

Latch Key Program

Our Latch Key Program is a before and after school program, and summer care, for children attending Kindergarten through 9 years of age. We provide parents with peace of mind by offering a warm, caring setting, where children are encouraged to grow cognitively, emotionally and socially in a safe, Christian-oriented environment, elements that are fundamental in the healthy development of every child.

When registering for Day Care, you must fill out your child's Emergency papers, and Contact Information/Health Appraisal Forms. They contain information which may be needed in case your child becomes ill or has a medical emergency. This should be completed by a parent or guardian and returned to school immediately, or if your child is new, before he/she starts Day Care. We ask that all Emergency papers and Contact Information be updated every six months or sooner if there are changes in your home/work telephone number, cell phone number or home address.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND EARLY DISMISSALS

When your child's school has an early dismissal or will be delayed or closed, please notify us of your plans each time so the Day School can make plans to be staffed appropriately for additional children when necessary.

When your child's school has an early dismissal date planned or a field trip that would cause their bus times to change, please let our staff know ahead of time. If we are not informed, then we do not know when to be outside to greet the bus, and your child, when they arrive. When the kids have a half day of school, they do not always get lunch so don't forget to send one with them for Daycare.

It is our intent to be open through any type of weather. Nevertheless, there may be times we need to call a delay, close early or cancel daily services all together. To stay informed of possible changes due to inclement weather, please tune into KDKA, Channel 2 News and their website kdka.com. I have found the website itself to be more up to date than the newscast. If there is an alternative emergency such as no heat or a water main break, you will receive a telephone call notifying you of the situation and what arrangements the Day School is making for child care that particular day.

TRANSFER OF CHILDREN BETWEEN SCHOOLS

The Day School has arrangements with the Cornell School District to monitor the safe movement of children before and after school. It is the parents' responsibility to notify both the Day School and the school about your needs for care. Please let the Day School know when you will be using our services so that we can ensure that staff is available to take your child safely between destinations. It is also the responsibility of

the parent to work with the Day School and your child concerning this time of transition. Please discuss rules associated with bus safety and street safety so the children are prepared to cooperate with the Day School Staff while we are providing this service.

We reserve the right to terminate this service if a child cannot follow the rules for a safe trip between Day Care and School.

We provide supervision to the elementary A.M. bus and from the P.M. bus after school.

HEALTH AND ILLNESS POLICY

The Emergency Card, Contact Information Form and Child Health Appraisal Form contain pertinent information, which would be needed in case of an accident or illness. The Emergency Card needs to be completed before your child's first day of care, and then updated every six months by a parent or guardian. The Health Appraisal Form must be updated yearly.

You must keep your child home if he/she has a fever, has been ill during the night, or if you suspect he/she may be coming down with a virus. This is for his/her well-being as well as that of the other children. We reserve the right to send a child home if he/she is ill upon arrival at school or becomes ill during the day. If your child should become ill during the day, he/she will be sent home, you will receive a note describing what symptoms your child has, when he/she can return and if a doctor's note is necessary upon returning to Day Care. Once receiving a call that your child is sick, you have 90 minutes to pick your son/daughter up. If your child is running a fever, vomiting or has diarrhea, he/she cannot return to Day Care until symptom free for 36 hours and has a solid bowel movement without the use of fever reducing/diarrhea medicines. Likewise, if your child is taking an antibiotic, he or she cannot return for child care for 36 hours after his/her first dose. Our policy supersedes any doctor's note concerning return to day care

Finally, if your child is not well enough to be in school, he/she is not well enough to be in Day Care.

Your child will not be permitted to attend Day Care if he/she has any of the following infectious diseases:

Chicken Pox	Flu	Scabies	Scarlet Fever	N1H1
Impetigo	Croup	Worms	Hand/Foot Disease	Lice
Strep	Thrush	Poison Ivy	Fifth Disease	
Diarrhea	Ringworm	Conjunctivitis	Measles/Mumps	

There are many other diseases, which require that your child be out of Day Care. Please call us if you have any questions and we will refer to the Allegheny County Health Department handbook. We would appreciate being informed if your child has a communicable disease. When your child is ready to return to Day Care, a doctor's certification of health may be necessary.

If your child has any type of surgery, tubes, adenoids, tonsils, etc. he/she cannot return to Day School until we receive a note releasing your child from Doctor's Care.

The Day School Staff is not permitted to dispense any medication to the children. If your child needs medicine while in our care, you will have to make arrangements for someone else to come and give it to them.

We are most concerned about your child's emotional well-being. Please advise us if your child is involved in any potentially stressful situations. The separation or divorce of parents, the illness or death of a family member, friend or even a pet can be upsetting to your young child and can greatly affect his/her behavior. Please let us know so that we are able to be sensitive to your child's needs. Any personal matter you would mention to the staff will remain confidential.

All children entering our care must be up to date on their immunizations.

DELIVERY AND PICK UP

With all the challenges that our world is facing, the Church and Day School have collaborated in the name of safety to install a monitoring system. All doors will be locked throughout the day. The parking lot door is the only one in the building that will have monitoring access; all other doors will be locked throughout the day. When you arrive in the morning or afternoon, you will have to be buzzed into the building. When you press the button, a bell will ring in the Day School and Church Office. We will see you on our monitor, speak with you and then buzz you in. The door will not be opened for people we do not know or are not expecting. Every parent and guardian is responsible for delivering their children to the classroom and for picking them up. Please say hello to the adult in the room to be sure he/she knows your child has arrived for the day. If you do not check in with the adult in charge, your child (ren) may not be marked in and accounted for. When sending someone else to pick up your child please notify the Day School beforehand. A child will not be released to anyone not authorized by the parent. Identification, a Driver's License or some other form of i.d., will be required by the Day School Staff when anyone is picking up a child up for the first time or if the staff member has not previously seen the individual picking your child up.

We expect all persons picking up your child (ren) to arrive in a sober, courteous manner. If you or anyone else picking up your child, appears intoxicated or high, we will encourage you (them) to make alternative child care arrangements by asking you to call someone else for a ride. If you refuse, there isn't anything we can do. But, we will alert the police, giving them your name, make and model of car as well as your license plate number. We hope everyone will support this policy and not put yourself, your child or the Day School in this compromising position.

Firearms and weapons are prohibited in a Child Day Care Facility. This includes but is not limited to, all guns, stun guns, fireworks, knives or any other metal blade with a pointed edge. If you are seen with any type of weapon, you will be verbally asked to return it to your vehicle before engaging with any of the children, including your own. If this happens a second time, the Director will report it to the Pastor and/or local police for additional assistance.

Finally, anyone who has been convicted of any type of child abuse, child neglect, child violence or moral corruptness may not enter the Day School premises during hours of operation. If a parent has been convicted of one of these felonies or is

awaiting trial, you are not permitted to come in and pick up your child. You can ask a staff member to meet you on the porch or send someone else in the building while you wait in the car.

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Please send your child in play clothes so he/she can feel comfortable while playing and moving about throughout the day. Also, send an extra set of clothing and underwear for your child in case he/she has an accident, gets excessively dirty or paint on their clothes. The extra set of clothes may be left at Day School on your child's hook in a backpack/duffle bag outside the classroom or brought on a daily basis. Remember to replenish your child's clothing once they are used. If you do not have extra clothes for your child and he/she has an accident you will be called to bring extra clothing or pick your child up so he/she can get cleaned and changed at home.

All of your child's belongings must be clearly labeled, including all outerwear such as coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, boots, etc. This will enable parents, staff members and anyone else who may pick up your child to identify his/her belongings at the end of the day, as well as prevent clothing mix-ups.

A good selection of toys is available at the Day School. Please do not bring your child's toys to school because they may get lost or broken. We will not be responsible for clothing, toys or other items which may get lost, broken or traded.

Please keep in mind that the children are not permitted to bring items such as gum, candy or money with them to the Day School. These items pose a hazard and threat to our younger children.

PAYMENTS

Payments are due the first of every month. Latch key children are hourly; please discuss the fee with the director. Payments are check or money order only and are placed in the mailbox on the red door where you buzz to enter the building.

Any questions please call the Director at 412-264-0470 ext. 16. Thank you!