



Preschool Parent Handbook

City Kids LA / Mansfield

A Resource and Guide for Parents

Version 4.1



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to City Kids LA! We are excited and grateful to have captured your imagination for what is possible for your child. Thank you for taking the time to read and review this policy guidebook. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

WELCOME TO CITY KIDS LA!

CITY KIDS VISION

Our Vision is simple—teaching children, connecting them with the external environment, and encompassing their personal growth in areas they're already passionate about, while fostering and delivering the most trusted early childhood education.

CITY KIDS MISSION

“To create a learning environment that prepares students to become future innovators, globally responsible citizens, and mindful individuals.”

Our aim is to care for the world we live in, from the children we teach to the ways in which we give back to the community. At City Kids LA, we empower children while setting examples for environmental sustainability; we embrace teaching children about the natural world, and we ensure that each child's life is provided with stimulating educational development.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

- Focus on the children and everything else will follow
- Play is messy ... so get dirty
- Ask questions, seek answers, discover and repeat
- Take risks
- Take the time to breathe... lots of time... in the grass, rain or shine
- Eating vegetables can change the world
- Go Barefoot
- Create
- Be kind, be thoughtful, be generous, be open
- Take care of our planet
- Read stories, tell stories, listen to stories

GOAL

We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing and creative environment that emphasizes environmental responsibility, social-emotional learning, and project-based global education experiences. We value diversity and actively celebrate individuality. We promise that every child will know they are valued at our school and in the world. We are devoted to implementing age-appropriate programs that are culturally relevant and tackle real-world problems with a commitment to helping our community.

METHOD

Every child learns differently. Linguistic and logical-mathematical instruction are the most common methods used in schools yet it is only two of 8 intelligences that our children may possess. City Kids believes every child is unique and intelligent. It is our job to discover how each child learns and create an environment that supports every child's learning style. At City Kids we are devoted to your child and their success.



We conduct a range of behavioral, emotional, academic, and social assessments throughout the year to ensure we are meeting the needs of your child and supporting their individual learning style. We include the child to partner with parents in creating an individualized learning plan that guides our work and helps your child reach their full potential.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Our program promotes the social, emotional and physical development of every child by utilizing culturally and developmentally appropriate proven methods and practices.
- We provide a fun hands-on learning eco-healthy environment because all children are unique with different skills and interests.
- Our preschool is staffed with experienced teachers in Early Childhood Education or Child Development.
- We provide a personalized daily feedback to help you understand what activities your child participated in during each school day.
- We encourage children to progress at their own pace according to their individual needs and abilities.
- Teachers are open-minded and become part of your child's daily experience. We facilitate exploration, reflect on "how the world works", and aim our focus on many of the things that attract a child's attention.

PROGRAMS & PARENT POLICIES

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

To provide a warm, nurturing environment that encourages the development of the “whole child.” City Kids seeks to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure setting, while simultaneously valuing a philosophy akin to “*As safe as necessary, not as safe as possible.*” This is to say that we adhere to reasonable standards of safety in both our physical and emotional environments yet believe there is tremendous learning value in age-appropriate and calculated risk-taking for our youngsters to explore their bodies and their abilities. Children explore and experiment with a variety of materials and experiences, in and out of nature, in a supportive atmosphere that promotes physical, emotional, intellectual, creative, and social growth. Our staff is responsible for planning and implementing a developmentally appropriate curriculum for each age level.

- To offer an environment that encourages children to explore and develop their capabilities and interests at their own individual paces and according to their individual needs.
- To provide an environment that provides the child with the opportunity to learn by doing.
- To encourage social development by providing opportunities for sharing, taking turns, making friends, resolving conflicts, solving problems, helping others, recognizing and accepting others, recognizing differences and uniqueness in others, and building self-esteem.
- To encourage emotional development through verbal expressions of thoughts and feelings, experiencing rules and limits, experiencing kindness, justice and empathy, and recognizing and accepting emotions in others. To develop a respect for other individuals.
- To develop responsibility for one’s own actions in self-help, health, safety, and interpersonal areas, and to exercise appropriate independence.

POLICIES FOR THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Children are selected for enrollment using an internal Waiting List which is composed, in part, from parent submissions via the CKLA website. Families are chosen based upon their availability at the time when slots become available, as well as other criteria based upon the needs of the school.

PRE-ENROLLMENT INFO FOR PARENTS

We are so excited that you have chosen City Kids LA as your child’s new school! We understand the weight behind this decision you’ve made, and we don’t take that responsibility lightly. We are driven by a passion to provide the greatest education possible using the most progressive, documented, and proven teaching methods

available to us and we work tirelessly to continue to expand our programs and curriculum to be of the greatest service to your child.

As with anything new, there's a lot to take in. Here are a few of the basics to help answer some of the most common initial questions:

AGES SERVED

- **Preschool**
 - We cater to children starting at the age of 8 weeks to age four
 - Infant: 8 weeks to 23 months old
 - Preschooler: 2 - 4 years old

WEBSITE

The City Kids LA web address is: www.LACityKids.com

You may visit this location for numerous purposes, including a calendar of daily events, holidays, registration forms, Advisory Board updates, and so much more.

HOURS AND DAYS OF OPERATION

We operate each weekday Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. We are open for business year-round with several "Break" periods throughout the year (*see "Holidays" below)

TUITION AND FEES

Preschool Tuition. Tuition is set as an annual amount of \$21,600 (infants are \$24,000). Families may pay this tuition rate broken into 12 monthly payments of \$1,800 (infants are \$2,000 monthly) or may choose to pay the year in advance. Tuition is due by the first of every month. Tuition is not pro-rated for holidays, vacation or sick days, or for any other reason. Parents may elect to pick-up their children at any time during the day, though we encourage parents to allow children to spend as much time as possible for the full benefit of programs offered.

Tour Fee. (\$25) Any family who wishes to view any City Kids facility may register for a scheduled tour from the City Kids website ("Tour" page). Tour fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable to other tours. Each Tour Fee applies to one adult plus one adult guest to tour the facility. Missed tours automatically forfeit the Tour Fee for the scheduled tour date.

Application Fee (Waiting List). (\$35) For families wanting to be considered for an available spot at City Kids, a non-refundable \$35 Application Fee gains the child a spot on our waiting list for consideration.

Security Deposit. (\$1,800 preschool / \$2,000 infant) For families who choose to pay tuition on a monthly basis, this one-time deposit is used to pay for the final month of your child's enrollment at City Kids LA.

Admission Fee. (\$0) No admission fee.

Extracurricular Activities. (\$10 per class) Usually billed as a package of 14 one-hour classes (\$140 total), extracurricular activities are offered occasionally throughout the year and are entirely voluntary.

Food and Snacks. (\$0) Food and snacks are included in the price of tuition. *We kindly ask that parents do not give their children meals or snacks to take with them to the facility (unless required by a physician).

Tuition Assistance, Multiple Children Discounts, & Part Time Tuition. We offer tuition assistance for families who provide documentation to indicate financial need. Financial Aid Applicants are required to fill out a “FAST” application form (found on our website). Enrollment or tuition assistance are not guaranteed by filling out a FAST application. There is an annual FAST application fee of \$43 per application.

There is no tuition discount for children who have siblings attending City Kids.

We do offer a limited number of spots for parents who only need Part Time Care. Part Time Care is broken into two schedules:

- *Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays.* (\$1,250 monthly / \$1,450 infants monthly) All day care, three days per week.
- *Tuesdays/Thursdays.* (\$900 monthly / \$1,100 infants monthly) All day care, two days per week.

HOLIDAYS

City Kids LA observes most Federal and State holidays. There are occasional “Teacher Development” days throughout the year when the school is also closed. There are three major extended holiday periods each year:

- **Spring Break.** Generally occurring around late March and early April. Typically a 14 day break period of no school.
- **Winter Break.** Generally occurring from mid December through early January. Typically a 21 day break period of no school.
- **Summer/Transition Break.** Generally occurring at the end of August. Typically a 14 day break for Teacher Development and staff break.

School Holiday calendars are distributed to parents each year. Tuition is not prorated for months in which there are holiday periods.

CONTACT INFO

The facility direct number is 323-879-9112. Please do not call to talk with the teachers during school hours unless it is an emergency. All other communication and correspondence can be made directly to the City Kids general email address (mycitykidsla@gmail.com) or to the company administrative staff, or through our Brightweel smartphone app.

BRIGHTWHEEL

City Kids uses an online private social media application called “Brightwheel” which can be accessed by parents through a smartphone app as well as through the general internet. Brightwheel is used extensively by City Kids for multiple purposes:

- **Tuition Payment.** Parents may choose to pay monthly tuition through Brightwheel’s easy-to-use payment system. Payments may be sent electronically by connecting a bank account and transferring money to City Kids (no additional fees), or by paying from a credit or debit card (3.25% fee is applied).
- **Status Updates.** Teachers may communicate directly with parents regarding the status of your child throughout the day. If parents have Brightwheel downloaded to their smartphones, alerts will “pop up” relaying the status of your child throughout the day. Status updates include nap times, incidents, meal periods, and many other options.
- **Photos & Videos.** Perhaps the most popular feature among parents, digital photos of your child are sent through Brightwheel each day allowing parents to be actively engaged in the daily activities and learning experiences of your child. All Parents must sign a Photo & Video Release Agreement on behalf of their children before any image can be shared via Brightwheel. This release is mandatory for any child enrolled at City Kids.
- **Sign In / Sign Out.** Parents are *required by law* to sign their child IN and OUT each day through the use of our online “Check In/Out” system using our tablets available at each facility location. This provides us with accountability for the number of children in attendance each day, and also helps us to maintain that children are being “Checked Out” by an adult previously authorized to take your child from the facility.

PETS & ANIMALS (SPECIAL FRIENDS)

- **Pets.** Throughout the school year, it is likely that we will have a special guest regularly inhabiting the facility as our school “pet”. We intentionally choose animals that are non-aggressive and are not easily spooked from loud noises and the dynamic energy that multiple young bodies can produce. And yet, we recognize that even though our pets are docile, they are still animals and that bites, scratches, and stings can occasionally happen without warning. We expect that all parents assume this risk when enrolling their child at City Kids and that any allergies to animals or insects of any kind is made known to City Kids before the child’s first day.

ATTIRE

We ask parents to dress their children in clean, comfortable clothing that is appropriate for the weather of the day. As our philosophy is largely focused on

“learning in nature”, we do spend quite a bit of time outdoors, rain or shine. Here are the fine points on preparing your child for his/her daily learning adventure:

- **Learning Is Messy Business.** We are not afraid to get a little dirt on our hands. And sometimes, it’s a lot of dirt. But this is where some of the best learning is found: in a muddy puddle after a rainstorm, in a finger painting, or deep in the sandbox. There’s learning to be had in exploration, and it’s often a messy business!
- **Some Like It Hot.** We spend as much time outside and in nature as we can, and sometimes this means days of inclement weather: hot, dry days or wet, cool, and rainy days—we learn the world around us by being in the world!
- **Preparation Is Key.** We ask parents to prepare their children at the beginning of the day by applying 30spf or higher sunblock to their child’s exposed skin. We apply another layer in the afternoon when needed. Please also be sure that your child is appropriately dressed for the weather and has “backup” clothing each day in case clothes become so soiled that they have to be changed at the school.
- **Not the Easy Road.** We hope that parents take a deep breath and a plunge with us. We know this means a little extra washing, and perhaps clothing that wears out a bit quicker. But the benefits, we believe, are worth it by far. But don’t take our word for it—ask your child at the end of the day what they discovered...

SNACKS AND MEALS

NUTRITION

We are HUGE believers on the impact that nutrition has on our youngsters and their rapidly growing bodies. In an environment as active as our school, nutrition plays a fundamental role in the positive development of expanding young minds. In the US, the common diet has been surrendered to so many processed foods and unnatural, low-nutrient ingredients. We prepare each meal on site using fresh ingredients and mostly organic produce purchased each week and prepared individually each day! Easy? No. Worth it? Absolutely.

- **Vegetarian.** We are a Vegetarian school! We are strong believers in the power and nutrition of plant-based foods, and that by learning to enjoy a Vegetarian diet at an early age not only increases awareness about nutrition but truly helps children to learn to enjoy those veggies (our Brussel Sprouts are almost always the most desired item, if you can believe it). Yet we certainly recognize that many of our families are not Vegetarian, and thus we do not teach Vegetarianism to our children or make any attempt to contradict family philosophies. Our modest focus on food is primarily about health and nutrition.
- **Sugar.** Though we hold a strong focus on the importance of nutrition, we are not a sugar-free school. However, we do remain conscious and steadfast in

limiting the amount of sugar and processed foods our children have on a daily and weekly basis.

- **Balance.** Do we place great importance on the power of nutrition? Yes, most certainly. Yet we also recognize the simple joy and beauty in a moment of sharing a cupcake with friends on occasion or enjoying some cake and ice cream on a birthday. For us, as in life, it's about balance and moderation.
- **No single-use plastics!** We conscientiously avoid the use of wasteful packaging in choosing the ingredients for our school meals, to reduce our environmental footprint and the waste produced by our school.

MEALS SERVED

We provide three distinct meal periods throughout the course of the day:

- **Breakfast.** Served between 8:00am - 9:00am. Light and healthy, such as multi-grain cereal, fruit, and almond milk.
- **Lunch:** Served at 12 noon. A powerhouse, homemade meal packed with nutrition and goodness! Lunches are often photographed onto our Brightwheel app for parents to enjoy as well. And since the culinary arts are a part of our curriculum, our preschool students will often help with preparation.
- **Afternoon Snack:** Served at 3:30pm.

A child arriving after a meal period is completed will not receive any prior meal for the day, so please try to be on time if your child has not had breakfast or lunch at home.

*We do make special dietary considerations for children who have documented medical needs regarding nutrition. Parents are required to inform City Kids Administration of all food allergies and medical needs prior to enrollment.

OUTSIDE FOOD

We kindly ask that parents do not bring food to the facility for their child, unless there is a dietary need outlined by a doctor or the child requires breastmilk or formula.

For special occasions such as birthdays or holidays, we make a special exception by allowing parents to provide outside snacks at the discretion of City Kids Administration. In such instances, we ask parents to kindly consider that we often have a number of children who have medical considerations with heavily processed foods or highly sweetened treats. Please be sure to consult with the Administration team for guidance.

*We ask parents not to bring meat products into the school.

ADMISSIONS

FORMS

PRESCHOOL FORMS

There are two types of forms that are required at City Kids: State forms, and Company forms. Both types are required to be filled out completely and turned into our staff before a child begins his/her first day:

State Forms

- LIC 613a Personal Rights
- LIC 627 Consent for Medical Treatment
- LIC 700 Identification and Emergency Info
- LIC 701 Physician's Report
- LIC 702 Pre-Admission Health Form
- LIC 995a Parents Rights
- Immunizations (PM 286)

Company Forms

- Registration Form
- Emergency Consent
- Illness Policy
- Live Animal Acknowledgement
- Photograph and Video Release

All forms can be downloaded directly from the school website. All forms listed above are required to be completed and signed by parents or guardians in order to be enrolled at City Kids.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

ILLNESS POLICIES

Our Illness Policy Form details all the illnesses for which we call parents to pick up their children from school. In general, we ask that a child who has had a fever is fever-free for at least 24 hours before returning to school. Children who show mild symptoms of illness, such as intermittent coughing or a lightly runny nose are not usually sent home. However, teachers maintain full discretion in the decision when a child is not well enough to participate in school.

Every so often, as in any preschool, there are communicable illnesses that seem to run rampant. We work very diligently with parents to identify and stop the spread of contagious illnesses as quickly as possible.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with California State Law, we maintain that all parents entering their child(ren) must show either:

- Medical vaccination record along with dates for each dosage received; or
- A medical waiver signed by a physician

As of July 1st, 2016, Personal Belief exemptions are no longer permitted in the State of California as a legitimate cause for refusal of immunizations.

MEDICAL ASSESSMENT & TB REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with California State law, we are required to collect information regarding your child's health to include a schedule of vaccines administered. As part of the Admissions package, Form LIC 701 (Physician's Report) outlines the kinds of information required from your physician regarding your child's health before entering preschool. Please be sure to have your physician sign and date the form before returning the form to City Kids. Also be sure to deliver a copy of your child's immunization records or a signed medical waiver from your physician.

VACCINE LAWS

For more information regarding vaccine laws in the State of California, please visit the State Legislator website at:
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB277

MEDICATION POLICY

We do not administer medication unless prescribed by a doctor and also have written authorization from the parent. Over-the-counter medicines will also not be given, except in cases when the parent has given prior written authorization to do so.

Parents are required to inform City Kids management regarding all known allergies, to include specific allergies to any type of medication.

CLEANLINESS AND SANITATION

We recognize the importance and value in maintaining a clean and healthy environment for our children. Each day, staff members are responsible for cleaning and organizing materials used, and we additionally employ cleaning staff to perform general cleaning of the facility each day.

We teach our children about the importance of general personal cleanliness and hygiene, such as washing hands and effective wiping. We use a "green" hand dryer in the bathroom to help prevent excessive paper waste.

SAFETY

EMERGENCY POLICY & PROCEDURES

There are numerous kinds of emergencies for which we are trained and prepared. Our main focus in the event of any emergency is ensuring the safety of the children in our care. Communication with our parents, if possible, is of vital importance once children are secure in a safe location.

Here are our standard practices in the event of the following emergencies:

FIRE

In the event of a fire at the facility, a teacher immediately activates the audible Fire Alarm. A teacher calmly assembles all children and guides them out of the building following a pre-set fire exit route. Fire Drills are conducted every six months with students and staff to ensure effective and timely evacuation.

EARTHQUAKE

In the event of an earthquake, teachers guide students to their Safety Positions, crouching under tables and other stable protective furniture pieces and “hold on”, while avoiding windows, fireplaces, and other heavy falling objects. Once the “rolling” has stopped and teachers determine there are no more after-shocks, teachers evaluate each child for injury and applies first aid techniques as necessary. Earthquake drills are held monthly. If the building is unsafe to inhabit, the teachers will escort all children to the nearest neighboring building (ideally Galaxy Car Wash next door) and inform all families of the new location through Brightwheel or any available means of communication.

INTRUDERS

In the rare event of an aggressive or otherwise unwelcome intruder, staff will immediately call 911 for police assistance.

COMMUNICATION IN EMERGENCIES

Once children have been accounted for and made as safe as possible, City Kids staff will make every reasonable attempt to contact families as quickly as possible. In the event that standard communications are unavailable due to the nature of the emergency, staff will continue to make attempts until communications have been restored.

ACCIDENTS / INJURIES

On occasion, there are accidents that result in physical injury. We categorize injuries to belong to one of three categories:

- **Mild-to-Moderate Injury.** This is perhaps the most common type of injury, which includes scrapes, small cuts, mild bruises, bumps, etc. These injuries are determined as non-serious and non-life-threatening. Parents are typically contacted once basic medical attention has been administered, and teachers log the event in Brightwheel.
- **Serious Medical Situation.** This is treated as a serious injury which requires immediate medical attention, but is not determined to be life-threatening such as: broken bone, deep cut, concussion, allergic reaction, continuous vomiting, etc. Parents are immediately notified. If parents cannot be reached within a reasonable amount of time, staff will call 911 for medical assistance.
- **Life-Threatening Medical Emergency.** In the event of a life-threatening medical emergency, such as: choking, trouble breathing, seizing, severe bleeding, etc., the staff will immediately call 911 for emergency medical assistance. Parents will be contacted *after* the child is made as safe as possible and 911 has been contacted.

FIRST AID & CPR

All staff are required to be up-to-date on Pediatric First Aid and CPR techniques. Each year, staff members are re-trained and re-certified to stay current on techniques and practices.

To become certified, teachers must receive training from an instructor certified by the American Red Cross. Classes must be taken in person (not online).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS / REPORTING SUSPECTED PHYSICAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Our teachers and staff members are official Court Reporters and are obligated by law to report any suspected child abuse to include neglect, physical or sexual abuse, or any indication that a child has been violated in any way.

RIGHT TO PROTECT CHILDREN

In addition to reporting suspected physical abuse or neglect, we retain the right to protect any child in our care against any perceived threat or scenario in which a child may be endangered. This includes restricting the release of children to parents or guardians who are under the influence of alcohol or other substances.

PICK UP POLICY & PROCEDURES

Only parents and authorized persons listed on Form LIC 700 are authorized to pick up children from any facility.

A parent who cannot pick up their child must immediately contact City Kids management to arrange authorization of another adult to pick up their child in their

stead. Authorization must be in writing (email or text is acceptable, provided it is from the parent's recorded email or phone number). Under no other circumstances will a child be released to any individual who is not authorized by parents in writing, except in the event of a medical or police emergency and only to medical or police personnel.

Parents are required to ensure that their children are picked up and signed out by no later than 6:00pm each day.

Under no circumstance is any City Kids staff member allowed to sign a child in or out on behalf of a parent.

IDENTIFICATION & EMERGENCY INFO

All adults picking up their children must provide a State ID, such as a Drivers License, to validate their identity as an authorized person for pick up. Any individual unable to produce proper identification will not be allowed to pick up any child.

In the event of an emergency, staff will always make an attempt to contact parents once conditions are safe to do so. If the parents cannot be reached within a reasonable period of time, individuals listed on the "Emergency Contact" list will be notified.

GENERAL POLICIES

SIGNING IN / SIGNING OUT

Parents / Guardians are required to Sign In with their child upon arriving at the facility, and Sign Out before taking their child from the facility.

- **Brightwheel.** Using the tablet provided at each facility, a parent may "Check In" or "Check Out" their child from the Brightwheel app by entering the parent's unique four-digit "Check In Code". This code may be changed at any time by the Parent by accessing the "Edit Profile" option from their smartphone. This method is fast, easy, and *Green!*
- **Fees.** Fees may be applied to parents who do not sign in their children each day through the Brightwheel system, and may also be applied for each instance a parent or guardian does not sign out their child at the end of the day. Additional fees may be applied for parents or guardians who arrive after 6:00pm.
 - **Missed Signing In/Out Fee.** \$5.00 per instance
 - **Late Pick Up Fee.** \$1.00 per minute after 6:00pm until the child is signed out in the Brightwheel system.

- **Teachers Signing In/Out.** Under no circumstance is any City Kids staff member allowed to sign a child in or out on behalf of a parent.
- **Authorized Pickups.** Parents may choose to have another adult pick up their child at the end of a day (nanny, grandparent, babysitter, etc). All adults picking up your child must be authorized by you, in writing, prior to your child being picked up. Authorized adults have their own profile in Brightwheel along with their own unique Check In code to be used to sign the child In or Out each day. *Authorized adults must be at least 18 years of age.

WHY ALL THE RULES FOR SIGNING IN AND OUT?

It is very important to us to ensure the safety and well being of your child. By signing your child in each day, it affirms that an authorized individual has released the care of your child to us. Similarly, having only authorized individuals pick up your child at the end of the day affirms that you have approved the child to be released into the care of only authorized individuals. You will always have access through Brightwheel to maintain a list of Authorized Pickups, Family Members, and Emergency Contacts. We **will never release** a child to any person who has not been authorized by you. We take this responsibility very seriously.

Signing a child In and Out each day is also a California State Mandate enforced by Community Care Licensing.

SLEEPING / NAPPING

Children five and under are required to take a “Nap” or “Rest” period once each day.

Cots are laid out for children to nap or rest, along with personal blankets. Relaxing music is played and lights are dimmed during this quiet time of rest for active bodies. Children who are unable to sleep are allowed to read quietly.

Typically, children are expected to sleep for 1-2 hours during nap time. Though children are not forced to sleep, they are encouraged to rest and relax, with nature usually taking its course. We try to accommodate families and their sleeping habits at home by ensuring that children get an appropriate amount of rest at school. Similarly, we expect children to receive an adequate amount of rest at night at home, ready for the next school day!

DIAPERS & DIAPERING MATERIALS

For children in diapers, we ask parents to please keep us supplied with a sufficient number of diapers and other diapering supplies each week. Teachers keep parents informed (often through the Brightwheel app) when additional supplies are needed or are running low. Below is a list of items that we expect our parents to provide for their youngsters in diapers:

- Disposable Diapers. Must be high-quality, disposable, leak-proof, and must have adhesive fasteners on both sides of the diaper (no pull-ups please).
- We also encourage and welcome cloth diapers and reusable wipes as an environmentally safe alternative to plastic diapers. We ask that you provide reusable wet bags or plastic bags for diapers and wipes to be returned to you at the end of each day. Soiled cloth diapers and wipes will be fastened and placed in wet bags provided to be cleaned and laundered at home. Anti-rash cream (such as Desitin—zinc oxide is a preferred ingredient in the cream)
- Swimmer diapers. On the hotter days, we occasionally have water activities outside.
- Disposable diapers must be high-quality, leak-proof, and must have adhesive fasteners on both sides of the diaper (no pull-ups please).

Clothing that becomes “soiled” is rinsed by the Teacher then placed inside a clear plastic baggie and left in the child’s designated cubbie. Parents should take their child’s soiled clothing items home with them at the end of each day—soiled clothes are rinsed, but not cleaned by the staff. Soiled clothing remaining in the cubby for an extended period of time will be discarded.

TOILET TRAINING

For our younger students (ages 2 - 3 ½), toilet (or “potty”) training is a fundamental milestone for both children and parents. For children who are ready to use the toilet, we expect to meet with parents to discuss a partnership for training children both at home and at school for a successful transition.

Toilet training takes lots of patience, but with persistence, encouragement, and consistency at home and at school, toilet training can be a significant event in a child’s early development.

TECHNOLOGY

We proudly boast the use of technology in our schools, as we exist in a rapidly growing world of technological advancement. Introducing age-appropriate technology to children not only offers comfort and familiarity with common technological devices and ideas, but also allows us to use many of the incredible tools that have been developed over the years to enhance learning in so many ways.

Yet we also set boundaries on the extended use of technology in our facilities, and we never use any piece of technology to personally disengage with any child. We use technology to enhance a learning experience in a powerful and engaging way. Here are a few examples:

- **Tablets.** These tablets by design and by content are used to accelerate learning through imaginative tools and systems designed to make learning more engaging. Even young students who struggle with mathematical or reading concepts often overcome mental obstacles in these research-driven

exercises and games which teach almost without the student even knowing that they're learning!

- **Learning Games.** “Technology” games are a kind of introduction into the world of technology and computers. Students learn the basics of coding and computer logic through fun, robot programming games or through circuitry construction games. These are a huge hit with our youngsters as it requires a great deal of imagination with so many possibilities.
- **Audio Tools.** For both listening and speaking, we use digital recording devices for children to listen to audio stories and lessons, but also for recording and listening to their own voices while learning languages. A very powerful method for advancing language skills.

And yet, with all this technology, we continue to believe in balance as we incorporate many of the more standard tools and methods which have proven successful in research. We do not use technology exclusively as a teaching tool, but we certainly do not shy away from it either.

*Our youngest students (ages 0 - 3 ½) use very limited or no technology at this young age.

DAYS OF ABSENCE

On days when a child will be absent from school, we ask that parents submit a note before 9:00am through Brightwheel notifying teachers of the absence. A brief description is also helpful (ie: “Staying home sick today.”).

If a family is planning a vacation or an extended leave of absence, we ask parents to please notify City Kids Administration with a 15-day advance notice in writing.

BEHAVIORAL POLICIES

City Kids teachers and parents work together to create consistency at home and school so every child feels safe and learns healthy ways to express emotions and solve problems.

We believe in:

- Creating a culture that is mindful of teaching and modeling social and emotional learning and skill development.
- An environment that is nurturing, supportive, and inclusive.
- Positive reinforcement: we highlight and praise children when they make good choices, deal with difficult emotions in healthy ways, ask for help, use their words, are kind to peers and teachers. This philosophy provides children with positive attention which raises their self-esteem and confidence.
- Logical consequences: we teach children that if they break something by accident or intentionally the consequence is that they must help to fix it. If they get upset and knock over a water cup they must help clean the water up.

This teaches children to take responsibility for their actions and allows them to gain pride in helping find positive end results.

- Break Time: when children reach an emotional state where they have trouble calming their bodies we empower them to step away to a calm space and regulate their emotions. Break time is *not* “time out”. Children are given the power to decide how long they need to take a break before they come back and work out the situation that was upsetting. Children are taught different strategies to help them deal with intense feelings such as physical activity, art, kinesthetic play, music, and animal therapy.

We do not adhere to or believe in:

- Consequences and/or punishment that shames or belittles a child.
- Corporal punishment which is a violation of a child’s personal rights (CCR, Title 22, Section 101223.2).

PROVISIONS FOR CONTACTS / CONFERENCES WITH PARENTS

Each school year, parents are asked if they wish to participate in a “Family Directory” which is used by all active families across the school to contact each other for a variety of purposes to include: babysitting, birthday party invites, events, etc.

Throughout the year, City Kids conducts Parent / Teacher Conferences which is a one-on-one meeting between parents and teachers to review your child’s accomplishments and progress, as well as challenges and plans to address them. Parents and teachers work together on a strategy for each child’s development and Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

GROUNDNS FOR DISMISSAL

- 1) Refusing to have a child vaccinated with all required health vaccinations as recommended by the State of California.
- 2) If a child is continuously dangerous to himself or his/her peers.
- 3) Parents who display hostility and/or extreme disrespect to other parents, children, or any member of the staff.
- 4) Children with excessive tardiness or unplanned absences.
- 5) Disregard for or refusal to adhere to City Kids policies.
- 6) For any reason City Kids decides this school is not helping a child reach their potential and find success.

City Kids teachers, parents, students, and administrators work very closely with each other to create behavioral teaching and learning environments that are consistent at home and school. City Kids values the diversity of every family and respects families traditions, religions, and beliefs. Through a close partnership parents and teachers work together for each child’s success. At least two parent teacher conferences are

scheduled each year and communication on a regular basis occurs through one-to-one contact and Brightwheel.

For other than financial reasons, the grounds for dismissal is individually assessed for each student and for each unique circumstance surrounding the decision to dismiss a child. Generally speaking, the main reason for a student's dismissal is based upon both the safety of the child and the safety of other children in the class. Other reasons may involve a professional assessment of a child's physical or emotional needs for which City Kids may not be able to adequately provide.

Regardless of the terms of release / dismissal, we work with parents to provide appropriate solutions for the child and make recommendations to the family for schools and other services which may cater to the child's specific needs.

CHILD COMMUNICATION

Communication is key to every relationship we have as humans. City Kids students learn in an environment where they are considered important and their voice matters. Every child is treated with respect and their feelings, ideas, and opinions are valued.

City Kids School values intentional and mindful communication and provides every child with communication classes taught through visual and performing arts. City Kids has also partnered with a range of organizations who offer their expertise in supporting training in social and emotional skill development.

PARENT & TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Teachers consistently communicate with parents / guardians each day about the status and events of their child's day. Mostly, this communication is in-person when the parent / guardian picks the child up from school in a brief description of the child's day. Throughout the day, parents may use the Brightwheel app to view photos, status updates, napping schedules, incident reports (minor), and individual notes or comments from Teachers.

We conduct Family / Teacher Conferences for Parents and Teachers to meet for an extended one-on-one period to discuss the progress of their child's education and experience, as well as to voice ideas, concerns, and to ask questions. This time is also used as a joint strategy meeting between Teachers and Parents in guiding a learning path for the child moving forward.

We kindly ask Parents to refrain from contacting Teachers directly throughout the school day (unless there is an emergency). Teachers are instructed not to use their cell phones throughout the day, unless using Brightwheel, so as not to be distracted from supervising children.

Parents may reach school administrators at any time by emailing the general school inbox at: mycitykidsla@gmail.com or by leaving a message on the main school phone at 323.447.KIDS (5437).

CHILDREN AND PARENT RIGHTS

In the Admissions package, parents receive a Form LIC 995a, which outlines the Parents' Rights in relation to preschools and day care centers. Among them, parents have a right to:

- Enter and inspect the facility at any time.
- File a complaint with the licensing office.
- Review reports of licensing visits and complaints made about the facility.
- Be given a list of name(s) of individuals who are not allowed to enter the facility.
- Request that a person NOT be allowed to visit or pick up your child.
- Receive the name, address, and phone number of the facility.
- Be given the name and association of any adult who has been given a criminal record exemption at this facility.
- Receive the Caregiver Background Check Process form.
- Be informed that the facility has or does not have liability insurance that covers injury due to negligence of the facility.

Personal and child's rights extend to include the right to:

- To be accorded dignity in his/her personal relationships to the staff and other persons.
- Be accorded safe, healthful, and comfortable accommodations, furnishings and equipment to meet his/her needs.
- Be free from corporal or unusual punishment, infliction of pain, humiliation, intimidation, ridicule, coercion, threat, mental abuse, or other actions of a punitive nature, including but not limited to: interference with daily living functions, including eating, sleeping, or toileting; or withholding shelter, clothing, medication or aids to physical functioning.
- Be informed by the licensee of the provisions of the law regarding complaints.
- Be free to attend religious services or activities of his/her choice and to have visits from the spiritual advisor of his/her choice.
- Not be locked in any room, building, or facility premises by day or night.
- Not be placed in any restraining device, except a supportive restraint approved in advance by the licensing agency.

OTHER POLICIES

COURTESY & PROFESSIONALISM

We expect that all parents speak and interact with our staff in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. Likewise, we expect all staff to treat all parents with the same level of courtesy and respect. We expect all parents to work with other adults to creatively and constructively resolve any conflicts which may arise.

*Unresolved or heightened conflicts which arise will be sent to the City Kids Advisory Board for further review. All correspondence and all relevant details regarding the unresolved situation will be shared in full with the Advisory Board.

FAMILY VACATIONS AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

We are a year-round school, and one of the many benefits is that families can plan and take vacations any time throughout the year! Gone are the days when all families had to plan a vacation only in either the summer or winter holiday periods.

Parents who are planning extended time away are expected to communicate their plans to City Kids Administration 15 days prior to the first missed day.

Please keep in mind that regardless of the length of time of your vacation or leave of absence, tuition payments are not pro-rated for time away.

TARDINESS AND EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Though we highly encourage family vacations and extended family time, we also ask that children participating in our preschool program are active participants throughout the year, taking full advantage of the benefits of all our wonderful programs.

Children who miss an unplanned and excessive number of days throughout the year may be subject to review by City Kids Administration and may ultimately be dismissed from the school. Children who arrive to school consistently and excessively late (after 9:00am) or leaving school consistently and excessively early (before 2:00pm) may be subject to review by City Kids Administration and may ultimately be dismissed from the school.

UNWANTED PROGRAMS

On occasion, a parent may wish for their child not to participate in a specific program or event for a variety of personal reasons. While we respect all parents' rights to participate in any belief system and set of personal values, as a progressive institution we actively pursue and work hard to maintain a strong advocacy for tolerance, respect, and dignity of all human beings from all walks of life. We consistently engage in children's programs which reflect those values.

It is the responsibility of all parents of City Kids to be consistently aware of all programs and events to which their children may participate each day by accessing our online school calendar every day for a description of upcoming events. We may also send newsletters, informational brochures, and posted notices for unique events, but make no commitment to ensure every parent is aware of all programs and events beyond the online school calendar.

Parents may choose to have their child exempt from any event or program. Parents wishing for their child not to participate in any event or program must submit the request in writing to the City Kids Administration with a three-day advance notice before the event or program date.

CITY KIDS ADVISORY BOARD

City Kids works with an appointed Advisory Board consisting of City Kids parents as well as other members of the community. The Advisory Board meets monthly, actively and directly supporting the school and Administration in fundraising, implementing creative and innovative concepts for growing the school, resolving school-wide issues including the elevation of individual parent or family concerns or confrontations, addressing school-wide concerns, connecting with the City Kids community, and providing a voice and perspective from the viewpoint of families and community members invested in the school.

PURPOSE OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

- To support the mission of the school;
- To grow and support City Kids School to educate children from all walks of life and maintain the unity of the community of families;
- To both initiate and support City Kids' fundraising efforts;
- To be involved, and have a voice, in our kids' education;
- To be part of creating a community in a large city like Los Angeles, which is special and rare;
- To support each other and the school, and to be involved in the school in a direct way

MEMBERSHIP

Any person can be eligible to join the Advisory Board who meets the following conditions:

- The Board shall reflect the diversity of City Kids as a whole;
- City Kids teachers cannot be Board Members, but may be invited to individual sessions / meetings as appropriate;
- All City Kids parents are eligible to join the Board, once their child has been enrolled at City Kids for at least one year;
- Any individual outside City Kids may also be eligible to join the Board upon invite and approval;
- The Advisory Board will be limited to 15 members;
- Board Members must be at least 18 years of age;
- Any Member of Leadership or a current member may propose a new Member at a Board Meeting;
- Current Board will vote on a new Member. If the proposed Member receives 66% of the vote, she/he will be inducted at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting

Feel free to contact the Advisory Board with any ideas you have!

AdvisoryBoard@lacitykids.com

COVID-19

One adult member from each household is required to sign the “Preventative Behavior Commitment” which outlines the family’s commitment to preventative behaviors inside and outside of the school during the pandemic.

In the midst of the Coronavirus global pandemic, we are committed to maintaining a standard of preventative measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 within our facilities and our community. Though there is no guarantee that anyone in our community will not contract the virus, we commit to adhering to standards established by CCL to help mitigate the risk:

- Practice Social Distancing (6’ distance) from individuals outside my home
- Wear a protective mask when outside my home
- Wash hands with soap frequently throughout the day (20 seconds)
- Use hand sanitizer throughout the day as needed
- Avoid touching face as much as possible
- Stay in groups of less than 10 people (or otherwise specified)

In addition, we ask that all parents/guardians commit to the following policies until the Public Health Department declares that such standards are no longer required:

- Maintain social distancing from other parents while in front of the school.
- Not enter into any facility.
- Wear a protective mask when dropping-off or picking-up my child.
- Not linger at the facility after dropping-off or picking-up my child.
- Avoid physical contact with any member of the staff.
- Keep my child home if they are showing symptoms of any illness.
- Not arrive at the school for drop-offs or pick-ups if I am experiencing symptoms of any illness.
- Not return to any facility if any household member has a fever (over 99.9 degrees) until after:
 - Getting tested for COVID-19 at an authorized test site;
 - Receiving a negative result for COVID-19.
- Not return to any facility If any member of my household tests positive for COVID-19 and:
 - Self-isolate for a period no less than 14 days;
 - All members of the household may not return to any facility for a period of no less than 14 days;
 - All members of the household (adults and children) must receive a negative test result from an authorized test site for COVID-19 *after the self-isolation period* before any child or parent from the household may return to the facility.
- Alert City Kids Administration immediately if I have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or if I have tested positive for COVID-19.

- Inform City Kids Administration if I plan any trips outside the State of California. I may be required to provide a negative test result for all members of my household before returning to the facility.
- Be available to pick-up my child from the facility if he/she develops symptoms of illness while in attendance at the school.

Travel During COVID

We are strong advocates for families spending time together on vacations. And yet we want every family to stay safe, and to maintain the safety and wellbeing of families in attendance at the school. Any family wishing to go on a vacation should certainly do so, so long as it can be done safely while respecting and adhering to local ordinances in regard to COVID-19. We know how important it is for families to have some downtime, relax and de-stress from these very difficult and challenging months.

We have determined a "Return Path" (see below) for families to return to City Kids after various types of travel. Here is what we are asking from families who are travelling:

- **Out of State.** If any family is travelling out of State, please let us know. **RETURN PATH** may be required.
- **Flying.** If any individual or family is flying in a plane (In State or Out of State), we ask that each member of the household applies the **RETURN PATH** before returning to school.
- **Theme Parks, Museums, or Other Crowded Destinations.** Even if you are only gone for a day at any destination which gathers large crowds, we ask all members of the household to apply the **RETURN PATH**.
- **Day Trips, Camping, Hiking.** Any local trip that does not involve large crowds, we only ask that you continue to practice the items from your Preventative Behavior Commitment.
- Regardless of where you travel or what you plan to do, we ask that you always maintain your commitment to social distancing, wearing a mask in public, washing hands with soap frequently, avoiding physical contact with surfaces as much as possible, and using hand sanitizer. Avoid large crowds as much as possible, and learn and adhere to Public Health policies set in place at your planned destination.

RETURN PATH (after travel)

This path to return to the school requires the following:

1. Upon returning home, all members of the household *wait three days in self-isolation before receiving a COVID-19 test.*
2. After three days, **all** members of the household are tested for COVID-19.

3. Wait for results. If all members of the household receive a negative test result for COVID-19, family may return to City Kids. Please provide documentation to City Kids Administration before returning.
4. If **any** single person in the household tests POSITIVE for COVID-19, we additionally ask for the following:
 - Immediately inform City Kids Administration.
 - All members of the household self-isolate for a period no less than 14 days starting from the date the test result is received.
 - After 14 days, all members of the household are re-tested for COVID-19.
 - Repeat Step 3 above.
 - Repeat Step 4 above if any member of the household tests positive for COVID-19.

APPENDIX I

IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

GUIDE TO IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR CHILD CARE OR PRESCHOOL



Requirements by Age at Entry and Later (Follow-up is required at every age checkpoint after entry.)

Vaccine	2-3 Months	4-5 Months	6-14 Months	15-17 Months	18 Months-5 Years
Polio (OPV or IPV)	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	3 doses	3 doses
Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP or DTP)	1 dose	2 doses	3 doses	3 doses	4 doses
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)				1 dose on or after the 1st birthday	1 dose on or after the 1st birthday
Hib	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	1 dose on or after the 1st birthday	1 dose on or after the 1st birthday (only required for children less than 4 years, 6 months)
Hepatitis B (Hep B or HBV)	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses	3 doses
Varicella (chickenpox, VAR or VZV)					1 dose

INSTRUCTIONS:

To enter a child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, children must have received immunizations required by California law.

- Parents must submit their child's immunization record as proof.
- Copy the date of each vaccine onto the California School Immunization Record (Blue Card, CDPH-286).
- Determine whether children meet requirements above.

ADMIT A CHILD UNCONDITIONALLY WHO:

- Is 18 months and older and has all immunizations required for their age, or
- Submits a personal beliefs exemption (PBE) filed at a prior California child-care facility for missing shot(s) and immunization records with dates for all required shots not exempted. The PBE must have been filed before January 1, 2016 and is only valid until entry to transitional kindergarten/ kindergarten. For complete details, see ShotsforSchool.org.
- Submits a licensed physician's written statement of a permanent medical exemption for missing shot(s) and immunization records with dates for all required shots not exempted.

ADMIT A CHILD CONDITIONALLY IF THE CHILD:

- Is under age 18 months, has received all immunizations required for age, but will have more required at next age checkpoint.
- Is missing a dose(s) in a series, but the next dose is not due yet (This means the child has received at least one dose in a series and the deadline for the next dose has not passed.) The child may not be admitted if the deadline has passed or the child has not yet received the 1st dose.
- Has a temporary medical exemption to certain vaccine(s) and has submitted an immunization record for vaccines not exempted. The statement must indicate which immunization(s) must be postponed and when the child can be immunized.

WHEN MISSING DOSES CAN BE GIVEN:

Missing Dose	Earliest Date After Previous Dose	Deadline After Previous Dose
Polio #2	6 weeks	10 weeks
Polio #3	6 weeks	12 months
DTP/DTaP #2, #3	4 weeks	8 weeks
DTP or DTaP #4	6 months	12 months
Hib #2	2 months	3 months
Hep B #2	1 month	2 months
Hep B #3 (under age 18 months)	2 months after 2nd dose and at least 4 months after 1st dose	12 months after 2nd dose and at least 4 months after 1st dose
Hep B #3 (age 18 months and older)	2 months after 2nd dose and at least 4 months after 1st dose	6 months after 2nd dose and at least 4 months after 1st dose

DO NOT ADMIT A CHILD WHO:

Does not fit one of the prior categories. Refer parents to their physician with a written notice indicating which doses are needed.

FOLLOW-UP IS REQUIRED AFTER ADMISSION:

- At every age checkpoint above until all doses are received.
- If child was behind schedule and admitted **conditionally**.
- If child has a temporary medical exemption.

Maintain a list of unimmunized children (exempted or admitted conditionally), so they can be excluded quickly if an outbreak occurs. Notify parents of the deadline for missing doses. Review records every 30 days until all required doses are received.

Questions? Visit ShotsForSchool.org or contact your local health department (bit.do/immunization).

BRIGHTWHEEL DESIGNATIONS

Contact	Parent	Family	Approved Pickup	Emergency Contact
Able to create an account	✓	✓	✓	✗
Able to see child's feed	✓	✓	✗	✗
Able to see child's profile	✓	✗	✗	✗
Access to billing, invoices/payment info	✓	✗	✗	✗
Can send and receive messages	✓	Send only	✗	✗
Has Check-in/out Permissions	✓	✓	✓	✗