

Dear Parents,

This is our vision at Elmbrook Church Child Enrichment Center. We are glad you have chosen to be a part of it with us, and welcome a visit from you at any time during the school year. There will also be opportunities to enrich the classroom with your talents and directly assist on field trips, making play dough, etc.

Ever since 1975 the staff of E.C.C.E.C. has committed themselves to assist each child develop his/her God-given potential to be responsible, caring, creative, spontaneous and happy. We strive to accomplish this in a Christian environment where we role-model these qualities. It is our goal to provide your child with quality experiences that develop social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual growth.

You will find qualified personnel who are sensitive and mature individuals concerned about your child and his/her needs. Although we are a large school, we make every effort to personalize education.

We are eager and willing to assist you in "parenting" whether it be simply a "listening ear" or through a structured event. Further information on parenting is available. There are books, DVDs and pamphlets to borrow on topics ranging from toilet-training and eating habits to discipline techniques and Christian principles for raising children. Feel free to borrow as many as you would like. We also provide monthly newsletters, individual conferences, field trips, and special events.

Hopefully, this Parent Handbook proves useful to you in understanding the philosophies and inner workings of the Center. Please use it for the length of your stay with us.

You are part of the family now. Welcome!

Sincerely,

Administration and Staff of ECCEC

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe in the child as a whole individual. We strive to enable the child to develop in all areas including self-esteem, a sense of responsibility, and independence in learning. This is done in a Christian environment where self-expression is encouraged and tempered with the development of self-discipline. We feel that these goals can best be accomplished by providing a place where every child is actively involved in learning. One of the most effective ways to meet these needs is through a learning center approach.

A LEARNING CENTER is a place where children are actively involved in learning, where they learn in a natural and enjoyable way through personal experience. It is a place where a child “works” handling and manipulating familiar objects before dealing abstractly with the concepts on paper.

A LEARNING CENTER is a place where children are free to make mistakes and to learn directly from these mistakes; where errors are used as clues by the teacher to help discover what each child needs to learn; a place where children learn to problem solve and make choices; where they are free to “try” things as an expression of creativity and individuality.

A LEARNING CENTER is a place where children move around freely and still learn; where sitting still need not be what is thought of as “good” and movement and noise as “bad.” It is a place that recognizes the talent for learning the child brings from home, and uses this talent to produce more learning for the child.

A LEARNING CENTER is an important component of a developmentally appropriate program which has been found to be more beneficial to child’s cognitive development than direct academically oriented programs. Necessary school skills are balanced with an environment which responds to what children enjoy.

A LEARNING CENTER takes into consideration the skills and interests of the children. The process of learning takes on great importance. In other words, the creative activity of painting is more important than what is painted.

A LEARNING CENTER is an opportunity for a Christian teacher to create a Christian environment where each child gains self-confidence and a feeling of worth, regardless of ability, background, or maturity level; where the child is successful at every step in the learning process.

GENERAL POLICIES

ADMISSION

We serve children age 2 years old through 6 years old. The Center does not discriminate by race, color or creed. Children will be accepted until classes are filled. Then a waiting list will be established.

ENROLLMENT

Return all forms completed with a non-refundable registration fee to the Center to reserve a place for your child. This fee does not apply towards tuition.

FORMS TO BE COMPLETED

Enrollment, immunization, contract, emergency card, health history, health report, child history, and media consent. It is extremely important that all information be kept current in case of emergencies. Please notify the office if there are any changes in phone numbers, e-mails, addresses, work situations, or authorized pick up persons.

STATE LICENSING

Although the Center falls under the umbrella of Elmbrook Church's ministries, we believe that state licensing and adherence to those standards are in the best interest of children. We are subject to inspection by state/city health, fire, and licensing officials.

Our history has been one of exceeding expectations in the areas of facility, staff, health and safety, and record keeping.

STAFFING

We believe that highly qualified personnel is one measure of our success. From the office staff to the snack aide to the classroom teacher, we provide adults who role model integrity, love for children, and a desire to partner with you. All staff receives ongoing training throughout the year, are certified in CPR, and have a state of Wisconsin and federal background check on file.

TUITION/FEES

A fee schedule is supplied when you enroll. Family rates of 10% reduction are extended to families that enroll more than one child. No prepaid tuition refunds will be given. Fees are due on the first of each month. Fees are accepted at the Center during operating hours by "drop box" or online bill pay. No credit is given for absences or vacations. There are no late fees for late tuition. However, if tuition is not received by the 11th of each month, services will be interrupted until tuition is paid.

CALENDAR

- ECCEC preschool starts the day after Labor Day in September and goes until the end of May (a 9 month program).
- Extended care is available daily 7:15 AM to 6:00 PM. In order to best serve children, there will be no drop-off after 9 AM.
- A summer program is offered.

HOLIDAYS

ECCEC is closed on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day/Friday after, Christmas vacation, Good Friday, Memorial Day and July 4th.

PERSONAL BELONGS

Teacher's may periodically ask for loan of items to enrich your child's experiences here at the Center. We cannot assume responsibility for loss or damage to any personal possessions, but we will treat all such items carefully as if they were our own.

Please label all children's clothing, lunch and nap items. It is much easier to identify items which are marked with your child's name. Children (ages 2 and 3) are required to have a set of extra clothing, preferably in a zip lock bag, marked with child's name.

We have a "lost and found" rack by the office.

REPORTING ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent for any reason (illness, vacation, family in town, etc.), please notify the center by calling 262.796.5721 or by e-mailing us at info@eccec.com. If your child is ill, you should notify us of the nature of the illness, particularly if it is contagious. We will then notify the parents of children in the class.

VACATIONS/ILLNESS

Wisconsin licensing rules limits the number of children per teacher per day. Therefore, it is necessary that your child only attend on assigned days. No substitute or make up day will be allowed for times absent.

LATE CHILD PICK UP

Charges will be assessed to parents who leave their children beyond scheduled pick up time. Parents who pick up their child after the Center is closed (6:00pm) will be charged \$1.00 per minute after closing time. **This fee must be paid in cash to the afternoon teachers at the time of pick up or before your child's next scheduled day at the Center.**

TERMINATION OF SERVICES

- Parent notifies Center of withdrawal or a mutual decision is reached between the parent and Center that placement is inappropriate.
- Center may terminate services if a problem develops that prevents the staff from serving the child's needs, i.e. excessive absenteeism, behavior.
- If parents are uncooperative in regards to completing forms, paying fees, observing Center policies or falsifying records, the Center may terminate services.
- Closing the Center or a class and notifying the parents would also terminate services for a specified period.

SAFETY

ARRIVAL

To ensure a safe environment, Elmbrook is a secured building with enhanced doors open only during specific times. If you arrive outside of these times, please use the Chapel Entrance.

We request that you take your child directly to the classroom where he/she will be greeted by the teacher. This provides time for a brief exchange to convey information. Our responsibility begins when you place the child in the care of the teacher. Parents who arrive early in the day or pick up later in the evening will find the children grouped together when attendance is lower, allowing children of different ages to interact.

Please use the South or West parking lot spaces. Do not stop in the fire lane or leave siblings unattended in the car. We appreciate prompt arrival and pick-up. Arriving late means your child will miss important beginning session activities. Late pick-ups may make the teachers late leaving school and getting home to their families. Late fees will be assessed.

SIGN IN/OUT

Parents/Guardians are given a "fob" and are required to sign in and out. "Fobs" are given to individual people, please do not share "fobs" for any reason. If someone other than a parent/guardian will be dropping off and picking up regularly you may request a "fob" for that individual. If someone other than a parent/guardian will be dropping off and picking up occasionally, that individual may be issued a pick up card and sign in and out with the teacher.

If either parent is prohibited from picking up the child, a court order is required to be kept in the child's file in the office.

PICK UP PROCEDURES

Please remember to check your child's file daily for newsletters, field trip notices, bills, contracts, art work and notes. You may also leave items for the office in the return file. The Center will ask for proper identification before releasing a child to someone other than a parent or guardian. Pick-up cards are available in the office.

EMERGENCIES

We recognize our responsibility for the safety of your child while in school. Be assured your child will be adequately supervised at all times. We keep an incident/accident book in each classroom and review it twice a year. Fire drills are part of our monthly routine and tornado drills are done from April through October .

FIRST AID

First Aid is administered for minor injuries at the Center. All teachers carry an emergency bag which contains items that will be helpful in situations where first aid is required. Basic first aid and blood-borne pathogen training is required of our staff each year. Teaching staff are all CPR certified.

You will be notified immediately if your child sustains any major injury at school. If emergency care is needed, 911 will be called.

INSURANCE

Elmbrook Church, the school, and any of its employees are not responsible for any liability in connection with school activities. We assume each child is covered by the family's health and accident insurance.

TRANSPORTATION

The Center does not provide daily transportation.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

During inclement weather, school closings will be announced on **WTMJ 620 AM radio (620wtmj.com)**, **Channel 4 (tmj4.com)**, **Channel 12 (wisn.com/weather/closings)** and **Fox 6 Storm Center (fox6now.com/weather/closings)**. Notice will also be given via email, the message on our voicemail, Facebook status and sent through SchoolCast.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

We are required by law to report suspected incidents of possible child abuse or neglect and will cooperate with the Department of Human Services.

EDUCATION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

One of the distinctive features of the program here at the Center is our emphasis on Christian education. Daily, children hear non-denominational Bible stories through hands-on activities, art, role play, or books. The whole school learns a verse, song and Bible theme with a weekly focus. Teachers are chosen for their ability to communicate these truths on the child's level, as well as for their personal integrity. Teachers begin their day in prayer and children are encouraged to pray before snack/meals.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Each child is assigned to his/her own classroom, depending on age, where he/she remains for the school year. In summer, children are combined in a more mixed age group. We provide a clean, safe, and well planned classroom environment. Child-sized furniture, equipment, and toilets in each room assist children in developing self-reliance.

Classroom activities and learning experiences are designed to meet each child's needs, abilities and developmental level. Our teachers utilize our Resource Room to provide a wealth of materials for their classrooms, ranging from books, puppets and CD's to games, manipulative toys, building materials, and prop boxes for dramatic play. iPads are used as a supplemental resource in the classroom.

OUTDOOR/INDOOR PLAY

Our playground structure has been specifically designed to accommodate children of preschool ages. Safety surfaces that absorb falls cover that portion of the playground under equipment. The rest of the playground covering exceeds the recommended depth for shock absorbency. Under the watchful supervision of our skilled staff, your child will be safe and happy with friends the same age.

We include outdoor time weather permitting. Children who are well enough to attend school must be well enough to participate in all activities, including outdoor play. Only a written doctor's excuse will allow a child to remain inside for a specified period.

Please make sure your child has adequate outdoor clothing that can be buttoned or zipped easily. Younger children do not go outside if the temperature/wind-chill is less than 15 degrees F.

During inclement weather and scheduled physical education time, the children will use the gym. The special floor in the gym requires that children wear gym shoes. Since no child is allowed to be on the gym floor without shoes, we encourage children to wear gym shoes to school each day.

POSITIVE GUIDANCE

In a developmentally appropriate program which meets the needs of children, there will be minimal discipline problems. Our program is planned to prevent discipline problems; but when external discipline is warranted, we will intervene and re-direct the child.

If we use "time out" (no more than 5 minutes), it is for the child to reflect on his/her behavior. The child is helped to understand why s/he is in "time out" and what can be done to address the behavior problem. S/he is then returned to the group. If a problem continues, parents are informed and involved in the solution. We have a school wide behavior system that helps keep guidance consistent through the classrooms; our charts keep track of positive choices, as well as choices that need to be redirected.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips provide an opportunity for children to learn more about their community, as well as extended classroom learning. Each class is encouraged to take at least two field trips per year. Parents are notified of field trips and asked to provide admission/bus fees. We use licensed school bus companies for all field trips. Adult supervision is provided by teachers and parents. Children under the age of three (3) do not ride on a bus or leave school premises; we have in-house field trips for these classes.

SCHOOL BAG

It is very important to provide a school bag or backpack marked with your child's name. Please make sure the bag is large enough to hold art projects but small enough for the child to handle.

HEALTH

STATE REQUIREMENTS

Immunizations records must be provided upon enrollment and must be kept current according to State requirements. Each child must have a current physical exam form on file. It must be signed by a physician and dated not more than **1 year** prior to or **30 days after** the beginning of school. A follow up exam is required every 2 years.

ILLNESS

If a child appears sick upon arrival at school, the parent will be asked to take the child home. Children with sore throat, inflammation of eyes, lice, rash, vomiting, diarrhea or a fever of 100 degrees shall be isolated. Arrangements shall be made for the removal of the child from the Center. If your child is sent home because of illness, he/she must be free of any of the above or be on medication for at least 24 hours before returning to the Center.

MEDICATION FOR CHRONIC ILLNESS

While medication is not administered to children who are in attendance for less than 4 hours, we understand that some children require on-going medication. If your child requires such medication for bee-stings or allergies, the prescription can be kept at the Center for those situations. An authorization form must be signed. Expired medication will be returned to parent.

MEDICATION

Children who are in our care **for more than 4 hours** per day may receive medication if needed. We must be in compliance with state regulations: signed medication sheet, medicine in original bottle or package, given according to directions on prescription or container.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

State law requires that if your child develops a contagious disease you must inform the Center so we can notify families of other children who have been exposed.

CLEANLINESS

Concerns about cleanliness in a group setting are as important to us as they are to you. We promote good hygiene both in staff and children. Hand washing is required before eating and after toileting. Tables are often disinfected throughout the day and the church's custodial staff assists us in maintaining a clean environment.

FOOD/NUTRITION

You may hear your children speak of the "snack lady," a member of our staff who plans and provides healthy snacks for your child. We strive to encourage sampling of new foods, as well as provide proper nutrition. Children enrolled full time will receive 2 snacks per day. Menus are posted on classroom parent boards and outside the Director's office. Individual allergies are taken into account.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH

We ask that you feed your child breakfast before dropping him/her off in the morning.

Hot Lunch is available for \$3.00 per day.

Children need to either purchase hot lunch or bring a nutritionally balanced lunch. Food from each of the four food groups should be included and portions appropriate for your child. Please label all lunch boxes with child's name. Milk is provided for lunch. There is no refrigeration available for individual lunches; ice packs are recommended. Please cut grapes in half and don't send peanuts, popcorn, carrot pennies, fruit by the foot or similar products which may cause choking.

REST TIME

Any child under the age of 5 years, who is enrolled for more than 4 hours is required by the State to rest. A cot and flannel top and bottom sheet is provided for each child.

Your child may bring one favorite soft toy to have during rest time.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

PARENTS WELCOMED

Because we believe that parents are the most significant adults in a child's life, we welcome you to stop in and visit your child's classroom. There will be special scheduled events such as open houses, Dad's Night and Mom's Night throughout the year.

BE PART OF THE LEARNING PROCESS

We encourage you to get involved in your child's learning and development. You will receive monthly newsletters regarding school-wide news and events and Learning Links from your child's classroom. A Weekly Focus is posted on each Parent Board where you can learn about various activities your child will be doing throughout the week.

There will be opportunities for you to participate in class activities i.e. reading a story, making play dough, serving, providing props for learning centers, sharing a talent or occupation, or supervising on a field trip. Feel free to ask the office about books available for you to borrow on parenting issues.

"THE DAILY CONNECT"

Outside of each room you will find poster called "The Daily Connect" that highlights some of the day's activities so that you can begin conversations with your child to connect with their day's experiences.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Fall and Spring Conferences are scheduled for each class. In the fall, we discuss your child's adjustment in the classroom and goals for the school year. In spring, the conference will focus on your child's developmental levels and knowledge acquired.

CLASS LIST

A class list will be published to encourage parent interaction. If you do not wish to be included you must indicate so on your enrollment form.

FACEBOOK

Our Center now also has a Facebook page in which we can connect with current and potential families. We only post pictures for children we have received consent for and never attach names or allow tagging for security reasons.