



**sweet kiddles**<sup>®</sup>  
flexible childcare center

32900 Pin Oak Parkway  
Avon Lake, OH 44212  
440-933-3782  
[questionsavonlake@sweetkiddles.com](mailto:questionsavonlake@sweetkiddles.com)

## **Introduction**

Hello and thank you for joining Sweet Kiddles® flexible childcare center! Our center will be like no other childcare experience you or your child has had. Our goal is to offer the most flexible and convenient childcare experience and at the same time deliver the high-quality educational experiences you value. We are committed to providing a safe, clean, fun and educational environment for your child. And, we have stringent hiring standards to ensure your child's teachers are the best in the business.

We are also committed to offering quality activities and classes for you and your children outside of our childcare program. For example, this month we might offer language classes for kids, music classes for parents and children and a breastfeeding class for new moms. You never know what Sweet Kiddles® flexible childcare center will offer next!

## **How does flexible childcare work?**

Easy. You bring in your child any time you like for as long or short as you like (three-hour minimum), including evenings and weekends. We bill by the hour. It is recommended that you make reservations in advance to ensure we have space for your child. And if you become a really big fan, you can deposit money in your account to receive a rate discount. Plus, you can sign up for one of our classes when you visit the center or on-line.

We also offer programs such as preschool and summer camps. Our preschool is more flexible than any other – you choose how many days a week you want to attend and mornings or afternoons. If you want to drop your child early or have them stay late, we can easily move them to or from our drop-in program. To learn more about our preschool program, please ask at the front desk.

## **Educational goals and philosophy**

Even though we are a convenient option for childcare, we pride ourselves on having one of the best educational programs in the business. Our proprietary curriculum is varied and covers a number of disciplines in an age-appropriate way. We believe in creative learning and in learning through play. You won't find many worksheets in our center – instead, your child will usually learn concepts through a creative experience or a game.

## **THE RULES**

Okay, look, we put it in all caps just to get your attention. Even though we're a different childcare concept, we're officially a state-licensed childcare center just like other childcare centers you've worked with. The state licenses us and the state makes rules. One of those rules is that we have to give you all sorts of required information. That's what this handbook is for. Another rule is that all of our parents (that's you!) have to read our handbook and sign a form in the back that says you've read it. So please do that. We don't make the rules, and we don't break 'em!

## Enrollment

You've probably already started the enrollment process if you're reading this handbook. So you probably know everything you need to do, but we'll repeat it here so that you have it in one convenient place.

To enroll, we need eight things from you (the required forms can be found on our website):

1. A completed enrollment form
2. A completed family information form
3. Sweet Kiddles requires all children to have all age appropriate and medically recommended immunizations. The enrolling family must provide a statement of medical examination signed by a physician or certified nurse practitioner (completed within 30 days of enrollment), including up-to-date immunization records. Children without up-to-date immunization records are not allowed to attend Sweet Kiddles unless: 1) the child has not received the immunizations based on a sincere and confirmed religious belief, or 2) the child has not received an immunization and/or immunizations as a physician has confirmed that the immunization and/or immunizations are contraindicated for the child.
4. A completed Basic Infant Information Form for children under 18 months (this should be updated as things change for your infant, i.e. schedules, food and sleep changes)
5. A signed permission slip for school-age children
6. A signed media release form
7. Your non-refundable enrollment fee of \$100
8. Extra hugs and kisses to give your child

Okay, we have plenty of hugs and kisses on hand, but a few extra can't hurt.

To re-enroll each year we will need:

1. A review of your enrollment form for any necessary changes
2. \$100 annual membership fee
3. An updated medical examination form (Child Medical Statements are good for 13 months from the date of the exam)
4. Verification that the emergency information is up to date

You may disenroll your child at any time. There is no need to let us know that you plan to disenroll. But, if you disenroll because you are unhappy, please let us know why!

## Check-in

So you're fully enrolled and ready to start. Great! When you arrive, you'll see you have to get passed a safety door before you pass into the childcare area. No adult who is not an enrolled child's parent or guardian gets past that safety door without an employee escort- not even the President (although he's never tried).

You can check the child in and out by name at our reception kiosk. When you check the child in, we'll have a couple of questions for you which the kiosk computer will walk you through.

- We need to know what time you plan to pick the child up – we won't hold you to this if it is before closing time, but we need to know when to start getting worried and contact you.
- We need to know food plans for each child:
  - For infants, we need your breast milk or formula and feeding instructions. Bottles should be pre-made and labeled with the child's name, the date of your visit and, in the case of breast milk, the date expressed. You'll give us your feeding instructions when you enroll in the Basic Infant Information Form – please update us if anything changes. We are not allowed to feed infants under 4 months of age cereal or solid foods without a signed consent form from a doctor. Please also provide ample diapers for the length of the visit as well as extra clothes. Infants under 12 months of age are not allowed to be in the crib with a blanket – only swaddle blankets with Velcro connectors or sleep sacks are allowed.
  - If the child is staying with us before 9am, we need to know if you want to buy breakfast from us, have brought breakfast, or if the child has already eaten.
  - If the child is staying during lunch (12pm), we need to know if you want to purchase a meal or have brought food for him or her and what your food handling instructions are. See our meal policy for requirements for meals and snacks sent with the children. Awesome side note – snacks are included in your visit!
- We also need to know if there are any other notes such as new medical conditions we should be aware of and what your instructions are for handling them.
- We suggest that you bring socks or slippers for your child to wear in our shoe-free center for their visit.
- Finally, we'll ask if there are any special instructions for this visit.

Once you are checked-in, you will bring the child to the classroom where they are required to wash their hands. Then speak with the teacher and discuss any special situations for your visit with her. This will make the teacher aware that your child has arrived and will make sure she gets the information straight from the source (this is especially important with infants). It will also help the child get comfortable staying with that teacher.

A couple of rules, and these are serious: Children must be checked in at the front entry only; they cannot enter through the back door or directly into the playground. You must escort the child to check-in; they cannot be dropped off outside the building or sent inside alone. Parents must make staff aware of the presence of their child before departing.

### **Check-out and Release of a child – this part is important!!!**

We only release the child to adults who are listed in our database and who bring a photo ID, or know your family password. If you want someone else to pick up your child, make sure they are set up in our system and that they bring a photo ID!

If there are custody issues involved with your child, you must provide the center with court papers indicating who has permission to pick up the child. We cannot deny any parent access to a child without proper documentation.

*Please note: Sweet Kiddles team members will not release a child to an adult if they believe that doing so will put the child at risk. This includes, but is not limited to, times where the adult at check-out appears intoxicated or under the influence of illegal substances. An alternative adult will be requested and as a last resort, or if a team member feels threatened, the police will be contacted. Your use of the center and our services indicates agreement with this policy.*

## **Fees**

We charge by the hour for the time your child is here (minimum three hours). We bill by the minute after three hours.

We ask that you please pick up your child on time at closing time. If your child stays past our stated closing time, you will be billed a \$20 late fee.

We provide a discount if you put money in your account in advance. The minimum deposit each time on your account is \$150 although you only need a positive balance to get the discount. Prepaid dollars do not expire, but *once deposited cannot be refunded* – you are pre-purchasing childcare. For a summary of our hourly fees, see our brochure.

If your children stay long enough to qualify for a Day Rate, we will apply that charge instead. Don't worry, we'll do the math for you to see what makes the most economic sense on any day. For our Day Rates, please see our brochure.

If you are using Sweet Kiddles® more than a few times a week, you may be interested in our weekly packages. Available weekly packages include our 25-hour plan (appropriate for part-time care), and our 5x10 plan (appropriate for full-time care), which provide even more attractive hourly rates. These packages put 25 or 50 hours on your account and let you use them whenever you choose (the 5x10 plan is restricted to 10 hours a day, Monday-Friday). To see our weekly rates, please refer to our brochure.

Here are some important notes about weekly plans – there is a tradeoff: 25-hour packages expire after 7 days, 5x10 expires on Friday each week. If your plans change and you aren't able to use the hours, you will lose them. Basically, the better hourly rate is in exchange for a commitment to use the time during the week. Please also note that these rates are the same every week even if there are holidays or other closures during that week. We've done this to spread the cost over all weeks of the year.

Preschool and camps also have special rates. Ask at the front desk what the rate is for the class or camp you are interested in.

Regardless of the pricing scheme you use, you have the option of bringing your child's food with you or having us provide it. We'll ask at check-in what your preference is. We charge for meals, but snacks are

included. We also have various other items for sale like diapers for \$1. If your child runs out of diapers while at Sweet Kiddles we will provide them and assess you the necessary fee

**Payment methods:** ALL balances are due the day the services are provided. At pick-up you can pay by cash or credit card. You are required to keep a card on file to pay off a daily balance in the event that you send someone else to pick-up or you forget your wallet. You cannot return for a visit if you have a balance due on your account.

### **Public Assistance**

We take public assistance for up five families maximum, pending availability. Before you apply to use public assistance at Sweet Kiddles, please verify with the center director that we have space in your age group and in our public assistance program. Please see center director for details.

#### *Fees*

All fees that members of Sweet Kiddles are subject to, which are highlighted throughout this family handbook, apply to families using our center on public assistance even if they are not covered by ODJFS. These fees include our yearly membership fee, no-show fee, late pickup fee, meal fees (except for one free meal/day), diaper fee, charges for absent days which exceed those eligible for payment by ODJFS, charges for hours of care that exceed those that have been authorized and any activity and transportation fees that arise for field trips.

#### *Absent days*

An absent day for families on public assistance will be recorded for any day a child is not in attendance per the weekly schedule confirmed with the center at the end of the previous week. Schedule changes with at least one week's notice will not lead to the recording of an absent day.

#### *Entering Attendance*

You must use the TAPS program every day to record your child(ren)'s attendance. If you fall behind, you are required to catch up on the very next visit that you are present. Any back entries that you need to catch up on are kept up at the reception desk. Should you fall behind for a period of two weeks you will not be allowed to return to the center at the beginning of the third week until you catch up. Your child(ren) do not need to be attending for you to stop in and catch up on visit entries.

### **Hours and days of operation**

We are open 5 days a week:

- Monday – Friday: 6:30am-7:30pm

We are closed 6 major holidays each year: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We also periodically close early or even for a whole day for staff meetings and other events. We'll let you know in advance so you can adjust your plans accordingly.

School delays/cancellations: Our center is open every day including school delay and cancellation days. School agers may attend our center all day on these days and participate in our programming.

### **Reservations – Member Portal**

Reservations can be made from any device using the Member Portal. The link to the Member Portal is <http://member.sweetkiddles.com/portal/login/>. Your username and password for the portal are the same that you use to check your child(ren) in at the kiosk in reception.

Reservations can also be made in person and over the phone by calling the center if the Member Portal is not accessible to you. Your reservation is not confirmed until it is reflected in your portal which mirrors our reservation system. We are unable to respond to reservation requests made outside the Member Portal during non-operating hours – so, if you call or email us when we are not open, please wait for a confirmation email, check the Member Portal to confirm that your request has been processed or call us when we reopen to confirm the reservation.

### **Reservation Cancellation/Adjustment Policy**

You are charged neither a cancellation fee nor a fee for a visit if you cancel a reservation at Sweet Kiddles. As such, we ask that you cancel a reservation that you decide not to use, even same day, as soon as you know that you will not use the space.

\*\*If you do not arrive for your reservation within two hours of your scheduled drop-off time, Sweet Kiddles may cancel your reservation, and because we may have a waiting list, our availability for that day and time can no longer be guaranteed. We will also assess you a \$25 per child no-show fee. If you do not show for a reservation without calling, emailing or cancelling in the member portal three times, we reserve the right to remove any standing reservations from our system – you will need to call same-day to see if a space is available. Not cancelling or adjusting a reservation keeps other families with child care needs from having them met.

### **Daily schedule**

We have a running curriculum at all times. When your child comes to visit, he or she will join right in with whatever activity we have running at that point. We have a running curriculum and a theme that all of our activities are tied into.

Here's a sample schedule for our programs:

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 7-9am  | Breakfast, Free Choice Centers: art, science, math & manipulatives, table toys, books, dramatic play       |
| 9-11am | Large Group: Intro to theme, story, letters, numbers, shapes, colors; Snack; Small Groups/Learning Centers |

11-11:45am	Large Motor Play (indoors or out); includes Music & Movement, large group games
11:45-12pm	Story Time
12-1pm	Lunch, table toys, books
1-2:3pm	Nap/Rest (or quiet activities)
2:30-4:30pm	Snack (may include a cooking project); Large group (revisit AM content); Small groups/Learning Centers
4:30-5:30pm	Large Motor Play (indoors or out); includes Music & Movement, large group games
5:30-7pm	Dinner, table toys, books
7-Close	Free Choice activities (all learning centers open), Story Time, Quiet Activities, Rest/Sleep

### Meals and snacks

***Note: We are a nut-free facility due to severe contact allergies within the center. Please do not send nuts of any kind with your child.***

We serve two meals and three snacks per day on days we are open during the meal/snack time. The meals meet all Ohio child care licensing requirements. The snacks contain at least two nutritious foods from two different food groups. Please let us know ahead of time if your child is not permitted to have any types of food or has food allergies.

If your child attends the center during breakfast or lunch, you must purchase a meal from us or provide your own (snacks are provided by the center free of charge). If you arrive within one hour of one of our meal times, you may inform us that your child has already eaten. You may also inform us that your child will eat after departure if you will be leaving within one hour of meal time.

If you send a meal from home, we ask that it require limited additional preparation. Please send meals that are ready to eat and do not require additional heating – thermoses work great to hold the temperature of warm and cold items. Please rinse, peel and cut fruits and vegetables before they are packed. Meals requiring refrigeration may be packed with an ice pack in your child’s lunch bag.

We recommend that meals sent from home meet state requirements by consisting of nutritional food from the following food groups (minimum portion sizes for a 3-6 year old are shown in parentheses) protein (1 ½ ounce), grain (1/2 slice of bread or ¼ cup of pasta, etc.) and two foods from the fruit/vegetable group (1/2 c). Fluid milk is required, which the center will provide.

Snacks provided by parents should contain at least one nutritious food (fruit, vegetable, grain or protein) and will be supplemented by fluid milk from the center. If your child’s snack does not meet this requirement, we will supplement your snack with the snack being served to the rest of the children in the center.



Meal and snack schedule:

- Up until 9am: Breakfast
- 10am: AM snack
- 12pm: Lunch
- 3pm: PM snack
- 7pm: Evening snack

### **Staff to child ratios and maximum group sizes**

We are required to maintain certain teacher-to-child ratios by the state, although we try to do even better:

- Infants (birth and under 12 months): 1 to 5
- Infants (12 months and under 18 months): 1 to 6
- Toddlers (18 months and under 2 ½ years): 1 to 7
- Toddlers (2 1/2 years and under 3 years): 1 to 8
- Preschool - three years: 1 to 12
- Preschool - four and five years of age: 1 to 14
- School age - kindergarten to 11: 1 to 18
- School age - 11 years through 14 years: 1 to 20

Now here's the tricky part – because we are a flexible childcare center we sometimes combine age groups **but we always maintain the ratio for the youngest child in any group.** So, as an example, if there is a toddler who is 20 months old in a mixed group, we will have a ratio of no less than 1 to 7 in that group.

So how many children can our center handle by age? Each of our centers has a different child capacity. Please ask the center director for details.

When your child's teacher feels that your child is ready to start transitioning into the next classroom, we will prepare a transition agreement that you can review and sign. A copy will be sent home with you and one will be kept in the child's file.

### **Supervision policy**

Our number one supervision policy is that we only hire the best childcare providers in the industry! All of our teachers are fun, smart, and loving. They are dedicated to their chosen profession and work daily to get better at it while providing the best possible experience for your child. Each of our center staff has an early childhood education degree or an associate's degree or similar credentials in childhood education. Upon hire they complete the state's online licensing orientation training, as well as, two different Step Up to Quality online trainings in the areas of early childhood development and what quality in childcare means in the state of Ohio – together these trainings total 7 hours. They have all also completed criminal background checks and have completed first aid, CPR, communicable disease, and recognition of child abuse training. Furthermore, all Sweet Kiddles teachers complete a 10-hour

Conscious Discipline training within their first 6 months. Each teacher also completes at least 10 hours per year of continuing education programming.

We maintain state teacher-to-child ratios or better at all times, and have at least two staff members in the center during operating hours at all times. Infants, toddlers and preschoolers will be supervised at all times. Except for the exceptions below, school-age children will be supervised at all times.

School-aged children may use the restroom (which, by law, is for the exclusive use of the center) and run errands inside the building alone or in groups of no more than six children without adult supervision, so long as they are within hearing distance of a staff member and with a staff member checking periodically (at least every 5 minutes) until they return to the group. A group of no more than six school children, grade 4 and up, may be engaged in safe activities without a child care staff member as long as: a child care staff member can see or hear the children at all times and a staff member checks on the children every 5 minutes until they return to the group.

Children will not be allowed to leave the center except when picked up by their parent or approved adult.

### **Transitioning from one classroom to the next**

#### *Family Involvement in Transition Planning*

As the time approaches for your child to transition to another classroom at Sweet Kiddles, you will be approached by the Center Director who will discuss with you the timeline for your child's transition to their next classroom. The director will review with you your child's progress on the Transition Checklist. Sweet Kiddles transitions children when they are developmentally ready to make the transition, not based on age alone. If you have not yet been approached by the director and have questions about the timeline, request a conference with the Director to discuss.

#### *Preparing Your Child for Transition*

In the transition meeting with the Director, a plan and a timeline will be put in place for the transition. Even though the timeline is starting, the Director may ask you to continue to work with your child at home on some of the milestones that may not yet be fully achieved or simply on preparing your child for his/her new classroom. She will review those items with you and give you concrete examples of how to work on them at home.

Below are some general strategies that families have used to prepare their children for transition. It also has space for you to check strategies that you might use.

#### *Preparing Your Family for Transition*

Transition can be an exciting time, one that can provide new opportunities for your child and family. It also can be a time of great change and adjustment. Your child or family may need to adjust to new teachers, new children, different schedules and daily routines and new classroom activities. You may

find that both you and your child experience separation anxiety. It may be hard to "let go" of the teachers and to learn to trust and communicate with new staff.

All children and families make adjustments during transition. The amount of time required for these adjustments varies across children, families, and programs. It is normal to experience some uncertainty and with that, some stress during transition. This is true for all families and children who enter a new classroom or program. Families who participate in transition planning report reduced stress.

### *Transition Strategies*

- Plan ahead for transition. Don't wait until the last minute to begin thinking about transition. Give yourself and your family time to make decisions and adjust to the changes that will occur.
- Realize that stress, uncertainty, and separation anxiety are normal emotions.
- Many, if not all, parents experience these feelings when their child enters a new classroom and starts preschool or kindergarten.
- Ask questions throughout the transition process. You have a right to obtain information about transition and to be involved in the transition planning.
- Attend transition planning conferences. Share information with the Director and teachers about your child and your family, your resources, your priorities, and any concerns that you may have.
- Talk with members of your family about transition and some of the changes that may occur.
- Try to identify aspects of the new classroom or program that may be different or difficult for your child and give your child experiences with these aspects before the new program begins. For example, if you think that your child will have trouble working or playing alone, you might give your child an opportunity to play alone for short periods of time each day.

### *Strategies that Families Have Used to Prepare Their Child for Preschool Specifically*

- Talk to your child about going to a new setting.
- Take your child to meet the teaching staff and see the new classroom.
- Read stories and look at books with your child.
- Encourage your child to play alone for short periods of time.
- Teach your child self-care skills.
- Teach your child to follow simple directions.
- Give my child experience with a variety of toys and materials and teach my child how to use toys and materials correctly.
- Give my child experience being around other young children.
- Teach my child to care for own belongings (for example, how to put toys away, hang coat).
- Encourage my child to ask for help when needed.
- Encourage my child to communicate with others (children may do this with gestures, spoken language, sign language, etc.).
- Encourage my child to make simple choices (for example, ask my child if she wants to wear pink or white socks, what toys he would like to play with, or if she wants cookies or applesauce for snack).
- Practice short separations from my child, by leaving him in the care of a responsible adult.
- Knowing your child as well as you do, please list other ways you might prepare your child for transition.

## **Guidance policy**

Sweet Kiddles® flexible childcare center's staff believes that it is important for children to learn self-control as part of their developmental experience. Our teachers always treat children with love and respect, and make clear our expectation that they love and respect others in return.

The foundation of our behavior management philosophy is conscious discipline which is a comprehensive self-regulation program that integrates social-emotional learning and discipline. Conscious Discipline integrates classroom management with social-emotional learning, utilizing everyday events such as the curriculum and addressing the adult's emotional intelligence as well as the child's.

In addition to Conscious Discipline, we utilize a number of tools in our guidance process. Positive reinforcement is used to encourage children to use the right behavior. We also use positive redirection – removing the child and giving them an appropriate activity – when there is an issue.

When these approaches fail to accomplish the desired behavioral outcome, we put a progressive guidance action plan in place with the family.

Sweet Kiddles uses the following progressive procedures:

1. We will observe and record the child's inappropriate behavior
2. We will document what we have done to try to change the behavior
3. If inappropriate behavior continues, parents will be asked to participate in an immediate parent teacher conference. Children old enough to understand this process will be invited to attend if appropriate. A specific action plan will be developed at this conference to address the behavior, all steps the parents will take, and all steps toward dis-enrollment if the behavior persists.
4. The Program Administrator may suggest outside resources (Positive Education Partners for example) to parents and we will work with any outside resource for further guidance in responding to the child's behavior.

Persistent inappropriate behavior which continues after the progressive guidance steps have been used and/or any behavior which threatens the health or safety of the other children or staff; or a continuous inability to conform to the rules and guidelines of the program will lead to immediate dis-enrollment.

Here are a couple of things we never punish the child for: failure to eat, failure to sleep, or for toilet training accidents. We follow Ohio rule 5101:2-12-22 at all times. This policy applies to all staff and parents while they are at the center.

## **Dis-enrollment guidelines**

Certain behavior may cause a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of other children or staff. For example: a physical assault which results in serious bodily injury, an attempted physical assault, which if completed, would result in serious bodily injury, setting or attempting to set fires, bringing weapons to the site, substantial damage to real personal property, etc.

Sweet Kiddles may dis-enroll any child whose behavior creates a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of other children or staff, without following the guidance steps outlined above.

## **Emergency Transportation**

In the case of an emergency, the center will not transport the child. We will use the emergency contact information you provide and the child will be transported either by the parent or the emergency medical service provider in the area. In any case, a teacher or center administrator will stay with the child until the parent arrives. Sweet Kiddles can deny a family membership who will not allow for Sweet Kiddles to call for emergency transport in the event of an emergency.

## **Accidents and emergencies**

The center has devised several procedures to follow in the event that an emergency would occur while a child is in the center's care. In the event of a fire or tornado, staff would follow the written instructions posted in each classroom. The center conducts monthly fire drills, tornado drills March through September and quarterly lockdown drills. Should we need to evacuate due to fire, weather, loss of heat, loss of power, or loss of water to the center, we will evacuate to our emergency destination which is listed on the Medical, Dental and General Emergency Plans posted in each classroom. Upon joining the center, parents will be informed of our emergency location. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible. If we cannot reach the parent we will call the emergency contacts we have on file.

In the unlikely event that there is an environmental threat or threat of violence, the staff will secure the children in the safest location possible and then contact and follow the instructions given by proper authorities. We will contact the parents as soon as the situation allows, and an incident report will be provided to parents as soon as possible.

If there is a minor injury or illness, our staff will administer first aid. For more serious injuries/illnesses, parents will be consulted on the best course of action. For severe injuries and illnesses, EMS will be brought in and we will call the parents. A center staff member or administrator will accompany the child to the hospital until relieved by the parents. Staff members are not allowed to transport children in their vehicles.

An accident/injury report will be completed and given to the to the person picking up the child on the day of the incident, if any of the following occur: the child has an illness, accident or injury which requires first aid; the child receives a bump or blow to the head; the child is transported by emergency squad; or an unusual or unexpected event which jeopardizes the safety of the child. If emergency transportation is required, the report will be available within 24 hours after the incident occurs. The center will also verbally contact licensing personnel from the ODJFS office within 24 hours when there is a "general emergency" or "serious incident, injury or illness." We will then submit a written report to the licensing staff within 3 days.

## **Management of illness**

Sweet Kiddles® flexible childcare center keeps a clean and healthy environment. However, we recognize that sometimes children get sick. If this is your child's first childcare experience, he or she may be sick more frequently as his or her immune system becomes more active.

We unfortunately do not have the facility and capability to care for sick children – if your child is exhibiting any of the following symptoms, we ask that you do not bring him or her to the center. If your child arrives ill, we cannot accept him or her into the center.

- Temperature of at least 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Vomiting, when accompanied by any other sign or symptom of illness.
- Diarrhea (three or more abnormally loose stools within a twenty-four-hour period).
- Severe coughing, causing the child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound.
- Difficult or rapid breathing.
- Yellowish skin or eyes.
- Redness of the eye or eyelid, thick and purulent (pus) discharge, matted eyelashes, burning, itching or eye pain.
- Untreated infected skin patches, unusual spots or rashes.
- Unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool.
- Stiff neck with an elevated temperature.
- Evidence of untreated lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestations.
- Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing.

If a child begins exhibiting any of the symptoms above while at the center, the parent or emergency contact will be notified to come pick up the child.

Children demonstrating signs of illness not listed above will be isolated and observed carefully, and the parent will be notified. If the child does not feel well enough to participate in activities, the parent or emergency contact will be notified to pick up the child. Any child requiring isolation will be kept within sight and hearing of a staff member. Any cot or linens used will be cleaned and sanitized before being used again.

Parents will be notified at reception if children have been exposed to a communicable illness and a notice will be posted on the reception door. Children will be readmitted to the center after at least 24 hours of being free of fever and other symptoms. If they are not symptom free, a doctor's note will be required stating that the child is not contagious.

### **Medications**

We are happy to administer medications to your children, but require that you complete a Request for Medication form. Medications will be stored in a designated area inaccessible to children. The only exception is that school age children may keep inhalers if they are needed for immediate use for a medical condition. Parents must sign a release form permitting the child to use the inhaler, and the inhaler must stay in the child's possession at all times.

Prescription medications must be in the original container and will be administered according to the instructions on the label. Over the counter medications must also be administered according to label instructions. If parents request any different dosages, a physician must provide written instructions on

the Request for Medication form. Over the counter medications will not be administered to children without a Request for Medication form completed by your child's doctor. Medications cannot be administered more than 3 consecutive days in a 14-day period without Box 2 on the Request for Administration of Medication form completed by a doctor.

### **Food supplements or modified diets**

If your child requires food supplements or a modified diet, you must provide written information to us from your physician. Please see the center administrator for more details.

### **Outdoor play**

Our program includes outdoor play multiple times daily whenever weather permits such that your child will never stay in the center for more than four hours without outdoor play. ALL children over the age of 12 months will be required to go outside when the temperature is between 25-90 degrees per the state licensing requirement as long as the broader weather conditions cooperate, rain, snow, ice, etc.

Please send your children with clothes and shoes (preferably closed-toed) appropriate for outdoor play on the day you drop them at the center.

On days that weather does not permit outside play, we will engage in gross motor activities indoors. These include playing on our indoor structure, dance or exercise programs.

### **Parent participation**

Parents are welcome to participate at our center whenever they would like and have unlimited access to all parts of our facility during operating hours. They are also welcome to use our reception area and our multifunction room when not in use. We will also have periodic parties, open houses and events where you are invited to participate.

Parents with questions or concerns should talk to their child's teacher or the center administrator. You are welcome to speak to the administrator or teacher at any time during our hours of operation. If you need to have a lengthy conversation with a teacher, we ask that you schedule it in advance so the teacher can be available from daily responsibilities.

Parents may request from the center director the contact information of other member families. This contact information will be provided except for those member families who have requested that their contact information not be shared.

### **Evening care (after 7pm)**

During the evening (after 7pm), we have additional policies for evening care. During the evening, no one may enter the center except for parents/guardians, staff and other individuals authorized by the administrator or owner.

To provide an appropriate and safe environment during evening care:

- All staff will remain awake and all children will be supervised, even when sleeping
- There will be adequate lighting so that staff can see children at all times
- Parking areas and walkways will be lighted for safety and security

Our evening schedule will be adapted to children’s needs in consultation with the parent. Children may choose to sleep at any time. Both sleeping and awake children will be supervised.

<b>7 pm - Close</b>	<b><i>Begin bedtime routine developed through consultation with parents:</i></b> Evening Snack Free Choice—all centers open Story Time Quiet activities Washing, clothes changing and tooth brushing per parents orders Rest/sleep
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**Transfer of information**

With your authorization, we can transfer information, such as school records, transcripts, grade reports and test results to another school. You will be asked to complete a Parental Release of School Records form indicating the school where you would like the information transferred and authorizing its release. Please speak with your Center Director for additional details.

**More important information**

Teacher babysitting – To avoid any improprieties or appearance of favoritism, Sweet Kiddles teachers and other team members are not allowed to babysit for Sweet Kiddles member families.

Nursing and/or pumping – Sweet Kiddles provides the Center Director’s office as a safe and available space for parents to use to breastfeed and/or pump breastmilk.

Assessment data – Child assessment data may be made available to ODJFS at their request.

Inclement weather – we plan to be open even in inclement weather, but some of our teachers may have trouble getting to the center. So please call ahead and see what our status is. In addition, on inclement weather days, we may take school-age children of member families who are enrolled in local schools and other programs impacted by the weather on a space-available basis. Our programming, classroom allocation and teacher-child ratios may be adjusted accordingly to accommodate these families’ needs on those weather days.

Child abuse reporting - Our staff members are mandated reporters of child abuse. If the staff has a suspicion that a child is being abused or neglected, they MUST make a report to the local children’s services agency.

After-school program –If your child is enrolled in our after-school program please notify us if they are out of school for any reason and will not be in attendance at Sweet Kiddles. If a child enrolled in our after-school program does not arrive on schedule, we will first contact the school to verify that he/she attended school and/or got on the school bus. Our next step is to contact the parent or guardian.



Transportation – except in extreme situations requiring evacuation of the center, we do not transport children from the center.

Field trips – We will only offer field trips with our school-age summer camps and our traditional pre-school program. We use provider vehicles for transportation. Written permission slips signed by the parent or guardian will be required in advance of the trip.

The staff/child ratio will be met at all times while out of the center on field trips. Children will be assigned to a specific staff childcare member for each trip. An adult will be present in the vehicle any time that children are in the vehicle. If the vehicle chartered has seat belts, they will be used by the adults and the children. They will not be permitted to stand or sit on the floor of the vehicle. They will not be permitted to ride in the front seat. The teacher will see that each child safely boards and exits the vehicle. The teacher will conduct a check of the vehicle at the end of each trip to be sure that no child has been left on the vehicle. Prior to transport, staff will check the fuel level of the vehicle. No smoking will be permitted in the vehicle. A person trained in first aid, communicable disease and CPR will be present at the destination.

We will take a first aid kit, a cell phone, all emergency transportation authorization forms, completed enrollment forms for each child, and a completed child medical plan form for each child who has health conditions, a record listing each child on the trip, and any supplies needed to provide treatment for children with health conditions on the trip.

Children will wear a Sweet Kiddles t-shirt that includes the following information: center name, address and phone number.

Swimming – we do not do any swimming.

Overnight care – we do not offer overnight care.

**And finally...** We're trying to create something different here and need your help. We want to be the best childcare solution possible for today's parents and make the world a better place for our families and for yours. Please engage with us and let us know what you like and what you don't like. Let us know where we can improve. Let us know where we have fallen short. We believe in continuous improvement and welcome all input.

Thanks once again for joining Sweet Kiddles® flexible childcare center!

## INFORMATION REQUIRED BY OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

The facility is licensed to operate legally by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. This license is posted in a conspicuous place for review.

A toll-free telephone number is listed on the facility's license and may be used to report a suspected violation of the licensing law or administrative rules. The Licensing law and rules governing child care are available for review at the facility upon request.

The administrator and each employee of the facility is required, under Section 2151.421 of the Ohio Revised Code, ORC to report their suspicions of child abuse or child neglect to the local public children's services agency.

Any parent, custodian, or guardian of a child enrolled in the facility shall be permitted unlimited access to the facility during all hours of operation for the purpose of contacting their children, evaluating the care provided by the facility or evaluating the premises. Upon entering the premises, the parent, or guardian shall notify the Administrator of his/her presence.

Contact information for parents/guardians of the children attending the facility is available upon request. This information will not include the name, telephone number or email of any parent/guardian who requests that his/her name, telephone number or email not be included.

Recent licensing inspection reports and any substantiated complaint investigation reports, for the past two years, are posted in a conspicuous place in the facility for review.

The licensing record including compliance report forms, complaint investigation reports, and evaluation forms from the building and fire departments are available for review upon request from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The center's licensing inspection reports for the past two years are also available for review on the Child Care in Ohio website. The website is: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/childcare.stm>.

It is unlawful for the facility to discriminate in the enrollment of children upon the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 104 Stat. 32, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.

*\*This information must be given in writing to all parents, guardians, and employees as required in 5101:2-12-30 of the Ohio Administrative Code.*

**JFS 01237 (REV. 09/2011)**

**Sweet Kiddles Media Release Form**

I, the undersigned, do hereby consent and agree that Sweet Kiddles flexible childcare center, its employees, or agents have the right to take photographs, videotape, or digital recordings of me and my childrento use in any and all media, now or hereafter known, and exclusively for the purpose of the Sweet Kiddles website and other marketing collateral that may be developed in the future. I further consent that my name and identity may be revealed therein or by descriptive text or commentary.

I do hereby release to Sweet Kiddles flexible childcare center, its agents, and employees all rights to exhibit this work in print and electronic form publicly or privately and to market and sell copies. I waive any rights, claims, or interest I may have to control the use of my identity or likeness in whatever media used.

I understand that there will be no financial or other remuneration for recording me, either for initial or subsequent transmission or playback.

I also understand that Sweet Kiddles flexible childcare center is not responsible for any expense or liability incurred as a result of my participation in this recording, including medical expenses due to any sickness or injury incurred as a result.

I represent that I am at least 18 years of age, have read and understand the foregoing statement, and am competent to execute this agreement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness for the undersigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not consent to the media release.

**Sweet Kiddles® flexible childcare center**

**FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**

I have received and read **Sweet Kiddles® flexible childcare center** Family Handbook. My signature below signifies my agreement to ensure that our family abides by and supports all of the policies and procedures contained herein.

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**Parent Signature** **Date**

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**Center Director Signature** **Date**