



# Little Stolten's

Child Development Center

15635 Jacintoport Blvd.

Houston TX 77015

281-452-7777

## Parent Policies and Procedures

Revised June 2022

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## **1. Welcome/Our Philosophy**

Welcome to Little Stoltens Child Development Center. We sincerely hope this will be the beginning of a rewarding and trusting relationship between our staff and your family. It is our belief that early childhood is a critical time in which children learn self-expression, self-worth, and trust. Based on a child's early experiences and environment they will learn the fundamentals of life. It is our goal for the children who participate in our program to leave knowing they are unique and creative individuals who possess the knowledge to create a foundation for a happy, successful, and capable adulthood.

## **2. Open Door Policy**

We welcome you to visit your child throughout the day if you choose to do so. You may observe or participate in classroom activities, but we ask you to avoid visits during naptime. If it is necessary for you to pick-up or drop-off your child during naptime, please let us know in advance, so we can help you minimize interruptions to the daily routine.

## **3. Daily Procedures**

### **Hours of Operation**

Little Stoltens is open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday year-round. Our curriculum hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Each class's daily schedule is posted in our classroom. The school year calendar is also posted on our website and front office. Please feel free to request a copy of the school calendar by emailing the director.

### **Early Drop Off**

Early drop off is from 6:45AM-7:00AM. The fee for early arrival is \$15 per month regardless of the number of times the student arrives early (one morning or 20 mornings in the month). We must have prior request to allow the student to be dropped off before 7:00AM. This will ensure that we are adequately staffed. The opening staff will have a list of students who paid for early drop off.

### **Early Dismissal**

Little Stoltens will occasionally have early dismissal days (3:00PM) following the Stolt Nielsen company scheduled/holidays. We will try our best to notify parents in advance when this occurs.

### **Holidays**

Little Stoltens will close on the following days:

- New Year's Day
- Presidents Day
- Good Friday
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving (Thursday and Friday)
- Christmas (during the Christmas holiday Creative Corner is closed for 2 days: the day before Christmas and Christmas)

Closings will be adjusted when the holidays are listed above fall on Saturday or Sunday. For specific dates, please refer to the school calendar.

**Vacation**

There are no tuition adjustments for vacations or scheduled holidays. This includes both summer and fall sessions.

**In/Out Log**

You'll notice our commitment to your child's safety begins the moment you step inside our center. In order to access the schools' interior classroom area, everyone must first sign in with your initial and time. You and the people you permanently authorize to pick up your child, after verification of their identification, will be permitted into the classroom areas. This weekly sign in sheet will be kept on file for a period of three months.

Each teacher will also keep an attendance sheet on a weekly basis. These sheets are for classroom use only.

**Pick-up/Check Out Procedures**

The staff can only release a child to a parent or guardian on the child's emergency card. Parents may designate friends or family members to pick-up their child. These persons must produce a picture I.D. (TDL accepted) and it must be compared to the notations on the emergency card. The I.D. number will be documented and placed in student file with the date the child was picked-up. If a person is not listed on the emergency card, the student will not be released until the parent is contacted by telephone or remind.com. The parent must verbally approve the release of the child before the student leaves the building or send a note or a text message giving permission for the child to be picked up by that person. Email or text message using remind.com from the parent will also be accepted.

All employees are aware of this policy and are instructed to follow verification protocol.

**Custody Disputes**

While it is preferable to avoid becoming involved in an access dispute, the protection and best interest of the child(ren) will always be our first priority. Legally, unless there is an active restraining order, court order, or court ordered visitation schedule on file at the center that designates otherwise, the center cannot deny a parent or guardian access to his or her child. We require all families to resolve their differences or unsettled court orders through legal channels. Ultimately, Little Stoltens' primary concern is the safety of all children and staff at the center. For that reason, the center cannot be used as a place for scheduled visitations, nor can we be responsible for supervising the parent or guardian visits.

**Person(s) appearing to be impaired or under the influence during pick-up**

Little Stoltens will contact the custodial parent should a parent or person approved for pick up appear to the staff to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohols. The parent's right to immediate access does not permit the agency from denying a custodial parent access to their child even if the parent is or appears to be impaired. However, Little Stoltens staff will delay the impaired parent as long as possible while contacting the other parent.

**Black Out**

Children may not be dropped off between 10:00am and 2:00pm to avoid classroom disruption and/or arriving during lunch, nap preparation and naptime. In the event of a doctor's appointment a note MUST be provided during our blackout times.

#### **4. Parent**

##### **Conferences**

No formal parent conferences will be scheduled. However, any time you feel a conference (for whatever reason) would help, please contact the director or manager. You may email the School Director at [littlestoltens@gmail.com](mailto:littlestoltens@gmail.com) or call the front office at 281-860-4983.

Telephone Conferences can also be scheduled if this is most convenient for you. Please contact us with your concerns. "We can't fix it unless we know it's broken."

##### **Visitation Opportunities**

Please feel free to come by anytime. Please be mindful of naptime and volumes of voices when conversing in the hallways and in the classrooms.

Please do not carry a lengthy conversation with any teacher when picking-up or dropping off your child since the teacher is responsible for the education and safety of all their students.

##### **Participation and activities at center**

All parents are welcome to participate in activities in the classroom. We certainly enjoy your input and assistance whenever possible. Your children are thrilled to have you share in their accomplishments, and the teachers welcome the assistance.

##### **Review of minimum standards**

The Minimum Standards are the state guidelines for all Licensed Day Cares in the state of Texas. Each parent is welcome to review the office copy of Minimum Standard Rules for Licensing Childcare or visit [www.dfps.state.tx.us/](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/) or by calling the Child Care Information line at 1-800-862-5252. Our center is required to meet these requirements in order to remain in operation.

The most recent licensing report is available for review.

##### **Texas Child Care Licensing (CCL)**

The mission of Child Care Licensing is to protect children through regulations and education. Licensing staff inspect centers to be sure that minimum standards are met. To contact a local licensing office visit [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/child\\_care/local\\_child\\_care\\_licensing\\_offices/#ccloffices](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_care/local_child_care_licensing_offices/#ccloffices) or reach them at (713) 940-3009 Houston Area.

##### **Review of Emergency Preparedness Plan**

Each parent is welcome to review the office copy of Little Stoltens Emergency Preparedness Plan which includes:

- 1) Evacuation, relocation, and sheltering/lock-down of children
- 2) How children will be evacuated or relocated to the designated area
- 3) Staff responsibility
- 4) Communication

#### **5. Meals, Food Services and Breastfeeding & Formula Feeding**

A snack is provided in the morning and afternoon. The snack menu is posted on the bulletin board and/or on the white board in the office.

Stolt Nielsen provides lunch for employee's children who eat table food. The meals are provided

through the onsite kitchen. Please check the posted menu next to white board in the front office.

Non-Stolt employees may purchase lunch for their children who eat table food for an additional fee. See Director for additional fees. The meals are provided through the onsite kitchen. Please check the posted menu next to the white board in the front office.

Little Stoltens Child Development Center is not responsible for meeting the nutritional needs of students if you choose to provide your child's lunch. Students should bring their lunch in a lunch kit with a cool pack, because we do not have enough refrigerator space to refrigerate the lunches. Make sure all lunch kits and containers are clearly labeled with your child's name.

If you choose to take your child out for lunch, please notify the teacher so adjustment can be made with the kitchen prior to the preparation of daily meals.

There is a \$5 fee if you fail to provide a meal for your child. Little Stoltens will provide a meal prepared in the Stolt cafeteria, milk, and water.

Students may bring breakfast to be eaten at school. Breakfast must be finished by 8:00AM. Parents arriving after breakfast is over may take child to Stolt cafeteria and finish breakfast with the child. Parents must remain with their child until they take them back to class.

Students will need to bring their own water bottle to school each day. Please label with first name and last initial

### **Food Restrictions**

No Sodas or Candy. Do not send McDonalds toys when providing a Happy Meal.

### **Beverage Choices for Lunch**

Milk or juice with water only. All students must have a serving of water during each mealtime.

### **Warmups**

We are not able to warm up lunches due to time constraints. Please send hot meals in insulated or thermos containers. Suggestions: soups, spaghetti, pre-cooked ramen noodles, chicken nuggets and vegetables.

### **Food Allergy**

If your child is allergic to a specific food, we must have a food allergy emergency plan prepared by the child's health care professional that includes:

- 1) A list of each food the child is allergic.
- 2) Possible symptoms if exposed to a food on the list.
- 3) The steps to take if the child has an allergic reaction.
- 4) The child's health care professional and parent must sign and date the plan.
- 5) The food allergy emergency plan must be updated annually.

### **Bottles in the Infant/Toddler Room**

#### **Breast Feeding:**

- Little Stoltens provides a private space for breast feeding mothers to nurse babies or express milk. This private space is located in the conference room.
- A refrigerator and freezer will be made available for storage for breastmilk.

- Please specify by checking the breastmilk selection on the monthly dietary form.
- Please ensure proper storage of breastmilk is communicated with staff.
- Breastmilk must be pre-filled with the correct number of ounces of each feeding in individual bottle or breastmilk storage bag.
- All items need to be labeled with babies first name and last initial; bottle, bottle tops, breastmilk storage bags and/or any other containers from home. Optional website for special permanent labels: <https://www.inchbug.com/>
- Creative Corner will not be held responsible for sanitizing bottles. Bottles are to go home daily and return to school ready for next day use.

### **Non-Prepared Formula:**

- Bottles must be pre-filled with water. Use the amount of water listed on the instructions of the formula container.
- Measure formula in formula dispenser per each bottle serving, according to the instructions on the label of the formula container.
- All items need to be labeled with babies first name and last initial; bottle, bottle tops, formula dispenser and/or any other containers from home. Optional website for special permanent labels: <https://www.inchbug.com/>
- Creative Corner will not be held responsible for sanitizing bottles. Bottles are to go home daily and return to school ready for next day use.

### **Prepared Formula instructions**

- Prepared formula at home and store in classroom refrigerator. Any unused prepared formula will go home with child the same day.
- All items need to be labeled with child's name and last initial; bottle, bottle tops and/or any other containers from home. Optional website for special permanent labels: <https://www.inchbug.com/>
- Creative Corner will not be held responsible for sanitizing bottles. Bottles are to go home daily and return to school ready for next day use.

### **Bottle Warmers**

Little Stoltens will warm up bottles as requested by the parents on the monthly dietary form.

### **Monthly Dietary Form**

An infant monthly dietary form must be turned in every month **NO LATER** than the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. Your child will not be allowed to remain at school without an updated monthly dietary form.

Monthly dietary forms will go home with baby, or you can print from website at [www.littlestoltenschildcare.net](http://www.littlestoltenschildcare.net)

## **6. Physical Activity**

The facility should promote all children's active play every day. Children should have ample opportunity to do moderate to vigorous activities, such as running, climbing, dancing, skipping, and jumping to the extent of their abilities.

Outdoor play provides for greater freedom and flexibility, fuller expression through loud talk, and a greater range of active movement. Outdoor play also extends opportunities for large muscle development, social-emotional development, and small muscle development by offering variety, challenge, and complexity in ways that are not attainable in a confined indoor space.

Infants (birth-18mo) should be taken outside 2 to 3 times per day, as tolerated. There is no recommended duration of infants' outdoor play.

Toddlers (18mo-36mo) and preschoolers through school age (3-10years) should be allowed 60 to 90 total minutes of outdoor play.

These outdoor times can be reduced somewhat during adverse weather conditions in which children may still play safely outdoors for shorter periods, but the time of indoor activity should increase so the total amount of exercise remains the same.

Total time allotted for moderate to vigorous activities:

A.) Infants should have supervised tummy time every day when they are awake. Beginning on the first day at the early care and education program, caregivers/teachers should interact with an awake infant on his/her tummy for short periods (3-5 minutes), increasing the amount of time as the infant shows he/she enjoys the activity.

B.) Toddlers should be allowed 60 to 90 minutes per 8-hour day to moderate to vigorous physical activity including running, climbing, dancing, skipping, and jumping.

C.) Preschoolers through school age should be allowed 9- to 120 minutes per 8-hour day to moderate to vigorous physical activity including running, climbing, dancing, skipping, and jumping.

Infant and Toddler daily physical activity will take place in the small playground.

Preschool through school age students daily physical activity will take place in the large spacious playground.

Students should wear comfortable and appropriate clothing and shoes for weather. We will go outside when it is very cold and very warm but may adjust the amount of time outside based on weather conditions. Students will need to dress accordingly with caps, gloves, and coats when it is cold.

Children have opportunities for daily moderate physical activity indoors and outdoors, depending on the weather and outdoor air quality.

## **7. Insect repellent & Sunblock**

Morning insect repellent/sunblock spray must be applied by parents either prior to arrival or upon arrival at the center if you feel that it's necessary. If you would like us to reapply insect repellent spray on your child prior to outdoor we will gladly do so year-round provided you supply us with your preferred brand. Please make sure to write your child's name on all containers with a permanent marker and give them to your child's teacher for safe storage. Under no circumstances may insect repellent be left in a child's tote bag. Insect Repellent & Sunblock must be aerosol or pump spray. (NO lotion)

## 8. Discipline and Guidance

Discipline must be:

- 1) Individualized and consistent for each child.
- 2) Appropriate to the child's level of understanding; and
- 3) Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

A caregiver may only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-directions, which includes at least the following:

- 1) Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior
- 2) Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements.
- 3) Redirecting behavior using positive statement; and
- 4) Using brief supervised separation or 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 must be no harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment of any child. The following types of discipline and guidance are prohibited:

- 1) Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment.
- 2) Punishment associated with food, naps, or toilet training.
- 3) Pinching, shaking, or biting a child.
- 4) Hitting a child with a hand or instrument.
- 5) Putting anything in or on a child's mouth.
- 6) Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child.
- 7) Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language.
- 8) Placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet with the door closed; and
- 9) Withholding active play or keeping a child inside as a consequence for behavior, unless the child is exhibiting behavior during active play that requires a brief supervision separation or time out.
- 10) Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods of time for the child's age.

### **Disciplinary System / Take Home Folder**

Each class will have a clip chart for their disciplinary system. A clip chart is an effective tool for displaying behavioral progress and adherence to classroom rules.

Every child will have a "take-home" folder with a monthly calendar enclosed. Parents must check their child's take-home folder daily to verify what kind of day their child had. We encourage parents to have a time with their child at home to discuss the child's success or outstanding behavior and also address any behavior issues of concern if any. This take-home folder also includes your child's artwork and/or homework. If we have any concerns about a child's behavior, we will inform his/her parents and collaborate on a plan of action for positive change.

### **Expulsion/Dismissal from school**

Students must be able to follow advanced curriculum. Students must be able to follow directions and respect authority. Little Stoltens reserves the right to exclude the new enrollment of or terminate the existing enrollment of a child at any time, including, but not limited to, children who's behavioral and education needs cannot be met at Little Stoltens without fundamental alterations of or undue burden to

our existing programs, procedures, or practices, as deemed by Little Stoltens, and/or children whose fees and/or tuition payments are in arrears.

The following steps will be taken:

- Note to Parent(s)
- Collaborate on a plan
- Conference with parent(s)

If a student exhibits excessive aggression towards a student or a staff member, the following steps will be taken:

- Parent(s) must pick-up child immediately
- Child will be suspended from the program for one day.
- Child is expelled from our program.

## **9. Emergency Closing or Cancellations**

Remind text [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com) alert will be our #1 source for communicating cancellations or other emergency conditions and early closures so it is imperative that you enroll immediately.

We will follow the same decisions as Galena Park I.S.D. for school closings in the event of extreme conditions such as flooding, icy road conditions, hurricane, etc. All news channels will post the decisions made by Galena Park I.S.D. regarding these closures. It is extremely important that all work, home, cell numbers, and email addresses are kept up to date for this purpose so you can also be contacted via-text using [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com). We will also use the same service to contact you if we are able to return to school prior to Galena Park I.S.D.'s return.

There will not be a tuition credit or adjustment due to closures for extreme weather conditions or damage to the school facility due to the weather conditions up to five days, or power outages up to five days. You will not be charged for the additional days we are closed beyond the first school days (Monday-Friday).

### **Power Outages**

In the event that our building loses power for longer than an hour and the electric company indicates that we will be without power for longer than 4 hours of the school day, you will be contacted through [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com) (via-text). Students must be picked up as soon as possible or as indicated via the communications when the parents are contacted.

## **10. Evacuations/Security**

### **Procedures Off-site**

Parents will be contacted immediately through [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com) (via-text) when the students must be evacuated off site. All students must be picked up at that location immediately. Please make sure your child's registration information is up to date at all times. It is extremely important we have your current contact numbers as well as updated emergency contacts home, work, and cellular phone numbers.

Our evacuation site for Little Stoltens:

1. Clarion Inn, 15157 East Freeway, Phone 281-452-7304
2. La Quinta Inn & Suites, 5520 E. Sam Houston Pkwy N.  
Channelview TX 281-452-4419

3. Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 11460 I-10 East, Houston TX  
713-330-3800

### **School Lock Down**

All doors must be locked, and students will not be released until it is determined that it is safe to open the school in the event of a Chemical Release Disaster or any event outside of the school that might place the children at risk. Parents will be notified via email or [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com) (via-text) of any emergency requiring a lockdown.

### **Emergency Contact**

Emergency contact number if school phones cannot be reached 713-557-2858 or 281-904-7041

## **11. Illness and Exclusion Criteria**

If the illness results in a greater need for care, then the caregivers can provide without compromising the health, safety, and supervision of the other children in their care. To avoid the spread of disease, state licensing standards require ill children to be isolated from their group and picked up from school as soon as possible. Your child must be able to comfortably participate in all center activities, including outdoor play, to be able to attend school.

If the child exhibits any of the following symptoms, he/she must be excluded from attendance:

- An axillary (armpit) temperature above 100 degrees or higher accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness.
- Is vomiting or has an upset stomach accompanied by diarrhea.
- Has diarrhea that is not able to be contained within a diaper.
- Shows evidence of a communicable disease, such as chicken pox or pink eye.
- Has an undiagnosed rash with fever.
- Has difficulty breathing.
- Has unusual lethargy, irritability, or persistent crying.
- Has discharge from the eye, ears, and/or profuse, colored nasal discharge.
- Mouth sores with drooling.
- Head lice
- Healthcare professional has diagnosed the child with a communicable disease

The child must have medical documentation indicating that they are no longer communicable or contagious. In order to return to school, your child needs to be free of all symptoms for 24 hours.

Children should not come to school unless they are well enough to participate in all school activities including outdoor playground. (See physical activity for more information).

## **12. Emergencies Medical**

All teachers are Pediatric First Aid and CPR certified. In the event, of a critical illness or injury that requires immediate attention of a physician, the center will:

- Care for the child apart from the other children.
- Staff will perform CPR and/or First Aid if needed.
- Call 911 and wait for emergency protocols if needed.
- Contact the parent(s).

- Secondary person (if needed) will complete the incident report.
- Continue to care for child apart from other children until emergency services and/or parent(s) arrive.

## 12. Medication Policies

Our center does dispense medications to children whose parents meet the following criteria:

- Medication is only administered at 12:00P.M. And 4:00 P.M. with the exception of prescription on an as-needed basis. If the child requires medication at 12:00 and at 4:00, two separate forms will need to be filled out.
- An “Authorization to Administer Medication” form must be completed by the parent and given to the Director or the morning teacher. Forms are available in the lobby area above sign in clipboard. For on-going medication, a new form must be submitted every week.
- The medication must be in the original container labeled with the child’s full name and date brought to our center.
- Prescribed medication must include child’s name, date of birth, doctors name, prescription number, expiration date and full details of dosage.
- The employee must administer the medication in amounts according to the label directions as of amended by the physician.
- The medication must only be administered to the child for whom it is intended.
- Medication may not be administered after the expiration date. If an over-the-counter medication is brought to school, it must be designed for the age of the child it is intended.
- Non-prescription Topical Children’s Ointments: can be applied with authorization from the parent/guardian according to the manufacturer’s instructions for a period not to exceed one year.
- Little Stoltens cannot administer acetaminophen or other fever reducing medicines so that a child can remain at the center. The center can administer fever-reducing medicines, at the parent/guardian’s request, to a child while he or she waits for pick up. Parents can give authorization over the phone to allow one dose. The child cannot be readmitted to the center until he or she is fever free for at least 24 hours and has no other symptoms.

All medications must be kept in a predesignated area, out of reach of the children, and each medication must be labeled with the child’s first and last name.

Medication is stored in the lobby/sink in a cabinet labeled “medication”. This cabinet is above the microwave. Infant and Toddler will store in classroom above sink area labeled Medication. Never leave any medication in a child’s bag, locker, or cubby.

In the event that medication needs to be refrigerated, there is a container labeled “medication” in the refrigerator door.

Infant and Toddlers teething gel/tablets will be stored in classroom cubbies.

**ALL MEDICATION MUST BE TAKEN HOME EVERY FRIDAY.** Any medication remaining at the school after Friday will be thrown away. Little Stoltens can and will store as needed medication that must remain at school at all times per physician statement while the child is enrolled in our program.

**Epinephrine Auto-Injector**

Little Stoltens does not provide an epinephrine auto-injector in case of an allergic reaction.

Children with an allergy who are required to have an epinephrine on site must adhere to our medication policy.

**14. Immunization Requirements**

We require that all students have their immunizations entered with IMMTRAC. This may be filed through your child's pediatrician or health clinic. Each child enrolled or admitted to our center must meet the applicable immunization requirements in Texas Elementary and Secondary Schools and Institutions of Higher Education. This requirement applies to all children in care from birth through seventeen years. Except as otherwise provided, all immunizations required for a child's age must be completed by the date of admission.

Visit [www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/Schedule/schedule\\_child.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/Schedule/schedule_child.shtm) for required immunization and ages. Parents are required to provide center with updated immunization records. Your child will be excluded from attendance at Creative Corner if this information has not been submitted, is not current, or is incomplete unless your physician provides a waiver.

**Tuberculin Testing Requirements**

Requirements for Tuberculosis screening and testing vary across the state. Consult the Harris County Health Department requirements to verify if your child needs this immunization.

**Vaccine-preventable diseases for employees**

Employees are not required to receive vaccines for preventable diseases or flu shots.

**15. Hearing and Vision Screening Requirements**

Children enrolled in programs who are four years of age by September 1<sup>st</sup> will be screened for possible vision and hearing problems prior to completion of the first semester of enrollment. This test is required by the Texas Dept. of Family and Protective Services. The fee for the vision and hearing testing must be paid by the child's parent prior to testing and permission form must be signed and dated. If you prefer to have your child tested by his pediatrician, please submit the test results to the school director no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**16. Enrollment Procedures**

The center must have on file:

- Admission Page with the following: The child's name, birth date, home address, telephone numbers, date of the child's admission to the childcare center, name and address of the parents, telephone numbers at which both parents can be reached during the day, and in the evening.
- Name, address, telephone number and any additional contact information of another responsible individual friend or relative, who should be contacted in an emergency when parents cannot be reached.

- Name and telephone numbers of persons other than the parents who are authorized to pick-up or drop off the child.
- Name, address and telephone number of the child's physician or an emergency-care facility.
- Authorization to obtain emergency medical care and to transport the child for emergency medical treatment.
- Statement of the child's health from a health-care professional.
- A statement of the child's special care needs. This includes, but is not limited to, allergies, existing illness, previous serious illness and injuries, hospitalizations during the past 12 months, and any medications prescribed for continuous, long-term use.
- Vision and Hearing screening results, if applicable.
- Immunization Records.
- A completed food allergy emergency plan for child, if applicable (see Food Allergy)
- The name and telephone number of the school that a school-age child attends, if applicable.
- Infant only; infant sleep agreement form.
- Permission for participation in water activities, if applicable.

#### **Updating Admission information**

Parents must update annually admission information, including information on special care needs. Updated admission must have a parent signature and date.

#### **Policy Changes**

Little Stoltens reserves the right to change, revise, supplement, or delete any of our policies and procedures, at any time. Parents will be notified of any changes to this policy by email within five business days. Changes will be effective on the dates determined by Little Stoltens.

### **17. Summer Camp**

Every day is an exciting adventure at Camp Little Stoltens. Students enjoy summer theme curriculums, art, crafts, and games. Reading and Math skills are incorporated in the curriculum projects to keep students prepared for the upcoming school year. Little Stoltens is filled with creativity, excitement, and enthusiasm.

#### **Tuition**

Annual summer registration fee of \$30. Registration fee is non-refundable. Summer Camp tuition is posted on the registration forms.

#### **Water Activities**

Splash pool under 2 feet and sprinkler play will be used at Little Stoltens during Summer Camp..

### **18. School Parties**

Seasonal parties are celebrated during the school year. To maintain successful parties, and for all children to participate, all parents are expected to contribute items for each party.

Kids N Action is a delightful company who comes to our school to provide crazy, fun, exciting activities. On our party days the company sends a coordinator who arrives with all the apparatus and

music for more fun than you can imagine! She directs the many activities which change each time she comes: Balance beam, obstacle course, dancing, hula hoops, bubble blast, go fishing, ball explosion, scarf juggling and so much more!! **Fee for Kids in Action is \$4 for each event.**

## **19. Children's Birthdays**

We enjoy celebrating your child's birthday at Little Stoltens. Parents are welcome to provide a treat for the class. Please limit it to small cupcakes, muffins, or cookies. For safety reasons, we do not allow candies and/or balloons to be brought to school. We ask you to make arrangements in advance directly with your child's teachers as to how much to bring and when. Special birthday treats will be served at our afternoon snack time. We also discourage the distribution of birthday party invitations at school unless you plan to invite the entire class.

## **20. School Equipment**

Sometimes a child will carry home an object used in our activities. We realize these are very tempting to a small child. However, they are a vital part to our prepared environment, and one missing piece can ruin an entire set of expensive and sometimes very hard to replace educational materials. Please work with us in seeing that these items return to school as soon as possible. Please do not allow your child to bring money or toys from home.

## **21. Naptime**

Toddlers through Pre-K will need a small camp pillow and a lightweight blanket, (no sleeping bags or quilts please). Children may bring a stuffed animal or doll to nap with. Please make sure that pillow, blanket, and doll have your child's name clearly labeled on them. Blankets and pillows must be taken home and washed on Fridays.

Soft bedding such as toys, quilts, pillows, bumper pads, comforters, and blankets must not be used in cribs for children 12 months and younger (see **Sleep Agreement.**)

## **22. Infant Sleep Agreement**

All staff, substitute staff, and volunteers at Little Stoltens follow the safe sleep recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Consumer Products Safety Commission for infants to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death (SIDS). SIDS/SUIDS is the sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age, which remains unexplained after a thorough investigation.

- Always put infants to sleep on their backs unless you provide Form 3019, Infant Sleep Exception/Health Care Professional Recommendation, signed by the infant's health care professional {746.2427 & 746.2327}.
- Infants will be placed on a firm mattress, with a tight fitted sheet, in a crib that meets the CPSC federal requirements for full-size cribs and for non-full-size cribs {746.2427 & 746.2327}.
- For infants who are younger than 12 months of age, cribs should be bare except for a tight-fitting sheet and a mattress cover or protector. Items that should not be placed in a crib include soft or loose bedding, such as blankets, quilts, or comforters; pillows, stuffed toys/animals;

- soft objects; bumper pads, liners, or sleep positioning devices {746.2415 & 746.2315}. Also, infants must not have their heads, faces or cribs covered at any time by items such as blankets, linens, or clothing. {746.2426 & 746.2329}
- Do not use sleep positioning devices, such as wedges or infant positioners. The AAP has found no evidence that these devices are safe. Their use may increase the risk of suffocation {746.2415 & 747.2315}
  - Ensure that sleeping areas are ventilated and at a temperature that is comfortable for a lightly clothed adult {746.3407 & 747.3203}
  - If an infant needs extra warmth, use sleeping clothing such as sleepers or footed pajamas as an alternative to blankets. {746.2415 & 747.2315}
  - Place only one infant in a crib to sleep {746.2405 & 747.2305}
  - Infants may use a pacifier during sleep. But the pacifier must not be attached to a stuffed animal {746.2415 & 747.2315} or the infant's clothing by a string, cord or other attaching mechanism that might be a suffocation or strangulation risk {746.2401 & 747.2315}
  - If the infant falls asleep in a restrictive device other than a crib (such as a bouncy chair or swing or arrives to care asleep in a car seat), move the infant to a crib immediately, unless you provide Form 3019, Infant Sleep Exception/Health Care Professional Recommendation, signed by the infant's health-care professional. {746.2426 & 747.2326}
  - Our childcare program is smoke-free. Smoking is not allowed in Texas childcare operations (this includes e-cigarettes and any type of vaporizers). {746.3703 & 747.3503}
  - Actively observe sleeping infants by sight and sound. {746.2403 & 747.2303}
  - In an infant is able to roll back and forth from front to back, place the infant on the infant's back for sleep and allow the infant to assume a preferred sleep position. {746.2427 & 747.2327}
  - Awake infants will have supervised "tummy time" several times daily. This will help them strengthen their muscles and develop normally. {746.2427 & 747.2327}
  - Do not swaddle an infant for sleep or rest unless you provide Form 3019, Infant Sleep Exception/Health Care Professional Recommendation, signed by the infant's health care professional. {746.2428 & 747.2328}

## **23. Dress code and tote/diaper bags**

### **Restrictions**

No cowboy boots due to safety of other students and playground.

### **Tote Bags/Backpacks/Diaper Bags**

Infant and Toddler parents may need to bring diaper bags daily to school. Please remember that our center is cozy with limited storage space. If you choose to bring a diaper bag for your child, please be aware of our space constraints and bring a moderate sized diaper bag.

Little Stoltens tote bags are part of our required supplies for Toddlers through Pre-K students. Tote bags are uniformed in size and decrease the amount of distractions incurred with the use of back packs. Due to these reasons and limited space, Little Stoltens does require that if a bag is needed, it must be a Little Stoltens tote bag which can be purchased in the front office for \$8.00.

### **Change of Clothes**

All students MUST have a complete change of clothes including socks and underwear in a Ziploc bag. Extra shoes is always recommended as well.

**24. Financial and Policy Procedures**

**Registration Fee: \$50-Annual Fee – School Year August-May**

- This fee must be paid at time of enrollment
- This fee is non- refundable

**School Supply Fee: \$50- Annual Fee- School Year August-May for all students**

- See Calendar for Due Date (Month of September)
- This fee and workbook are non-refundable

**Workbook Fee: \$50- Annual Fee- School Year August-May for all students**

- See Calendar for Due Date (Month of October)
- This fee and supplies are non-refundable

Tuition can be paid in one of two ways:

STOLT EMPLOYEE	NON STOLT PARENT
<u>Infant/Toddler</u> (8 weeks to 18 months) <u>SEE CALENDAR FOR DUE DATE</u>  Four Weeks: \$650.00 Biweekly Every 2 weeks: \$335.00	<u>Infant/Toddler</u> (8 weeks to 18 months) <u>SEE CALENDAR FOR DUE DATE</u>  Four Weeks: \$700.00 Biweekly Every 2 weeks: \$360.00
<u>Early Preschool</u> (18 month through 36 months) <u>SEE CALENDAR FOR DUE DATE</u>  Four Weeks: \$500.00 Biweekly Every 2 weeks: \$260.00	<u>Early Preschool</u> (18 month through 36 months) <u>SEE CALENDAR FOR DUE DATE</u>  Four Weeks: \$600.00 Biweekly Every 2 weeks: \$310.00
<u>Preschool through PreK</u> (3-5 years old) <u>SEE CALENDAR FOR DUE DATE</u>  Four Weeks: \$480.00 Biweekly Every 2 weeks: \$250.00	<u>Preschool through PreK</u> (3-5 years old) <u>SEE CALENDAR FOR DUE DATE</u>  Four Weeks: \$530.00 Biweekly Every 2 weeks: \$275.00
	<u>LUNCHES</u> <u>SEE CALENDAR FOR DUE DATE</u>  Four Weeks: \$50.00 Biweekly Every 2 weeks: \$25.00

**Penalty Fees**

- Late Tuition Payment: \$10 per day
- Late Pick-Up Fee: \$5 per five-minute interval after 6:04 PM
- NSF fee \$50
- 30-day withdrawal notice \$50

**Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF)**

Parents will be contacted immediately after we receive notice of a NSF payment. Your child may not return to Little Stoltens without a money order payment of full tuition due including \$50.00 NSF fee. Money order payment can be handed to the director or morning teacher in charge.

**Tuition Procedures, Financial Agreement, and Withdrawal**

Tuition is due on Monday every two weeks (see calendar for due dates) unless paying every 4 weeks. Your child may not return to school the Wednesday following tuition due date without payment in full including late fee \$10.00 per day for late tuition. Please refer to your child's school calendar for tuition due dates and any additional fees. If the school is closed on the Monday that tuition is due, then tuition will be due the following day.

Four weeks' (30 days) notice is required for withdrawal. A \$50 penalty fee will be added to your account if you fail to provide the required notifications.

Little Stoltens accepts two methods of payment:

- Tuition Express Automatic draft from your Bank account
- Tuition Express Automatic draft from your Credit Card/Debit Card

**25. Spaces Needed for Stolt Neilsen Employee**

Little Stoltens is a Child Development Center designed primarily for the employee of Stolt Neilsen. As such, the employees of Stolt Neilsen will always receive priority placement in spaces available. In the event that a class is full and a Stolt Neilsen employee seeks a space in that class, the last parent/child registered as a Non-Stolt employee in the said class (other than the children of the childcare center employees) will be given 30 days to make other arrangements for their child in another child care center. The registration fee paid will be refunded at that time.

**26. Parental Notification**

Little Stoltens reserves the right to change, revise, supplement, or delete any of our policies and procedures, at any time. Parents will be notified of any changes to this policy by e-mail within five business days. Changes will be effective on the dates determined by Little Stoltens.

**27. Use of Cell Phone**

Children come first at Little Stoltens. Children benefit from the attention of parents during drop-off and pick up times. Therefore, the use of cell phones while you are with your children at the childcare center is not allowed. Children need the undivided attention of their families during pickup and drop-off times (office personnel must use their cell phone for school business just as they use the regular office phone. Please excuse us when accepting calls on cell phone.)

**28. Parking Safety/Building Safety**

All children must enter the center accompanied by a parent or guardian/responsible adult. Children must be signed in upon arrival and be accompanied to class by a parent or guardian/responsible adult.

Parents must never leave a child unattended in a vehicle in the parking lot.

Please lock your vehicle when you enter the building to drop-off and pick-up your child. Never leave

anything of value visible in your vehicle. Little Stoltens is not liable for the theft of or damage of any property. Thefts in childcare parking lots can occur even when vehicles are locked

Students are NEVER allowed in the parking lot without close supervision of a parent, guardian, or responsible adult.

When you pick up your child, keep the children in your presence again, never allowing your child to run ahead of you. If your child forgets something in the classroom, you must accompany your child back to the classroom to ensure that your child is safe and is doing what expected. The children must not leave the classroom or building unattended.

## **29. Biting**

One of the biggest challenges in childcare is the issue of children biting. Little Stoltens has a policy regarding how we handle the situation, but we would like to emphasize that the policy is designed more for children approximately three years of age who are within the age of reasoning and understanding.

Biting is an unfortunate occurrence with young children who just don't have the language skills to say what they want or don't want. Many times, one child will tend to play too closely (in another child's space) and that creates an environment for biting if the other child needs more space. Sometimes one child will want a certain toy that the other child has, and they don't have any verbal skills, so they take it resulting in the other child biting to get the toy back.

When a young toddler or early preschooler bites, we will:

- Inform both parents via-email.
- Attend to the child who was bit with ice and lots of love and attention.
- Tell the other child, "No bites! Teeth are for smiling or chewing food."
- Closely observe the biter to make sure there isn't a possible sign of ear infection or new teeth coming in that might be causing discomfort.
- Keep a close eye on the biter to try to prevent a re-occurrence.
- If biter bites again, place the child in time out or in crib or playpen for a couple of minutes and always repeat above.
- When a teacher is aware that a child tends to react by biting, she will watch that child very closely. If the teacher is alone in a classroom and has to attend to another child, which will take some of her attention away from the child who reacts by biting, she will place the child in a crib or playpen.
- Staff will do everything possible to prevent biting, but there are times when it is just unavoidable.
- We will also work with the parents of the child who is biting to make sure the child isn't sick or isn't getting enough rest.

We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding regarding this very challenging occurrence in childcare.

<http://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/development/behavioral/tough-toddlers-hitting-biting/>

**30. Confidentiality Policy**

All personal records of children and families are kept in the strictest confidence. Information pertaining to admission, progress, health, or discharge of child shall be confidential, unless we have written permission for disclosure from the parent or guardian.

**31. Preventing and Responding to Abuse and Neglect of Children**

In order to increase employee and parent awareness of issues regarding child abuse or neglect, including warning signs and prevention techniques, we post on our Parent and Staff info boards information from the DFPS website "Keeping Children Safe" and urge staff, parents and others to visit the site also [www.dfps.state.tx.us/itsuptoyou/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/itsuptoyou/default.asp). Little Stoltens will also handout flyers annually in regards to reporting abuse and neglect.

All staff is required to complete one hour of annual training on Reporting Suspected Abuse and Neglect of a child. We have resources on site for training that includes DVD, self-instructional materials and online training at [www.dfps.state.tx.us/training/reporting/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/training/reporting/default.asp)

To report suspected abuse, call 1-800-252-5400 or visit [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)

If you are a victim of abuse and neglect and need help, call 1-800-252-5400 or Harris County Women's Center- Domestic Violence- 713-528-2121

The strategy for coordination between Little Stoltens and appropriate community organizations will always be through and upon advisement of the Department of Family and Protective Services and our current Child Care Licensing Representative. For assistance and intervention, parents and others can contact DFPS 1-800-252-5400 or 1-800-4-A-CHILD or online [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org)

**32. Health Checks**

Little Stoltens does not perform daily health checks.

**33. Gang-Free Zone**

Under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1,000 feet of a childcare center is a gang-free zone, where criminal offenses related to organized gang-related criminal activity are subject to harsher penalty.

For more information visit <https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>

**34. Weapon**

At no time is any person permitted to carry any type of Firearm, Ammunition and/or Weapon on Little Stoltens property, with the exception of a person(s) who is in law enforcement.

**35. Animal**

Little Stoltens does not keep pets/animals on site on a daily basis. Occasionally we will have special guest with pets/animals for educational purposes. Parents will be notified via-email in advance of special guest.

**36. Supplemental Information**

This Parent Handbook (Policies and Procedures) contains general information concerning the policies and procedures of Little Stoltens Child Development Center. The policies and procedures described herein are not intended to be and should not be interpreted as a contract between Little Stoltens Child Development Center and any other person. This information does not constitute a legal document, nor does it constitute a contract. It does not confer any legal rights, nor does it create any contractual obligations, expressed or implied.

By signing the Parent Acknowledgement application during enrollment, it is understood that all of the policies and procedures of Creative Corner Child Development Center handbook are understood and agreed upon.