

# Parent Handbook



**Early Childhood Development Center**  
**Serving Ages 1-5**

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# POLICY STATEMENT

We welcome you to Daniel Island Academy and are pleased that you have chosen to place your child in our care. This is an especially important and impressionable time in your child's life, and we pledge to make the time your child spends with us at Daniel Island Academy enjoyable and productive.

## **Purpose of the Policy Statement**

The intent of this handbook is to make you aware of Daniel Island Academy's policies and procedures. Please read this handbook carefully. The obligation of enforcing these Policies is placed primarily upon our carefully selected and trained staff whose principal responsibility is to assure the safety and well-being of all children entrusted to our care. We do not expect this handbook to cover every circumstance but feel that it is as comprehensive as possible. It is the duty of the parents/guardians to know the policies as outlined in this book and to cooperate in their enforcement. We welcome any comments, questions, and/or suggestions for improvement.

## **PROGRAM GOALS & PHILOSOPHY**

Our programs at Daniel Island Academy provide safe and secure learning environments. Our teachers believe that early childhood experiences are crucial ones for the child. To ensure that your child's needs are best met, we place a high emphasis on developmentally appropriate practices. With a careful mix of cognitive skills and developmental tasks, we sustain a relaxed but structured environment that stimulates curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. Children are divided into age groups allowing them to interact with others who are on a similar developmental level. Our teachers' well-rounded activities are designed to stimulate physical, social, emotional, and cognitive growth. Throughout the year, children are evaluated on their development and milestones. Each program features hands-on active learning, with an interactive component between home and school. Learning centers include reading, writing, math, science, manipulative dramatic play, and creative expression. Self-help, problem solving, and critical thinking skills are emphasized.

## **CURRICULUM STATEMENT**

The Creative Curriculum® approach to teaching and learning balances both teacher-directed and child-initiated learning, with an emphasis on responding to children's learning styles and building on their strengths and interests." (*The Creative Curriculum® 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*) Teachers at Daniel Island Academy "guide the children in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology without neglecting children's social/emotional development."

Daniel Island Academy uses [teachingstrategies.com](http://www.teachingstrategies.com), a curriculum based online system that integrates ongoing assessment with reporting, planning, and parent communication. All classrooms are included in teachingstrategies.com. Teachingstrategies.com is also a great resource for parents and families. Parents can log in to the online site to get up-to-date information concerning their child's development and assessment progress. Parents are also able to see copies of the classroom newsletter and lesson plans as well as communicate with teachers. For more information on the Creative Curriculum and teachingstrategies.com you can visit <http://www.teachingstrategies.com/>.

# COMMUNICATION

Because communicating with parents about school programs and each child's progress is important, we utilize several methods to ensure full and timely communication. We encourage you to communicate any questions or improvement areas promptly to ensure each family's experience at Daniel Island Academy is a pleasant one.

**DANIEL ISLAND ACADEMY Parent Handbook:** The Daniel Island Academy Parent Handbook is the primary method of communicating our school's policies. Please refer to it first when a question or concern arises. In our effort to publish the most complete and current resource, updated information is added from time to time.

**Classroom Handbook:** Your child's teacher will provide you with a handbook specific to the classroom that will include the teacher's background, classroom curriculum, daily classroom schedule, classroom procedures, and discipline and guidance information. Each age group will have a specific guideline and will differ from each other.

**Parent Information Board:** These boards are located outside of each classroom and include the daily schedule, weekly lesson plans, menu and themes, and the monthly newsletter.

**Teacher Newsletters:** A monthly newsletter will be posted outside each classroom outlining an overview of the class activities and valuable information during that month.

**Room Parents:** Each classroom has a volunteer Room Parent who will be your point of contact for your child's classroom. Teachers and Administration work closely with each Room Parent to ensure that communication to and from the school is conveyed and received in a timely manner. Please consider joining PADIA (the Daniel Island Academy parent association).

**Daily Report:** Daily reports will be sent home for children in all programs via Tadpoles. This information is prepared by your child's teacher to inform you about the day's events.

**Tadpoles:** Keeping you involved with the school and your child's daily experiences has always been a top priority. Teachers send photos and videos to give you a glimpse into your child's school day. Teachers will also create a daily report for each child, which includes menu selections, naps, and activities. The parent app is available for Apple and Android devices, or online at [www.tadpoles.com](http://www.tadpoles.com). Your child's information, saved within the daily reports, as well as photos and notes are visible within the parent app as well as emailed to you. The daily reports will keep you informed of the activities, learning experiences, and care events for your child. You can also mark your child, directly from the app, as out sick/on vacation, etc. or notify the teachers if your child will be arriving at 9:30 a.m. or later. We consider all information captured within Tadpoles to be private communication between our school and families. No personal information is shared with any external parties. As a parent, you will only receive information specific to your child. The confidentiality of all information is maintained through the security features of the Tadpoles software.

## **Profile Pictures:**

Photos are taken for your child's profile using a black background to keep things consistent. Red backgrounds are used for any children with allergies, etc. A "No Photo" caption is included for children that have opted out of Daniel Island Academy's media waiver.

## **Menu Section:**

Indication of what your child has eaten for AM/PM snack and lunch with Some, Most, All or None. Allergy restrictions are also noted with applicable students.

## **Pre-K Nap:**

Nap time for Pre-K is always a fun challenge. If your child falls asleep, we will indicate it by putting in a start/end time. A notification will not be sent if your child did not take a nap.

**Conferences:** There will be two formal parent/teacher conferences per school year to discuss each child's progress and development in the classroom. In addition to our formally scheduled conferences, parents may request a conference any time to discuss any concerns.

**Home to School:** You may communicate with teachers and administration through email, phone, scheduled conferences, and Tadpoles. Please check the sign in/out clipboard located in each classroom daily for additional information. Each teacher's classroom handbook details specific preferences on methods of communication.

**My Teaching Strategies** serves as our curriculum management system for teachers and parents. This online tool provides lesson planning, assessment, developmental teaching ideas, and a universal means of communication between parents and teachers. In addition to planning for instruction, teachers can send pictures, observations, newsletters, and messages through this tool.

**DANIEL ISLAND ACADEMY website:** The Daniel Island Academy website, [www.danielislandacademy.com](http://www.danielislandacademy.com), contains a wealth of useful and up-to-date information, including the most current version of the Parent Handbook in the "downloads & resources" section. Each class also has a private Facebook page which the teacher will create and update regularly. The class Facebook page will also note current items of interest and photos of the students.

**Virtual Classes:** Classes that are closed for any reason will begin virtual classes the next morning. Full tuition will continue during virtual classes.

**Improvement Areas:** Any questions, concerns, or suggestions relating to the operations of Daniel Island Academy can be addressed to the Academy Director, Kerry Nowosielski, [kerry@danielislandacademy.com](mailto:kerry@danielislandacademy.com).

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LOCATION

Daniel Island Academy LLC  
300 Seven Farms Drive  
Daniel Island, SC 29492  
Web: [www.danielislandacademy.com](http://www.danielislandacademy.com)  
Phone: 843.971.5961  
Fax: 873.375.2111

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Daniel Island Academy is open 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

### SERVICES & PROGRAMS

#### **Full Day Preschool (1's – 4's classrooms, 17 total)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Up to 10 hours of care, per day. If daily attendance goes over 10 hours, a \$13.50 charge will be applied to family's account.

#### **10 Month FULL DAY Enrollment Option (August – May \*applies only to 3's & 4's)**

The 10 Month Enrollment Option allows families to enjoy the benefits of a 10-month school year (August-May) with June and July off for a traditional summer recess. The "Summer of Discovery" program is available in June and July. FD 10-month families have the option of which weeks to attend.

#### **12 Month FULL DAY Enrollment Option (August – July)**

The 12 Month Enrollment Option provides year-round enrollment and includes our specialized summer programming, "Summer of Discovery."

**\*\*Switching your enrollment option (10 month and 12 month) must be done by January 1<sup>st</sup> \*\***

## **SUMMER OF DISCOVERY**

Each summer, Daniel Island Academy students can explore new concepts in an exciting and innovative format. Students will learn about a different curricula area within a school-wide theme each month. This is a wonderful way for children and teachers to explore exciting topics while engaging students within appropriate attention limits. Reservation forms will be available at the front desk and on our website. Students new to Daniel Island Academy must satisfy the application and enrollment requirements as detailed in the Daniel Island Academy Parent Handbook to participate in this summer program. **Summer of Discovery is INCLUDED in the 12 Month Enrollment Option.**

## **ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

Daniel Island Academy offers a wide variety of afternoon Enrichment Programs throughout the year. Programs are specifically designed to be developmentally appropriate for children ages 12 months to 5 years. PopFit Kids, Wee Little Arts, Tech Savvy, and Engineering for Kids are examples of options that have been offered in the past. These activities are supplemental to your child's regular school schedule and operate within the Daniel Island Academy boundaries, typically in the Multi-Purpose Room or open classrooms. Those students participating in Enrichment Programs will be escorted to and from classes and will be supervised by adult program providers. Registration for Enrichment Program classes is by the session (Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer) and payment for programs is due at the time of enrollment. Classes will not be pro-rated for late enrollment. Enrollment forms for enrichment programs are available at the front desk.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SITE**

Daniel Island Academy works in collaboration with local collegiate institutions such as College of Charleston, Charleston Southern, and Trident Technical College. We serve as a learning lab for students pursuing degrees in the field of early childhood education. College students have an opportunity to observe, participate, and plan appropriate activities within their assigned classroom.

## **DANIEL ISLAND ACADEMY ADMINISTRATION CONTACTS**

843-971-5961

Kerry Nowosielski (Director)

[kerry@danielislandacademy.com](mailto:kerry@danielislandacademy.com)

Leigh Lightsey (Business Manager)

[leigh@danielislandacademy.com](mailto:leigh@danielislandacademy.com)

Lindsay Savel (Curriculum Coordinator)

[lindsay@danielislandacademy.com](mailto:lindsay@danielislandacademy.com)

Jenni Reidenbach (Reference Point Coordinator)

[jreidenbach@danielislandacademy.com](mailto:jreidenbach@danielislandacademy.com)

Jackie Castle (Accounting Manager)

[jackie@danielislandacademy.com](mailto:jackie@danielislandacademy.com)

Stacie Spaulding (Front Desk Supervisor & Enrichment Coordinator)

[stacie@danielislandacademy.com](mailto:stacie@danielislandacademy.com)

Latasha Smith (Food Service Manager)

[lsmith@danielislandacademy.com](mailto:lsmith@danielislandacademy.com)

# ADMISSIONS & REGISTRATION

## ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT

Applications for admission, available for download at [www.danielislandacademy.com](http://www.danielislandacademy.com), are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. An initial non-refundable application fee of \$150.00 must accompany the application and acceptance into the program is not guaranteed. Daniel Island Academy does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin. Daniel Island Academy complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). Part of the enrollment process may include an interview with the school's Director or teacher(s). Parents are encouraged to bring their child to meet the staff and other children and to become familiar with the classroom and playground environment. There is an annual non-refundable re-enrollment fee of \$75.00. For the enrollment procedure to be valid, the family must include all completed forms and all applicable fees and tuition deposits. Failure to provide all necessary forms and required deposits may result in an involuntary withdrawal. Enrollment Guarantees are due annually to ensure placement for the following year. Enrollment Guarantees are prepaid tuition and are exclusively applicable to the final two weeks' tuition. Enrollment Guarantees become non-refundable 30 days after receipt or **following child's attendance start date**. Students who withdraw prior to the final two weeks (or month) of their agreed enrollment period will forfeit their Guaranteed Enrollment. Forms for enrollment in the next enrollment period are distributed before January to allow time for current students to secure their space for the upcoming school year before enrollment is open to the public.

## WAIT LIST PROCEDURE

Waitlist status is dependent on the date of submission of an Enrollment Application, program form and application fee (\$150 new, \$75 returning). Waitlist preference is given to siblings of current students and children of DIA employees.

If your child is on the waitlist and you are notified of an available enrollment option and wish to guarantee the spot, you will have 3 hours (or next day by 9:00am if offer is received after 3pm) to accept the offer and 2 business days to submit your guaranteed enrollment payment (tuition deposit – equals your tuition rate and exclusively applicable to the last two weeks of the school year). Tuition payments will be determined in accordance with our tuition schedule of the applicable school year. Moving forward, full tuition will be required to hold a spot even if you choose to begin attending DIA later than the offered start date.

You may also defer an offer and elect to remain on the waitlist. A **First Deferral** allows a student to remain in his/her original placement. A **Second Deferral** will result in moving to the bottom of the waitlist. Valid contact information is the responsibility of the parent. Daniel Island Academy will not be responsible for invalid contact information of waitlist families. If NO RESPONSE is received within 2 business days after an attempt to contact you via phone and email, you will be removed from the waitlist altogether.

Please contact the front desk immediately if you wish to be removed from the waitlist, which will help us maintain accuracy. If you elect to be removed from the waitlist and then request to be put back on, your initial registration date will change to reflect the date in which you decided to return to the list. You are welcome to contact the front desk to inquire about your status at any time.

## TUITION & FEES

*Please see Services & Programs section for explanation of Enrollment Options.* A tuition calendar will be issued at the beginning of the school year. The tuition schedule is available at the reception desk or online at [www.DanielIslandAcademy.com](http://www.DanielIslandAcademy.com). Tuition Statements for tax purposes may be obtained at the administration desk. Tuition will not be prorated. If the school is open for any day during a week, a full week of tuition will be charged to account.

- Acceptable methods of payment include check, cash, credit card, and automatic bank draft (ACH). Daniel Island Academy is an ABC Enhanced school and accepts ABC vouchers. **A \$50.00 NSF fee for EACH returned check or ACH account occurrence will be applied along with the \$10.00 per day late fee (per child) as applicable.**
- Tuition is due every other Monday as scheduled on the published Full Day Tuition Payment Schedule. **Failure to pay by Wednesday at closing of the week tuition is due will result in a late payment charge of \$10.00 per day, per child, beginning on Thursday.** Children will not be permitted to attend school if the account is not satisfied by Monday of the following week.

- Full tuition will continue during virtual classes.
- ACH payments due on a banking holiday will be processed on the preceding business day.
- A "friendly reminder" email will go out to parents before Noon on Wednesday, or the third day that tuition is due, to avoid a \$10.00 per day (per child) late fee. Failure to receive this email does not alter the due date of payment.
- **Failure to meet tuition deadlines may result in involuntary withdrawal from DIA.**
- **Your next tuition payment will be credited first against any past due balance.**
- New students are required to submit a non-refundable application fee of \$150.00 and returning students are required to submit a \$75 re-enrollment fee for all programs in addition to the waiting list or enrollment guarantee (last two weeks pre-paid tuition) based on their enrollment option.
- Subsidy students (ABC) are required to submit a non-refundable application fee of \$25.
- New students' initial tuition is due at the time his/her start date is determined.
- Late drop-off must be approved in advance. DIA offers ten consecutive hours of care per day. If a student is at school over the allotted ten hours, a \$13.50 fee will apply.
- **Enrollment fees become non-refundable 30 days after receipt or following child's attendance start date. All refunds will result in a \$10.00 processing fee.** Students that withdraw, voluntarily or involuntarily, prior to the final two weeks of their enrollment period will not receive the benefit or refund of their prepaid tuition.
- Personal preference menu (as practicable) may be allowed. A written request for this service must be submitted and will be considered. A \$20/week minimum fee will be charged if personal preference menu is accepted and approved.
- Student/Administrative record copies may be obtained only by written request. Attendance records (sign in/out logs) are not retained past the current school year. All privacy laws apply. A \$25 administrative fee plus a per page copy charge will be applied and must be accepted in writing prior to production of records. Payment must be received in advance prior to records being released. Please allow 30 days for record production from date of fee acknowledgment. Fees for requests from court proceedings, subpoenas or attorneys will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Fee terms must be acknowledged in writing prior to document production. Payment must be received prior to document release. All requests from legal proceedings will be referred to Daniel Island Academy's attorney. **No exceptions or waivers will be permitted.**
- You may request copies of your child's attendance records at any time; however, we may maintain this information in various formats. We will respond in the format that you request if it is readily producible in that format. Requested copies made by you or on your behalf will be charged at a cost-based fee for providing the information. Your agreement is required prior to production of requested information.

## ENROLLMENT OPTION CHANGE

Families that wish to extend their enrollment option from the 10 Month to 12 Month may do so by completing a new Enrollment Option form and submitting it by **January 1st**. The tuition account will be reconciled to ensure proper credits are applied.

Families that wish to shorten their enrollment option from the 12 Month Enrollment Option to the 10 Month Enrollment Option must do so by January 1. A new Enrollment Option form must be completed along with any applicable fees to effectuate the change.

## WITHDRAWAL

Two weeks' written notice is required prior to the withdrawal of a student. Full tuition, for an additional two weeks, will be charged if such notice is not received. There will be no pro-rated refunds for withdrawal. A permanent withdrawal without immediate enrollment in another program will terminate your family's enrollment status in future programs. An application fee and tuition deposit will then be required to re-enter the school. Tuition Deposits are a guarantee of enrollment and exclusively applicable to the final two weeks of the agreed enrollment period, therefore withdrawal prior to the completion of the current enrollment period terminates any future enrollment commitment.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation to and from Daniel Island Academy is not available. Off-campus curriculum-based field trips require a separate, event-specific permission slip. Children will be transported by their parents for field trips.

# **OPERATING POLICIES**

## **FAMILY/STAFF COLLABORATIONS**

The foundation of a successful program is a mutually supportive relationship between our staff and students' families. Room Parents play a vital role in our plan for success in each classroom. The center shall permit the parent of a child in carefree and full access to his or her child without prior notice, while their child is receiving care, unless there is a court order limiting parental access. This free access must not disrupt instructional activities and classroom routines.

## **CONFERENCES**

Parents of students will have two formal parent/teacher conferences each school year to discuss each child's progress and development in the classroom. In addition to our formally scheduled conferences, parents may request a conference any time to discuss concerns.

## **SIGN IN & SIGN OUT**

Entry is only permitted through the secured lobby area of the building. Each child must be signed in and out every day at their classroom. We require that a member of the teaching staff recognize your child's arrival and departure before leaving. Any special instructions for pickup should be noted on the sign-in sheet located in the classroom at the time of arrival, other relevant information should also be recorded on the classroom day sheet. Any special instructions can be submitted through the Tadpoles app.

The classroom sign-in & sign-out sheet is utilized throughout the day along with head counts and transition sheets to account for the number of students present at all times. The teachers will have the classroom clipboard with them wherever they are. **Sign-in and sign-out protocols are state regulated and full compliance is required.**

## **DROP-OFF**

Children and families will be greeted at the classroom door by one of the teachers, and the child will be welcomed into the room. We ask that your child be dropped off at school no later than 9:30 a.m. If your child needs to arrive later, please notify your teacher ahead of time by entering a note in Tadpoles.

## **PICK-UP**

Children will be released only to those persons who have parents' permission as noted on an official pick-up authorization form. To update your list, you must notify Daniel Island Academy by completing and signing a new pick-up authorization form or complete a temporary pick-up authorization form. Both forms are available at the administration desk. Each person designated to pick-up a child must display photo identification before taking the child.

## **VEHICLE IDLING**

Vehicles must be turned off when dropping off and picking up children. Idling vehicles are harmful to the environment and our children.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Please notify the office as early as possible regarding your child's absence (mark absent in Tadpoles app). We ask that all children arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. If you will be bringing your child later than 9:30 a.m., please contact the classroom through Tadpoles or by calling the school.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Our policy is to remain open if it is safe. In the event of inclement weather that may require Daniel Island Academy to close, additional information will be posted on Facebook and Tadpoles. Tuition is non-refundable for any times the school is closed due to inclement weather.

Weather that requires evacuation of the building will require you to pick up within one hour of notification. Please arrange a plan for childcare, especially during hurricane season. Ask in advance if your employer will provide on-site childcare during an emergency.

## **CHILD GUIDANCE (DISCIPLINE)**

Discipline is the art of teaching appropriate behavior through problem solving with the child, re-direction, and role modeling by the teacher. Positive reinforcement helps children to develop self-discipline. We will treat children with dignity and set clear, consistent, and fair limits for behavior. We view mistaken behaviors as learning opportunities. Limits of behavior considered inappropriate are hurting others, hurting themselves, damaging equipment, or disturbing classroom activities. We do not allow any strategy that hurts, shames, or belittles a child. We do not permit any strategy that threatens, intimidates, or forces a child. We do not allow the use of food as a reward or punishment. We do not allow the use or withholding of physical activity as a punishment.

### ***WE DO NOT PERMIT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.***

*Significant behavior problems are observed and tracked by the teachers and if a pattern is established, a meeting with parents is held to develop consistent strategies for the child at home and school. Other professionals may be consulted for advice. If recurring problems continue, parents will be consulted to develop alternate strategies. As a last resort, the child's admission may be revoked or denied. Limits of behavior considered inappropriate are hurting others, hurting themselves, damaging equipment, or disrupting classroom activities on a continued or chronic basis.*

Daniel Island Academy uses **Conscious Discipline** to build social and emotional skills and develop discipline within children. This program is research based and helps children learn to self-regulate, help make better choices, and empathize with others. Conscious Discipline builds stronger connections within the classroom, school, and family by teaching us to stay in control of our emotions and creating a safe environment for our children. This is the only program that integrates classroom management with social- emotional learning, uses everyday events as part of the schools established curriculum, and addresses the adult as well as the child.

## **CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT**

Daniel Island Academy is mandated by South Carolina law to report suspected child abuse and neglect to local and State authorities.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Parents are assured that Daniel Island Academy administration and staff maintain strict confidentiality regarding the children and families we serve. When parents visit Daniel Island Academy, we ask that you respect each child and family's privacy.

## **CLOTHES**

Children should wear washable play clothes for children's comfort and convenience. For safety, they are required to wear closed toe play shoes (no sandals, please) and socks. All clothes should be identified per child. All children should have an extra set of clean clothing appropriate for the current season.

## **POTTY TRAINING**

Potty training is a developmental milestone; it is our policy to work with families to help children achieve this goal. Children being potty-trained need at least six pairs of training pants. Parents must provide at least two weeks' (but no more than a month's) worth of diapers and wipes. Please label each item with the child's name. Soiled clothing will be bagged and sent home for washing to prevent communicable diseases. All children should wear clothing that they can manage independently.

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Daniel Island Academy recognizes the importance of physical activity for young children. Implementation of appropriate physical activity practices supports the health and development of children, as well as assisting in establishing positive lifestyle habits for the future. All children will participate in indoor and outdoor play (weather-permitting), as exercise and physical movement are important curriculum components. All classrooms have two 45-min playground times daily: One in the morning and one in the afternoon. Please dress your child in clothing that allows for free and safe movement. Also, sunscreen and insect spray should be provided, if desired. These items need to be labeled with your child's name and left with the teacher. Daniel Island Academy does not provide sunscreen or insect spray. If you feel your child is too sick to go outside, then he/she is too sick to be at school. We ask that your child remain at home until he/she is well enough to participate in all activities. (TV, video, and DVD viewing and computer use are not permitted for children ages 2 years and under)

## TOYS

Daniel Island Academy provides ample toys and materials for children to share. Bringing toys from home creates difficulty when they are lost or broken, and certain toys pose choking risks. Please do not send any type of toys to school.

## NAPS

Nap time for pre-toddlers is scheduled on an individual basis. All other children rest after lunch, as it is developmentally appropriate. Cots are provided for naps, but bedding is not. Daniel Island Academy provides nap bags. Please fit all nap items in this bag and use only this bag in consideration of cubby space. Please provide a small cotton blanket and/or small sheet. One small comfort item may be brought if needed to help your child relax. Please label each item with your child's name. Bedding must be taken home at the end of the week and returned the following school week to Daniel Island Academy. If bedding is soiled, during the week, it will be bagged as is, and sent home for washing to prevent communicable diseases.

## BIRTHDAYS & HOLIDAYS

Birthdays and family-celebrated holidays are fun to share with friends. If you choose to celebrate at school, please plan a date with your child's teacher in advance. No outside food is permitted to be brought into the school for birthday or holiday celebrations. Latex balloons are also not allowed., We offer Birthday Packages for your child's entire class which include a choice of different flavored cupcakes or our seasonal cupcake of the month, cheese and seasonal fruit, Mylar balloon, t-shirt, paper plates, and napkins. Packages must be reserved and pre-paid in order to process. Please fill out a Birthday Package form at the Administration Desk.

## MEALS, SNACKS & NUTRITION POLICY

**PRE-TODDLERS** (12-24 mos.) For children who are not eating table food or using cups, parents must provide prepared baby food or bottles. All bottles must be plastic and covered and labeled with your child's first and last name. Please bring enough prepared bottles with formula or breast milk to last the entire day. You should also leave a can of formula in case of emergencies. Formula bottles and breast milk will be warmed in a container of warm water. You should bring a box of cereal and enough servings to last for one week. We prefer soft plastic packaged foods over glass or plastic jars. All opened liquid formula and non-factory sealed jar food will be discarded at the end of the day. **\*Notes are sent daily through the Tadpoles app informing you of the type and quantity of food your child consumed.**

### 1. Policy Statement

Good nutrition is vital to children's overall development and well-being. To provide the best possible nutrition environment for our children, Daniel Island Academy has developed the following childcare nutrition policies to encourage the development of good eating habits that will last a lifetime.

#### Child Care Nutrition

Daniel Island Academy follows the childcare nutrition guidelines set forth by the USDA CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) for all the foods served. To provide a healthy and balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and limits foods and beverages that are high in sugar, and/or fat, our nutrition policy includes the following:

### **Fruits and Vegetables**

- ✓ We serve fruit at least twice per day
- ✓ We offer a vegetable other than white potatoes at least twice per day

### **Grains**

- ✓ We serve whole grain foods at least twice per day
- ✓ We only use brown rice and whole grain pasta

### **Beverages**

- ✓ We limit juice intake to once per day in a serving size specified for the child's age group. When served, the juice is 100% fruit juice.
- ✓ We do not serve sugar sweetened beverages
- ✓ We serve only skim milk to children ages 2 years and older

### **Fats and Sugars**

- ✓ High fat meats, such as ground beef, bacon, and pork sausage, are served no more than once per month.
- ✓ Fried or pre-fried vegetables, including potatoes, are served no more than once per month.
- ✓ We limit sweet food items to no more than once per week.

### **Role of Staff in Nutrition Education**

- ✓ Staff provides opportunities for children to learn about nutrition once per week or more.
- ✓ Staff acts as role models for healthy eating in front of the children.

Meal and snack times are planned so that no child will go more than four hours without being offered food. We provide a variety of nutritionally balanced, high quality foods each day so please do not send your child with outside food and drinks.

**STAFF WILL NEVER USE FOOD AS A REWARD OR AS A PUNISHMENT.**

### **MEALS & SNACKS**

Mid-Morning Snack – Time determined by teacher

Lunch – 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mid-Afternoon Snack - Time determined by teacher

## **2. Weekly Menus**

Daniel Island Academy's weekly menus are carefully planned to follow childcare nutrition guidelines at every meal. Each menu is designed to provide a wide variety of nutritious foods that are different in color, shape, size, and texture. All our childcare menus include foods that are culturally diverse and seasonally appropriate. We also like to introduce new and different foods and include children's favorite recipes in our menu planning. Menus are written weekly to include fresh seasonal items.

## **3. Professional Development**

Annual nutrition training is required to ensure that all staff understand the significant role nutrition plays in the overall well-being of children.

**Daniel Island Academy is a nut-free environment.** Peanut products are prohibited due to health considerations.

### **DANIEL ISLAND ACADEMY IS AN ALLERGY-SAFE SCHOOL**

As a preventative measure – **NO FOOD MAY BE BROUGHT INTO THE SCHOOL.**

Allergy menus will be provided as practical from the regular menu items. Any food accommodation special purchases will require a weekly fee to be determined by the Food Service Manager.

Personal preference menu (as practicable and within Daniel Island Academy guidelines) may be allowed. A written request for this service must be submitted and will be considered. A menu will be written at the Food Service Manager's discretion, as deemed practical with time restraints and fairness to the staff and other students. A minimum of \$20/week will be charged. This fee may vary by type of request and food to be obtained.

**ALLERGY STATEMENT:** Reading labels is an important preventative for allergies.

Foods containing an allergy statement which may contain tree nuts or peanuts will be immediately discarded. The allergy statement is located directly below the ingredient list. Our staff is trained to identify safe food products. Thank you for your cooperation!

## **TERMINATION OF SERVICE**

If, in the sole judgment of administration, the parent or guardian:

- Does not submit **ALL** completed paperwork and initial tuition payment by the due date on the tuition payment schedule for the start of the respective school year.
- Does not keep the child's records up to date, including immunization records. **Daniel Island Academy does not accept medical or religious immunization exemptions.**
- Fails to pay fees, charges, or any other amounts owed to the school in a proper and timely manner.
- Keeps the child out without making proper arrangements with the Director.
- Fails to abide by the Rules and Regulations established by Daniel Island Academy as outlined in this handbook.
- Treats the personnel or employees of the school in an unreasonable or abusive manner.
- Engages in conduct that is improper or likely to endanger the welfare, safety, harmony, and/ or reputation of Daniel Island Academy.
- See Child Guidance

# HEALTH

## **IMMUNIZATION**

All children are required to have a current physical exam for admission and to update the exam annually. All children are required to have a Certificate of Immunization prior to admission. **Daniel Island Academy does not accept medical or religious immunization exemptions.** The "DATE FOR NEXT IMMUNIZATION" section on the Certificate of Immunization of Day Care Centers will show the next time your child is due for shots. Your child may attend Daniel Island Academy for no more than one month after the "DATE FOR NEXT IMMUNIZATION" without obtaining a new certificate. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ("DHEC") will monitor our facilities to see that each child has a certificate. Accidents, injuries, or illness that may require professional medical treatment will be immediately reported to you or the individual designated on your emergency card. Written reports on major or minor accidents will be provided. Daniel Island Academy is not responsible for any accident expenses that occur on school property. Only medication prescribed by the child's physician and labeled with the child's name on the prescription label will be administered. We will not administer medication from a previous illness or medication that is over two weeks old. All medication will only be given with a written consent from the child's doctor. Parents must fill out medication forms completely. Children with allergies or other special needs requiring individual attention will be admitted on a case-by-case basis, to be determined by the Director.

## **REQUIRED STANDARDS OF IMMUNIZATION FOR DAY CARE ATTENDANCE**

### **Minimum Immunization Requirements for Day Care Attendance**

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180 of South Carolina Code, children less than six years of age who attend a licensed public or private child day care facility, a registered church or religious child day care facility, or child development program for K4 and younger must present to the day care facility (or school if the program is in a school setting) a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization (DHEC form 2740), which assures they are "up-to-date" or "catching-up" on the childhood immunizations recommended and routinely provided by DHEC.

\*Certificate Expires Date: Child/Student may attend day care or school for no more than one month from this date.

\*\*Immunization Requirements for Child Day Care Attendance and School Entry are published by DHEC each January.

## **ALLERGIES & SPECIAL NEEDS**

Children with allergies and/or other special needs requiring individual attention are required to complete additional paperwork specific to their needs as a condition of enrollment. There will be a charge of \$12.25/monthly for milk alternatives.

## **Authorization for Medication**

Daniel Island Academy will administer medication to your child only if a physician authorizes it. Any prescription medication needs to be current, in its original package with the prescription label on it. Any non-prescription medication needs to be accompanied with specific administration directions and the physician's signature. Forms are available at the front desk and require a parental signature.

## **Handwashing**

Handwashing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection and germs. Staff, children, and classroom visitors must wash hands with soap and warm water, at a minimum, at the following times.

- Upon arrival
- Before and after eating a meal/snack
- After diapering and toilet
- After contact with bodily fluids
- After sneezing
- After blowing nose or putting hands in mouth
- After coming indoors from the playground
- Before and after sand or water play
- Before and after messy play

## **SICK CHILD POLICY**

Children do get sick from time to time, inevitably. The average young child is sick between five and ten times per year. This is a normal part of growing up. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide appropriate care for sick children, even mildly ill children.

You can help by keeping us informed - Let us know if you see any signs of illness we should watch or any changes in the way your child is acting. Also, tell us about the things that happened at home that might affect your child. We need to know if your child has been exposed to a contagious illness. Keeping your child's teacher updated through Tadpoles is recommended.

**Your child's health affects the health of other children.** The more we know, the more we can help to keep all the children in our care well. Please have a plan for days your child becomes sick. Find a doctor or clinic that has hours that meet your needs. Find out your employer's rules on missing work if your child is sick.

### **Prepare yourself now for when your child is sick.**

You may need to:

- Take time from work
- Prearrange a plan with your authorized pick-up persons

How we will help:

- We will follow good hand washing rules as outlined in detail above.
- We will follow the health policies we have set and additional health guidance from trusted resources such as CDC and DHEC.
- We will keep the facility clean and sanitized.
- We will sanitize toys and other objects that spread germs.
- Each day we will observe your child's behavior while in our care. If your child shows any signs of illness, we will tell you about them.
- We will exclude children with certain signs of illness.
- We will also tell you if your child is exposed to an illness in our program.

## CRITERIA FOR EXCLUDING AN ILL OR INFECTED CHILD

Daniel Island Academy is required to exclude from our care a child with minor illness if one or more of the following conditions exists:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in the program.
- Staff is unable to provide adequate care to mildly ill children without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- The child has any of the following conditions:

**Temperature:** oral temperature of 100.4 F or greater, axillary (armpit) 99.4 F or greater; accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness – until medical evaluation indicates inclusion in the facility, or the absence of fever for at least 24 hours without the assistance of medication. We only take axillary (armpit) and non-contact infrared (forehead) temperatures at Daniel Island Academy.

**Symptoms of Possible Severe Illness:** such as unusual lethargy, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or other unusual signs – until medical evaluation indicates inclusion. Uncontrolled diarrhea, or increased number of stools, or increased stool water, or decreased form that is not contained by the diaper or toilet use; or one episode when a known infectious diarrhea disease is present at the Academy – until diarrhea stops or physician determines it to be non-communicable and the child is not in danger of dehydration.

**COVID:** excludable symptoms without another more likely cause until a negative test (PCR or antigen) is obtained. If a positive case, a child must meet all criteria for return: at least 5 days since symptoms started AND 24 hours since last fever without the use of medication AND symptoms are improving. A mask must be worn days 6-10. If a mask is not worn, a 10-day isolation must be observed.

**Vomiting illness:** Two or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24-hours, or one vomiting episode when a known virus is present at the Academy – until vomiting resolves or physician determines it to be non-communicable.

**Mouth sores with drooling:** unless a physician determines the condition as non-infectious.

**Rash with a fever, or a behavior change:** until a physician determines it is not a communicable disease.

**Purulent Conjunctivitis (pink eye):** defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow discharge – until evaluation and treated for 24 hours.

**Scabies, Head Lice, or other Infestation:** until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.

**Tuberculosis:** until physician or health official states child can attend facility.

**Impetigo:** until 24 hours after initial treatment has been initiated.

**Streptococcal Pharyngitis:** until 24 hours after initial treatment, and no fever for 24 hours.

**Pinworm infection:** until 24 hours after initial treatment.

**Ringworm infection:** until 48 hours after initial treatment.

**Chicken pox:** until ALL lesions have dried and crusted.

**Mumps:** until nine days after onset of parotid gland swelling.

**Hepatitis:** If your child has been exposed to A, B or C, DHEC regulations state that we must be notified immediately. Health officials must be notified of all exposures.

**RSV:** Respiratory Syncytial Virus is an upper respiratory disease, primarily of children under two years old, and is spread by hand and secretion contact. There is little air component in this disease's transmission. Infants and young children with RSV positive disease and bronchiolitis must have significant improvement in symptoms and a physician's statement before returning to the school.

**Abdominal pain:** persistent or intermittent, not associated with bowel pattern – until evaluated.

**Diarrhea:** until symptoms have been resolved for at least 24 hours.

A child shall be excluded from the school if it has been determined by the local health official or physician that the child is contributing to the transmission of the illness during an identified outbreak of any communicable illness at the facility.

You may access the [EXCLUSION LIST OF CONTAGIOUS OR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES](#) on our website, under Important Documents.

## **PROCEDURES FOR SICK CHILDREN**

If your child develops any of these symptoms, we will notify you immediately to pick up your child. Your child will be placed in isolation with staff supervision until you arrive. We ask that you or your designated person come within the hour of our call. Any additional hours will be a fee of \$13.50 per hour. You will receive a form at the front desk for your physician or health care provider to complete for re-admission as required by Daniel Island Academy.

Your child cannot return to school until he or she is **symptom free for more than 24 hours without the assistance of medicine.** For example, if your child has had a fever is sent home the child cannot return the next day.



# PARENTAL CONSENT & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Please read these statements of understanding carefully. Initial and sign accordingly.

## Walking Field Trip Permission

I give permission for my child to go for walks off DIA grounds. I understand that the walks will be under the supervision of adult members of the DIA staff. Walks will occur year-round, weather permitting.

## Voluntary Media Waiver

I hereby grant and give to DIA, its successors and assigns the right to use, and to permit others to use, photographs, voice or image on a video tape or other sound and/or visual recording device, both singly and in conjunction with other persons or objects, for any and all purposes including, but not limited to, private or public presentations on radio, television, or in public places, and advertising, publicly and promotion relating thereto. I warrant that I have the right to authorize the foregoing uses and do hereby agree to hold DIA harmless of and from all liability of whatever nature which may arise out of or result from such uses. I waive all claims for compensation for such damages. *(No names are used in conjunction with events mentioned above. Pictures cannot be posted inside the classrooms or hallways without consent)*

## Guidance (Discipline) Policy

We believe that discipline is the art of teaching appropriate behavior through problem-solving with the child, re-direction, and role modeling by the teacher. We will treat children with dignity and set clear, consistent and fair limits for behavior. We view mistaken behaviors as learning opportunities. Limits of behavior considered inappropriate are hurting others, hurting themselves, damaging equipment or disturbing classroom activities. We do not allow any strategy that hurts, shames or belittles a child. We do not permit any strategy that threatens, intimidates or forces a child. We do not allow the use of food as a reward or punishment. We do not allow the use or withholding of physical activity as a punishment.

### **WE DO NOT PERMIT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

Significant behavior problems are observed and tracked by the teachers and when we can establish a pattern, we meet with the parents to develop strategies consistent for the child at home and at school. Other professionals may be consulted to develop alternate strategies. As a last resort, the child's admission may be denied.

*(South Carolina Law requires DIA to report suspected child abuse and neglect to local authorities.)*

## Parent Handbook Acknowledgment

DIA reserves the right to modify the Parent Handbook (available for review at [danielislandacademy.com](http://danielislandacademy.com), located on the [Important Documents](#) page.

I have read, understand, and agree to fully abide by DIA's policies and procedures contained in the handbook. I further acknowledge that failure to comply with these policies and procedures may result in my child's/children's dismissal from DIA.

## Parent Association of Daniel Island Academy (PADIA)

I hereby grant and give DIA permission to share my contact information with PADIA, for the purpose of receiving social and other relevant school-wide information regarding events and activities hosted by PADIA.

## Reference Point Information Manual Acknowledgment

The Reference Point Information Manual is available for review at [danielislandacademy.com](http://danielislandacademy.com), located on the [Important Documents](#) page. I have read and understand the Reference Point Information Manual.

## Immunizations

Daniel Island Academy DOES NOT accept medical or religious immunization exemptions.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



**Contact us at:**

**[www.danielislandacademy.com](http://www.danielislandacademy.com)**

**300 Seven Farms Drive**

**Daniel Island, SC 29492**

**Phone: 843.971.5961**

**Fax: 843.375.2111**