watch them hatch eggs.

POLICY #19: BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are very important at the Giving Nest. We will make this a very special day for your child. During Sing time, the birthday child will hold the flag for the flag salute and during the singing of one of our patriotic songs. Afterward, we all join in to sing, “Happy Birthday.” The teacher will take a photograph of this event. **If you want to join us on this special day, please come to the Community Sing Time.** Also, on this special day you may send in ice cream Dixie cups, cut up fresh fruit, cup up fresh vegetables & dip, cheese & crackers, munchkins or cookies as a birthday treat for the class.

The following are not allowed: **Cupcakes or Cakes, Goodie Bags, Games and/or Projects).** **Teachers are not permitted to deliver party invitations.**

POLICY #20: PARENT/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We try our best to communicate with all our families at the Giving Nest. We keep the lines of communication open through:

Monthly Newsletters: At the end of each prior month, we post on our website a newsletter highlighting school-wide activities planned for the month.

Class Calendars: At the end of each prior month your child’s teacher will post on our website a classroom calendar highlighting the activities planned for the month for each class. Special events such as holiday parties, show ‘n tell, “red” day, etc. will be noted on the calendar. It is a good idea to hang your calendar on your refrigerator to remind you of special dates!

Tweets or Monthly Age Group Highlights: An explanation of the small group activities planned for each age group will be posted on our website each month. Please take a few minutes to read because it details the learning games and stimulating activities your children will be enjoying. It is a great way to encourage your child to talk about his/her school day and to reinforce skills at home!

Additional Notification Resources: We often use the following notification Avenues for various reminders, notifications, volunteer opportunities, etc.:

Email blasts – emails sent as reminders, always ensure your email is up to date with our office and save our email address to your contacts so our messages do not go to promotions or spam.

Facebook – check often for a peek in to see what’s happening at the Giving Nest.

Events calendar – found on our website. The calendar can be viewed for the entire year to help plan work or vacation schedules.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Informal conferences may be initiated by a parent / guardian or staff member when appropriate. A formal conference with the teacher and parent / guardian is scheduled in January for all classes. In January and

May, the teachers will send home a progress report. Conferences are not scheduled in May unless the teacher and/or parent feel it is necessary.

POLICY #21: SCHOOL VISITATION-

The parents of children enrolled in our school can visit the school at any time during the school's normal hours of operation. Parents may observe without scheduling an appointment. Please be advised that our doors are locked during the school day, and parents should report to the office after ringing the doorbell in the front of our building.

POLICY #22: WAYS TO VOLUNTEER-

Community Sing Room: Every year the Giving Nest children enjoy learning about our *school theme* throughout the year in our *Community Sing Room*. Our themes change from year to year. We encourage parents, friends, and relatives who may have special knowledge or experiences relating to our theme to come in and share with the children. We also love parents with special talents to come in and perform for the children. It is always a treat for a child to have his/her parent come in and talk to the group. If you would be interested, please make arrangements with the director.

Classroom: Each age group explores various themes in the classroom throughout the year. You may refer to the monthly calendars on our website, www.givingnestpreschools.com for information regarding individual class themes. Again, we encourage you to come in and share with the children if a theme interests you. Parents are welcome to come in and do cooking projects, arts and craft projects, read a story, or teach a short lesson. Please make arrangements with your child's teacher in advance.

Workshops: There are several workshops throughout the year that involve your child's class, beginning with the Teddy Bear Clinic in January. We will send out a sign-up genius to you so that you may volunteer.

POLICY #23: SOCIAL NETWORKING AND WEBSITE USE

The children at the Giving Nest participate in lots of interesting and fun activities throughout the year. We want to give you many opportunities to watch your children enjoying themselves and learning new things. With this in mind, following is our Social Networking and Website policy. (Please note, no full names or personal information will be included at any time). You will receive the Permission form in the Admission Packet and we will have your signed copy on file.

1. Children may be photographed by local newspapers with his/her class when we have a special event taking place in the school.
2. Photographs of the children may be put in our monthly newsletter and hallway displays.
3. Children may be photographed and/or videoed for Giving Nest promotional and/or advertising purposes.
4. Children may be photographed and/or videoed with his/her class that would be displayed on our Giving Nest Web Page.
5. Children may be photographed and/or videotaped with his/her class for our Facebook Page.
6. Children may be photographed and/or videotaped with his/her class for our Instagram Page.
7. Children may be photographed and/or videotaped with his/her class to be emailed to his/her classmates and present Giving Nest families.

Parents are prohibited from posting and/or sharing any photographs and/or videos of any child other than their own while children are participating in Giving Nest activities. The Giving Nest is only responsible for pictures and/or videos posted by the Giving Nest on Giving Nest social networking owned websites/pages.

POLICY #24: USE OF TELEVISION AND COMPUTERS

The use of a television, computers, and other audio-visual equipment shall:

1. Be limited to educational, interactive and instructional use only
2. Be age and developmentally appropriate
3. Not be used as a substitute for planned activities or for passive viewing
4. Be viewed for no longer than 30 minutes, this includes rest time use.

POLICY #25: CONCERNS & PROBLEMS

The directors and teachers have pledged to resolve problems as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, problems, or concerns, please feel free to call the school or leave a note for the teacher or director via the office. If you wish to speak to the owner, you may ask for her in the office, leave a message or email them:

Debbie Hannon – 908-222-1003 – givingnest@yahoo.com

Department of Children and Families Office of Licensing **INFORMATION TO PARENTS**

Under provisions of the *Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (N.J.A.C. 3A:52)*, every licensed child care center in New Jersey must provide to parents of enrolled children written information on parent visitation rights, State licensing requirements, child abuse/neglect reporting requirements and other child care matters. The center must comply with this requirement by reproducing and distributing to parents and staff this written statement, prepared by the Office of Licensing, Child Care & Youth Residential Licensing, in the Department of Children and Families. In keeping with this requirement, the center must secure every parent and staff member's signature attesting to his/her receipt of the information.

Our center is required by the State Child Care Center Licensing law to be licensed by the Office of Licensing (OOL), Child Care & Youth Residential Licensing, in the Department of Children and Families (DCF). A copy of our current license must be posted in a prominent location at our center. Look for it when you're in the center.

To be licensed, our center must comply with the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (the official licensing regulations). The regulations cover such areas as: physical environment/life-safety; staff qualifications, supervision, and staff/child ratios; program activities and equipment; health, food and nutrition; rest and sleep requirements; parent/community participation; administrative and record keeping requirements; and others.

Our center must have on the premises a copy of the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers and make it available to interested parents for review. If you would like to review our copy, just ask any staff member. Parents may view a copy of the Manual of Requirements on the DCF website at <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/CCCmanual.pdf> or obtain a copy by sending a check or money order for \$5 made payable to the "Treasurer, State of New Jersey", and mailing it to: NJDCF, Office of Licensing, Publication Fees, PO Box 657, Trenton, NJ 08646-0657.

We encourage parents to discuss with us any questions or concerns about the policies and program of the center or the meaning, application or alleged violations of the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers. We will be happy to arrange a convenient opportunity for you to review and discuss these matters with us. If you suspect our center may be in violation of licensing requirements, you are entitled to report them to the Office of Licensing toll free at 1 (877) 667-9845. Of course, we would appreciate your bringing these concerns to our attention, too.

Our center must have a policy concerning the release of children to parents or people authorized by parents to be responsible for the child. Please discuss with us your plans for your child's departure from the center.

Our center must have a policy about administering medicine and health care procedures and the management of communicable diseases. Please talk to us about these policies so we can work together to keep our children healthy.

Our center must have a policy concerning the expulsion of children from enrollment at the center. Please review this policy so we can work together to keep your child in our center.

Parents are entitled to review the center's copy of the OOL's Inspection/Violation Reports on the center,

which are available soon after every State licensing inspection of our center. If there is a licensing complaint OOL/Information investigation, you are also entitled to review the OOL's Complaint Investigation Summary Report, as well as any letters of enforcement or other actions taken against the center during the current licensing period. Let us know if you wish to review them and we will make them available for your review or you can view them online at

<https://childcareexplorer.njccis.com/portal/>.

Our center must cooperate with all DCF inspections/investigations. DCF staff may interview both staff members and children.

Our center must post its written statement of philosophy on child discipline in a prominent location and make a copy of it available to parents upon request. We encourage you to review it and to discuss with us any questions you may have about it.

Our center must post a listing or diagram of those rooms and areas approved by the OOL for the children's use. Please talk to us if you have any questions about the center's space.

Our center must offer parents of enrolled children ample opportunity to assist the center in complying with licensing requirements; and to participate in and observe the activities of the center. Parents wishing to participate in the activities or operations of the center should discuss their interest with the center director, who can advise them of what opportunities are available.

Parents of enrolled children may visit our center at any time without having to secure prior approval from the director or any staff member. Please feel free to do so when you can. We welcome visits from our parents.

Our center must inform parents in advance of every field trip, outing, or special event away from the center, and must obtain prior written consent from parents before taking a child on each such trip.

Our center is required to provide reasonable accommodations for children and/or parents with disabilities and to comply with the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD), P.L. 1945, c. 169 (N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), P.L. 101-336 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Anyone who believes the center is not in compliance with these laws may contact the Division on Civil Rights in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety for information about filing an LAD claim at (609) 292-4605 (TTY users may dial 711 to reach the New Jersey Relay Operator and ask for (609) 292-7701), or may contact the United States Department of Justice for information about filing an ADA claim at (800) 514-0301 (voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TTY).

Our center is required, at least annually, to review the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), unsafe children's products list, ensure that items on the list are not at the center, and make the list accessible to staff and parents and/or provide parents with the CPSC website at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>. Internet access may be available at your local library. For more information call the CPSC at (800) 638-2772.

Anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that an enrolled child has been or is being subjected to any form of hitting, corporal punishment, abusive language, ridicule, harsh, humiliating or frightening treatment, or any other kind of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation by any adult, whether working at the center or not, is required by State law to report the concern immediately to the *State Central Registry Hotline, toll free at (877) NJ ABUSE/(877) 652-2873*. Such reports may be made anonymously. Parents may secure information about child abuse and neglect by contacting: DCF, Office of Communications and Legislation at (609) 292- 0422 or go to www.state.nj.us/dcf/.

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