



**Children's Centers**

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# **CENTER POLICIES**

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**NEW YORK LOCATIONS**

*Please note, emergency closings are listed on the following:  
[twitter.com/DoodleBugsUSA](https://twitter.com/DoodleBugsUSA)  
[facebook.com/DoodleBugsUSA](https://facebook.com/DoodleBugsUSA)  
Buffalo - *WBEN 930AM Radio and WGRZ Channel 2 Television*  
Rochester - *WHAM 1180AM Radio and NEWS10 NBC Television**

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**Please read our policies entirely before you enroll your child into our program.**

We cannot make exceptions to our policies under any circumstance, so please feel free to call the Center Director with any questions. Each Doodle Bugs! center operates independently and programs vary by location. Doodle Bugs! reserves the right to modify center policies and tuition rates when necessary. Parents are responsible for maintaining a current copy of the center policies; copies are available online and at the center.

## DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

### CENTER HOURS

- Our center is open Monday through Friday, from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm.
- Children must be picked up by 6:30 pm. A late fee of \$10.00 is assessed every 10 minutes, beginning promptly at 6:30 pm. The late pick-up fee will be automatically charged to your account.

### HOLIDAYS

- We are closed on the following holidays:
  - Labor Day
  - Thanksgiving Day
  - Christmas Day
  - New Year's Day
  - Memorial Day
  - Independence Day
- We will close at 3:00 pm on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.
- Tuition accounts will not be credited for holidays. This policy is standard with most reputable child care centers in the area and reflects the center's ongoing operating expenses.
- School Age and Wrap Around programs follow the school district calendar for pre-planned closings.

### WEATHER & EMERGENCY CENTER CLOSINGS

- In the event of inclement weather or other emergency situation, every effort will be made to keep the center open. If the center must close, we will provide notification on our twitter and Facebook Pages. In addition, we will request that each Doodle Bugs! location be specifically mentioned on the appropriate news agencies (indicated on the front cover of these policies). We are not responsible for mistakes in the school closing announcements.
- While it is impossible to anticipate every circumstance of a potential emergency, we do have the following general guidelines in place:
  - **At all times:**
    - In the event of a utility outage (power, gas, and/or water) prior to 6:30 am, the opening of the center will be delayed.
    - If still without utility service at 11:30 am, the center will remain closed for the day.
  - **During the winter months:**
    - In the event of a utility outage during normal business hours, the center will announce its' decision to close after 30 minutes.
    - Parents will be notified by phone and required to pick up their children.
  - **During the summer months:**
    - In the event of a power outage during normal business hours, the center will remain open. As a courtesy, parents will be notified after 60 minutes.
    - In the event of a water outage during normal business hours, the center will announce its' decision to close after 60 minutes. Parents will be notified by phone and required to pick up their children.
- If our center closes due to the weather, utility outage, or emergency situation, regular tuition charges will apply. This policy is standard with most reputable child care centers in the area.

## REGISTRATION & PAYMENTS

### INITIAL REGISTRATION

- Upon registration, your account will be billed a one-time registration fee, a security deposit, and your child's first week's tuition.
- Payment of the registration fee and security deposit is due upon registration and is required to secure your child's enrollment in our program.
- Payment of the first week's tuition is due by the Friday prior to the first week of attendance and is required to begin attendance.
- If you decide not to begin enrollment, your registration fee and security deposit will not be refunded.
- Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten programs follow a typical academic calendar. Specific dates are published on the school calendar. If you choose to dis-enroll prior to completing the academic year, Doodle Bugs! has the right to void any other existing or future enrollment contracts.
- Upon registration and throughout enrollment, parents must notify the center in writing of any special needs, including but not limited to allergies, medical conditions, dietary restrictions and disabilities; such knowledge is necessary to provide proper care for your child.

### ANNUAL ENROLLMENT

- Annual enrollment is required for Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten programs. Enrollment contracts are distributed in February and must be returned by March 31st to secure enrollment for the upcoming academic year.
- Parents of toddlers who will move up to the Preschool program in the Fall are also required to complete a new enrollment contract.
- After submitting the Enrollment Contract, if you decide not to begin Fall enrollment, your security deposit will not be refunded.

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**SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION (Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten and School Age Children only)**

- **For currently enrolled families:**
  - You will receive a School Age Summer Camp Enrollment Contract (ages 5 – 12) or a LEAP Ahead Summer Camp Enrollment Contract (ages 3-5) in February, which allows you to circle the days or weeks for which you would like to participate. Summer Camp Enrollment Contracts include an option to extend the terms of your current contract.
  - The Summer Camp Enrollment Contract must be submitted to guarantee enrollment at our center.
  - We provide tuition discounts for early registration. Please see the Center Director for our discounted options.
  - Once you submit the Summer Camp Enrollment Contract, you are responsible for payment of the contract total, regardless of attendance. Absence, withdrawal, or other decision not to attend do not constitute a fractional agreement, regardless of the date.
  - Your security deposit is an amount equal to the weekly tuition rate for your last week of attendance.
  - Summer Camp tuition may be paid weekly, biweekly, or monthly as long as it is in advance. Payment is due by the Friday for the up-and-coming week.
- **For new families:**
  - Pre-select a summer schedule which meets your family's needs for the summer by completing either the School Age Summer Camp Enrollment Contract (ages 5-12) or the LEAP Ahead Summer Camp Enrollment Contract (ages 3-5). Return the Summer Camp Enrollment Contract to the Center Director, with your child's first week's tuition and the appropriate security deposit.
  - We provide tuition discounts for early registration. Please see the Center Director for our discounted options.
  - Your security deposit is an amount equal to the weekly tuition rate for your last week of attendance.
  - There is no registration fee for Summer Camp.
  - Once you submit the Summer Camp Enrollment Contract, you are responsible for payment of the contract total, regardless of attendance. Absence, withdrawal, or other decision not to attend do not constitute a fractional agreement, regardless of the date.
  - Summer Camp tuition may be paid weekly, biweekly, or monthly as long as it is in advance. Payment is due by the Friday for the up-and-coming week.

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**PAYMENTS**

- **Tuition is due in advance:** Tuition may be paid weekly, biweekly, or monthly as long as it is in advance. Payment is due by Friday for the up-and-coming week. If your payment is late, a late fee of \$10.00/day will be automatically charged to your account.
- **Automatic Payments:** For your convenience, we accept ACH debits from checking accounts, savings accounts and flexible spending accounts. By enrolling in 'Automatic Payment' you are agreeing to have your account automatically debited on a weekly basis. Enrolling in 'Automatic Payment' requires completion and submission of the 'ACH Debit Authorization' form, providing a voided check, and compliance with all terms out-lined therein. ACH payments returned unpaid from your bank will result in a \$45 Returned Item Fee billed directly to your account. Appropriate late payment charges will also apply. The Center Director reserves the right to require you to make future payments by money order or certified check.
- **Checks:** Please indicate your child's first and last name on your check. Checks returned unpaid from your bank will result in a \$45 Returned Item Fee billed directly to your account. Appropriate late payment charges will also apply. The Center Director may also require you to make future payments by ACH debit.
- **Account Receipts and Statements:**
  - Current Account Information: You may view your payment account on the check-in monitors when signed in as 'Primary Guardian'. For record keeping purposes, the person who signs the enrollment contract is designated as the 'Primary Guardian'. You may also request printed weekly and/or monthly statements.
  - Past Account Information: You may request a year-end statement for tax purposes, given that your account is paid up-to-date. For account statements for prior years' attendance (more than two years ago), please make a written request to our accounting department and include a \$50 processing fee; requests for prior years may take several weeks to process.

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**VACATION DAY CREDITS**

- You will receive vacation day credits to use towards pre-planned absences. One vacation day credit equals 50% of your average daily tuition rate.
- Families who begin attendance prior to November 1st will receive one week of vacation day credits on November 1st and an additional week of vacation day credits on April 1st.
- Families who begin attendance after November 1st but prior to April 1st will receive one week of vacation day credits on April 1st.
- Any unused vacation day credits expire each year on October 31st .
- A "week" is considered the number of days your child is contracted to attend in a typical week. For example, if your child is enrolled three days per week, one week equals three vacation day credits.
- Only one vacation day credit may be used per day.
- Vacation day credits cannot be applied to an account balance.
- The number of available vacation day credits will be prorated with approved schedule changes.
- If you withdraw from our program, your available vacation day credits will expire on your child's last day of enrollment.
- After your vacation credits have been used, your account will not be credited for any additional absences.
- School Age children and Wrap Around students (including Universal Pre-Kindergarten) do not receive vacation day credits, since we do not charge tuition for the pre-planned closures on the district calendar.

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**HOW TO APPLY THESE CREDITS**

- If you are planning a vacation, please complete a Vacation Credit Form at the center and place it in the tuition box.
- Vacation credit slips must be submitted at least two weeks before your vacation to receive a tuition credit.
- Your tuition account will be credited the week after your confirmed absence.

## GENERAL CENTER POLICIES (Listed Alphabetically)

### ABSENCES

- We provide vacation day credits with proper advance notice as outlined in the Vacation Policy section.
- We do not provide tuition refunds or reductions for absences due to illness or other reason. This policy is standard with most reputable centers, given that centers' operating expenses remain constant.
- As a courtesy, we request that you call the center to inform us if your child will be absent. Your notification allows our teachers to begin the daily activities on time and eases our concern for your child's well-being.

### ADDING & SWITCHING DAYS

- You may add additional days to your child's schedule, provided that space is available and your account is paid up-to-date. Please call the Center Director as soon as you know that you will need child care for an additional day. If you add a day, your account will be charged the appropriate tuition fee. Refunds will not be given should your child not attend on this added day for any reason.
- Switching days cannot be permitted, as it is difficult to schedule teachers, plan menus and run an efficient center.

### ALLERGENS

- Doodle Bugs! cannot guarantee an environment free of any allergens, including peanuts, peanut oil and peanut dust. It is impossible to control the peanut residue that can linger on children's hands, on classroom furniture, or on items that children bring from home. We do attempt to minimize the risk of allergen exposure by:
  - Prohibiting the sharing of food or utensils;
  - Requiring store-bought treats/food items with ingredients listed, and
  - Washing and sanitizing tables where meals are served.
- Parents of children with allergies should consult with their physician and with the Center Director to properly assess the child's needs, and his/her ability to participate in the Doodle Bugs! program. Students with allergies must have an 'Allergy Action Plan' on file.

### ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIME; PICK-UP AUTHORIZATIONS

- Your child must be escorted into the building every morning, signed in and taken to the appropriate classroom. Please hang up your child's jacket and remove his/her boots when entering the classroom.
- Your child will be released only to those persons specified on the signed parental agreement form; valid photo identification is required. No person under the age of eighteen, including family members, may pick up your child from the center.
- In shared custody or divorce situations, parents should provide a mutually agreeable list of persons authorized to pick-up. If a mutually agreeable list is not provided, Doodle Bugs! will allow parents, stepparents and grandparents to pick-up, unless otherwise prescribed by the court of jurisdiction.
- Parents are responsible for keeping their pick up authorization information up-to-date. The center must also be notified in writing if someone other than those authorized will be picking up your child from the center.
- When leaving, please sign out your child and take his/her belongings home (art projects, notes and toys from home).
- After signing out, you are welcome to stay and enjoy our center with your child, however you assume complete responsibility for your child's supervision when doing so.
- Arrival and pick-up times often become very busy. Please make an appointment with the Center Director, for lengthy discussions concerning your child.
- Our parking lot can be a busy place at certain times of the day. Please help us in providing a safe environment by holding your child's hand at all times and driving slowly in our parking lot.

### ASSESSMENT

- Daily observation of your child's participation in classroom activities provides our faculty with insight about his/her developmental growth. Specifically, our faculty documents your child's demonstration of age-appropriate behaviors and characteristics as a means of assessing his progress.
- Observations are recorded on monthly checklists, and filed in your child's individual assessment portfolio. This file is kept in your child's classroom, and is always available for your review.

### BABYSITTING AFTER HOURS; HOLD HARMLESS; PROCUREMENT FEE

- We discourage our employees from making babysitting arrangements with enrolled families.
- If you enter into an agreement with a Doodle Bugs! employee to babysit your child outside of our center:
  - You understand that the sitter enters such agreement as a private citizen and not as an employee of Doodle Bugs!.
  - Doodle Bugs! does not assume any responsibility for its employees in any such agreement.
  - You agree to hold Doodle Bugs! harmless for any action which results from such arrangement.
  - If you enter into an independent child care arrangement with a Doodle Bugs! employee during your child's enrollment period at Doodle Bugs! or within 6 months thereafter, and this arrangement results in our employee leaving our company, you will be billed a \$2,500 procurement fee (finder's fee). You also agree to the conditions set forth above.

### BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

- Doodle Bugs! is committed to the well-being of each and every child. In order to provide a safe, loving, and stimulating environment for all enrolled children, we expect a reasonable degree of cooperation from each child and parent.
- Our goal is to create an environment that minimizes the need for disciplinary action. Our faculty members therefore have age-appropriate expectations for children's behavior, and are consistent and supportive in their efforts to help children manage their own behavior.
- If efforts to re-direct inappropriate behavior are unsuccessful, our teachers will use a gentle time-out policy for discipline. The child is briefly removed from the group's activities and is allowed time to regain composure. The teacher makes sure the child understands the reason for the time-out and helps him or her to re-enter the group in a positive manner.
- If time-outs become a regular necessity and appear to be ineffective, a parent/ teacher conference should be held to discuss the situation. If there is little or no improvement and the child's behavior becomes a detriment to the rest of the group, termination of enrollment may become necessary.
- In all situations, our faculty will partner with you to provide your child with consistent, positive support. We therefore ask you to join us in modeling positive behavior for all children in our care, and to avoid using developmentally inappropriate language or discipline strategies at the center.

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## GENERAL CENTER POLICIES (Continued)

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### BIRTHDAYS

- Doodle Bugs! is happy to provide everything you need to celebrate your child's birthday at the center. Our 'Doodle Birthdays' program includes: birthday cake, birthday decorations, a doodle birthday t-shirt and a photo of your child enjoying the celebration. There is no charge for Doodle Birthdays.
- Our company policy prohibits homemade treats. You may opt to bring in a store-bought cake or snack. If you intend to supply a special treat, please let us know ahead of time.
- You may bring in a clown, magician or other entertainer with prior approval from the Center Director. Also, please make sure that your hired entertainer provides an insurance certificate naming 'Doodle Bugs! Children's Centers' as the certificate holder. Please ask your Center Director for a list of entertainers who already have insurance certificates on file at Doodle Bugs!.

### BITING POLICY

- While biting is a common developmental stage, particularly for toddlers who may use biting as a form of communication, it is nonetheless an unpleasant and unacceptable behavior. Our faculty strives to minimize biting incidents by providing a safe, supervised environment and by empowering children to use more acceptable means of communication. However, despite our best efforts, it is likely that your child may be bitten at some time.
- When a biting incident occurs, our faculty's first priority is tending to the needs of the child who has been bitten. To help the child who bit better understand his actions, the teachers often include him in their efforts to comfort the child who was bitten (i.e., by giving a hug, apologizing, and/or offering an ice pack or cold compress). We will also document the incident on our center's Biting Report, which is shared with each set of parents.
- We do maintain confidentiality in all biting incidents, so the report will not include the name of the other child who was involved.
- If your child bites, our faculty will work with you to try to correct the problem. However, if the behavior does not improve in a reasonable amount of time, termination of enrollment may be necessary.

### CELEBRATIONS & HOLIDAYS

- Our students are a diverse community of learners. We embrace opportunities to introduce the children to customs, traditions, holidays, and other celebrations that are important to their peers.
- You are encouraged to share your family's experiences with your child's class, and are always invited to participate in our celebrations and events.

### CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT – IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING

- **Center Responsibilities:** In the event of suspected child abuse or maltreatment, Doodle Bugs! will share information regarding the child and family with the appropriate agencies, as required by various federal and state statutes and regulatory rules. All faculty members participate in 'Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Maltreatment' training and are therefore identified as Mandated Reporters.
- **Family Resources:** Reports of suspected child abuse or maltreatment should be made immediately -- at any time of the day and on any day of the week -- by telephone to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (sometimes referred to as the State Central Register or SCR) at 1-800-342-3720. The Child Protective Specialist who answers your call will ask you for as much information as you can provide about both the suspected abuse or maltreatment and the family about which you are calling. Even if you have very little information available to you, please call the SCR. The specialists will analyze the information you do have and determine if it is sufficient to register a report.

### CLASSROOM PLACEMENT & TRANSITION

- Doodle Bugs! accepts children ages 6 weeks through 12 years. Upon enrollment, your child will be placed in the appropriate classroom based upon his or her chronological age.
- For brief periods of time in the early morning and late afternoon, certain age groups may be combined. Please ask the center director for specific information on which classroom your child should be dropped off and picked up from.
- Your child's advancement to the next classroom will be based on his or her chronological age, developmental readiness, and availability of space. To help children feel comfortable in new classroom placements, they are introduced to the new classroom teacher and visit the new classroom for short periods of time in the weeks preceding the transition. You will receive a 'What Happens Next' notice from the Center Director prior to the transition.

### CLOTHING, DIAPERS & ITEMS FROM HOME

- **Infants:** Please provide an adequate supply of disposable diapers and wipes. Additional items should include bibs, ointments, at least two changes of labeled clothing and appropriate outdoor wear.
- **Toddlers:** Please provide an adequate supply of disposable diapers and wipes. You should also provide two changes of labeled clothing and appropriate outdoor wear.
- **Ages 3-5:** Please keep a complete set of labeled clothing at the center. If you bring home a soiled set of clothing, please replace the extra set the next day. Please provide the appropriate outdoor clothing for each season.
- **School Age:** Please provide appropriate outdoor clothing for each season.
- We use messy art and craft supplies everyday to produce our masterpieces. Smocks are provided, but please dress your child appropriately for everyday art and craft activities. Our products claim to be washable, however Doodle Bugs! is not responsible for damaged clothing.
- During rest time, a favorite blanket and/or stuffed animal is welcome; these items should be small enough to fit inside your child's cubby space. Please launder your child's blanket on a weekly basis.
- Your child may bring in one small toy from home; this item should be small enough to fit in your child's cubby space.
- Doodle Bugs! is not responsible for lost items.



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## GENERAL CENTER POLICIES (Continued)

### COMPUTER/INTERNET USE

- Doodle Bugs! utilizes the ABCMouse.com Early Learning Academy as a component of our curriculum. By enrolling your child at Doodle Bugs!, you acknowledge and agree to the terms of the ABCMouse.com Privacy Policy. Parents may view and print the terms of the agreement by visiting <http://www.abcmouse.com/privacy>.
- The Internet provides an opportunity to explore the vast educational resources available for children. Doodle Bugs! uses hardware and/or software for content monitoring and filtering, which blocks access to thousands of websites, web pages, email addresses, and chat rooms that contain or display offensive language, sexual explicitness, hate themes, or physical violence. Even with the security measures that we have implemented, we cannot guarantee 100% safe access to the Internet. We believe that the chance of exposure to inappropriate material is minimal; however, we must inform you that the possibility still exists.
- You may request in writing that your child be excluded from computer use at Doodle Bugs!. If you do not express your desire to exclude your child from such use, you agree to discharge Doodle Bugs!, its employees and its affiliates, from any responsibility or claim resulting from the use of the Internet and/or computer.

### CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Individual conferences with your child's teacher are always available upon request, as are meetings with the Center Director; either meeting can be arranged by speaking with the Center Director.
- We also invite you to take advantage of scheduled conference opportunities, which include Parent-Teacher Meetings (semi-annual individual conferences) and Coffee with the Center Director (occasional individual and small group meetings). We also encourage parents to participate in our annual Open House.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

- Doodle Bugs! respects the right of each family to privacy and confidentiality. If your child is involved in an altercation with another child, Doodle Bugs! will not reveal the identity of the other child involved. This policy is consistent with state child care regulations.
- We will not share information relating to your child and family with unrelated third parties for their marketing purposes.
- Doodle Bugs! may share information relating to your child and family with third parties who provide certain educational programs within our center. These programs include, but are not limited to, Tae Kwon Do (Martial Arts Program) and ABCMouse.com (Computer Technology).

### DISABILITIES, CHILDREN WITH

- Doodle Bugs! complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and we will provide reasonable accommodations for children with disabilities.
- Doodle Bugs! will make an individualized assessment about whether we can meet the particular needs of the child without fundamentally altering our program. In making this assessment, Doodle Bugs! will not react to unfounded preconceptions or stereotypes about what children with disabilities can or cannot do, or how much assistance they may require. Instead, Doodle Bugs! will speak with the parents or guardians and any other professionals (such as educators or health care professionals) who work with the child in other contexts.
- Doodle Bugs! may exclude children with disabilities from our program if their presence would pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others or require a fundamental alteration of our program.
- The ADA generally does not require child care centers to hire additional faculty or provide constant one-to-one supervision of children with disabilities.
- If special services are required beyond Doodle Bugs! legal obligation, and we choose to provide such services, we will charge the parents or guardians accordingly.

### ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES (PRESCHOOL & PRE-KINDERGARTEN ONLY)

- Children enrolled in our Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten programs may enroll in Martial Arts and Doodle Dance & Fitness enrichment programs at no additional charge (if offered on your child's scheduled days of attendance). Please see your Center Director for a list of days and times for these programs.
- Introductory Spanish and age-appropriate technology are integrated into our curriculum and are included in our tuition.

### FIELD TRIPS

- On-site field trips complement our educational program for all ages, and include visits from local cultural organizations as well as magicians, puppeteers and other entertainers.
- Off-site field trips are an exciting addition to our program for kindergarten-bound pre-k students and school-age children. Transportation for these trips is provided by Doodle Bugs! busses or hired transportation.
- To insure the safety of all participants, children who participate in off-site field trips must be at least 4 years old, weigh at least 40 pounds, and be reliably toilet trained.
- In advance of each trip, you will be informed of the details, including any applicable fees. You will be required to provide written permission for your child to participate.

### FORMS

- Certain Doodle Bugs! forms, including the required medical forms, are available on our website. Visit [www.doodlebugs.com](http://www.doodlebugs.com) to view the forms that are currently available online; all other forms are available at the center.

### GENERAL AUTHORIZATION

- By enrolling your child at Doodle Bugs!, you are granting permission for your child to:
  - Take part in all program activities including the use of all indoor and outdoor equipment.
  - Be photographed or videotaped in connection with daily program activities, and have these images displayed in the center, in social media, in Doodle Bugs! advertisements and promotional materials, in news stories, and used for enrolled families' personal use.

### HEALTH POLICIES: MEDICAL STATEMENT

- Your child must maintain an up-to-date medical form, which requires a yearly physical and updated current immunization record for your child. Your pediatrician must use state approved medical forms (available at [www.doodlebugs.com](http://www.doodlebugs.com)). Per NYS Public Health Law 2164, children who do not meet immunization compliance or children who cannot provide an approved immunization exemption will be excluded from care.
- Children with asthma and/or allergies are required to have the appropriate 'Action Plan' on file. The 'Asthma Action Plan' and 'Allergy Action Plan' forms are provided in the enrollment packets; additional copies are available from the Center Director.
- Please note that lead-screening is required at one and two years of age. We recommend that you ask your physician about a lead-screening test for your child.
- It is the parent's sole responsibility to notify the center in writing immediately of any changes concerning allergy and health issues.

## GENERAL CENTER POLICIES (Continued)

### HEALTH POLICIES: ILLNESS

- In the event your child becomes sick while at the center, you will be promptly notified. We expect that you will come to the center as quickly as possible to take your child home.
- We are a center for healthy children. A child who is not well does not benefit from our program and can adversely affect the health of the class. If you have doubts about your child's health, please keep your child home and contact your family doctor.
- In the event that any of the following occur, we ask that you keep your child at home:
  - Temperature of 100° or higher taken axillary (armpit) or measured by an equivalent method
  - Any fever accompanied by:
    - A deep cough,
    - Earache or draining ear,
    - Spasms of cough, or
    - Sore throat
  - Diarrhea or vomiting (your child must be free from these symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school)
  - A rash of any kind until diagnosed, treated or declared harmless by a physician
  - Red, runny or matted eyes – this might be Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)
  - Severe colds with purulent discharge

Childhood Illness Chart	
<i>Illness</i>	<i>For your child's comfort &amp; well-being, s/he may return when approved by a physician or:</i>
Chicken Pox.....	24 hours after lesions have crusted
Conjunctivitis.....	24 hours after start of treatment (if drainage & excessive tearing have stopped)
Croup.....	After illness has subsided
Diarrhea-Gastro Enteritis.....	24 hours after last loose stool or after 1 normal bowel movement
Impetigo.....	24 hours after start of treatment
Fever.....	24 hours after temperature returns to normal
Influenza.....	24 hours after symptoms subside
Lice.....	24 hours after start of treatment
Strep Throat.....	24 hours after start of antibiotic treatment
Poison Ivy.....	After lesions have dried up
Pinworm or Ringworm.....	24 hours after start of treatment
<i>For any illness not listed above, please contact the Center Director.</i>	

### HEALTH POLICIES: MEDICATION & TOPICAL OINTMENTS (NEW YORK LOCATIONS)

- Over-the-counter topical ointments such as diaper or first aid creams, sunscreen or insect repellent may be applied to your child with written parent permission.
- **Benadryl Policy for infants younger than 18 months of age:** Doodle Bugs! recommends that every infant have a valid State-Issued Medication Consent Form on file for Benadryl or the generic equivalent. Completion of the written consent form insures that Doodle Bugs! can administer these medications in an emergency situation.
- **Benadryl Policy for children 18 months of age and older:** In an emergency situation, Doodle Bugs! must first receive verbal consent from the child's parent before we administer Benadryl. Please keep your telephone numbers and physician's information up-to-date.
- **All other medication, both prescribed and over-the-counter, will only be administered according to the following policies, with no exceptions:**
  - The child's parent and physician must both complete and sign the State-Issued Medication Consent Form or equivalent prior to administering medication. Attached notes or scripts cannot be substituted for information which is required to be written on the form. We will not accept verbal consent.
  - A separate State-Issued Medication Consent Form must be completed for each type of medication administered.
  - All State-Issued Medication Consent Forms must be updated at least every six months (including "as needed" medications such as EpiPen, Tylenol, Motrin, cough syrup, and inhalers).
  - All medication, both prescribed and over-the-counter, must be supplied in the original packaging and must be accompanied by the original package insert or printed pharmacy instructions. These instructions must indicate the correct method for administering the medication, dosage restrictions, potential side effects, and any other pertinent warnings.
  - Prescription medication must indicate your child's name on the pharmacy label. Over-the-counter medication must be labeled with your child's name on the original packaging.
  - The medication cannot be expired.
- We cannot exceed the dosage indicated on the prescription label and/or the State-Issued Medication Consent Form.
- The exact name of the medication must be written on the consent form, i.e., if the consent form specifies Tylenol, you must provide Tylenol, not the generic equivalent (such the generic brand of acetaminophen).
- Parents, grandparents and relatives of a child within the third degree of consanguinity of the parents or step-parents of a child may administer medication at the center without the need for the State-Issued Medication Consent Form. A note from the parent authorizing the relative to administer medication is required.
- Our medication policy is consistent with the regulations provided by the Office of Children and Family Services. There are absolutely no exceptions to this policy.

### INFORMATION CHANGES

- It is the parent's sole responsibility to update the emergency contact information and review the financial agreement at least once every six months.
- Please notify the center immediately of any changes concerning allergy and health issues, home address, pick-up authorizations, and home or work telephone numbers.



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## GENERAL CENTER POLICIES (Continued)

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### KINDERGARTEN WRAP AROUND

- Please see 'School Age Enrollment' policy on page 9 for more information.

### LICENSING AGENCY (NEW YORK STATE LOCATIONS)

- Locations in New York State are licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and operates in compliance with OCFS regulations.
- A copy of our license and current child care regulations are available on site for your review.

### MEALS & SNACKS

- Our company policy prohibits bringing homemade food or treats to share with other children within the center. If you opt to bring in a store-bought treat for a special event, please let us know beforehand.
- Infants: Parents must provide Doodle Bugs! with a written feeding schedule, complete with detailed instructions. Parents must also provide bottles, formula or breast milk, and any necessary baby food; bottles must be filled and ready-to-serve. Please label all food items, including bottles, with your child's first and last name. Per your request, we will provide table food which is prepared in our kitchen, according to the posted menu.
- We serve breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. All meals and snacks are prepared in our kitchen, which has been approved by the appropriate local and state agency.
- If your child arrives after 9:00am and needs breakfast, we ask that you inform the classroom teacher. After 9:00am, we may have to serve a cold breakfast (depending on the morning breakfast item).
- Our menu has been approved by a licensed nutritionist and is posted on the parent's board for you to review.
- If your child does not like a menu item, we have limited variety of substitutions (sandwiches). Parents are also welcome to bring in a nutritional "brown bag" lunch that does not require refrigeration or heating.
- Our faculty will happily prepare a healthy alternative if health, cultural or religious considerations preclude your child from eating a particular menu item. Please contact the Center Director to arrange for these pre-planned menu substitutions.

### NAP TIME

- Children enrolled at Doodle Bugs! need time during the day to rest and relax. Infants are of course, on individual schedules based on the child's needs and the parents' preferences, but a group nap time is scheduled for all toddlers, preschoolers and pre-kindergarteners, beginning at approximately 12:30pm.
- Children will nap in their classroom, while supervised by teachers. Some locations may utilize an OCFS-approved waiver for toddler, preschool and pre-k classrooms to allow one teacher to briefly leave the classroom while children are asleep. One responsible adult always remains in the classroom.
- Teachers provide individual cots or mats for the children, and encourage them to lay down with a blanket and comfort item from home. Stories, soft music and dim lights help the children with the transition to this rest period. Children who do not fall asleep are provided with quiet opportunities to learn and play, including but not limited to books, puzzles, and art activities.
- Back to Sleep: Infants are placed in cribs, on their backs, to sleep, in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations. Infants with medical conditions that require other sleeping arrangements must have detailed written instructions from a physician on file.

### NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

- Doodle Bugs! has earned prestigious accreditation by the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary Schools (MSA). New Doodle Bugs! centers enter the candidacy phase of the accreditation process after one year of operation.
- MSA has provided nationally recognized accreditation to elementary schools, high schools and colleges since 1978; an innovative Early Age Accreditation project debuted in 2004. Doodle Bugs! was invited to participate in 2004 and is thrilled to be part of this collaborative effort to set high-quality standards for early childhood programs.
- Participation in the MSA accreditation project is evidence of Doodle Bugs! commitment to early childhood education and dedication to continuous improvement.

### OPEN DOOR POLICY FOR ENROLLED FAMILIES

- As a member of the Doodle Bugs! family, please consider our center to be a comfortable extension of your home – a place where you are always invited, always welcome, and always appreciated.
- Our teachers, front desk personnel, Director Assistant and Center Director are always available to answer your questions, to review your child's progress or to discuss any concerns that you may have. We encourage you to speak to your child's primary teacher regularly, and to work together to identify the best possible time and method for daily communication.
- Parents are encouraged to visit the center at any time, and pre-notification is not necessary. You may participate in our classroom activities, play with your child on the playground, or have lunch together. If you are interested in discreetly observing your child's day, you may also use the parent's lounge to watch your child's classroom on the video monitors.
- Grandparents, aunts, uncles and family friends are also welcome to visit the center, however we request that you provide us with advance notification. If the visitor is not listed on your child's enrollment application, you must provide written authorization prior to the visit. All visitors are required to provide photo identification.

### OUTDOOR PLAY

- Outdoor play is an integral part of our educational program, contributing to your child's health and development. Children remain inside when the weather is inclement (including extreme heat or cold), but otherwise participate in daily outdoor activities.
- Please dress your child appropriately for daily outdoor play, including sneakers or other sturdy, rubber soled shoes.

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## GENERAL CENTER POLICIES (*Continued*)

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### PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

- For the health of all Doodle Bugs! employees, children, and associates, smoking is prohibited in the building and on the premises.
  - While it is understood that parents/guardians will not always agree with Doodle Bugs! employees or the parents/guardian of other children, it is expected that all disagreements be handled in a calm and respectful manner.
  - Weapons, fire arms, and ammunition are prohibited in the building and on the premises at all times.
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### PARENTS' LOUNGE

- You are encouraged to use our Parents' Lounge at any time. Parenting resources, newspapers, and a telephone for local calls are available for your use.
  - Coffee - You are welcome to take a cup of coffee with you to work, or you may drink your coffee in the lounge. The coffee is very hot, so please use caution when pouring and drinking. For safety reasons, please refrain from bringing coffee into the classrooms.
  - Video Surveillance System - The CCTV monitors located in the Parent's Lounge are available for your use. You may request that your child's classroom appear on the monitor for your viewing.
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### SCHEDULE CHANGES

- You may add additional days to your child's current schedule, provided that space is available and your account is paid up-to-date. Please call the Center Director as soon as you know that you will need child care for an additional day. If you add a day, your account will be charged the appropriate tuition fee. Once your account has been charged, refunds will not be issued for any reason.
  - You may make permanent schedule changes with two weeks written notification and Center Director approval. The schedule changes may not be granted in instances when the new schedule conflicts with enrollment waiting lists and typical enrollment patterns.
  - Switching days cannot be permitted, as it is difficult to schedule teachers, plan menus, and run an efficient center.
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### SCHOOL AGE ENROLLMENT, INCLUDING WRAP AROUND

- **Tuition & Vacation Policy**
    - If your child is enrolled in our Before & After School Program, tuition is only billed for the days that your child's school is open. If you need care on school holidays and recess, please see your Center Director to check on availability and to add these days.
    - School Age and Wrap Around students (including Universal Pre-Kindergarten) do not receive vacation day credits, since we do not bill tuition on school holidays or recess if your child does not attend.
  - **Elementary School Holidays, Recess and Early School Dismissal**
    - Your child must be registered in our program prior to attendance, with up-to-date enrollment and medical forms.
    - Please call if you need child care when your child's elementary school is closed for a holiday or recess.
    - After such arrangements are made, we will bill your account the appropriate tuition amount. Refunds will not be issued if your child does not attend.
  - **Weather-Related and Emergency Elementary School Closings**
    - Your child must be registered in our program prior to attendance, with up-to-date enrollment and medical forms.
    - If your child's school closes, please call the center ahead of time to make sure that the center is open and that space is available for your child. Once we reach our licensed capacity, we can no longer accept additional children.
    - If your child is enrolled in our Before & After School Program and does not attend due to a school closing, your account will be credited the daily after school rate.
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### SECURITY

- Doodle Bugs! maintains a state-of-the-art security system which requires cooperation from every parent. Centers are equipped with Biometric access.
  - Each parent will use a fingerprint image, which is stored on our computer, to gain access into the center.
  - When entering the building, we ask that you do not hold the door open for anyone that you do not recognize. This will help us to ensure a safe environment.
  - In the event that Doodle Bugs! deems any person to be a potential safety concern, entrance into the center and/or access to any child will be denied.
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### SEVERABILITY

- In the event that any of the provisions, or portions thereof, of these Center Policies are held to be unenforceable or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction or by an arbitration panel, the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions, or portions thereof, shall not be affected thereby, and full effect shall be given to the intent manifested by the provisions, or portions thereof, held to be enforceable and valid.
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### SPECIAL NEEDS, CHILDREN WITH

- If you suspect your child may have an unidentified special need, please ask the Center Director for more information about the early intervention programs available in your area. Early intervention services are usually free of charge, and are designed to help parents of young children (birth - age 3) identify needs and secure appropriate treatment. Similar options are available for older children (age 3+), via the local school district.
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### TERMINATION

- Doodle Bugs! reserves the right to terminate any child's enrollment immediately, for reasons that we deem necessary.
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### TOILET TRAINING

- As with all other areas of your child's development, Doodle Bugs! will support your child through the toilet training process, and will not pressure you to begin training at a specific age.
  - When you observe signs of readiness, please inform our faculty that you are initiating training at home. Teachers will then encourage and support your child's independence by assisting him with toileting at the center. With your cooperation and support of developmentally appropriate practices, we will make every effort to ensure consistency between home and the center.
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## GENERAL CENTER POLICIES (Continued)

### TRANSPORTATION

- **Doodle Bugs! Bus Service (Where Available):**
  - Transportation may be provided between our center and several of the local elementary schools. Please consult the Director to determine if transportation is available at your center and your elementary school.
  - Where available, the service may be limited to certain schools based on location and dismissal times. We also limit the service based on bus capacity.
  - Child safety is our first priority, and we reserve the right to dismiss a child from our busing service due to discipline problems.
  - Doodle Bugs! charges an additional fee per day for transportation.
- **District Bus Service:**
  - You may rely on the District Bus Service for transportation to and from our center. Our faculty will wait for the bus and escort your child into the center. The designated drop-off point must be in front of our center.
  - If you utilize the District Bus Service, you must contact the busing office directly and make all of the pick-up/drop-off arrangements. Once you have made all the arrangements, please inform your Center Director of the pick-up/drop-off times and bus number.
- **Hired Transportation Service**
  - Field trip transportation may occasionally be provided by a hired transportation service, such as a chartered bus.
  - Families receive prior notice of all field trip plans, including transportation details.

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### UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK) & UPK WRAP AROUND PROGRAM (NEW YORK LOCATIONS)

- UPK is a 2.5 hour session, held five days per week, according to the designated school district calendar.
- There is no charge for the 2.5 hour UPK session.
- District attendance guidelines require a written explanation, signed by the parent, for any absence from UPK. Extended absences may result in dis-enrollment from the UPK program; families are urged to plan vacations in accordance with school recesses.
- Participation in 'Wrap Around' requires compliance with the 'Center Policies' in its entirety; it is the parent's responsibility to obtain a copy of the 'Center Policies' from the Center Director.
- UPK students who enroll in UPK at Doodle Bugs! will participate in 'Wrap Around' and may therefore arrive early and/or stay late (beyond the 2.5 hour UPK session).
- 'Wrap Around' is provided from 6:30AM – 6:30PM whenever UPK is in session.
- Tuition is not charged for 'Wrap Around' on days that UPK is not in session (per the district calendar), but parents have the option of adding that date(s) for the regular 'Pre-Kindergarten Full Day' rate listed on the fee schedule.
- For district emergency closures, parents have the option of adding the day for the 'Wrap Around Program' daily rate listed on the fee schedule.

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### WEB-CAM/VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

- This center is equipped with video surveillance cameras inside the classrooms and outside on the playground. The center may also be equipped with audio surveillance. The purpose of the surveillance system is to monitor center activities by Doodle Bugs! employees and administration, including Doodle Bugs! corporate office employees.
- The video images from your child's classroom and general play areas are accessible via the Internet, using password protected software. The Center Director must approve all requests for Internet viewing capabilities and will grant access only to enrolled parents/legal guardians.
- Video monitors are placed in the parents' lounge for live viewing.
- The video images are digitally recorded for approximately seven to fourteen days. We have implemented a security policy which stipulates that only the Doodle Bugs! administration and corporate employees can access these recordings. This policy was established to prevent any person from tampering with or accidentally erasing the recordings.
- Doodle Bugs! has never had a serious injury or incident occur at any of our centers. If a serious injury or incident should ever occur, we will release the applicable recordings to the state licensing agencies for their investigation.
- The cameras are positioned to view a majority of the center activities, but certain areas of the center may not be clearly viewable. Bathrooms do not contain cameras. The quality of the images may vary at times.
- The video surveillance system may be turned off during equipment service/maintenance visits. Also, we cannot guarantee immediate repair when a maintenance problem is discovered. We will try to correct problems in a timely manner.
- By enrolling at the Center, you are authorizing Doodle Bugs! to record and use the recordings in any lawful manner deemed necessary by Doodle Bugs! and child care licensing agencies.

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### WITHDRAWING FROM DOODLE BUGS!

- We'd hate to see you go, but in the event that you do decide to dis-enroll, you must complete and submit an 'Enrollment Drop Out' form at least two weeks before withdrawing your child from the center. This form is available from the Center Director. The Center Director will acknowledge receipt of this form and provide you a copy.
- If you fail to provide at least two weeks' notice as stated above, you will be obligated to pay your child's tuition for two weeks beyond:
  - the date we received and acknowledged the 'Enrollment Drop Out' form; or
  - your child's last day of scheduled attendance if an 'Enrollment Drop Out' is not received.
- If you withdraw your child from Doodle Bugs! and decide to return at a later time, you will be placed on our waiting list. You will also be required to provide new enrollment information, along with a new registration fee and deposits.
- Other contractual obligations associated with withdrawal are detailed in the 'Registration & Payments' section of the Center Policies.