



OUR PASSION. THEIR FUTURE.

Kipling Street Academy

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Parent Handbook

Information, policies, and procedures contained in this handbook are subject to change at any time.

Philosophy

Kipling Street Academy (“KSA” or “the School”) provides a loving environment in which each child can develop at his or her own pace. The staff implements developmentally appropriate activities for each age. We believe that children learn best by hands on activities. We provide carefully organized educational experiences with opportunities for creative expression, constructive play, social and emotional interaction, communication skills, physical development, practice in reasoning, logical thought, encouragement of decision making, risk taking and responsibility.

Curriculum Goals

The most important goal of our curriculum is that each child feels successful while participating in all activities at KSA. Self-esteem fosters success.

The major area of a child’s development includes physical, social, emotional, language, cognitive and intellectual aspects. Developmental factors are interwoven through all of these areas. Our learning centers are designed to address these areas of development. Center time includes art, dramatic play, computers, language, reading, writing, science, math, fine motor activities, outdoor activities, dress-up, and music. Children learn what their role is in these activities, as well as making choices for themselves during center time.

Part of our program is to conduct assessments to support children’s learning, using a variety of methods, such as observations, checklists, rating scales, and individually administered evaluations. Assessments are a vital part of education. They are used to drive instruction in the classroom, improve teaching practices, and help us meet the needs and interests of children. All assessments are conducted by the teachers in the classroom to create a safe testing environment. Parents will be provided a copy of the biannual assessments completed in April and October, and conferences with the teacher will be offered to allow you time to discuss the assessment and answer all your questions about your child’s development and future expectations.

All student assessments are considered confidential documents, and the information is only shared with parents, directors, and the teaching team to make academic decisions. Assessments will be stored in student files.

When a child leaves Kipling Street Academy, we want them to leave with a love of learning and to be excited about entering elementary school.

General Information

Kipling Street Academy is open year-round, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM. Holiday closures are noted in this Parent Handbook, as well as our academic calendar, available at www.kiplingstreetacademy.com.

Children 2 months through 5 years of age are eligible for enrollment. Enrollment is not restricted based on race, national origin, or culture. Admission is based on available space & student needs.

Enrollment Procedures

Parents are encouraged to set an appointment to tour the School and meet with a director to discuss space availability, student needs, policies, and questions.

Parents must submit all necessary enrollment forms completed in full before the child's first day in attendance. The following forms are **required by state law**:

- Admission Information Sheet
- Copy of Health Statement AND Immunization Records, signed & dated by doctor
- Hearing & Vision Screening results, signed & dated by screener (children aged 4+ only)
- Infant Care Instruction Sheet (children enrolled in infant program only)
- Copy of Birth Certificate

These forms, along with the student's permanent records, will remain confidential. Only program administrators, the child's classroom teacher, parents or legal guardians, and regulatory authorities will have access.

Parents of enrolled children will be notified in writing of all policy changes within 24 hours. Notifications will be sent via e-mail.

A non-refundable application fee of \$150.00 must be paid at the time of application. If a classroom position is not available, your child's name will be placed on the waitlist.

A biannual \$75.00 supply fee is required for all attending students except those in the infant class. When a student graduates out of the infant class and into the toddler class, or on his or her first day or month in the older classes, the first supply fee is due.

If a spot becomes available for your child who is on the waitlist, you will be contacted by administration via phone. You will be required to pay one full month's tuition as a confirmation payment within twenty-four (24) hours of verbally confirming the position in order to hold the position in your child's name. This confirmation payment is non-refundable regardless of attendance, as it confirms your desire to hold a position in our school. First month of attendance will be prorated on the basis of school days in that month. If you fail to pay one full month's tuition within twenty-four (24) hours of acceptance of an opening, your child's position will be released to the next family on our waitlist. All enrollment forms will be due two (2) weeks prior to your child's first day. Children are not allowed in attendance unless all required forms are on file. Placements are subject to change according to enrollment numbers and at the director's discretion.

Student Transitions

Every attempt is made to maintain continuity of relationships between teaching staff and children and among groups of children. Parents will be notified of any upcoming changes to help facilitate the transition of their child from one classroom to another or from one teacher to another.

In addition, we strive to make these transitions as easy as possible. We make every effort to keep each child in the same class for at least nine months to ensure positive relationships and learning experiences related to their specific age group.

Student Withdrawal

A written notice is **required** thirty (30) days in advance if a child is to be withdrawn from the program. Parents are financially responsible for all tuition and fees for the thirty (30) days following the date of notice of withdrawal. Parents that have provided appropriate notice will be refunded on a prorated basis any prepaid tuition and supply fee. Tuition and fees will be prorated according to the number of days the School is open during the given month. No refunds or credits will be made in the event that the thirty-day notice of **intent to withdraw** has not been provided. The final payment must meet all financial obligations to date and is due within three (3) business days of Kipling Street Academy's receipt of withdrawal notice.

On your child's last day, key fobs should be turned into the office and all personal belongings taken from the School. A full refund of your key fob deposit will be sent to the last address on file for your family, provided all financial obligations have been met.

Children may be administratively withdrawn due to the failure of parents to meet financial obligations, including late charges and late pick-up fees, or failure to follow policies and procedures as stipulated in this Parent Handbook. Readmission after withdrawal will require the full payment of any outstanding account balances as well as the payment of all enrollment fees including registration and supply fees.

Financial Arrangements

Tuition payments are to be made by personal or cashier's check, due in full, *on or before* the 1st of each month. A \$25.00 late fee per child will be charged when payment is not received by the 1st. Tuition may also be paid online via ACH bank draft for a \$3.00 processing fee per transaction. Please notify a director if you wish to opt into this payment method. Due to processing times, ACH payments must be made by the 24th of the month prior to avoid late fees. *Cash will not be accepted by Kipling Street Academy as payment for any tuition or fees.*

Returned or reprocessed payments will be subject to NSF fees as well as bank fees.

Final month of attendance will be prorated based on the number of days that the School is open given that advance written notice of at least thirty (30) days is provided for withdrawal. The final month's tuition will be due within three (3) business days of the withdrawal notice. Receipts will not be issued; instead, your cancelled check or bank statement will serve as your receipt.

Arrival, Departure, & Transportation

Parents may drop off and pick up children anytime between the hours of 7:30AM and 5:30PM. All parents must drop off all children in the classroom or to the teacher to be signed in. Only authorized individuals will be allowed to pick up a child. Directors must be notified in writing of any individuals authorized to pick up. Authorized individuals must be able to provide a valid photo ID upon arrival. Children must be accompanied by a parent or authorized adult at all times while on school grounds. Kipling Street Academy employees are prohibited from transporting children under any circumstances and may not be listed as authorized individuals to pick up.

There will be no transportation or field trips, except in the case of an emergency.

Late Pick-Up Charges

There will be a late charge if your child has not been picked up within 5 minutes after closing. For the first 3 times, the charge is **\$1.00 for every minute** after 5:30 P.M. Following the third time, the charge is **\$3.00/min** after 5:30 P.M. You will need to sign a Late Pick-Up form at the time you pick up your child. Please call the office if you are going to be late, so we may reassure your child that you are coming. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

Credit for Absences

Kipling Street Academy will not give tuition credits for absences due to illness or any other reason.

2020-2021 School Closures

September 7, 2020	Labor Day
November 23-27, 2020	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 21, 2020-January 1, 2021	Winter Break
January 4, 2022	Teacher In-Service
January 18, 2021	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 15, 2021	Presidents' Day
March 15-19, 2021	Spring Break
April 2, 2021	Good Friday
May 31, 2021	Memorial Day
July 5, 2021	Independence Day

2021-2022 School Closures

September 6, 2021	Labor Day
November 22-26, 2021	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 20-31, 2021	Winter Break
January 3, 2022	Teacher In-Service
January 17, 2022	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 21, 2022	Presidents' Day
March 14-18, 2022	Spring Break
April 15, 2022	Good Friday
May 30, 2022	Memorial Day
July 4, 2022	Independence Day

Food

Kipling Street Academy will serve 2 snacks per day, one at 9:00 AM and the other at 3:00 PM. Fresh, hot lunches are also served daily. Each snack and meal will be served with whole milk. A copy of the menu will be emailed to parents every Friday with lesson plans for the following week. Food prepared at the School will not be served to those students enrolled in infant classes. Infants will only have food provided from home. Food from home cannot be stored at school overnight.

If a child has a diagnosed allergy, parents must provide an allergy action plan signed by a medical professional with specific instructions regarding what medications to administer in the event of exposure to an allergen. All food allergies requiring an allergy action plan will be posted in an area where all staff are able to review any allergies in the building. Any other dietary restrictions must be requested in writing and will be provided to our chef with the list of allergies.

KSA will not serve the following foods due to choking hazard and/or allergies: peanut or peanut products, tree nut or tree nut products, hot dogs (whole or sliced into rounds); whole grapes; popcorn; raw peas; hard pretzels; chunks of raw carrots or meat larger than can be swallowed whole. If brought from home, the preceding items may only be served to children 4 years and older.

Foods with high sugar content and/or low nutrient value should not be brought to the School, with the exception of classroom holiday parties and children's birthdays. Parents are allowed to bring a treat for the class only on their child's birthday; however, birthday parties may not be held at Kipling Street Academy. Please do not send food for children other than your own. Teachers will not pass out treats for other children other than what is described above. If you have a concern regarding this matter, please contact an administrator.

Personal Items

EVERYTHING YOUR CHILD BRINGS TO SCHOOL MUST BE CLEARLY LABELED WITH HIS OR HER FIRST NAME AND LAST INITIAL.

Security Objects, Toys & Valuables

If your child has a security blanket type object, which he/she needs to help ease the transition from home to school, please allow them to bring it in the beginning. We will help with the transition by suggesting that he/she leave it in a cubby when comfortable, thereby gradually weaning them from it.

Please do not allow your child to bring toy weapons, jewelry, electronic devices, or money to school.

All toys should be left at home. We cannot be responsible for items brought to school, but we will try to help your child get home with it. Labeling everything will help us return your child's belongings.

Show and Share

Each class has a "Show and Share" day. All items must be labeled with your child's name and placed in the appropriate basket in your child's classroom. Please call the Director to let us know in advance if you plan to bring a live pet. It must be properly vaccinated and leashed or in a container. Some animals are prohibited, including all reptiles.

Clothing

Our activities include such things as sand and water play, painting, clay modeling and playing outdoors. All activities require comfortable, washable, "play" clothes. **Shoes should have non-slip soles.** This is very important for your child's safety. Since we go outside each day, please send a sweater or jacket in the winter, and sunhats and sun block in the summer. **These items need to be labeled with your child's name.** Quite often your child will have an item of clothing just like another child's.

Change of Clothes

Little accidents happen. Children should be sent with a set of clothes on their first day to leave at the School in case they need to change clothes. Please label the clothes individually and put them in a zip lock bag labeled with your child's name.

Discipline

Our purpose for all discipline with your children is to help them learn self-control and be socially responsible. "Be Kind", "Be Neat" and "Be Safe" are the rules we use to set appropriate limits of behavior.

We will try to redirect their actions to more appropriate behavior. Choices will be given. If all efforts fail, we will use a time-out from activities until the child feels able to control himself and rejoin the group. At no time will a child be physically punished, threatened or intimidated. We rely on techniques of redirecting attention to constructive behaviors, compromising differences, and encouraging children to seek alternatives within the boundaries of their abilities.

Our discipline and guidance policy is as follows: discipline will be individualized and consistent for each child, appropriate to the child's level of understanding and directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

Caregivers will use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction, which include at least the following: using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior; reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements; redirecting behavior using positive statements; and using brief supervised separation time out from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development, which is limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age.

There will be no harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment of any child. The following types of discipline and guidance are prohibited: corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment; punishment associated with food, naps or toilet learning; pinching, shaking, or biting a child; hitting a child with a hand or instrument; putting anything in or on a child's mouth; humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child; subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language; placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet with the door closed; and requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods of time for the child's age.

For children with persistent or challenging behaviors, teachers, families, and professionals will work as a team to develop and implement an individualized plan that supports the child's inclusion and success.

Dismissal/Expulsion Policy

Unfortunately, we must include a dismissal/expulsion policy. This will be referred to primarily in the event of dangerous or other behavior issues that cause harm to other students or teachers.

The most common issue in preschool is biting. We will work with children who develop a biting problem; however, if it persists uncontrollably for long, we will have to ask that the student take a break from school until the biting stops. Please do not take this personally if your child is the biter. If your child is bitten, please know that biting is unfortunately something that some children do and is quite normal. We understand how upsetting it is to arrive at the end of the day to pick up your child and see bite marks on them. We ask for your patience while we try and work with these children to stop the biting, as your next child may end up being a biter, and you will want the same courtesy extended to you.

We always want to work with children as they grow and learn. However, if a child is repetitively hurting others and disrespectful to the point of needing to be removed from the classroom setting or unable to function without incident in the classroom, they are subject to administrative withdrawal. On that same note, parents who repeatedly behave inappropriately, who do not have best interests of the children or school in mind, may inadvertently cause student withdrawal.

Hitting teachers or students, spitting on teachers or students, screaming, cursing, indecent exposure, inappropriate touching, etc. will not be tolerated. Unacceptable behavior from parents will also not be tolerated. We have truly wonderful families and employees at this school, and we will not tolerate rude or inappropriate behavior toward any of them. This includes other children, parents, teachers, and staff. Please know that every effort will be made on our part to correct any issue before it gets to this. The safety and wellbeing of each child is of the utmost importance to us.

Parent Involvement

Parents of enrolled children are welcome to check in at any time. We believe that parents are a child's most important teacher and would like to work with you in making your child's preschool experience the best it can be!

Parents will be kept informed through daily notes home from teachers, emails and/or calls from administrators, newsletters, and bulletin board postings. Parent conferences are held twice a year, and upon request, in order to discuss your child's growth and development. Parenting is not an easy job; therefore, we will offer parenting support through parent training sessions, referrals, and even a listening ear. Let us know how we can help. Remember your input is always appreciated.

Policies and Procedures for Parents

1. Parents are welcome to make an appointment to review and discuss with a director any questions or concerns about the policies and procedures of the child care center, in person, or by phone at (713) 529-4472.
2. Parents are also welcome at any time during the center's hours to observe their child, the childcare center operations, and program activities without having to secure prior approval. However, please be aware that your presence in the classroom may interrupt instruction. Mothers of infants are welcome to breastfeed their children in the infant classrooms during the center's hours.
3. Parents are encouraged to participate in the center's operation and activities by contacting a director in person, by phone, or e-mail.
4. Parents may review a copy of the minimum standards and KSA's most recent Licensing inspection report in the lobby.
5. Parents may contact the local Licensing office at (713) 940-5200, or report child abuse at the PRS website at http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp. The hotline number is (800) 252-5400.

Webcam Viewing

Kipling Street Academy is equipped with cameras in each classroom so that parents can log on and view their children's activities throughout the day. By logging onto WatchMeGrow.com you can register and will be allowed access to view your child's classroom starting on his or her first day of school.

Safety

Keeping children safe is a top priority for Kipling Street Academy, so there are a few rules we ask parents to follow to ensure this priority is met.

On stairs, parents must always hold their child's hand, and make sure that their other hand is holding the rail. Children are never to be allowed on the stairs without an adult. Children may not be anywhere on school property without adult supervision. Children must be within arm's length of an adult and may not

open school doors or run off from their supervising adult. This also applies to older siblings.

In the parking lot, it is important to be highly alert at all times. Always drive slowly (*no more than 5 MPH*) when entering and exiting the parking lot, and ***never*** use cell phones. When possible, we encourage parents to reverse into available parking spaces. Parents must also be sure to have a firm hold on each child before exiting the building. ***Again, cell phone use is prohibited at all times, whether driving or parked on school property.***

Infants and Safe Sleep

When arriving at Kipling Street Academy, infants must be removed from their car seats by their parents, as the School does not store car seats. If an infant is still sleeping, he or she will be placed in a crib at that time. Per Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards, infants under twelve (12) months of age must sleep in a bare crib except for a tightly fitted crib sheet. The crib sheet must be specifically designed for the size mattress in use, which the School provides. No plush toys, blankets, swaddles, or restrictive devices are allowed inside cribs. Pacifiers attached to stuffed toys or to the infant's clothing by a string, cord, or other attaching mechanism are not permitted for use at the School. The infant may sleep in a restrictive device or be swaddled only if the School has a Sleep Exception Form on file completed and signed by a medical professional stating a restrictive device or swaddling is medically necessary. Infants enrolled at KSA will always be placed in a face-up sleeping position in the infant's own crib, unless a completed Sleep Exception Form is on file that includes a signed statement from a health-care professional stating that a different sleeping position for the child is medically necessary. Infants able to assume a different sleep position on their own will be allowed to maintain that position. For more information on safe sleep, please see the [Texas DFPS Room to Breathe](#) website.

Playground Safety

All children will enjoy two supervised outdoor play times per day, weather permitting. Parents are required to provide sunscreen and insect repellent to use during outdoor play, which the teachers will apply to each child before their scheduled outdoor play time. Teachers communicate to parents when any supplies need to be replenished.

Medication

If possible, parents should schedule times for administering medication, including daily vitamins, to their child while the child is at home. If this is not possible, a Medication Authorization form must be filled out and signed before any medication will be administered at school. All medications must be clearly marked with your child's full name and must be in the original container with the original label. Medication of any kind is not to be left in the child's cubby, backpack or lunch box. Medicine cannot be left at the center longer than the date indicated on the Medication Authorization form and will not be stored overnight. Medicine left with no authorization will be returned to you.

- **Medication must be in original package and labeled for the child. Label directions or a doctor's prescription (not parent directions) will be followed, documented and witnessed.**
- **If label directions recommend to ask a doctor, KSA must have a doctor's note on file to administer the medication. Doctor's authorization must include the child's name, date of birth, name of the medication, specific dosage information, and instructions to administer medication to the child.**
- **Even something as simple as a homeopathic medicine or a throat lozenge will be treated in this manner and must be kept in the office.**

- **Parents must notify classroom teachers of any medications left in the front office to be administered at school, as well as times to be given.**

Emergency/Accident

All staff are certified in adult/child/infant CPR and basic first aid. In the case of a small accident (scraped knees, etc.) the staff will clean the injured area and apply a bandage. If the injury is a bump, an ice pack will be applied. In the case of an accidental injury that requires further attention, we will make an immediate attempt to contact either parent. If a parent cannot be reached, we will call the child's physician and other emergency contact numbers. If the injury is serious, we will call for a paramedic immediately. The child's physician and/or ambulance paramedic will make the decision for treatment. Since emergency situations cannot be foreseen, it is imperative that the office be informed of any telephone number changes or a change in your emergency contacts.

Emergency Closures

In the event of inclement weather or in other emergencies in which H.I.S.D. is closed, Kipling Street Academy will most likely also close. In the event that Kipling Street Academy closes, a notice will be posted on the entrance doors and/or there will be a message on our voice mail. Parents will also be notified via email. H.I.S.D. reports on school closures, delays, etc. may be obtained by checking local radio or television stations, as well as internet or social media sources. Tuition credits will not be issued for emergency closures, as teachers will still be paid in full.

Emergency Preparedness Plan

Fire drills are practiced monthly, while severe weather and lock-down drills are practiced quarterly during the school year. Children are taught how to follow designated evacuation routes and to exit the building quickly and safely. Children are taught how to stay with their class in a designated area outside of the building. Children who do not walk are evacuated in emergency cribs located in the infant rooms. Kipling Street Academy's administrators are assigned to search the building and assist with children who need help evacuating quickly.

In the event of an emergency where complete building evacuation becomes necessary, staff are directed to take children to an offsite location. The primary offsite location will be inside the front yard of a neighboring home directly across the Street from Kipling Street Academy (1426 Kipling Street). When all children are safe and accounted for, parents will be notified via email of their children's whereabouts for immediate pick up.

Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

All employees at Kipling Street Academy meet all DFPS requirements for annual training in the areas of abuse and neglect of children. At least one clock hour of the annual 24 hours of training focuses on recognition, prevention, and reporting of child abuse and neglect. This training includes: factors indicating a child is at risk for abuse or neglect; warning signs indicating a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect; procedures for reporting child abuse or neglect; and community organizations that have training programs available to child-care center staff members, children, and parents.

Kipling Street Academy employees have a responsibility to report any suspicion they may have regarding the abuse or neglect of a child. Failure to report suspected abuse or neglect to the proper authorities is a misdemeanor; staff can be subject to criminal penalties or civil litigation for not reporting. Therefore, staff

will report instances of suspected abuse or neglect to the childcare center director, the owner, and the Texas DFPS Child Protective Services Division. We are legally obligated to comply with these guidelines. Child Abuse can be reported to the Texas Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 252-5400.

Gang Free Zone

Under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1000 feet of a childcare center is a gang free zone, where criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to harsher penalty. Kipling Street Academy is a GANG FREE ZONE.

Health of Children

Your child's health is very important to all of us. Upon enrollment, you must file with us a health form **signed by a physician**, which states that your child is free from infectious disease and physically able to participate in a preschool program. This form must be signed and updated yearly. We also require that all children enrolled have certain standard immunizations and that these records **be kept current after each new immunization**.

Children will not be allowed in school if any symptoms of illness are apparent. In such cases, your child will be immediately isolated from other children and you will be contacted. It is very important that you pick up your child as soon as possible or make arrangements for your child to be picked up. **Children must be symptom and/or fever free for 24 hours without medication to return to school.** A doctor's note will not waive the 24-hour waiting period for instances of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea.

If your child is found to have symptoms of illness, you will be contacted by phone and will be required to pick up your child within thirty (30) minutes. Your child will be excluded from attendance for any of the following:

1. **Temperature:** No child will be allowed in attendance whose fever exceeds 100 degrees taken under the armpit as specified by the Texas Department of Health. We will not administer medication to lower a child's temperature (ex. Tylenol or aspirin) in order to allow a child to remain in attendance. If your child has a history of possible convulsions caused by a high temperature or sudden temperature change, you may leave medication with the appropriate instructions from your child's physician on an as-needed basis. This medication will be administered to lower the temperature immediately while you are in route to pick up your child.
2. **Colds and Runny Noses:** If the nasal discharge is clear it may be allergy based and non-infectious. If the discharge is yellowish green, then your child should be seen by his physician. Before your child returns to school, we must be assured that your child's condition is being treated with medication or that the condition is not contagious.
3. **Diarrhea:** Children will be excluded from attendance if this appears to be caused by a viral infection. This infection will show up as loose, watery stools (4-6 per day) combined with mucus or blood flecks.
4. **Vomiting:** All children will be excluded from attendance for at least 24 hours after vomiting ceases and no fever exists. Temperature does not need to be present for a child to be excluded.
5. **Ear infections:** If there is no fever present and the child is currently being treated the child will not be excluded from attendance.

6. **Chicken Pox:** The child will be excluded from attendance until all blisters have crusted over and no fever exists. The sores don't have to be gone, but all blisters have to be crusted over. A one-week minimum absence from classes ensures your child is no longer contagious.
7. **Impetigo:** This is highly contagious and spreads rapidly. It appears as blisters on the skin that open and become covered with a yellowish crust. Even if no fever exists, the child must be excluded from attendance until treatment is begun. All sores must be covered.
8. **Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye):** Symptoms include red eyes, usually with some discharge or crust on the eyelids. The child must be excluded from attendance until treated and can only return when the child's physician has said the child is no longer contagious.
9. **Strep Throat:** The child must be excluded from attendance until 24 hours after antibiotic is begun and no fever is present.
10. **Rash:** The child will be excluded from attendance for any rash (redness covering a large area of the skin, including raised bumps, spots, sores, blisters, etc.) for which the cause is unknown. The child may return when symptoms have ceased for 24 hours, or with a physician's note stating that the rash is not caused by a contagious illness.
11. **Head Lice:** The child will be excluded from attendance and may only return after a minimum of 24 hours, with a note from a lice treatment professional or physician stating the child has been seen and all nits have been removed. All clothing and belongings must be washed in hot water and free of nits prior to return.
12. **Other Communicable Diseases (Mumps, Measles, Etc.):** The child will be excluded from attendance and may only return with a doctor's authorization. Any child lacking a regularly scheduled vaccine for a communicable disease will be excluded from the School at this time also.

Please do not bring sick children in with you when picking up your KSA student. If you need assistance, please call the office.

Screening

Hearing and vision screening is **REQUIRED BY STATE LAW** for all first-time entrants, (age four and older) and all four-year-old children as of September 1st of the school year. If you do not have your 4-year-old screened, you must supply the office with documentation that the screening will be done within 120 days of enrollment.

Health of Staff

Staff members are not required by our center to receive the same standard immunizations as children; however, staff are required to follow same sick policies listed above to help ensure that children are not exposed to communicable diseases.

As an Accredited School, We Focus on Education of Children...

What is a high-quality early childhood program?

A high-quality early childhood program provides a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of young children. In our program you will see:

- frequent, positive, warm interactions among adults and children
- planned learning activities appropriate to children's age and development
- specially trained teachers
- enough adults to respond to individual children

- many varied age-appropriate materials
- nutritious snacks
- a healthy and safe environment for children
- regular communication with parents who are welcome as visitors at all times
- ongoing systematic evaluation

Quality Survey

We are committed to providing you a **quality** childcare facility in which your child can learn and develop. We care about how well we are doing and welcome your input as a team member. We conduct a parent survey each year to solicit your input and provide an opportunity for you to rate the success of our efforts. However, please feel free to come and discuss your concerns and provide suggestions at any time throughout the year. We will send out a formal survey in March of every year.

You will be asked to rate Kipling Street Academy in the following categories:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Facility | • Communication |
| • Curriculum | • Business Practices |
| • Staff | • Child Safety |
| • Community Involvement | • Parent Events/Involvement |

A Note About Our Staff Policies

Kipling Street Academy does not support or sanction the practice of families engaging the services of any of Kipling Street Academy's employees for babysitting. It is a violation of company policy for Kipling Street Academy employees to transport, babysit, or attend birthday parties of Kipling Street Academy children.

COVID-19 Addendum

In order to continue providing high quality child care, temporary changes have been made to our operations. These changes have been implemented to protect the health and safety of our children, staff, and their families, and to maintain compliance with emergency orders issued by Texas Health and Human Services Child Care Licensing Division. The policies contained in this section supersede any conflicting policies stated elsewhere in this Handbook.

General Procedures

- Only one adult per family will be allowed entry to the building for drop-off and pick-up.
- Face masks securely covering the mouth and nose are required to be worn on campus, including the parking lot and playground. All adults and older siblings who do not attend KSA must wear a mask on site.
- Upon arrival, all individuals (adults and children) are screened at the building entry and must submit to a temperature check. Temperatures of 99.0°F and above will be turned away, so please check at home prior to coming in. Please do not enter the building without being screened by an administrator.
- Hold your child's hand at all times, even in the building, and do not let them climb on lobby furniture or run freely through the building. Talk to your child on a regular basis about social distancing, hand holding, and staying by your side during these transfer times.
- Maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet from other families.
- Only one family at a time is allowed on the stairs or in the elevator.
- Do not visit previous teachers or classrooms to which your child is no longer assigned.
- To prevent overcrowding in our building and parking lot, please keep the drop-off and pick-up routine brief. Do not linger to visit with parents or staff in common areas or in the parking lot, especially during peak times.
- Do not open classroom doors. When you approach your assigned classroom, please knock, and wait for a teacher to open the door. Only teachers and children are permitted to enter classrooms at this time.

General Illness in Children

- Children will be excluded from attendance for any symptoms of illness, including a temperature reading of 99.0°F or above.
- In some instances of illness, depending on symptoms, a rapid antigen test may be required with same day results, and the symptom-free waiting period may be increased to 72 hours at the discretion of administration.

If any member of the household tests positive for COVID-19 or is exposed to someone testing positive outside of Kipling Street Academy:

- The School's administration must be notified by phone immediately and in writing within 24 hours of receiving the information, including written test results.
- Enrolled children must be tested using a rapid antigen test immediately so that we can have results on the same day the child was at school. Doctor's orders do not supersede this requirement.

- Children must remain out of school until the requisite amount of time for quarantine or isolation has passed for all household members as described below:
 - **Quarantine timeline:** if a member of your household is *exposed* to someone testing positive, you are required to quarantine for a minimum of ten (10) days after exposure, with the date of exposure being day zero (0). Negative test results are required for all household members at the same time in order to return to school. Tests to return to school must be performed on the 7th day after exposure or later. Children will be permitted to return after a 10-day quarantine provided that these requirements are satisfied, **and** no household member has developed any symptoms of illness during the quarantine period.
 - **Isolation timeline:** if a member of your household *tests positive*, all household members must isolate until the most recently ill member of the household is cleared of all symptoms for at least twenty-four (24) hours **and** it has been at least ten (10) days since the onset of that household member's symptoms, with the date of symptom onset being day zero (0). If no symptoms ever develop in any household member, the date of the positive test result will be considered day zero (0), with isolation continuing for ten (10) days from that date. Negative test results are required for all family members at the same time in order to return to school. Tests to return to school must be performed on the 10th day after symptom onset (or positive test with no symptoms) or later.
 - While it may be difficult as a parent, we recommend that confirmed positive individuals isolate from the rest of the household immediately if possible, to minimize potential spread as well as the timeline required for isolation.
 - If an additional family member tests positive, the window of isolation described above begins again.
- Return to school requirements:
 - All household members must receive negative test results at the same time after the applicable timeline described above for quarantine or isolation ends, and test results for all household members must be sent in writing to admin@kiplingstreetacademy.com or by fax to (713) 529-3873.
- We appreciate that healthcare providers may have specific recommendations that are less stringent, but these protocols are put in place to protect the health and safety of ALL members of the Kipling family and are non-negotiable.
- At-home testing kits are likely to become more widely available, but all tests results submitted to the School must be administered by a healthcare professional to confirm any positive or negative results.

Protocols and procedures pertaining to operations during COVID-19 are in effect until further notice. When restrictions are lifted, this Handbook will be revised, and a notification will be sent out via email.