



## **Leading Learners Academy**

### Parent Handbook

5800 NW 8th Street

Margate, FL. 33063

754-220-8474

[Leadinglearnersacademy@gmail.com](mailto:Leadinglearnersacademy@gmail.com)

# Leading Learners Academy

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Leading Learners Academy!

Thank you for giving Leading Learners Academy (LLA) the opportunity to provide quality childcare for your child(ren). Please read the attached handbook very carefully. As always, our policies and procedures come with the best of intentions.

Your child(ren) will learn through a hands-on theme-based curriculum. In every classroom, there is a “Parent Board” that we encourage you to look at every Monday so you know what concepts we are working on and Friday night to see what concepts will be taught the next week. If you see that we are working on a certain color or concept during the week when your child(ren) is not at school, point it out to your child(ren) to continue with the process of learning at home.

Our goal is to create a successful program that meets the needs of the children as well as the program. The purpose of this information is to ensure that everyone is aware of the same guidelines. Please fill out all attached forms and return to Leading Learners Academy. All forms must be filled out to comply with State Regulations.

Most importantly, we want to thank you for sharing your child with us. We look forward to wonderful, fun filled times with your family.

Thank you!

Leading Learners Academy Team



# Leading Learners Academy

## Mission

The mission of Leading Learners Academy is to ensure that children are receiving a high-quality education which will help them succeed in their academic careers. To create diverse life-long learners that will positively contribute to society and to provide various experiences that will help shape children into global citizens.

## Vision

The vision of Leading Learners Academy is to create diverse learners with strong academic, social, and positive behavioral skills.

## Arrival and Dismissals

Please remember to sign your child(ren) in and out daily to keep a quality record of your children's attendance and safety. At drop off and pick up we ask that you refrain from using your cell phone for those few minutes to give your child your attention. Please check your child's cubby daily to see if any personal items are needed to ensure your child's daily care. No one under the age of 18 may pick up your child.

## Tuition Policies

**Tuition for all students is due on Friday for the upcoming week. There will be a \$35.00 late fee applied to your account if tuition is not paid by the end of day on Monday. Your child will not be accepted on Tuesday unless the full payment with a \$35 late fee is paid. NO Exceptions.** If your child will be absent, payment is due on their first day back. Please always call to notify the school if your child will be absent. **Please note that if your child is absent for more than two weeks your account will be closed and a re-enrollment fee of \$175.00 will be required.**

**If your child is absent, you still need to pay your full tuition.** All families are given one week vacation/sick time after six months of enrollment. If you choose to use this time, we must have your written request two weeks prior to child(ren) not being in attendance. **There is no reduction if/when we are closed for a holiday, weather, natural disaster, or related situation.**

Leading Learners Academy reserves the right to discontinue enrollment for non-payment or if a parent does not follow the school's policies as stated in the handbook. Please be advised that at LLA we ask for a \$100/150(family) registration fee yearly. **All tuition, deposit fees, or registration fees are non refundable.** Due to the academic nature of our preschool, it is important that your child arrives no later than 9:30am (EST). Please call us if your child will arrive later than 9:30am (EST). **No child will be accepted after 9:30 am (EST) without prior notification stating they will be late.**

## **ELC Differential Fees**

**Families receiving funds through the ELC will be required to pay the following fees:**

1. Parent fees required by ELC
2. LLA differential weekly fees. This fee will be assessed based on the age group of the child.

## **Annual Tax Statement**

End of year tax statements will be provided in January of the new year annually. The end of the year a tax statement will not be issued unless your account reflects a zero balance.

## **Health Records**

You must provide us with current health records for your child. These forms can be obtained from a local Pediatrician. These regulations are strictly enforced by our monitoring agencies such as Broward Child Care License and Enforcement. ***Please note: at time of enrollment, that some children in care may not have current immunizations***

## **Schedules**

Schedules of daily activities are based on the child's age. Each classroom will have the daily schedule posted and each family will receive a copy of their child(ren) daily schedule in the enrollment/welcome packet.

## **Hours of Operation**

LLA hours of operation are 7:00am to 6:00pm Monday-Friday. The facility will be closed on the following holidays: **Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and Independence Day, Back to School- the Friday before the first day of school.**

## **Meals**

LLA currently provides breakfast, lunch and snacks for all ages. Parents and families are more than welcome to provide meals for their children. Please provide well-balanced and nutritional lunches.

During the year, we may have a holiday or birthday party which is when we may serve your child something off the sign-up list of party items. If you do not wish your child to have certain foods, please notify the school in writing.

## **Children Attire**

**Uniforms are mandatory for children two-years old and older. If your child comes to school without uniform, one will be provided, and your account will be charged. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**Monday-Thursday** Polo shirts (school's polo only) royal blue, yellow, or red  
Pants (long or shorts): khaki, navy blue or black

**Friday Spirit Day-** LLA spirit shirt must be worn with jeans or uniform bottoms

## **Extra Clothing**

Note your child may not stay clean all day, please always keep a change of clothes in your child's cubby. LLA is not responsible for clothing that may get messy or damaged at school. Socks and closed toe shoes must be worn at all times while in school. Sandals and Crocs are not permitted for the safety of your child. Please provide extra tops, bottoms, and underwear for use when necessary.

## **Labeling Your Child's Belongings**

All belongings must be labeled with your child's first and last name. **WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST ITEMS. Please label EVERYTHING** with first and last name. Each child has a cubby to store belongings.

## **Transition Support**

New students - The teachers at Leading Learners Academy understand that transitioning to a new school can be tough. We want all of your child's experiences and transitions to be positive and seamless.

First, the Leading Learners Academy staff will host the family in the classroom during an informal family visit where children are encouraged to play with their new friends, meet their teacher, and get familiar with the classroom while exploring the materials.

Transition to the next classroom – The staff at Leading Learners Academy will discuss and decide when children are ready for the next classroom. We will begin to transition your child from one room to another with short daily visits a few weeks before they are scheduled to move over. Once we choose a date, we will encourage you to visit with your child and join in for circle and snack time.

If a child needs a little extra support during this transition time, we will create a social story or provide encouragement in any way that we can. Social stories may also be offered to the families to help with the morning or evening transition time that can be so challenging. Teachers will discuss transitions and how we can make them successful during individual conferences. Throughout the day, transitions will be supported by giving warnings and using songs to encourage a smooth process without long wait periods.

## **Potty Training**

We have a “Pull-up only” policy in the two-year old class, **no diapers** please. We will work with your child on potty training if they are not yet potty trained. Children are encouraged to go every 15 minutes and will be assisted if he/she needs to be. Children will go through the process of “pottying” every time they use the restroom. This consists of pulling down their pants, sitting on the toilet, redressing themselves, flushing, and washing their hands. We do not use candy or food treats to encourage toilet training. When accompanying a child to the toilet, the door always remains open, and staff will assist children with hand washing after he/she uses the potty. Please provide a package of pull-ups upon the child’s first day. We will notify you as supply runs low.

## **Toys from Home**

Please do not bring toys to school. Your child will have the opportunity to share a special toy from home during specified days such as show and tell. Otherwise, rest assured the Leading Learners Academy facility has all resources necessary for your child’s development.

## **Beads and Jewelry**

Beaded hair is not permitted in any classroom for safety reasons.

Please do not send your child with any valuable jewelry to school, as we cannot be responsible for such special items.

## **Illness**

To maintain a healthy environment for ALL students and staff, we require that you **DO NOT** bring your child to school when they are sick or possibly contagious to avoid exposing others to this possible illness. LLA and Child Care Licensing Enforcement policy defines that you must pick up your child within one hour of being notified. Child may not attend school if they have the following symptoms:

- **Fever of 100 degrees or more**
- **Vomiting**
- **Undiagnosed Rash**
- **Inflammation and/or Pink eye**

- **More than one case of diarrhea**
- **Too tired to participate in activities**
- **Lice**
- **Any green discharge for a child's eye or nose**
- **Chicken pox or any communicable diseases.**

If a child is sent home your child may not return to school without a doctor's note stating your child is "No longer contagious".

### **Medication**

We will only dispense medication that has a prescription label on it. We only give medicine once a day unless a child needs a breathing type of medication.

### **Discipline**

At LLA, we strive to encourage appropriate behaviors through positive reinforcement, praise, and modeling. Structuring the environment with thorough planning and activities that are geared to meet the children's needs and level of development minimizes inappropriate behavior. Most undesirable behavior can be handled with a gentle reminder, or by redirecting the child. More repetitive or hurtful offenses will merit a talk, walk, or quiet time. We will discuss why the behavior is inappropriate with the child, what is acceptable, and expected at school.

Children will not be subjected to discipline that is severe, humiliating, or frightening. Withholding of food, rest or toileting will not be used as a discipline method. Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is **strictly prohibited** at LLA. If a child hurts someone, that child may be suspended for a day or two at the Directors' discretion. If suspension does not work the child may be asked to leave LLA and discontinue his/her enrollment.

### **Insurance info**

I understand that Leading Learners Academy (LLA) at 5800 NW 8th Street, Margate, FL 33063 does not supply supplemental accident insurance policy for your child while he/she is in the school's care. I understand that I must provide insurance coverage for my child(ren).

### **Gross Motor**

All children will participate in gross motor activities at least 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon. All children must wear closed toe, closed heel shoes with socks. Gross motor skills involve movements of the large muscles of the arms, legs, and torso. Kids rely on gross motor skills for everyday activities at school, home, and in the community.

## **Social Media**

I give LLA permission to take photos of my child and hang them around the building, on LLA website, LLA Facebook, other LLA media outlets and during special occasions (events, graduation, class parties etc.). If you do not want your child photographs being used, please do not submit the image release form and notify the Director in writing.

## **Emergency**

If a fire emergency arrives and we must leave the premises, you will be called to pick up your child at our evacuation site. **Our evacuation site is Sati's Indian & Variety Store 715 FL-7 Margate, FL 33063.** Reminder we do lock down, fire, and weather drills monthly. No parent may enter the building during these drills.

## **Other fees**

- If your child damages his/her sleeping mat or other material, you will be asked to pay for the item.
- Parents and/or families will be charged \$2.00 a minute if child(ren) are picked up following school closure (6:00 pm EST).

## **Staff Procedures Background Checks**

All Leading Learners Academy staff will have reference checks, a background check, and fingerprints on file with the Department of Children and Family Background Screening.

## **Staff Development**

The State requires all staff to be CPR and First Aid certified. Leading Learners Academy offers this certification every two years and at that time all current staff will be certified.

All staff must complete a department approved standard precautions training that meets current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements prior to working with children. This training must be renewed annually and counts towards ongoing training requirements.

All staff who work with children must complete a minimum of fifteen (15) clock hours of training each year.

All management level staff have a CDA (Child Development Associates) or higher degree in Education.

Offering our staff, the opportunity to pursue formal Early Childhood Education is a priority at LLA. Formally trained caregivers further our mission to provide high quality childcare to working families in our region.

Thank you for choosing Leading Learners Academy for your child's early education years. We look forward to having you as part of the family!

**The following personal and Government agencies have access to all Children's Records.**

\*Owner, Director, Assistant Director, and Office Manager

\*Child Care Licensing and Enforcement    \*The Early Learning Coalition

\*Health and Safety Personnel    \*Child Care Food Program



# Leading Learners Academy

Revised 02/19/2024



# Leading Learners Academy