



Enriching the lives of Grand Valley's youngest students

Family Handbook

(NAEYC 7.B.02)

**[www.gvsu.edu/child](http://www.gvsu.edu/child)**

**616-331-KIDS (5437)**

## **Children's Enrichment Center**

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## **Our Mission**

To educate children families and students to shape their lives and societies in order to nurture habits of intellectual growth, curiosity and a love for learning.

## **Philosophy**

(NAEYC 2.A.01, 7.A.09)

Children's Enrichment Center strives to create an environment that is dedicated to early learning & care for all young children and families. We provide an educational experience that is developmentally appropriate, based on proven research and best practices. An essential part of our program development is to support the child and family in a holistic manner. Therefore, we support advocacy, family health & development and academic enrichment. We ensure that qualified professionals guide our classrooms; supporting children in the area of social emotional development, school readiness and healthy lifestyle choices that will encourage life long learning. The framework of our program philosophy is grounded in our values that include family involvement, character building, education and the development of community. We believe that if we foster an environment that enables our families to be empowered, accepted and secure; we will develop a community of engaged learners excited about success.

## **Values**

- ♦ Encourage Education
- ♦ Build Character
- ♦ Empower Families
- ♦ Create Community

(NAEYC 10.A.01)

## **Contact Information:**

Children's Enrichment Center  
1 W. Campus Dr.  
Allendale, MI. 49401

Phone (616) 331-KIDS (5437)

Fax (616) 895-7146

### **Administrative Staff Contact Info:**

<b>Program Administrative</b>	Sarah Lord	lordsa@gvsu.edu
<b>Lead Teacher</b>		812-319-4617

<b>Assistant Director /</b>	Daphnea Sutherland	sutherd1@gvsu.edu
<b>Lead Teachers</b>		

Jenny Evert	evertje@gvsu.edu
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The **Administrative Unit** for the center is the Division of Student Services. Andy Beachnau is the administrative contact.

Office 331-2120

Email: beachnaa@gvsu.edu

**Licensing**—We are licensed by the Michigan Department of Social Services for the care of 2 1/2 through 12 years old. Our license is from the Michigan Family Independence Agency. Our licensing consultant is Rachel Arnes

Contact 616-916-5074

**Accreditation**— We have been nationally accredited with the **National Association** for the Education of **Young Children** (NAEYC) since 2005.

**GVSU Police** 331-3255

**When the university is closed due to severe weather warning the center will also be closed or if operation has already begun, we will try to locate families so that we may close early as recommend.**

# Daily Schedule

(NAEYC 5.B.16, 3.D.01)

The days activities are planned to offer a variety of activities—quiet and active, indoor and outdoor, individual and small group— and to provide opportunities for development in cognitive, creative, physical and social abilities. The **general** schedule is as follows; please see individual class schedules for more details.

7:00-8:25 am: Arrival and Choice Activities

8:25-8:50 am: Wash hands, Breakfast, and Potty

8:50-9:10am: Outside Time (in good weather) or Indoor Free Play

(inclement weather)

9:10-9:20 am: Large Group time /Morning Circle time -

Calendar Time: Students will discuss month, day of the week, year, weather.

Students will hear a story related to the theme. Key information about the theme will be discussed.

9:20-10:15 am: Choice time - your child will choose an educational

center for independent choice learning

10:15-10:30 am: Clean up, Potty/Wash hands and snack

10:30- 10:50 am: Small Group Time - Zoo-Phonics or Teacher Lead

guided learning opportunity

10:50-11:40 am: Outside Time (in good weather) or Indoor Free Play

(inclement weather)

11:40- 12:05 pm: Read - aloud time- Teacher will pick books to read

based on the day's studies

12:15-12:40 pm: Potty/Wash hands, Lunch and Brush Teeth

12:40-2:00 pm: Rest Time and Quiet Activities- Children will be

encouraged to sleep or lay quietly on the cot. At 1:30 pm children who are awake will be allowed to pick out a quiet toy to play independently on their cots

2:00 - 2:10pm: Potty and clean up from rest time

2:10 - 2:20 pm: Closing Circle time - End of Day Songs, students recall

what they have learned and discuss what they would like to learn about in the future

2:20- 3:10 pm: Independent Choice Learning

## **After School Care:**

3:10pm - Wash hands and Snack

3:30- 5:00 pm: Outside Time (in good weather) or Indoor Free Play

(inclement weather)

5:00-6:00 pm: Limited Choice time

( NAEYC 5.B.16)

## Serving Children

Because young children learn best through play, the Children's Enrichment Center (CEC) offers structuring space, time, interactions and materials to guide and encourage a wide range of play experiences.

To learn function in society, you must be in society. Children this age are curious, with rapidly growing minds. Enriched experiences, different ways an new people encountered at the CEC will expand the world in which they explore and learn.

The development and use of the physical self now will form the base for lifelong learning of skills and self-concept. Our program emphasizes physical and sensory development activities and health care and nutrition to foster a strong physical self upon which young children may build for the future.

A vital component of being successful with children is open communication with the many families that we serve. We strive to be a parent resource network that helps families and keeps childcare costs affordable.

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## Volunteer Opportunities

See the office for details if you interested in supporting the Children's Enrichment Center.



**Family Support Services** (collaborative effort including the Women's Center, Work Life, and the Children's Enrichment Center)



**S.T.A.R.R. Students** (Students Teaching and Receiving Rewards) service learning semester long project.



**Children's Enrichment Center Advisory Board**



**Helping Hands**

## **Admission Policy**

Before a child can begin attending the CEC it is mandatory that we have on file the following items:

1. Registration form
2. Admission and Withdrawal Statement
3. Parent Financial Agreement, with tuition deposit & billing status
4. Enrollment / Tuition Agreement
5. Child Information Sheet– completely filled in
6. Class Schedule (if you are a student at GVSU)
7. Health Appraisal Form (Must include shot record for four DPT's, three polio vaccines, one MMR and one HIB). Also, must be validated on both sides by your child's physician or County Health Department.
8. Family Size / Family Income Data Sheet (if applicable)
9. Special Food Needs Form (if applicable)

These requirements are necessary to meet program guidelines set by the Michigan Department of Social Services and NAEYC 5.A.01. The establishment of these guidelines assures quality care and protection for all children. Failure to provide essential forms could result in your child's enrollment being delayed or cancelled.

## **Dismissal Policy**

Dismissal from the Children's Enrichment Center will occur in the following situations:

1. Not fulfilling health and D.S.S. regulations
2. Non-payment of tuition. Students may have any unpaid tuition balance moved to student accounts. Student accounts reserves the rights to limit or stop release of grades, financial aid, diplomas etc. Until payment in full is made.
3. If a child is not benefiting from the group experience at the Center or if the child's behavior is putting other children at risk or harm, the Center will work with the family to reach a decision regarding the child's continued attendance at the Center. The Children's Center reserves the right to exclude a child from attendance if the Center feels it is appropriate course of action under the circumstances.

A SUMMARY OF IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS  
FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING MICHIGAN CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

All children who attend child care programs in Michigan are required by state law to be fully vaccinated in accordance with Part 92, Act 368 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended. A summary of these requirements is below.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 MONTHS THROUGH 3 MONTHS

- 1 dose of any appropriate diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) vaccine
- 1 dose of any appropriate polio vaccine
- 1 dose of any appropriate *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine
- 1 dose of any appropriate hepatitis B vaccine (effective 1/1/97)**

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN AGES 4 MONTHS THROUGH 5 MONTHS

- 2 doses of any appropriate DTP vaccine
- 2 doses of any appropriate polio vaccine
- 2 doses of any appropriate *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine
- 2 doses of any appropriate hepatitis B vaccine (effective 1/1/97)**

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN AGES 6 MONTHS THROUGH 14 MONTHS

- 3 doses of any appropriate DTP vaccine
- 2 doses of any appropriate polio vaccine
- 2 doses of any appropriate *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine
- 2 doses of any appropriate hepatitis B vaccine (effective 1/1/97)**

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN AGES 15 MONTHS THROUGH 4 YEARS

- 4 doses of any appropriate DTP vaccine
- 3 doses of any appropriate polio vaccine
- 1 dose of any appropriate *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine at or after 15 months of age  
**OR** the complete series of any *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine.
- 3 doses of any appropriate hepatitis B vaccine (effective 1/1/97)**
- 1 dose of any appropriate measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. The measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines must be given at or after 12 months of age. A current laboratory finding of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella satisfies this requirement.
- 1 dose of varicella (chicken pox) vaccine (effective 1/1/00).\***

\*Not required if your child has already had chicken pox.

*These requirements are for ALL children enrolled in a child care program. Failure to meet these requirements, as set by the Michigan Department of Community Health, requires the program director to EXCLUDE a child from attendance. Local health departments may set requirements that exceed these minimum requirements.*



# Child Care Food Program

*Where Healthy Eating Becomes a Habit*

This child care center is a participant in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program. The CACFP provides cash reimbursement to child care centers for nutritious meals and helps children develop healthy eating habits. The CACFP is administered by the Michigan Department of Education (NAEYC 5.B.01).

Through the CACFP you can be assured that your child is getting balanced, nutritious meals and developing healthy lifelong eating habits. Proper nutrition during the early years ensures fewer physical and educational problems later in life.

As a participant in the CACFP, your child care center receives reimbursement for serving nutritious meals and snacks. Meals and snacks must meet the USDA meal pattern requirements listed below.

<b><u>Breakfast</u></b>	<b><u>Lunch</u></b>	<b><u>Snacks</u></b>
<b>All of the following</b>	<b>All of the following</b>	<b>Serve 2 from the 4 good groups below</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Milk</li><li>• Fruit or Vegetable or Juice</li><li>• Grain/Bread</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Milk</li><li>• 2 Fruits/Vegetables</li><li>• Grain/Bread</li><li>• Meat or Meat Alternate</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Milk</li><li>• Fruit or Vegetable or Juice</li><li>• Grain/Bread</li><li>• Meat or Meat Alternate</li></ul>

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is required to verify the enrollment, attendance and meals/snacks typically consumed by children while they are in care. MDE staff may contact you regarding your child's participation in our day care center.

If you have any questions about the Child and Adult Care Food Program, please contact:

GVSU Children's Center  
West Campus Dr.  
Allendale, MI 49401

or

Child and Adult Care Food Program  
Grants Coordination and School Support  
Michigan Department of Education

(616) 331-KIDS(5437)

P.O. Box 30008  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
(517) 373-7391

If your child has specific dietary requirements the staff at the CEC will work with you to assure proper nutrition for you child.

During meal service, staff are required to sit and eat with children and engage in conversation. Most meals are served "family style" in an effort to build community (NAEYC 3.D.07, 3.D.12). Menus are posted and sent out vial e-mail weekly (NAEYC 5.B.15).

In accordance with Federal law and USDA policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Finances

There are separate fees for student, faculty/ staff/alumni and community families. A non-refundable enrollment fee is required at the time of enrollment. A refundable tuition deposit will be billed at the time of enrollment. Please contact administrative staff for specific information concerning finances.

**Each family is required to fill out an Enrollment / Tuition agreement for each child enrolled in our program.** Enrollment agreements are to be renewed each semester. Enrollment agreements will be used to schedule each child and for billing purposes. Failure to complete an agreement may result in there being no space for your child.

**By signing the agreement each family agrees to, but no limited to:**

- **The Enrollment/ Tuition Agreement is in effect for the entire GVSU academic semester.**
- **Childcare services may be denied once an unpaid balance reaches \$300 (2 weeks past due)**
- **Families will be billed regardless of attendance, including illness and vacation**
- **Deposits left unclaimed after 10 days are reallocated to the CEC general fund.**
- **If a balance is past due it will be sent to a collection agency and delinquency of this debt will be reported on the individuals credit report.**
- **Families will be responsible for any collection costs and /or attorney fees that are added to the balance.**

## Professional Teaching Staff

In order to better serve your child, the Children's Enrichment Center adheres to a 1:8 ratio to children 2.5-4 years of age and 1:10 children 4 years and older. The teacher to child ratio has been recommended by the National association for the Education of young Child. However, the State of Michigan recognizes a 1 :8 and 1:12 ratio respectively.

The CEC staff is mostly composed of GVSU students, most of which are in training to become educators. All staff members work together to pain educational opportunities offered to children to ensure a smooth transition as a child moves through out the program.

Lead Teachers are graduate students pursuing education related degrees. Lead Teachers are responsible for the day to day planning of the curriculum and environment.

Assistant Teachers are undergraduate studetns pursing education related degrees. Assistant Teachers work under the direct supervision of the Lead Teachers and are responsible for supporting the implemen-tation of the curriculum and program.

Teachers are trained in CPR, First Aid and hand washing techniques, and the proper handling of bodily fluids.

All staff and volunteers are required to complete the following screening process before contact with children occurs:

1. Criminal history check
2. Verification from DHS stating that the individual is not on the Central Registry for child abuse and neglect.
3. Waiver signed by staff and volunteers stating that they are aware of the Child Protection Law and their responsibility to comply with the law.

## Policy and Procedure

Below is a summary of policies and procedures for the Children's Enrichment Center. The actual policies and procedures may be found in our Policy/ Procedure Handbook.

**Family Orientation**—Each family enrolling in our program will be required to attend a Family Orientation (NAEYC 10.B.08).

**Ratios**— As an accredited Center we must maintain a 1:8 and 1:10 (P1-2 & P3) ratio. Additionally it is our policy to have at least 2 caregivers on site at all times. At no time will one teacher be outside alone with the children.

**Primary Caregivers**—Each classroom will be assigned Primary Caregivers; thereby providing ongoing personal contact, supervisions, and minimal transitions. This will ensure continuity of relationships between teaching staff and children. (NAEYC 10.B.11, 10.B.13).

**Confidentiality**— All staff are required by State of Michigan licensing and NAEYC to keep all information regarding children and families involved in our program confidential. Please understand that we are not able to give out information about other families whether it be hours of care, contact information, assessments, health information, or finances (NAEYC 10.D.05)

**Suspected Child Abuse**— Each of our staff members are mandated reporters. It is our responsibility to report suspected child abuse. Staff that report suspicions are immune from discharge, retaliation or other disciplinary action unless the report is malicious (NAEYC 10.D.03). If a staff member is accused of child abuse....(NAEYC 10.D.04).

**Safety and Security**— For safety reasons please be sure to keep your child with you at arrival and pick-up. These times can be hectic and confusing for both families and children. We ask that you make sure that the vestibule doors remain closed at all times. If items, like a care seat or stroller for example must be

left behind we ask that you do so in a manner that does not impose barriers to proper egress in an emergency situation. Also, please do not allow individuals that may be wafting in the vestibule to enter the building.

**Arrival**– Supervision will remain responsibility of the family at drop off time for assisting and accompanying their child into his/her classroom to be certain that the child is under teacher supervision before leaving. At pick up time families resume supervision responsibility when they resume contact with their child.

**Authorized Pick-Up**– Only authorized individuals will be allowed to pick up children. Please inform staff if someone other than a guardian is picking up your child. All authorized individuals should be listed on the child Information Card. Identification will be checked when staff do not recognize an individual. It is crucial that the child's cubby be checked at pick-up. Please let us know if pick-up will occur later than usual.

**Outdoor Activities**– Our schedule includes both indoor and outdoor activities every day (NAEYC 3.D.01). Proper clothing for weather conditions should be brought to school each day. CEC staff will ensure that children are protected against cold, heat and sun injury and insect born disease. Children will have to be clothed appropriately for the elements and shade will be provided. Additionally sunscreen (SPF 15 or greater) may be applied with family consent. Insect repellent with DEET will be applied, when recommended by local health authorities and family consent is provided (NAEYC 5.A.07).

#### **Child Supervision-**

**Supervising your child is our primary concern while they are in our care. Our supervision policies state:**

- Staff need to know where children are at all times.
- Children in P1 and P2 are to be in sight and sound of staff at all times.
- Children in P3 are supervised primarily by sights. Supervision for short intervals by sound can occur as long as teachers are frequently checking on the children. (NAEYC 3.C.04)

#### **Child Discipline-**

Strategies that staff use for helping children's behavior.

- Guide by setting clear and consistent limits.
- Re-direct to more appropriate activity or behavior.
- Listen to children when they talk about their feelings and frustrations.
- Patiently remind children of the rules and their rationale when necessary.
- **123 Magic.** State what behavior needs to happen. Count 1..2..3.. No more **talking or directions will be given in between counts.** Time out may also be used for serious offenses (hitting, biting, etc) without counting.
- Food will never be taken away or threatened to be taken away for disciplinary reasons and food will never be used as an incentive to do something. **Food is given to everyone equally.**

**Rest Time**– It is our policy to encourage all children to rest quietly during rest time. Rest time generally begins just after lunch at 12:45 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. We provide blankets and pillows for children to use during rest time; we have cots/mats for the children to rest on. Children are welcome to bring in a stuffed animal, pillow and/ or blanket to make them feel more comfortable. Staff are not responsible for items that may be lost or stolen. During rest time we will dim the lights, play soft music and help soothe the child. *We do not think it is a good idea to prevent children from sleeping or rest so that they sleep better at home.*

**Toileting**– Children are not required to be potty trained before enrollment. We do however help maintain consistency with potty training by encouraging your child to try and use the restroom throughout the day. The only incentives that we are allowed to give are verbal praise, high fives / hugs, and stickers. We are not allowed to use food/ candy as an incentive.

**Diapers**– We ask that families provide diapers/ pull-ups for their children. Wipes brought in will be used as community wipes unless it is necessary for a child to use specific wipes. The CEC can only use commercial disposable diapers/ pull-ups unless a child has a medical reason that does not permit their use (NAEYC 5.A.08).

**Nutrition Program**– We are part of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (NAEYC 5.B.02). As such, we serve healthy meals and snacks to all children. If children have a specific nutrition needs these will be noted at enrollment (NAEYC 5.B.05). These needs will be posted in the kitchen on the Food and Allergy List. Any staff involved with the prep and serving of foods MUST check the Food and Allergy list posted in the kitchen (any child marked in bold has a serious allergy and will have food provided from home only). Food will never be taken away or threatened to be taken away for disciplinary reasons and food will never be used as an incentive to do something. Food is given to everyone equally. During meal service, staff are required to sit and eat with the children and engage in conversation. \*Most all meals are served family style in an effort to build community (NAEYC 3.D.07, 3.D.12). It is highly encouraged that only commercially packaged items be brought in for treats (i.e. birthdays) (NAEYC 5.B.02e).

**Fieldtrips**– The CEC will participate in both walking fieldtrips and bus (public and private) trips to various locations. Ratios will be maintained at all times. Proper seatbelt restraints will be worn when riding private bus transportation. All families will be notified prior to the fieldtrip that the child will be offsite. Field trip permission slips will provide departure and return times, destination and CEC contact person. Roll will be taken throughout the fieldtrip to assure that each child is accounted for. On all fieldtrips a first-aid bag is taken as well as family contact/ emergency contact phone numbers. Most often when the CEC uses private transportation it is provided by Dean Transportation and the bus is driven by transportation (not CEC ) staff (NAEYC 9.C.14, 9C. 15, 10.D.6).

**Food Brought From Home**– All food/ beverage must be labeled with child's name and dated. Lunches should be brought into the kitchen, even if refrigeration is not required. Treats brought in from home should be either whole fruits or commercially prepared packaged food in factory sealed containers and will be served at p.m. snack (NAEYC 5.B.02).

**10 Hour Policy**– It is our policy that a child's time at childcare should not exceed 10 hours per day.

**Health Consultant**– We have a written agreement with a health consultant that visits our center at least two times a year and observes our program practices and makes recommendations to ensure health promotion and prevention. The CEC is required to comply and implements recommendations presented by the health consultant (NAEYC 5.A.02).

**Health Care Policy–** *Health Care Mission: To promote and protect children’s health and control infectious disease.* To prevent the spread of illness and to keep our staff and families healthy we do have a health care policy that includes hand washing, tooth brushing, diapering and sanitation procedures (NAEYC 5.A.09, 5.A.16, 5. C.01, 5.C.02).

**Communicable Diseases–** It is our policy that if your child has been exposed to a communicable disease that you will be informed either verbally or in writing. Information will be posted including what type of communicable disease to which your child was exposed, signs, and symptoms, mode of transmission, period of communicability, and control measures that are being implemented. The CEC maintains contact with authorities to keep current on relevant health information (NAEYC 5.A.05).

**Sick Policy– We do not offer sick care. If your child is sick** (vomiting, diarrhea, or fever) we cannot accept them until they are well (24 hours symptom free).

**Here are six reasons hat staff will call a guardian and ask that the child be taken home as soon as possible:**

1. Fever
  - if a child has a temperature of 100 degrees F (taken orally).
  - if a child has a temperature of 99 degrees F (taken underarm).
2. Diarrhea-
  - if a child has two loose or watery stools, even if there are no other sings of illness.
3. Vomiting
  - any vomiting is a reason to call.
4. Rash
  - if the child develops any rash, call immediately. (exception; mild diaper rash known to parents).
5. Crying and complaining for a long period of time. Child not acting like themselves.
6. Injury
  - any accident or serious trauma that may require a doctor.

**Your child must be SYMPTOM FREE for 24 hours before returning to the Center.** (NAEYC 5.A.04)

**Medications–** If it is necessary for a child to take medications it is required that a Medication Form be completely filled by a guardian. Medications will be kept in a locked cabinet or cooler (if refrigeration is necessary) only accessible by authorized staff. Medication doses will be recorded on the Medication Form. Medications must be in the original container, labeled with the child’s first and last name (NAEYC 10.D.10).

**Accidents**– No matter how closely supervised, children will have occasional accidents. As required by NAEYC criteria 5.A.03 at least one staff member is present at all times with each group of children that is current in Pediatric First Aid and CPR including infant and child rescue breathing and managing blocked airways. Our steps in any accident, however minor, will be:

1. To care for the child, and help him. Her care for himself. Herself, as fully as possible.
2. To record the incident on an Injury/Illness Report Form; give parents the original copy and file the yellow copy in the child's file.
3. To inform parents of any details at pick-up time if at all possible.
4. If it is a head injury staff will follow the CEC head Impact Policy.

If the child appears to have an injury that should receive medical attention, we will contact either the child's physician or Campus Health Service. The parent will be called immediately.

Should more **serious injury occur call 911**, one staff will accompany the child to a nearby emergency service site while another calls the parent to meet the child at the site. The University has assigned officers from the Department of Public Safety on campus to be contacted in the case of an extreme emergency here at our center. Staff are not permitted to transport children under any circumstances when dealing with a serious accident or injury (NAEYC 10.D.09).

**Note:** The university's liability in accidents extends only to making sure a child or student reaches the appropriate medical help. Costs for care are the responsibility of the parent.

**Emergency Procedures– Staff and children practice emergency procedures on a monthly basis**  
(NAEYC 10.D.08)

**Fire**-Exit using the closest/safest door (for fire drills this is the end of the sidewalk straight out of the building to the end of the fence line. Meeting place).

**Tornado**– Children and staff will go to the bathroom area of the Center. Campus Police will monitor our safety. The staff bathroom may also be used if deemed appropriate.

**Crisis Management**- In the event that an all campus intrusion or danger alert the CEC staff will act under the direction of GVSU Campus Police (NAEYC 2.K.04, 10. D.08).

**OTHER NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS** (including but not limited to: flood, blizzard, gas leak, chemical spill, sewer back up or power outage). The Director will make all determinations regarding evacuation or shelter-in-place

**POWER OUTAGE-** IF RESTORATION TIME IS UNKNOWN OR MORE THAN 4 HOURS the Director will immediately close the center and children must be picked up. Call all parents to inform of pick up then call parents of children scheduled to arrive to inform them not to come. Post notice on entrance door.

**GAS LEAK-** In the event a gas leak is detected at the center or in the immediate vicinity, the center will evacuate immediately according to fire emergency procedures and follow the instructions of GVSU Campus Police.

**WATER MAIN BREAK-** In the event of a water main break or total loss of water at the center for any reason, the center will close. The Director along with GVSU Campus Police will determine if the center needs to be evacuated or if the children can shelter-in-place until parents can arrive for pick-up. In the case of evacuation, fire emergency procedures will be followed.

**WINTER STORM-** Should a winter storm arrive while children are present the GVSU Campus Administrative will determine if the GVSU campus can stay open or if it must close. If the center must close the Director will post a notice on the front entrance and begin calling parents to notify them that children need to be picked-up as soon as possible.

**Children with special needs will have an individualized emergency plan (including who will help the child and any accommodations that may be needed for that child) posted with the above information.**

#### **Family Involvement– Open Door Policy**

All families are welcomed on site at any time. Families are encouraged to join the CEC Advisory Board (see administration for details) or helping with center events or donating materials. We understand that some schedules may not support the above options so families will be welcomed to support and or participate as best they see fit looking at the needs of the classroom (NAEYC 7.A.11).

**Inclusion Effort–** The CEC program is designed to be an early learning environment for all children regardless of race, social class, religion and or learning style. Modifications to our program are made to best support families when needed, however, when a family needs the expertise of a specific professional to aid in development families will be notified immediately. With approval it may be necessary for an outside evaluation (making sure that the family is in full agreement and included in any all next steps) to determine if the CEC is the best option for the child's placement. This will be a collaborative effort between CEC staff, families and outside professionals (NAEYC 10.B.10).

**Child Assessments–** By definition assessments are the process of evaluation by observing, recording and documenting what a child is doing. Assessments may be informal or formal. Assessments are used (along with family input and teacher suggestions) to guide program development and curriculum instruction. The use of the teacher/center created checklists and observations will be used. CEC staff will practice sensitivity along with confidentiality when discussing assessments. Only administrative and teaching staff will have access to assessment information. Families may request information about their child's progress at anytime. To help with transitions teachers may use assessment information to guide conversations between teaching staff to help the child.



During the academic term, families will be invited in for a conversation about their child's progress and assessments. At that time families will view their child's portfolios and review other important documentation. It should be noted that all assessments are done on site by CEC staff. (NAEYC 4.A.01-4.B.06, 4.E.06, 5.E.07, 7.B.03)

**Pesticide/ Herbicide Notification**— Families will be informed when pesticide/ herbicide applications will occur. Notices will be posted at the entrance of the Center and on the Communication Cabinet. Information on the posting will include target pest, location of application, date of application, center contact information, and toll free number for a national pesticide information center (NAEYC 9.D.08).

**Environmental Hazards**— We have procedures in place to protect our staff, families and children from environmental hazards. Testing is done on a regular basis and information on testing results is posted (NAEYC 10.D. 02).

**Objects Not Permitted**— For safety reasons the following items are **NOT** allowed at the CEC:

- Guns/firearms (real or pretend)
- Sharp Objects
- Alcoholic/Drugs
- Pornographic materials or any material that suggests adult sexual content
- Any item that may be conducive to violent and/or aggressive play.
- Bullets, BB's (ammunition)
- Literature that describes, defines or suggest violent and or aggressive play, expression or conversation.

**\*Families or other center participants that work in the law enforcement for example may be exempt from the above, see administrative office for details.**

**Smoking Policy**— NO SMOKING ON THE PREMISES AT ALL TIMES

Smoke free zone (no smoking within 25 feet of the building).

***The Children's Enrichment Center has a zero tolerance policy, students, families or staff that choose to ignore policies may face expulsion or termination.***

## **Code of Ethical Conduct and Statement of Commitment**

### **A position statement of the National Association for the Education of Young Children**

Revised April 2005

Endorsed by the Association for Childhood Education International

Adopted by the National Association for Family Child Care

#### **Preamble**

NAEYC recognizes that those who work with young children face many daily decisions that have moral and ethical implications. The NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct offers guidelines for responsible behavior and sets forth a common basis for resolving the principal ethical dilemmas encountered in early childhood care and education. The Statement of Commitment is not part of the Code but is a personal acknowledgement of an individual's willingness to embrace the distinctive values and moral obligations of the field of early childhood care and education. The primary focus of the Code is on daily practice with children and their families in programs for children from birth through 8 years of age, such as infant/toddler programs, preschool and prekindergarten programs, child care centers, hospital and child life settings, family child care homes, kindergartens, and primary classrooms. When the issues involve young children, then these provisions also apply to specialists who do not work directly with children, including program administrators, parent educators, early childhood adult educators, and officials with responsibility for program monitoring and licensing. (Note: See also the "Code of Ethical Conduct: Supplement for Early Childhood Adult Educators," online at <http://www.naeyc.org/about/positions/ethics04.asp>.)

#### **Core Values**

Standards of ethical behavior in early childhood care and education are based on commitment to the following core values that are deeply rooted in the history of the field of early childhood care and education. We have made a commitment to

- Appreciate childhood as a unique and valuable stage of the human life cycle
- Base our work on knowledge of how children develop and learn
- Appreciate and support the bond between the child and family
- Recognize that children are best understood and supported in the context of family, culture,<sup>1</sup> community, and society
- Respect the dignity, worth, and uniqueness of each individual (child, family member, and colleague)
- Respect diversity in children, families, and colleagues
- Recognize that children and adults achieve their full potential in the context of relationships that are based on trust and respect

#### **Statement of Commitment<sup>4</sup>**

As an individual who works with young children, I commit myself to furthering the values of early childhood education as they are reflected in the ideals and principles of the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct. To the best of my ability I will

- Never harm children
- Ensure that programs for young children are based on current knowledge and research of child development and early childhood education.
- Respect and support families in their task of nurturing children.
- Respect colleagues in early childhood care and education and support them in maintaining the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct.
- Serve as an advocate for children, their families, and their teachers in community and society.
- Stay informed of and maintain high standards of professional conduct.
- Engage in an ongoing process of self-reflection, realizing that personal characteristics, biases, and beliefs have an impact on children and families.

- Be open to new ideas and be willing to learn from the suggestions of others.
- Continue to learn, grow, and contribute as a professional.
- Honor the ideals and principles of the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct

<sup>1</sup> Culture includes ethnicity, racial identity, economic level, family structure, language, and religious and political beliefs, which profoundly influence each child's development and relationship to the world.

<sup>2</sup> There is not necessarily a corresponding principle for each ideal.

<sup>3</sup> The term family may include those adults, besides parents, with the responsibility of being involved in educating, nurturing, and advocating for the child.

<sup>4</sup> This Statement of Commitment is not part of the Code but is a personal acknowledgement of the individual's willingness to embrace the distinctive values and moral obligations of the field of early childhood care and education. It is recognition of the moral obligations that lead to an individual becoming part of the profession.

**\*Please note that important information is always available in the vestibule and on the communication cabinet for your review.**