



Child Development Program

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
TUSCALOOSA

Parent Handbook

2009-2010

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THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The Child Development Program of First Baptist Church is founded on the belief that children are truly gifts from God. We are entrusted not only to care for them, but also to love them and teach them about His word. We achieve this by our actions, words and attitudes. We, as preschool teachers, are blessed and privileged to help shape the lives and futures of the little ones who pass through our doors.

We recognize each child as a unique individual. We understand they will all learn differently and at different rates. Our role as preschool teachers is to be enthusiastic, reassuring, creative and positive. The experiences the children have while they are with us will affect their feelings toward school, other children, adults and the world around them. Our goal is to help insure that the feelings and attitudes they develop will be positive ones.

ADMISSION POLICY

The Child Development Program (CDP), is a nonprofit organization. Priorities for enrollment are as follows:

- 1st Current CDP students, their siblings and children of staff
- 2nd First Baptist Church Members
- 3rd Children on the waiting list
- 4th General public by date inquiry is made

Children will be placed in classes according to their age as of September 1st (public school cut-off).

If a child is entering our program at the following stages, they must have reached the developmental level described below:

- Half Day and Full Day Toddler children must be walking.
- Three-year-old class children must be potty trained.

(We realize that it is perfectly normal for children to develop at different times. Not being able to reach this criteria, does not necessarily signal a problem.)

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment is open to any preschooler, six weeks through four years old as of September 1st of that year, provided our program can meet the needs of the child. Children are enrolled with a standing reservation for the school year on a first come basis. A \$50.00 enrollment fee per child is payable upon enrollment in the half-day program, along with an \$80.00 supply fee. The enrollment fee for the full day program is \$60.00, also a \$110.00 supply fee, and \$20.00 cot fee for children Toddler through 4"s. Enrollment fees for both programs are non-refundable. Supply fees are non-refundable after the school year has begun. After maximum enrollment is reached in each room, a waiting list will be established.

After August 1st, in order to hold a spot for an infant, we must begin receiving tuition at eight weeks of age.

If a child is transferring from another preschool program, we reserve the right to contact the previous program regarding the financial status of the child's account. Admission into CDP may be refused based on this information.

DIS-ENROLLMENT

The CDP program reserves the right at any time to permanently remove a child from the program for the following reasons:

- *Non-payment of tuition and fees
- *If the CDP Director feels that the needs of the child or the needs of the program are not being met
- *If the parents or guardians display inappropriate behavior, such as, but not limited to: profanity, physical aggressiveness, verbal abuse etc. towards staff members, other parents, or any child/children on the premises
- *If the parent or guardians fail to follow the policies listed in this handbook.
- *If excessive behavioral problems persist with a child

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Parents are required to submit a written thirty-day notice before withdrawing from the program. If a child does not attend all or part of these 30 days, payment must still be submitted for the time. Your written notice must be submitted to the Director of the Child Development Program.

RATIO

While the Department of Human Resources guidelines allows for larger classes, the below ratios reflect those of CDP:

Infants	1:4	(staff person : children)
Creepers	1:4	
Toddlers	1:6	
Twos	1:6	
Threes	1:7	
Fours	1:7	

MONTHLY TUITION

Tuition is due on the 1st of the month. After the 10th, a late charge of \$25.00 per child will be applied. Tuition plus late charges not paid by the first of the following month will result in the child's place being forfeited. (If special circumstances exist, please consult the Director.) Tuition should be paid by check or money order and placed in the drop box located in the front office. Please do not give money or checks to teachers or other personnel other than the Director. Should a check to our preschool from your bank be returned for non-sufficient funds, you will be charged a \$30.00 handling fee. Monthly tuition remains the same with no deductions made for the absences or scheduled vacation days, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas Break or Spring Break. All checks should be made payable to CDP.

FULL DAY TUITION

You may choose from the following pay schedule:

\$480.00 per month,
\$240. bi-weekly,
\$120 weekly

* You will receive a 15% discount for your second enrolled child.

HALF DAY TUITION

5 Days	Twos - Fours	\$180.00
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* You will receive 10% discount for your second enrolled child)

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Half-Day Program:

Children are to arrive no earlier than 8:30 am and are to be picked up promptly between 12:10 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. Drop off is offered for twos through 4 years olds from 8:30-8:45 a.m. Pull in the drive thru and a teacher will escort your child to his/her class. If you wish to take your child to his/her classroom, please park your car in a parking space not in the drive thru. Please knock on the classroom door, and a teacher will come and receive your child at the door. We ask that you do not disrupt the learning environment by entering the room.

We provide a pick up service for twos through 4 years old. Pick up service begins at 12:10 and ends at 12:30 p.m. A late charge of \$1.00 per minute will be charged after 12:30 p.m. The official clock to monitor all preschool activities, drop-off and pick-up times is located in the office of the Children's Center. If an emergency arises which delays you, please call 391-3115 and inform us of the problem. Please send a note to your child's teacher if someone different is to pick up your child on a particular day. They must be prepared to show picture identification.

Full Day Program:

Childcare and classes begin at 7:00 a.m. It is required that parents sign their children in and out each day on the class Sign-In Sheet.

Childcare and classes end at 5:30 p.m. A late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be charged to your account beginning at 5:31 p.m. The clock located in the Children's Center Office will be used to monitor pick up times.

ATTENDANCE

Continuity and consistency are important elements in your child's growth and development. Regular attendance will contribute to a smooth adjustment to the Preschool setting. Please call the CDP office as soon as possible and let us know if your child will be absent.

RELEASING OF CHILDREN

Children at the school will not be released to any adult other than the parent or adults listed on the enrollment form without permission from the parent or legal guardian. In an emergency situation, when a parent has to phone and give permission for someone other than those listed on the child's enrollment form to pick up a child, the information will be given to the teacher. The driver's license of the person picking up the child will be checked.

CURRICULUM

We have chosen to write our own curriculum and it will be used to teach age appropriate academic activities as well as Bible stories to the toddlers, twos, threes, and fours. Developmentally age appropriate activities will be implemented with all age groups.

LEARNING CENTERS

Our rooms are arranged into learning centers. In these learning centers, children make choices, handle items first hand, enjoy using their senses and participating in individual and group activities. Activities are

provided in the following learning centers: home living, puzzles, books, concept development, nature, music, multimedia, and art.

ART

With preschoolers, it is the process and not the end product that is important when considering artwork. To that end, please know that much of what your children bring home as "art" will be unidentifiable. However, this affords you a wonderful opportunity to talk to your child about the colors they used, how they worked with their hands to make their art, and what they were learning about in their classroom on that particular day.

MUSIC

Music is a wonderful tool for teaching young children. Toddlers through Four year olds will be exposed weekly to various songs, instruments, and musical experiences. Children enjoy all aspects of music; therefore a variety of activities will be included in each teacher's lesson plans.

MULTIMEDIA

The Multimedia is available to three and four year old children in the Full and Half Day Programs. Activities include educational computer games, Geo-Safari, and flannel board stories.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All children will participate in activities geared toward the development of large motor skills. For toddlers through four year olds, this includes playtime on one of our outside playgrounds or in the indoor play area. Older children also enjoy going to the Family Life center to play in the gym. Playtime is a fun and safe time for children at CDP. Teachers continue to interact and watch children closely while they are in larger areas. Playtime will be outside, weather permitting.

CHAPEL TIME

Chapel time is a special time set aside for the Ministers of First Baptist to share Bible stories with our four year olds on a weekly basis. In January, the three year olds will begin to participate in this special activity.

SHOW AND TELL

A teacher may designate a specific Show and Tell day for her class and will inform parents of that day. This is a time for children to bring a special toy or special item to share with the class. Please do not allow your child to bring toy guns or knives to school on this day. We also ask that, other than on Show & Tell day, your child leave their toys and other personal items at home.

FIELD TRIPS

On occasion, our four year old classes will be going on educational field trips to enhance our topic of study. You will receive information about each field trip as well as a field trip permission form to be filled out and returned to your child's teacher. No child will be taken off campus without a written permission slip. Parents are welcome to go on field trips and walk with the class provided.

LUNCHES

Lunches should be sent for all children. Please send milk or juice and nutritional finger foods in easily opened containers for your child. Whole milk is recommended for children two years of age and under. Juice boxes are easier for threes and fours. Please make sure that all items are clearly labeled with your child's name. It is recommended that you limit the amount of sweets. Toddlers and twos will need a sippie cup for snack and lunch.

SNACK

Morning snack is provided by CDP. However, it is a good time for parents to send special treats for birthdays or other special events. Please let your child's teacher know ahead of time if you wish to send a snack for all the children to share. Snack time is held before 10:00 a.m. for all the classes so that it does not interfere with lunch.

REST TIME

Children in the full day program will have a scheduled rest time each day. Infants and Creepers will rest according to individual schedules. Toddlers, twos, threes, and fours will have rest time according to their room schedule. Children are required to rest on their cots for at least 45 minutes. If you choose to send in a movie for the children to watch during rest time, please remember that we will only show G rated movies.

CLOTHING

Dress your child in clothing for play and outdoor activities. Select clothing that is washable, sturdy, free of complicated fastenings (especially for children who need diaper changes or are being potty trained) and weather appropriate. Please put labels or names in all outer garments, including hats and mittens. Label all diaper bags, blankets, bottles, etc. Disposable diapers are required. Children two and younger need a change of clothing in their bags, as well as extra pants in case of potty accidents. Older children will also need a change of clothes to be left at the Children's Center in the event of an accident.

Children have a difficult time running and climbing on the playground equipment with sandals, flip-flops or boots; therefore, these shoes are discouraged due to safety concerns.

PARTIES

Birthday parties can be observed during the snack time. Cookies are suggested rather than cake. Parties should be kept simple: cookies, drink, party napkins, and cups. Please do not bring or send balloons. Invitations to individual birthday parties can be sent home with the children provided all the children in the class receive one. Address lists for the class will not be given out without permission from all parents. Please do not send flowers, candy, or balloon bouquets to your child while they are at preschool.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We encourage parents to become involved in our program by assisting with occupational experiences, show and tell, field trips, holiday activities, and more. Parents wishing to chaperone any classroom activities are required to fill out the Child Protection Policy paperwork. These policies are available in the CDP or church office.

Parents are welcome to observe their children at work and play while in our care. There are windows in each classroom door to observe. If a parent requests to visit inside the classroom, it may be pointed out that the children do not behave normally when others are present, especially a parent.

ILLNESS

Please call the CDP office at 366-4411 if your child will not be attending school due to illness. Please keep your child home if they experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit or higher during the previous 24 hour period.
- Discolored mucus from nose for 3 days or more (green/gray mucus is a sign of infection)
- Vomiting two or more times in a 24 hour period
- Diarrhea (2 or more loose stools) during the previous 24 hours
- Signs of contagious infection (strep, croup, etc.) or infestation (head lice, scabies, fleas, etc.).
- Any unexplained rash and/or skin infection such as (boils, ringworm, or impetigo)
- Pink eye and other contagious eye infections (conjunctivitis, etc.)

With any or all of these symptoms a Doctor's note is required in order for the child to return to school.

While in our care you will be called to pick up your child if any of the following symptoms occur:

- Fever of 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Vomiting two or more times in one day
- Diarrhea (2 or more loose stools in one day)
- Signs of contagious infection (strep, croup, etc.) or infestation (head lice, scabies, fleas, etc.)
- Any unexplained rash and/or skin infection
- Pink eye or other contagious eye infection (conjunctivitis, etc.)

If you have to pick up your child because of illness we ask they remain at home for 24 hours before returning.

With any or all of these symptoms the Director may require a Doctor's note in order for the child to return to school.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

We will not administer oral medication of any kind. Creams and ointments can be administered as long as the following guidelines are observed:

1. Prescription medication must be in the original container labeled with the child's name, date, directions and the physician's name.
2. The center will administer the medication as directed on the label.
3. Medications that are outdated will not be given.
4. Non-prescription medication must be in the original container with directions. If label directs: "consult physician if child under 6 years of age," a note from the physician must accompany the medicine.
5. A medicine permission form from the parent or legal guardian must accompany the medication that is to be given (prescription and non-prescription).

The teacher administering the medication must initial the permission form and note the time it was given. The note will be put in the child's file.

RECORDS

All parents receive a handbook, which contains information, policies, and forms. A parent must fill out a Child Information Sheet listing allergies, doctor's name, emergency phone numbers, etc. on each child in the program.

An Emergency Room Treatment Release form must be signed by a parent. Because emergencies may arise, please keep us up to date on home, business and emergency numbers.

In case of accidental injury, we will attempt to contact a parent. If necessary, emergency officials will also be contacted. Parents will be expected to assume responsibility for any resultant expense.

An immunization record MUST be on file at the preschool prior to the first day your child attends school. These cards must be kept up to date. CDP must have the original copy. We will be more than happy to make a copy for your records.

A copy of the child's insurance card is needed for his/her file.

DISCIPLINE

We strive to maintain a stimulating environment, which helps in preventing negative behavior. Discipline shall be based on understanding the individual needs and development of a child and shall be directed toward teaching the child responsible behavior. We ask that teachers seek to re-channel behavior or problems and teach the child to respect the rights of others and to work within defined limits.

The following disciplinary measures shall be taken:

1. Verbal/physical redirection (taking child out of the situation).
2. "Time-Out" One minute per year of age. If time-out is used, it is important to explain to the child in a calm manner why he/she is in time-out and what the appropriate behavior should be.
3. In extreme cases, the Director should be notified.

Should the problem continue, the Director will determine the next course of action.

When the following behavior problems occur:

1. Continually disrupts the class.
2. Endangers another child or himself (biting, scratching, hitting, throwing, etc.).
3. Destroys equipment or property of others.
4. Is defiant to authority.

and the child is repeatedly told "no", the parents will be informed at the end of the day.

All disciplinary problems are handled on an individual basis according to the circumstances involved. We will always work with the parent to attempt to correct the situation. Temporary withdrawal is always our last choice. We reserve the right to permanently withdraw a child if disciplinary problems or other considerations warrant permanent withdrawal.

SECURITY SYSTEM

A Keypad Entry System accesses the First Baptist Church Children's Center. All employees, CDP parents and other designated people are assigned a four-digit access code that is used to enter the building.

This system was established in June 2000. It is a way for administration to monitor the people entering the Children's Building. Parents are given access to the building from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Camera surveillance also monitors these entrances. Your code is registered in the system every time it is used.

Each parent has his or her own access code. We ask that each parent use his/her own assigned code. Do not share your codes with anyone.

BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS

Sessions will not be held during icy or snowy weather. We will comply with the Tuscaloosa County School Board concerning closing school due to weather conditions. During severe storm warnings, the children will be taken and seated in the indoor play area. Please listen to the Fox affiliate, WBRC Channel 6 and radio station WTXT 98.1 FM for all weather information and school closing.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open House/Parent Meeting will be held prior to opening in the fall

Trick or Treat around the church offices

Thanksgiving parties - Students can dress in "theme" related costumes.
Special games and snacks may be planned.

Christmas parties - The children may exchange a present at the teacher's discretion.

Valentine's Day - Children prepare special "mailboxes" and play postmen, passing out their Valentine Cards to their classmates

Easter - Children can bring or make special baskets to hunt plastic eggs.

Muffins with Mom - Muffins and juice will be in the lobby for moms to enjoy with their children when they drop them off for school.

Donuts with Dad - Donuts and juice will be in the lobby for dads to enjoy with their children when they drop them off for school.

Child Development Program 2009 - 2010

August 9	Open House Full-Day
August 10	Classes Begin Full-Day
August 16	Open House Half-Day
August 17	Classes Begin Half-Day
September 7	Labor Day CDP Closed
October 9	Tusc Sch. In-Service Day Half-Day Closed
November 11	Veterans Day Half-Day Closed
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break Half-Day Closed
November 25 - 27	Thanksgiving Break CDP Closed
December 21 - January 9	Christmas Break Half-Day Closed
December 23 - 25	Christmas Holiday CDP Closed
December 31 - 1	New Years Holiday CDP Closed
January 18	MLK Holiday Half-Day Closed
February 15	Tusc Sch. Presidents/Weather Day Half-Day Closed
March 15-19	Tusc Sch. Spring Break Half-Day Closed
April 10	Good Friday CDP Closed
April 23	Tusc Sch. Weather Day Half-Day Closed
April 26	Tusc Sch. Spring Holiday Half-Day Closed
May 26	Last Day of School Half-Day
May 31	Memorial Day CDP Closed
July 5	4 th of July observance CDP Closed

Financial Agreement:

I, _____ agree to pay _____ by the 1st of every month. I understand that a late fee of \$ 25.00 will be assessed if payment is not received by the 10th of that month. I understand that tuition plus late charges not paid by the first of the following month will result in the child's place being forfeited. Additionally, I understand that all costs associated with the collection of past due or NSF payments (including Attorney's fees) will be my responsibility.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Handbook Agreement:

Please sign this agreement saying you have read, understand, and commit to follow the Parents Handbook. No child will be able to attend school until their parent(s) has returned this statement to the Child Development Program.

I, _____, have received, read, understand, and commit to follow the policies set forth by the First Baptist Child Development Program as stated in the Parent Handbook.

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____