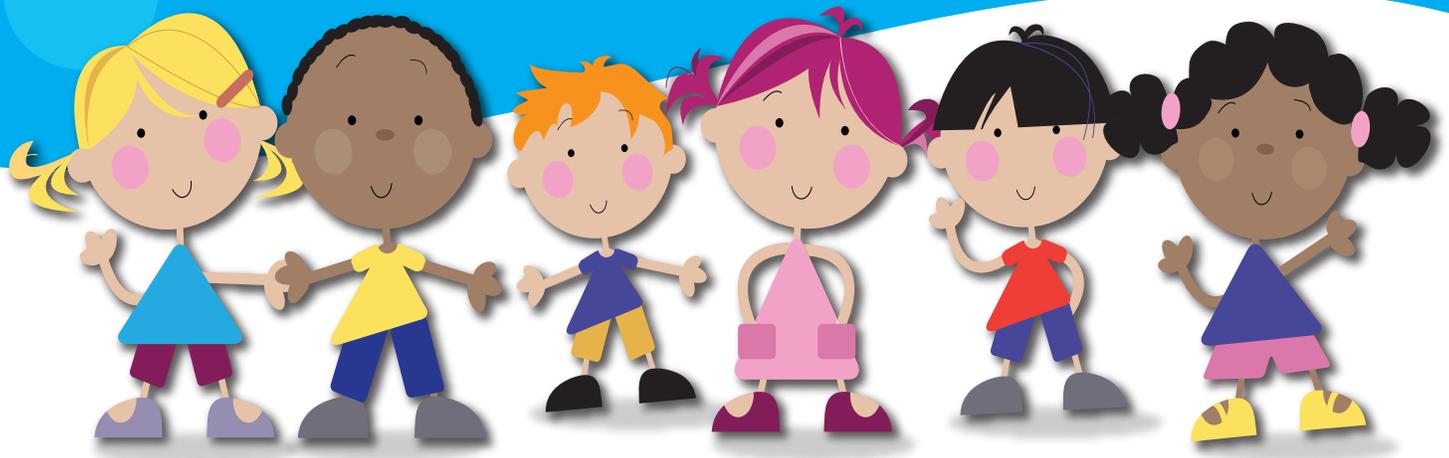




# Brookwood

PRESCHOOL ACADEMY



**2021-2022**  
**Family Handbook**





# Brookwood

**PRESCHOOL ACADEMY**

## **Academy Staff for Year 2021-2022**

Renee LaPierre, Co-Director  
Hanna Carlisle, Co-Director  
Kristie Wilhelm, Supervisor

## **Brookwood Academy**

580 Brookwood Point Place • Simpsonville SC 29681  
[brookwoodchurch.org/academy](http://brookwoodchurch.org/academy)  
phone: 864.688.8223  
email: [academy@brookwoodchurch.org](mailto:academy@brookwoodchurch.org)

## Brookwood Preschool Academy Mission Statement

The foundation for Christian education is found in **Proverbs 22:6**: *Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.* Brookwood Preschool Academy assists parents in providing this Christian instruction and training. The Academy curriculum is designed to nurture children in their spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical needs.

## Non-discrimination Policy

Brookwood Preschool Academy admits students of any race, religion, color or ethnic origin and does not discriminate on any basis.

## Confidentiality Policy

Brookwood Preschool Academy stores all student and staff records in a locked file cabinet in the Director's office which is also locked. The only people with access to the records are the Directors, Assistant Director, Curriculum Coordinator, child's teachers, and any regulatory agencies that need access for licensing purposes.

Your child's record, emergency and family information, photograph and other related data about your child is confidential and may not be copied, posted on a website, or disclosed to unauthorized persons without written consent from you, the child's parent or legal guardian.

## Center Credentials

Brookwood Preschool Academy is a licensed facility with the South Carolina Department of Social Services. We are in compliance with all the Code of Laws of South Carolina and the regulations that are applicable for a licensed center. Our state license is renewed every two years after we have passed inspections by the DSS, Fire Marshal and DHEC.

## Definition of Family

In this handbook we refer to family as a parent, legal guardian, or anyone else who provides for the well-being, best-interest and responsibility of the child in our care.

# Brookwood Preschool Academy

## 2021-2022 Parent Calendar

Thursday, August 5	Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night for full-time • 6-7 pm
Monday, August 9	Full-time children start
Wednesday, August 18	Meet the Teacher Drop-In for part-time • 11:30 am
Monday, August 23	Part-time children start
Monday, September 6	Closed for Labor Day
Friday, September 10	Grandparents Breakfast
Tuesday-Friday September 14-17	Teddy Bear Portraits
Thursday, September 23	Open House • 6-7pm
Friday, September 24	Closing at 4 pm • Special Friends Hoe Down event
October	Firemen Visit
Monday-Tuesday, October 18-19	No Part-time school
Friday, October 29	Trick or Treating • 9:30-10:30 am
Friday, November 12	Fall Festival (during school hours)
Friday, November 20	Class Thanksgiving party
Wednesday, November 24	No Part-time school • Academy closing at 12:30 pm
Thursday-Friday, November 25-26	Closed for Thanksgiving
December 2,3,6,7	Christmas Program Rehearsal • 9:30-11
Tuesday, December 7	Christmas Program • 6-7:30 pm
Friday, December 10	Pajama Day / Movie Day • 9:30 am
Wednesday-Thursday December 15-16	Christmas Parties • Parents invited
Monday-Thursday December 20-23	No Part-time school
Thursday, December 23	Academy closing at 12:30 pm
Friday-Friday December 24-31	Closed for Christmas
Monday, January 3	Return to school/National Sleep Day • Wear PJ's to school
Friday, Monday, January 14 and 17	No Part-time school
January	Dentist visit
Monday, January 24	Registration for new children (Brookwood members and attendees) for 2022-2023
Monday, January 31	Backwards Day • Registration for new children
Friday, February 4	Super Dad Day (Breakfast with Dad • 7-9 am)
Friday, February 11	Closed-Staff Work Day
Monday, February 14	Class Valentine party
Friday-Monday, February 18 and 21	No Part-time school
Friday, February 25	Fairy Tale Day
Monday-Friday February 28-March 4	Dr. Seuss Week

# Brookwood Preschool Academy 2021-2022 Parent Calendar

## CONTINUED

Friday, March 18 March 21-25	No Part-time school No Part-time school • Spring Break
Wednesday, Thursday, April 13-14 Friday, April 15 Monday, April 18 Friday, April 22 Monday-Friday, April 25-29	Class Easter party Closed for Good Friday Closed for Easter Monday Spring Day/Earth Day Teacher Appreciation Week
Friday, May 6 Thursday-Friday/Monday-Tuesday May 19, 20, 23, 24 Tuesday, May 24 Friday, May 27 Monday, May 30	Muffin for Moms K4 Graduation Rehearsal • 9:30-11 am K4 Graduation • 6-7:30 pm Last day of Part-time school Closed for Memorial Day
Friday, June 3	Last day of full-time pulling out for summer
Monday, July 4 Monday, July 18	Academy closed Academy closed-staff work day
Thursday, August 4 Monday, August 8 Thursday, August 25 Monday, August 29	Meet the Teacher Night for Fulltime children • 6 pm Full-time starts Meet the Teacher for Part-time children • 11:30 am-12:30 pm Part time starts

\*Dates are subject to change

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## **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

Bible stories, along with monthly themes, are woven throughout the Preschool Academy curriculum. The staff models and uplifts God as the central authority and shares His love throughout the weekly themes. Children develop spiritually as well as emotionally, and will be nurtured to understand just how much God loves them. Each room will have interest areas (classroom centers) where children will learn through play and interaction with friends.

Individual and group time is an important part of the program. Play is a child's work with a focus on the process, not the product. The National Association for the Education of Young Children believes that developmentally appropriate practices for each age group contribute to children learning valuable social and thinking skills. This process develops in classroom centers. A sample of classroom centers includes: literacy area, blocks, transportation, manipulatives, home/dramatic play, sensory play, table activities, science and art.

Creative Curriculum, Jolly Phonics and various Bible curriculums are used as an adjunct to the curriculum.

## **ELECTRONIC MEDIA**

Our normal daily routine does not include electronic media (television/TV, video, DVD) viewing and computer use but from time-to-time, we may use a television show without advertisements as a teaching aid and discussion stimulator. All Electronic Media will be screened prior to use and will consist of non-violent and high-quality educational material. Our focus is to provide your child a positive experience with increased understanding of the world.

## **RELATED ARTS CLASSES**

### **Available Free of Charge:**

Large Group Worship  
Spanish  
Creative Movement  
Music  
Science

### **Available at an Additional Charge:**

Stretch and Grow  
Dancing Little Stars

## AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

Brookwood Preschool Academy offers opportunities for discovery, investigation, experiences, learning through play, activities, art, language development and music.

The following areas of development are incorporated into daily planning:

**Spiritual development:** Prayer and reverence of prayer, Bible time each day to build on the truth of creation by God, being loved by God, and love for one another.

**Social/emotional development:** Making the proper choices, interacting with peers, taking turns, using table manners, dressing after diapering and toileting, cleaning up, parties and special events.

**Cognitive development:** Pre-math such as matching, recognizing sizes, identifying shapes, identifying colors, differentiating seasons, science and cooking.

**Small motor skills development:** (finger muscles): Using manipulatives such as puzzles and finger-plays. Art supplies such as hole punches, scissors, pencils, markers, crayons, clay and play-dough.

**Gross motor skills development:** (legs and arms): Music movement, hopping, jumping, running, working at an easel, outdoor play, riding wheeled toys, and games.

**Creativity and sensory development:** Art centers are available for exploring a variety of materials such as paints, clay and play-dough. Also block building, dramatic play, music and movement add to creative development. Sensory experiences may include rice, shaving cream and water play.

**Language development:** Storytelling, poems, nursery rhymes, finger plays, conversations, questions, reading of books, music and singing. All these activities help foster language skills.

## ADJUSTMENT PERIOD

Starting preschool for the first time can be an anxious time for everyone. To make your child comfortable in his/her new school, we suggest taking advantage of the back-to-school open house where you can see your child's classroom and meet the teacher. Even though your child may be hesitant to come into a new environment in the beginning of the school year, we suggest that you allow one month for your child to adjust and become comfortable. We will work with your family to make this adjustment period a positive one.

## WHAT TO BRING FOR FULL-TIME CHILDREN

**Label Everything. The teacher will label any unlabeled items with a black sharpie marker.**

For full-time children, bring one small soft toy or any special item needed for nap time (examples: pacifier, blanket). These items will be kept at school all week and sent home on Friday. Bring a mat with your child's name on it for nap time. **All items will be kept at school all week and sent home at the end of the week for laundering. Please be sure to bring them back the following Monday.**

Please bring a full-size, empty backpack to school each day. One that can fit a folder. Please check the folder daily.

## INFANT/TODDLER PROGRAM

**Label Everything. The teacher will label any unlabeled items with a black sharpie marker.**

We recommend that everything be labeled with inch bug labels. We have found that these last the longest even through multiple washes in the dishwasher.

Bottles will be sent home daily to be washed. Please send in enough bottles for your child to last through the day.

If your child is on breast milk or if you make pre-made bottles, they will need to be dated and labeled with your child's name. The Academy is unable to transfer breast milk from one container to another due to sanitary reasons.

*A Daily Report...* will be sent via Brightwheel daily.

You are responsible for bringing your child's diapers, wipes and food. The teacher will send home a reminder through Tadpoles when your child's supplies get low.

Cloth diapers are not allowed due to sanitary reasons and space.

When your child starts eating food, please make sure to have the first couple of servings at home in case they experience any allergic symptoms.

Paci's that have animals attached will not be able to be used in the crib.

A doctor's note is needed to swaddle.

No blankets or lovies will be allowed in the child's crib. After they turn 1 and transition to a nap mat they will be allowed to use a lovie or blanket.

Bottles made at the Academy need to come in with pre-measured water in the bottles and pre-measured formula in a separate container.

No glass bottles.

All stainless steel bottles must be in a silicone sleeve.

Please cut all food into small bite size pieces.

All children in room 119/103 must wear shoes everyday.

All children pulling up or walking in room 117 must wear shoes, grippe socks or have bare feet.

Children will be moved to a nap mat when they turn 1.

## **TOILET TRAINING FOR TWO-YEAR-OLDS**

We will partner with you to toilet train your child in the K2 program. All two-year-olds will be required to wear only pull-ups. This will help with self help skills and preparing them for being potty trained. (Velcro pull apart preferred.)

**Step 1:** The most important factor in making the toilet learning experience successful and as low-stress as possible is a family/teacher partnership that supports the child. Research indicates that children cannot successfully learn how to use the toilet until they are physically, psychologically, and emotionally ready. Many pediatricians say that most children under 24 months of age are not physically capable of regulating bladder and bowel muscles. Most positive toilet training occurs only after children show signs of physical control or awareness of their bodily functions and when they demonstrate an interest or curiosity in the process. We are committed to working with you to make sure that toilet learning is carried out in a manner that is consistent with your child's physical and emotional abilities and your family's concerns.

**Step 2:** Once we are successful for a full seven days with your child staying dry and pooping in the potty (this does not mean night time or nap time), then it's time to talk to transition into big boy/ girl pants to school.

**Step 3:** It's time to partner with us helping your child be successful. You will need to bring in three or four complete changes of clothes, underwear and shoes. Your child needs to be able to pull up and down their clothes for potty time. (No one piece jumpers, romper, belts, overalls or onesies please). If your child has three accidents in one day, a pull-up will be placed on your child. If three accidents a day continues for a consecutive week at the Academy, your child will be placed back in pull-ups and we will continue to try.

- The teacher will continue to put your child on the potty to be consistent.
- This will also give your child's body more time to develop to be successful in potty training.
- Reminder: All children must be potty trained for the three-year-old classes.

## **TOILET INDEPENDENCE FOR THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLDS**

Students in K3 and K4 must be fully toilet trained and independent in the rest room.

When transitioning to the three-year-old class, all children are required to be in panties or underwear (no Pull-Ups) and be able to pull up and down clothes by themselves. We will help wipe the children until October 1. Students in K3 who have daily accidents are not considered fully toilet trained and will not be allowed to attend class for two weeks. This break is designed to give you time to fully toilet train your child. No tuition credit will be given during this time.

Upon your child's return, if accidents continue to occur, one of the Directors will meet with you to discuss possible solutions.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## FULL-TIME PROGRAM ENROLLMENT SCHEDULE

Full-time students attend school 7 am-6 pm year-round. Children in the full-time program must be enrolled in Brookwood Preschool Academy Monday-Friday.

We open at 7 AM. Please do not drop-off your child prior to the opening. Parents are expected to accompany their children and check them in with the teacher. Please also make sure your child/children do not run ahead and stay with you at all times.

We close at 6 PM. Please allow enough time to arrive, get your child's belonging, and leave by closing time.

We're requiring that all children be here no later than 9 am. When children arrive after 9 am this disrupts the class and interrupts the children's schedule/routine which can lead to behavioral issues and other problems in the classroom. We understand that on occasion things will come up, if your child is going to be late or absent please make sure to let us know via the Brightwheel app, email us at [academy@brookwoodchurch.org](mailto:academy@brookwoodchurch.org), or call us at 864.688.8223 so the teachers can plan accordingly. If your child is not here by 9am, and we haven't heard from you, your child will be marked absent and your child will be unable to attend school that day.

If early pick-up is required, please pick-up before 1 pm or after 3 pm, as this is the children's nap time.

## PART-TIME PROGRAM ENROLLMENT SCHEDULE

Part-time students attend school 9 am-1 pm during the school year. The part-time program begins promptly at 9 am and ends promptly at 1 pm. It will follow one of the following schedules:

- Monday through Friday (five days)
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday (three days)

We're requiring that all children be here no later than 9 am. When children arrive after 9 am this disrupts the class and interrupts the children's schedule/routine which can lead to behavioral issues and other problems in the classroom. We understand that on occasion things will come up, if your child is going to be late or absent please make sure to let us know via the Brightwheel app, email us at [academy@brookwoodchurch.org](mailto:academy@brookwoodchurch.org), or call us at 864.688.8223 so the teachers can plan accordingly. If your child is not here by 9am, and we haven't heard from you, your child will be marked absent and your child will be unable to attend school that day.

Children in the part-time program may arrive as early at 8:50 am and must be picked up promptly by 1 pm in car line.

For an additional fee, before-care will be offered for families needing to drop children off before 9 am.

## LATE PICK-UP FEES

Late pick-up is not a normal program option and will only be considered as an exceptional occurrence. Late fees of \$2.00 per minute; after 15 minutes, \$4.00 per minute will be assessed beginning at 1 pm for part time and 6 PM for full time. You will be given an invoice the following day and draft from your account on Friday. If you are going to be late please call 864.688.8223 to let us know. **Repeated late pick up may result in child care services being terminated.**

### Other Fees

- A non-refundable enrollment/ registration fee of \$175 is due annually on February 1

## REGISTRATION

Registration for currently enrolled children and their families takes place in the middle of December. During this time all the current children and siblings re-enroll. During this time, siblings of children who have graduated from the program can come back and register. All available spaces will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

After this re-enrollment period ends, enrollment to the public opens for all available spots. After this re-enrollment period ends enrollment will be opened up for Brookwood members and attendees on a date that will be posted on the website. After a week we will open all remaining spaces to the public. All spaces that are available for the upcoming school year spots will be posted on the Brookwood website and updated regularly. On the day of registration, once all spaces are filled we will immediately start a new waiting list and the previous year's waiting list will be void. If no spaces are available on the day of registration the new waiting list will start at 7 am.

Openings during the year will be filled from the waiting list. First preference will be given to employees of Brookwood and siblings of enrolled children, or to past Academy families.

## CARPOOL

The Academy provides a car hang tag to be hung from rear view mirrors during pick up. Dismissal will begin at 12:50 pm. Parents are asked to pull into the parking lot loop on the south side of the building. Parents should stay in their car. Staff will bring children to their parents. A group of four to five cars will be loaded at a time. Parents are required to buckle in their children before pulling away from the curb. When the group of cars is finished buckling, parents may all pull away at the same time, then the next group of cars will be loaded. **No passing other cars. Also note that teachers are not allowed to buckle in children.**

In case of rain children will remain inside until it's their turn.

## CAR SEAT

During car line, we are unable to put your child in the car without a proper car seat. To understand our position, please read the following South Carolina Car Seat Safety Laws:  
South Carolina's child passenger restraint law requires that:

- Children from birth to 1-year-old, or who weigh less than 20 pounds, must be secured in a rear-facing child safety seat.
- Children 1 through 5-years-old weighing at least 20 pounds and less than 40 pounds must be restrained in a forward-facing child seat.
- Children 1 through 5-years-old weighing 40 to 80 pounds must be secured in a belt-positioned booster seat.
- Children under the age of 6 are not required to be in booster seats if they weigh more than 80 pounds or if they can sit with their backs against the car's seat and bend their legs over the seat edge without slouching.
- Children under 6 may not sit in the front passenger seat. However, this restriction does not apply if the vehicle has no rear passenger seats or if all other rear passenger seats are occupied by children less than 6-years-old.

## **DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP**

Please enter the building with your child. Don't allow your child to run through the halls. If you allow them to run, they think it's ok to run from their teacher and this could present a safety hazard if they run away. This is especially important with the younger ages.

When dropping off and picking up please make eye contact with the teacher so they know your child is being dropped off or picked up. Sometimes during the busy times it's easy for a teacher to get distracted with other children. This just helps us keep counts and aware of where all the children are at all times. Please drop off at the door so that children can start building a relationship with their teacher. Please don't go into the classrooms unless absolutely necessary, for the safety of all the kids.

Part-time children may be dropped off as early as 8:50 am.

**Class starts promptly at 9 am. Teachers will not be available to answer any questions after 9 am.**

If parents have questions, they may write them down and the teacher will respond during their free time.

After dropping off or picking up a child, please close the door firmly, so no friends escape.

If dropping off a child in one of the infant or toddler rooms, do not bring or allow siblings to open the door or enter the room.

## **CELL PHONE USAGE**

The times you spend in the center dropping off and picking up your child are the primary windows of time we have to communicate with you about your child. In order to make the best use of these opportunities, as well as to be attentive to your child and other children, we ask that you NOT use your cell phone at any time while visiting the center.

## **AUTHORIZED & UNAUTHORIZED PICK-UP**

Your child will only be released to you or those persons you have listed as Emergency and/or authorized to pick up. If you want a person who is not identified as an Emergency and/or authorized to pick-up your child, you must notify us in advance. Your child will not be released without prior authorization. The person picking up your child will be required to show a picture ID as verification. Please notify your pick-up person of our policy.

In order to safeguard your child we will need copies of any court ordered custody agreements. Without a custody agreement, we are not able to prevent the release of your child to a parent.

If a child has not been picked up after closing and we have not heard from you, attempts will be made to contact you, and the contacts listed as Emergency contacts. Provisions will be made for someone to stay with your child as long as possible. After 20 minutes we have not been able to reach you or a person listed as an Emergency Contact, we will call the local child protective services agency.

## **NAP TIME**

Children will not be able to be dropped off between the hours of 1-3 pm.

We encourage parents not to pick up children during nap time (1-3 pm) as this might interfere with the children sleeping.

## REST TIME

Infants sleep according to their own schedule and are put to sleep on their backs. Caregivers/teachers directly observe infants by sight and sound at all times and check on sleeping infants periodically throughout nap time. Infants must sleep in a crib and not allowed to sleep in swings or infant carriers.

After lunch, all children will participate in a quiet rest time. Children are not required to sleep but they are required to lay quietly. If the child is disruptive to the other children- parents may be called if behaviors continue.

## EMAIL/COMMUNICATION

The Academy will send out a monthly newsletter, a monthly class newsletter and calendars. Please make sure to notify the Academy with any contact information changes.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In case of inclement weather, please call the church main telephone number 864.688.8200 and choose option 1 to listen to *Special Announcements Including Inclement Weather*, check local radio stations or TV channels (4, 7 or 21), to determine if Brookwood Church is going to be open, delayed or closed. Look for the listing Brookwood Church/Brookwood Preschool Academy. Also check the Brookwood Preschool Academy on Facebook since it's updated often.

**If public school is delayed or closed, there will be no part-time preschool (9 am–1 pm).**

One of the following weather policies will be recorded:

**Closed:** Weather will not permit Brookwood Church/Brookwood Preschool Academy to be open.

**Full-time delay:** The church will open. Brookwood Preschool Academy will open at 10 am for **full-time students only**.

\*If Greenville County has an early dismissal, we will close two hours later.

## SPARE CLOTHING

Please send a full change of clothing for children in a gallon-size Ziploc bag with the child's name on it. These will be stored at the school until needed. If and when soiled clothing is sent home, please return fresh clothing the next day. If a child is potty training, please bring multiple changes of clothes and an extra pair of socks and shoes.

Infants and toddlers will need at least three changes of clothing.

## BIRTHDAYS/CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays are very important milestones in the lives of children. The Staff would love to share special days. Parents may provide a special snack for their child's class to celebrate his/her day. **Snacks must be nut-free.** If parents wish to invite classmates to a party, the entire class must be invited for invitations to be given out at school. Otherwise please mail, email or hand deliver to parents outside of school. If invitations are put in only some book bags the other children will know they didn't get an invitation. This is especially important with older children as they talk about birthdays, a very exciting topic of conversation.

During birthday celebrations we are unable to light candles. We have an overhead sprinkler system and the smoke from the candles could set them off. **We do not allow balloons of any type.**

## **CLOTHING**

Please dress your child in practical clothing that allows for freedom of movement and is appropriate for the weather. Your child will be involved in a variety of activities including: painting, outdoor play, sand, weather, and other sensory activities. Our playground is used as an extension of the center, and daily programs are conducted outside whenever weather permits.

Sandals and flip-flops are not appropriate for center play and make it difficult for your child to participate in some activities.

## **OUTDOOR DISCOVERY**

Please note that children will be required to play outside if their class participates in outdoor play. The Division of Social Services (DSS) requires children to have outdoor play time every day unless the weather is extreme. We realize seasonal allergies can be a struggle, but we do not have the ability to keep children indoors all day. On days that weather permits, students in the preschool program will go outside in the morning and students who attend the full day program enjoy an additional recess. Unless the outdoor temperature is below 20 degrees, the children will go outside for recess. Children must be appropriately dressed for cold weather. Please provide a coat with a hood or a hat in cold weather. When the outdoor temperature exceeds 95 degrees, children will only go outdoors for ten minutes and caution will be used.

## **OUTSIDE PLAY**

Weather permitting; we conduct 30 minutes of supervised outdoor play and/or walking trips around the campus- 1 time for part time children and 2 times a day for full time children. Children are accounted for at all times. A permission statement for participation in walking trips is included in the handbook.

## **RAINY DAYS**

On rainy days if a child uses an umbrella to walk into school, parents are asked to take the umbrella home with them when they leave.

If rain boots are worn to school, they will either need to stay on the child's feet all day or parents can change the child into shoes when they arrive.

## **CONFERENCES**

For children in the K3 and K4 rooms, parent/teacher conferences will be held twice a year. Parent/teacher conferences are optional for children in K2-K3. Parent/teacher conferences are required for K4 in an effort to prepare children for kindergarten.

## **CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS**

Many factors are considered in making class assignments. Special requests for placement with a specific teacher or another child will be considered but the Academy reserves the right to make the final decision.

## KEY FOB FEE

Each family will be given two key fobs free of charge. If a family needs more than two, they will be required to purchase them to gain access to our facility. All people who regularly pick up will be required to have a key fob.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## ALLERGIES

If a child has food allergies, parents are asked to please fill out a Food Allergy Action Plan and return it as soon as possible. Copies are available in the office. Please make sure that the Food Allergy Action Plan remains up-to-date throughout the year. Please discuss a child's allergies with his/her teacher. If an Epi-pen, Benadryl or other life-saving medication needs to be administered in the event of an allergic reaction, please see the Director prior to starting a child in the Academy program.

**Anything made with or containing peanuts/nuts is not allowed at Brookwood Preschool Academy.** To a child who is sensitive, even having peanuts/nuts in the room can be life threatening. If a parent sends food items with peanuts, peanut butter, or nuts, they will be called and asked to bring in a replacement. If using a peanut alternative such as soy, sun or wow butter, please label to alert staff that it's not peanut butter.

## LUNCH POLICY

Parents need to send in lunch and two snacks each day (one snack for Part-Time kids)

To aid the teachers and students, lunches must be easily set up and eaten. Lunches should be sent in a labeled thermal lunch box. Please label all containers with the child's name. Please provide an ice pack to help keep lunches fresh. We are NOT able to heat up lunches. For hot lunches use a thermos. No glass containers of any kind may be used.

Part of the Academy daily curriculum consists of eating lunch together family-style. We'll consistently talk about table manners and always have a prayer of blessing for our food. We will be promoting independence and self-help skills by having children clean up after lunch.

All lunches and snacks must be peanut and nut-free.

When children start eating food on their own, please pack finger foods to help with lunchtime.

Please limit the amount of sugary items you send in your child's lunch. If candy is sent in a child's lunch, it will be sent home. This includes chocolate, skittles, hard candy, lifesavers, M&M's, etc. No sodas please.

**The Academy does not provide spoons, forks or plates. Please include daily.**

## SHOES AND CLOTHING POLICY

Children should be comfortably dressed for active play. Sometimes play is messy so children should wear washable clothing or *play clothes*. Although every effort is made to keep children's clothing clean, sometimes they may get soiled during creative or outdoor play.

In order to provide a safe and healthy environment, shoes must be worn at all times. We ask that children wear closed-toe, non-skid shoes that tie or Velcro.

During the summer months children may wear sandals with back straps but no flip flops.

## **ILLNESS POLICY**

When a parent is called to pick up a sick child a 1 hour window will be given for parent to arrive. After that time frame, DSS maybe called.

Unless medical evaluation indicates inclusion, children will be excluded from care at the Academy if one or more of the following conditions exist:

**The illness prevents a child from participating comfortably in program activities.**

**Extreme lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, or difficulty breathing.**

**Fever greater than or equal to 101°F.**

Child may return to school after being fever free for 24-hours without the aid of a fever reducing medication—ex. Tylenol or Motrin or if a doctor’s note states the fever is caused by an ear infection or teething and the child is not contagious.

A child who is teething may attend preschool with a low-grade fever, but no behavior change.

**Three episodes of uncontrollable diarrhea and/or one episode of vomiting.**

Child may return to school after being symptom free for 24-hours.

**Rash with a fever or behavior change.**

Child may return with a rash after being fever free for 24-hours without medication.

**Pink Eye or conjunctivitis.**

Child may return after first dose of medication.

**Strep Throat.**

Child may return 24-hours after first dose of medication and fever free without medication.

**Croup.**

Child may return when fever free for 24-hours without medication.

**RSV.**

Child may return when fever free for 24-hours without medication.

**Hand, foot and mouth disease.**

Child may return when fever free for 24-hours without medication and does not have excessive drooling or difficulty swallowing. The red blisters should be dry and crusted over.

**Staph infection/MRSA.**

May return after being on antibiotics for 24-hours and with the site covered.

**Ringworm.**

Child may return with a doctor’s note documenting diagnosis and initiation of anti-fungal therapy.

**Mouth sores.**

Child may return when no mouth sores are present, unless the child’s doctor states that they are not contagious.

**Flu.**

Child may return to school after being fever free for 24-hours without the aid of a fever reducing medication—ex. Tylenol or Motrin or if a doctor’s note states the fever is caused by an ear infection or teething and the child is not contagious.

**Head lice.**

Child may return 24 hours after a treatment and has no signs of lice or eggs.

**Scabies, pinworm, or other infestations.**

May return with a doctor's note and no symptoms are present.

**Tuberculosis, chicken pox, pertussis or hepatitis A.**

May return with a doctor's note.

During Flu season or if there is an outbreak of illnesses the academy reserves the right to lower the fever policy to 100 to help minimize the spread of germs. The academy will send out an email with the date this temp. Change will go into effect and when the change will end.

Upon returning to school from an illness, children must be well enough to participate in all the day-to-day activities including outdoor play, weather permitting.

Children, who have any type of *outpatient or inpatient surgery* must have a written doctors note stating that they are permitted to return.

**MEDICATIONS**

No over the counter, oral medication or prescription medication will be given unless it is accompanied with a doctor's note stating the dose and also the exact dates the medication should be given. All medication will need to be in its original container.

If medication is to be given to a child at any time, the medication is to be delivered to the Director's office in the original container labeled with the child's name, instructions and a signed Medication Authorization form (located in the office). The Director or Supervisor will dispense the medication. Medication is not to be stored in backpacks or on hallway hooks.

The Academy staff can only dispense medication as it is stated on the original container or with a doctor's note that has a beginning date and an ending date and the dosage amount.

Medication can't be added to sippy cups or bottles.

**HAND WASHING/FINGERNAILS**

Teachers will have children wash their hands upon arriving at school. Teachers will also have the children wash their hands throughout the day.

Staff will clip nails as needed.

**CLEANING**

Infant and toddler rooms will be cleaned and toys disinfected throughout the day. The room will also be thoroughly cleaned after all the children have left for the day.

The K2-K4 room and toys will be disinfected daily. This room will also be thoroughly cleaned after all the children have left for the day.

## **FIRE DRILLS**

Fire drills will be conducted monthly in all Birth-K4 rooms.

## **LOCK DOWN POLICY**

In the event that the academy must be placed on lock down, our first priority will be to ensure that all the children are safe. Then we will alert parents/guardians, via tadpole, that the academy will be on lock down. During this time, all key fobs will be deactivated and no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building. Once the lock down has been lifted by the proper authorities, parents/guardians will be notified, via tadpole, that it is safe to come pick up your child/children.

## **TORNADO/HURRICANE WARNING**

In the event of a tornado/hurricane warning, all children will be evacuated to our designated areas. We strongly suggest that you wait until after the warning has been lifted to pick up or drop off your child/children.

During a watch- we closely monitor the weather and evacuate the children and staff as needed. Please make sure your email address and cell phone numbers are up to date so you can get the proper notifications as needed.

## **ACCIDENT/INJURY POLICY**

It is the general policy to report all injuries to the parent. If the child has a scratch, minor bump that leaves a mark, or a bite we will write a note to the parent to be sure they understand that we know how the injury occurred and give the report to the parent at pick up. If it is anything other than a scratch, bump, or bite it is our policy to call the parent and let them know what has happened. Our procedure is the following:

1. We take care of the child's immediate medical need.
2. If necessary we will call the parent and explain what has happened. We then inform that parent of our opinion, and allow that individual to decide whether or not he/she needs to come to examine the child.
3. We fill out an Accident/Incident Form. The teacher and the parents sign the form. The parent will receive the yellow copy and the white copy is filed in the child's folder.

In the event of a serious medical emergency, the child will be taken to the hospital immediately by ambulance, while we will try to contact you or an emergency contact.

## **EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION**

In the event your child needs to be transported due to a medical emergency, if no other authorized person can be contacted and the need for transportation is essential, an ambulance will be called for transportation. A proper escort will accompany and remain with the child until a family member or emergency contact arrives.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

You can look for lost items and bring found items to the Lost-and-found Box located at the office or on the academy window sill. Please note that we are not responsible for lost personal property.

## **TOYS FROM HOME**

We request that you do not allow your child to bring toys from home into the center unless they are part of a show-and-tell activity.

# BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

*The goal of our instruction is love. 1 Timothy 1:5*

It is the desire of the Academy to see children learn to love others with the selflessness of Christ.

The Brookwood Preschool Academy strives to thoroughly teach what is right and pleasing while keeping the focus simple and age-appropriate. No corporal punishment will be used.

Children will hear praise for positive actions in order to promote appropriate behavior. They are encouraged, with the teacher's guidance, to learn problem-solving techniques to work through situations with peers. Young children are redirected and given choices in order to foster responsibility. A *thinking chair* may be used with young children to move them away from a situation in which some guidance and direction is given by the teacher. Children will only sit in the *thinking chair* one minute per their age. Teachers will strive to keep parents informed of any situation that warrants a conference.

The Academy recommends that parents define, plan and carry out their discipline decision with their child, and refer to the selected Bible verse below. Use these verses as a guide in forming disciplinary plans based on biblical principles with your family. Parents are asked to review these verses together as they decide how to discipline their child.

*Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*

*Even a child is known by his action, whether his conduct is pure and right. Proverbs 20:11*

*Do not withhold discipline from your child. Proverbs 23:13*

## AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

If a child exhibits aggressive behavior toward another student or staff member such as, but not limited to, aggressive hitting, choking, biting (for older children in Pod B) kicking, spitting and or physical harm with an object, the following actions will be taken. All action steps taken by Brookwood Preschool Academy will be based on age appropriate behavior.

1. First occurrence: Parents will be notified.
2. Second occurrence: Parents will be notified (the child will be asked to leave immediately).
3. Third occurrence: Parents will be notified, and a conference will be held.

## PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Physical restraint is not used or permitted for discipline. There are rare instances when we need to ensure a child's safety or that of others and we may restrain a child by gently holding her or him only for as long as is necessary for control of the situation.

## BITING POLICY

Biting is a normal stage of development that is common among infants and toddlers – and sometimes even among preschoolers. It is something that most young children will try at least once.

When biting happens, our response will be to care for and help the child who was bitten and to help the biter learn a more appropriate behavior. Our focus will not be on punishment for biting, but on effective behaviors that address the specific reason for biting.

1. Exploring
2. Imitating others. Toddlers use imitation as a way to learn.
3. Developing understanding of autonomy and experimenting with asserting themselves as independent beings. Children this age are trying to make choices and trying to control and have power over others.
4. Needing more attention.
5. Frustration. This is sometimes caused by their lack of language skills and self-control. They may know exactly what they want and do not yet have the words or ability to control themselves or to be understood.
6. Expressing anger.
7. Releasing tension or anxiety.
8. Excitement.

## **ENROLLMENT, TUITION & POLICY**

### **TUITION AUTOMATIC DRAFT**

Tuition fees are automatically drafted from a checking or savings account. Tuition is drafted weekly for full-time students and monthly for part-time preschool only students (9 am-1 pm). Please return the Draft Authorization Form located in the registration packet along with a voided check.

All tuition payments **MUST** be made through an automatic draft. Only cash or checks for incidental fees are accepted. The auto draft form is included in the packet of paperwork for each child and it must be signed and returned to our office. A fee of \$25.00 will be charged if there are insufficient funds to cover the draft. Should the draft be returned without payment twice, the account will be considered delinquent. If an account becomes delinquent these steps will be taken in order:

1. Invoices sent home.
2. Contact from the Academy Director to arrange a payment.
3. If payment arrangements are not made and followed, the child will be released from Brookwood Preschool Academy.

### **RETURNED CHECKS/REJECTED TRANSACTION CHARGES**

Two or more returned checks or rejected transactions will result in your account being placed on "cash only" status for the remainder of the school year.

Tuition rates are not adjusted for holidays, inclement weather, weather delays, staff development or if a child is absent due to illness, family events, power outages or other situations beyond our control.

### **CLOSING DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER**

Should severe weather or other conditions (i.e., snow, storms, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, blizzards, loss of power, loss of water) prevent us from opening on time or at all, notification to the families will be announced on academy facebook, Brookwood website, and via our tadpole emergency app.. If it becomes necessary to close early, we will contact you and or your emergency contacts as soon as possible via our tadpole emergency app. Your child's early pick-up is your responsibility to arrange to be pick up as soon as possible.

Brookwood closes one full week at Christmas time and tuition will not be drafted for this week.

## **CREDITS & NO CREDITS**

Weather-related or Environmental Disaster or Pandemic - in the event of a serious crisis during which we are prohibited from operating, families shall pay 50% for the length of the closure. Payment of your Tuition allows us to retain staff, pay operating expenses, and hold open your child's spot for when we are safely able to reopen.

## **SIBLING DISCOUNT**

A 4% sibling discount will be given. The discount will be applied to the lowest child's tuition.

## **SUMMER PROGRAM**

If a child is removed from the full-time program to go into the part-time program for the summer, the child will start the part-time program on the official start date. (Some years there may be a week gap between programs.) The dates for the summer program will be sent home in April 2021.

To remove a child from the Academy for the summer, submit a written notice. The child's last day will be the last Friday for Greenville County. The child may return full-time in August 2021. Date will be given once the 2021-2022 Greenville County calendar is released. For full-time parents, a one-time fee equal to one week's tuition is required to hold your child's spot for August.

\*Dates tentative to change.

## **NOTICE FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM**

A two-week notice is required for full-day children to be withdrawn from the program. If the parent chooses not to bring their child during these two weeks, they will still be charged their usual tuition.

A one-month notice is required for part-time preschool students (9 am-1 pm) to withdraw.

Registration fees are paid each year to hold a space in the program and is non-refundable.

Parents may withdraw from our program at any point for any reason.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL**

Brookwood Preschool Academy reserves the right to withdraw a child from enrollment for all the following reasons but not limited to:

- Inability to meet a child's needs at the Academy.
- Excessive behavior problems.
- Failure to pay tuition.
- Failure of parent to abide by the health policies and all other Brookwood Academy policies and procedures.
- Lack of cooperation in obtaining outside child assessments and services requested by the Academy.
- Irrational or unprofessional behavior from family member towards staff.
- The Academy has the right to dismiss any child at any point..

If a child is withdrawn from the program, any tuition paid will not be refunded.

## **OUTSIDE SERVICES**

If a child needs extra assistance to be successful in school, the Academy reserves the right to refer parents to other resources such as, but not limited to, Child Find, Babynet or behavioral therapy.

If a child exhibits behaviors that are significantly distracting to the class or that put themselves or other children in danger, the Academy will recommend outside services for help. Parents are required to obtain an evaluation in order for a child to remain at the Academy. If, after an evaluation, the child is still unable to participate in group experiences with the class or is requiring significant additional teacher support, the child may be asked to leave the Academy. In addition, if parents refuse to seek help and the behaviors continue, the child may be asked to leave the Academy.

The Academy staff will make accommodations to help all children be successful. We will partner with parents, therapists etc., as needed. The Academy strives for the success of all children in its program. However, in the event that the Academy deems it can no longer help a child be successful in the classroom, the child will be asked to leave the Academy.

## **BABYSITTING**

We strongly discourage families from entering into employment arrangements with staff (i.e. babysitting). Any arrangement between families and our caregivers outside the programs and services we offer is a private matter, not connected or sanctioned by **Brookwood Preschool Academy**.

## **RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH CUSTODY TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD(REN)**

Under the laws of South Carolina, both parents have the right to pick up their child.

## **CHILD CUSTODY**

Without a court document, both parents/guardians have equal rights to custody. We are legally bound to respect the wishes of the parent/guardian with legal custody based on a certified copy of the most recent court order, active restraining order, or court-ordered visitation schedule. We will not accept the responsibility of deciding which parent/guardian has legal custody where there is no court documentation.

## **EMERGENCY PLAN**

The Academy has an emergency plan on file in the office. This plan includes policies and procedures for medical emergencies, emergency evacuations, fire emergencies, tornado evacuations, major disasters, intruder plan and a blood-borne pathogen plan. Several of the staff members are CPR/First Aid Certified.

Brookwood Preschool Academy is trained in recognizing and reporting child abuse and sexual abuse in children.

## **DANGEROUS WEAPONS**

A dangerous weapon is a gun, knife, razor, or any other object, which by the manner it is used or intended to be used, is capable of inflicting bodily harm. Families, children, staff or guests (other than law enforcement officers) possessing a dangerous weapon will not be permitted onto the premises.

In cases that clearly involve a gun, or any other weapon on our premises, the police will be called and the individual(s) involved will be immediately removed from the premises. This policy applies to visible or concealed weapons.

## **SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE**

We are required by law to report all observations of child abuse or neglect cases to the appropriate state authorities if we have reasonable cause to believe or suspect a child is suffering from abuse or neglect or is in danger of abuse or neglect, no matter where the abuse might have occurred. The child protective service agency will determine appropriate action and may conduct an investigation. It then becomes the role of the agency to determine if the report is substantiated and to work with the family to ensure the child's needs are met. Our center will cooperate fully with any investigation and will maintain confidentiality concerning any report of child abuse or neglect.

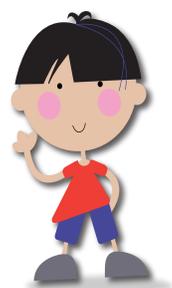
## **SMOKING**

The poisons in secondhand smoke are especially harmful to infants and young children's developing bodies, therefore the indoor and outdoor center environment and vehicles used by the center are non-smoking areas at all times. The use of tobacco in any form is prohibited on the center's premises.

## **PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

The use of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited on the center's premises. Possession of illegal substances or unauthorized potentially toxic substances is prohibited.

Any adult who appears to be inebriated, intoxicated, or otherwise under the influence of mind-altering or polluting substances is required to leave the premises immediately.



## FAMILY HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please sign this acknowledgement, detach it from the handbook and return it to the center prior to the start of the new school year.

This handbook may be updated from time-to-time and notice will be provided as updates are implemented.

Thank you for acknowledging the policies and procedures we have established for the safety and welfare of all children in our care.

I have received the **Brookwood Preschool Academy Family Handbook** and I have reviewed the family handbook. It's my responsibility to understand and familiarize myself the Family Handbook and to ask center management for clarification of any polkicy, procedure or information contained in the **Brookwood Preschool Academy Family Handbook** that I don't understand.

**Please return this signed acknowledgement along with your registration forms.**

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PLEASE PRINT: Name of parent or guardian

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Date

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Signature of parent or guardian

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Date



**BROOKWOOD**church

**LOVE GOD • LOVE PEOPLE**

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