



## Smart Start Academy's Student Application

### Enrollment Information

First Day of Enrollment \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*I understand that I will be responsible for the full monthly tuition regardless of desired start date.*

Infant 0-18 Months: **Extended Only** Days/Week \_\_\_\_\_

Toddler 19-35 Months: Half 12pm \_\_\_\_\_ Full 2:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ Extended 5:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ Days/Week \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-K 36 Months & Up: Half 12pm \_\_\_\_\_ Full 2:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ Extended 5:30pm \_\_\_\_\_ Days/Week \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
**Smart Pick Ups:** 8am-9am \_\_\_\_\_ Social Enrichment: 2:30pm-5:30pm Days/Week \_\_\_\_\_

Pick Up Address/School: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Subject to Director/Manager's approval)*

**Referral Rewards** Referred By \_\_\_\_\_ Current SSA Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Information

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian 1

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Hours \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian 2

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Hours \_\_\_\_\_

**Main email for tuition payments and notifications** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(This email will be used in managing the tuition portal)*

**Follow us on Instagram @smartstartacademy for updates, special events, and more!**

## Initial Enrollment Submission Instructions

1. I agree to complete and submit a Student Application Form with an **annual non-refundable** application fee of \$300.00.
2. Parents will be informed of immediate placement according to their desired start date and program or be placed on a “Waitlist” if desired space is unavailable.
3. I agree to submit a **non-refundable/nontransferable** \$1,250.00 security placement fee to secure my child’s space in the classroom and/or Waitlist. SSA will apply the security placement fee to the last academic month of the school year (June), **given SSA is notified by May 1st as to withdrawal intentions**. If notice of withdrawal is not received by May 1st, SSA will roll over the security placement fee into the following academic year (Sept-June). \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
4. I agree if my family is unable to complete the full academic year, SSA will apply the security placement fee to the last month of child’s attendance, given SSA is notified in writing **2 Full Months** prior to withdrawal. The 1<sup>st</sup> of each month is considered a full month. *(July and August months are not considered part of the academic school year and cannot be used towards the “2 Full Months of notice”)*. **If proper notification is not received, Security Placement fee is forfeited**. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
5. I agree if my family is unable to start within 30 days of their original start date, for any reasons listed, the \$1,250.00 Security Placement fee is forfeited. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
6. Any family enrolled in a program under \$1250.00 will receive a refund check of the remaining balance within 30 days after the student's official last month of attendance (*aka Withdrawal Date*). \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
7. **Referral Rewards**: Families who refer future students will receive \$50 off their child’s tuition every month/per referral. Referrer must be listed upon enrollment. Earned reward is applied upon referred families' full tuition payment submission and will end once referred families have their security placement applied and/or fail to make tuition payment for any reason. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

By my signature, I attest and agree to the following:

- That the above information is correct.
- That in the event of a medical emergency I authorize Smart Start Academy and their representatives to seek emergency medical care for my child as deemed necessary by the emergency. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
- That I obtained, read, understood, and 100% agree to all the policies set forth in the Parent Handbook (**Please refer to our website smart-startacademy.com**). \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
- I agree that if my family's start date is deferred by 30 days, the tuition for the originally scheduled start month remains due in full. The paid tuition will then be credited toward the following month. I understand that to qualify for this credit, written notice of the deferral must be received no later than the 1st of the month preceding the originally scheduled start date. I also understand that said credit can **only** be applied in the form of **tuition**, and **no refunds** will be issued if I decide to withdraw. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
- I agree that if my family is unable to commence enrollment within 30 days of desired start date, for any reasons listed, I forfeit my security placement fee and application fee and will not seek legal remedy to retrieve fees. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
- That I have received and accepted the annual School Calendar and understand that I will be responsible for the full monthly tuition regardless of desired start date, holidays, absences due to illness/personal preference, unexpected closures due to, but not limited to inclement weather, pandemic, natural/unnatural disasters and/or any occurrence similar in nature causing the center to close and not provide child care services for a limited or extended period of time. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)
- If I decide to exercise early withdrawal without proper written notification (60 Days), I agree to forfeit my security placement fee, all prepaid tuition (academic year and summer sessions) and will not seek legal remedy to retrieve fees. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

**By signing this application, I understand and agree to all policies set forth in this application and Parent Handbook. I agree that all policies have been explained clearly, and I understand and agree to my financial obligations if policies are not followed. This document will serve as a legal contract between Smart Start Academy and the party signing below.**

**SSA reserves the right to move/postpone/change hours to families agreed upon start date in the event it is unable to provide childcare services due to government restrictions, pandemic, DCF and/or CDC guidelines, unnatural/natural disasters and any other reasons that would NOT allow SSA to provide childcare safely.**

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

If a non-custodial parent is not authorized or allowed to pick up the child, please explain and attach a copy of the Court Order.



## Authorized Pickup Form

*Child Headshot*

2 x 2

**Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent ID*

*Parent ID*

Name:

Phone #:

Address:

Name:

Phone #:

Address:

*Emergency Contact ID*

*Emergency Contact ID*

Name:

Phone #:

Address:

Name:

Phone #:

Address:

## Medical Information

Pediatrician's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Dentist's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**My child has the following allergies and/or special needs:** *(ex. vegetarian, sensitive skin, unfamiliar with stairs, etc)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Student Insurance Information

*(Children must have medical insurance to participate in activities offered by Smart Start Academy)*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group I.D. Number \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_ Child is covered until \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

*Please attach a copy of your current insurance card below:*

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Liability Disclaimer & Notices: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

**Release:** In consideration of the benefits of participation in the activities conducted and offered at Smart Start Academy, I, \_\_\_\_\_, individually and as parent and/or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, the minor child identified above hereby acknowledge the following notices and grant to The Learning Lounge, LLC, The Learning Lounge II, LLC, SSA Group, LLC, & CKJ Group, LLC, DBA Smart Start Academy the following release from liability:

I acknowledge and fully understand that my child will be engaging in physical activities that may involve some risk of injury and hereby release, hold harmless and discharge the above referenced preschool, teachers, directors, owners and affiliates from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions and causes of action whatsoever, including reasonable attorney fees, arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury (whether direct, indirect, consequential or otherwise), including death, that my/our minor child and/or I/we might sustain or that any of my/our minor child's and/or my/our property might sustain while participating in all Smart Start Academy Programs to include but not limited to, Child Care Services, Pick up/Drop off Services and/or Smart Sitter Services offered by Smart Start Academy.

**Assumption of Risk:** Knowing, understanding, and fully appreciating all possible risks to include but not limited to, furniture, building hazards, steps, cracked sidewalks, potholes, dangerous weather conditions, and vehicle accidents, I/we hereby expressly, voluntarily and willingly assume all risks and dangers associated with my/our minor child's and/or my/our participation in our programs to include daily attendance, participation in all activities, walking and/or being transported by vehicle from one location to the designated location and/or vice versa. I/we understand and acknowledge that these Activities could result in injury, and I/we agree that participation in all Transported (walking or vehicle) Activities shall be at my/our minor child's and/or my/our sole risk.

**Insurance for Drop off/Pick up services:** Smart Start Academy will obtain adequate auto insurance on the commercial vehicle transporting all participants. I/We agree, in the event my child is involved in an auto accident while participating in this pick-up program, any and all claims will be settled within the auto policy limit. I/We assume the foregoing risks and accept full personal responsibility for any personal injuries sustained by my child which might incur as a result of participating in this program and will assume any additional medical expenses, property damage and all associated expenses that are not covered by the auto insurance policy. I/We discharge and hold harmless Smart Start Academy, their owners, directors, members, employees and agents from any claim, cause of action or liability for damages arising from any personal injury to my child or other persons or property caused by myself or my child's participation in the Smart Start Academy's Programs. Smart Start Academy or any of its entities may not be pursued for any additional resources or monies at any time.

**Medical Authorization:** In the event of an accident, injury and/or medical emergency, Program Supervisors are hereby authorized to consent to and obtain whatever emergency medical treatment, surgery or dental care is considered necessary from and in the best judgment of the attending physician, medical care facility, hospital, paramedic unit or other health care provider deemed appropriate by Supervisors in the circumstances. In the event it is impossible to receive instructions for Student's care, full authorization is given to any licensed physician and/or surgeon for the provisions of medical treatment, including the administration of drugs or medication, and the performance of surgical treatment for the relief of pain and/or the preservation of life and/or health and wellbeing. Student and Parent/Guardian understand that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis or treatment being required and that such authorization is given to provide Supervisors and Smart Start Academy with the power to secure reasonable medical care under emergency circumstances. Medical costs incurred shall be the responsibility of Student and Parent/Guardian.

Student and Parent/Guardian agree to pay for such medical care whether or not the costs are insured by Student or Parent/Guardian's health insurance. Student and Parent/Guardian understand that an attempt will be made to contact Parent/Guardian by telephone if possible, before such care is administered.

**Acknowledgement of Understanding:** I have read this Consent, Waiver, and Release Agreement and understand the terms used in it and their legal significance. This Consent, Waiver, and Release Agreement is freely and voluntarily given with the understanding that right to legal recourse against the Smart Start Academy is knowingly given up in return for allowing my/our minor child's and/or my/our participation in Preschool Activities. I/we agree that this Consent, Waiver, and Release Agreement shall remain in effect and apply each time my/our minor child and/or I/we participate in any Preschool Activities. By signature below, I/we acknowledge and accept all terms and conditions of this Consent, Waiver, and Release Agreement. If I/we am/are resigning this Consent, Waiver, and Release Agreement on behalf of a minor, I/we certify that all representations are true and that I/we am/are the minor's legal guardian(s) or custodial parent(s) with full authority to bind the minor and myself/ourselves to the terms and conditions of this Consent, Waiver, and Release Agreement.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# SMART START ACADEMY FORMS

## Picture/Video Permission

I give permission to Smart Start Academy to take pictures and/or videos of my child \_\_\_\_\_, while in school or while engaging in school activities. I am aware that these photos/videos may be used for SSA's website(s), Instagram, Facebook Page, and blog.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Walking Field Trips Permission

I give permission to my child \_\_\_\_\_, to attend walking field trips within the community to local parks and local business that will enhance the student's curriculum as well as daily nature walks that will take him/her out of the school building. A minimum of two adults will supervise the children during all outdoor activities. Please note that when participating in any type of bus trip or field trip that is not within the community SSA will provide parents an additional consent form prior to the scheduled event.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Safety Shoes Acknowledgment

I understand that for the safety of my child, he/she is not allowed to wear sandals or open shoes to school. A child must wear sneakers or rubber sole shoes that fit at all times.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Allergy Disclosure

If my child has any known allergy to any food or medicine, I give permission to SSA to disclose such information and place warning signs in visible areas of the school in order to prevent anyone from feeding my child that particular food or medicine.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Smart Start Academy School & Summer Calendar 2025-2026

March 20 & 21, 2025	Professional Development (School Closed, Staff Only)	November 11, 2025	Veteran's Day (School Closed)
April 18, 2025	Good Friday (School Closed)	November 26, 2025	Half Day, 12pm Dismissal
April 21, 2025	Easter Observance (School Closed)	November 27-28, 2025	Thanksgiving Day Recess (School Closed)
May 23, 2025	Professional Development (School Closed, Staff Only)	December 24-26, 2025	Christmas Holiday Break (School Closed)
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day (School Closed)	December 29, 30 & 31, 2025	Back Up Care Only, Advanced Sign Up Required/Additional Charge Applies 12/31 - 3pm Dismissal
June 19, 2025	Juneteenth (School Closed)	January 1, 2026	New Year's Day (School Closed)
June 24, 2025	Graduation Day (Half Day, 12pm Dismissal)	January 19, 2026	MLK Day (School Closed)
June 25-27, 2025	Back Up Care Only, Advanced Sign Up Required/Additional Charge Applies	February 16, 2026	President's Day (School Closed)
June 30, 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Summer Camp	March 19 & 20, 2026	Professional Development (School Closed, Staff Only)
July 4, 2025	Independence Day (School Closed)	April 3 & 6, 2026	Good Friday / Easter Observance (School Closed)
August 22, 2025	Last Day of Summer Camp	May 22 & 25, 2026	Memorial Day Recess (School Closed)
August 25-27, 2025	Back Up Care Only, Advanced Sign Up Required/Additional Charge Applies	June 19, 2026	Juneteenth (School Closed)
August 28 & 29, September 1 & 2, 2025	Professional Development / Labor Day (School Closed)	June 23, 2026	Graduation Day (Half Day, 12pm Dismissal)
September 3, 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of 2025-2026 School Year	June 24-26, 2026	Back Up Care Only, Advanced Sign Up Required/Additional Charge Applies
October 13, 2025	Columbus/Indigenous People's Day (School Closed)	June 29, 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Summer Session 1

**Please note:** Our schools are closed in between our academic school year and commencement of our summer camp. We are also closed for **1 week** at the end of our summer camp until the commencement of the academic school year. **Smart Sitter Services** are available upon **advance** request. Speak with your center Director to reserve in home childcare services provided by one of our qualified staff members. *(Additional fees apply)*

Families are responsible for the full monthly tuition regardless of desired start date, holidays, absences due to illness/personal preference, unexpected closures or change in hours/extra amenities provided by SSA due to, but not limited to inclement weather, pandemic, natural/unnatural disasters and/or any occurrence similar in nature causing the center to close and not provide childcare services for a limited or extended period of time. *Tuition dates are subject to change SSA reserves the right to make changes to the academic school and summer camp calendar in the event of an unexpected occurrence, including but not limited to inclement weather.*

The information above has been explained to me by the center Director. I, \_\_\_\_\_, am fully aware and agree to the above.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SMART START ACADEMY POLICIES

We appreciate the opportunity to serve your family and be a part of your child's early development. Over the years, Smart Start Academy has established itself as the leading childcare provider in the community. We remain dedicated to offering your family exceptional childcare and early childhood education for the years to come. As part of our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of service, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the following important policies.

- **UNIFORMS**: Uniforms must be worn at all times and before dropping off. During the school year (September-June), only the polo shirt (short/long sleeve) should be worn. SSA t-shirts are permitted only during the Summer Camp months (July-August). *Additional uniforms available for purchase.*
- **SCHOOL BAGS**: School bags are essential for ensuring your child's belongings are kept together and returned daily to the correct child. These bags must be brought to school daily, even if they are empty. These are the only bags allowed at the center.
- **PERSONAL ITEMS & HOME TOYS**: We provide our students (12 months and up) with a cup, plate, utensils, and cot sheet. We ask that personal items and toys not to be brought to school. This helps prevent lost items and reduces conflicts in the classroom.
- **STROLLERS**: Indoor stroller storage is provided upon request. We kindly ask parents to be courteous and allow the stroller area to be primarily for infants and toddlers, as spaces are limited.



➤ ***Ages 0-12months*** are allowed to bring in a small stroller, however restrictions do apply on certain models such as *Uppa Baby (Vista model & double stroller)*, *Maxi-Cosi (Lila Modular Model)*, *Nuna (all except TRVL)*, *City Selects*, and strollers with Bassinets or similar style.

➤ ***Ages 12months-24 months*** can bring a standard umbrella or travel sized stroller. (Example: *Babyzen YOYO<sup>2</sup>*, *GB Pockit*, *UPPAbaby Minu*)

➤ ***Ages 24 months & up*** due to space constraints, only a compact travel/umbrella stroller will be accepted if necessary. (See example on left)

***Double Strollers***: Siblings requiring a bigger stroller are allowed to bring in a double umbrella stroller ONLY (Example: *Summer Infant 3Dlite Double Convenience Stroller for Infant and Toddler* or *Delta Children City Street LX Side by Side Stroller*) (See example on left)

*\*Please note that SSA is NOT responsible for any personal belongings left inside your stroller\**

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **MORNING DROP OFF TIMES**: To maintain the integrity and quality of our programs, we kindly remind parents that students 12 months and older must be in school no later than **9am**. Students under 11 months must be in school no later than **10am**.

Please as always be courteous to the team that have planned a fun-filled educational day!

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



## SMART SITTER POLICY

**Smart Sitters** – Employees of Smart Start Academy who provide outside home care for students enrolled at one of our childcare centers upon parent’s requests.

**Smart Sitter Service:** As a courtesy to our families, Smart Start Academy provides a convenient home childcare program, called Smart Sitter Services. Upon a family request for additional childcare after operating hours and/or on weekends and holidays, our administrative staff will attempt to recruit a fully screened staff member available to provide additional care.

Parents must notify Smart Start Academy directly in order to make the arrangements for home childcare. Smart Start Academy will provide a Smart Sitter Slip to be completed and signed by parents. Once parents complete the Smart Sitter Slip, they must submit the same along with payment for the service. A signed copy is given to the Smart Sitter, and a signed copy is filed at the particular center.

**Employee Code of Conduct:** Employees of Smart Start Academy cannot engage in activity that may create a conflict between our organization and our clients/customers. Therefore, if a family would like to participate in our Smart Sitter Service, said family must notify Smart Start Academy directly and we will attempt to make the arrangements forthwith.

Failure to notify Smart Start Academy before engaging in Smart Sitter Services with any of our employees may result in the termination of said employee.

*By signing my name below, I certify that I have read the above information. Any questions concerning these policies have been discussed. My signature also certifies my understanding of an agreement with the above policies.*

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **POLICY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

If a child exhibits any of the following symptoms, the child should not attend the center. If such symptoms occur at the center, the child will be removed from the group, and parents will be called to take the child home.

- Severe pain or discomfort
- Acute diarrhea
- Episodes of acute vomiting
- Elevated oral temperature of 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit
- Lethargy
- Severe coughing
- Yellow eyes or jaundice skin
- Red eyes with discharge
- Infected, untreated skin patches
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Skin rashes in conjunction with fever or behavior changes
- Skin lesions that are weeping or bleeding
- Mouth sores with drooling
- Stiff neck

Once the child is symptom-free or has a health care provider's note stating that the child no longer poses a serious health risk to himself or others, the child may return to the center unless contraindicated by local health department or Department of Health.

### **Excludable communicable diseases**

A child or staff member who contracts an excludable communicable disease may not return to the center without a health care provider's note stating that the child presents no risk to himself or others. These diseases include respiratory, gastrointestinal, and contact illnesses such as Impetigo, Lice, Scabies and Shingles.

**Note:** If a child has chicken pox, a health care provider's note is not required for readmitting the child to the center. A note from the parent is required stating either that at least six days have elapsed since the onset of the rash, or that all sores have dried and crusted.

If a child is exposed to any excludable disease at the center, parents will be notified in writing.

### **Communicable disease reporting guidelines**

Some excludable communicable diseases must be reported to the health department by the center. The Department of Health's Reporting Requirement for Communicable Diseases and Work-Related Conditions Quick Reference Guide, a complete list of reportable excludable communicable diseases, can be found at [http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/reportable\\_disease\\_magnet.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/reportable_disease_magnet.pdf).

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# GUIDELINES FOR POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

Positive discipline is a process of teaching children how to behave appropriately. Positive discipline respects the rights of the individual child, the group and the adult. Methods of positive discipline shall be consistent with the age and developmental needs of the child, and lead to the ability to develop and maintain self-control.

Positive discipline is different from punishment. Punishment tells children what they should not do; positive discipline tells children what they should do. Punishment teaches fear; positive discipline teaches self-esteem.

You can use positive discipline by planning ahead:

- Anticipate and eliminate potential problems.
- Have a few consistent, clear rules that are explained to children and understood by adults.
- Plan for ample elements of fun and humor.
- Include some group decision-making.
- Provide time and space for each child to be alone.
- Make it possible for each child to feel he/she has had some positive impact on the group.
- Provide the structure and support children need to resolve their differences.
- Share ownership and responsibility with the children. Talk about our room, our toys.

You can use positive discipline by intervening when necessary:

- Re-direct to a new activity to change the focus of a child's behavior.
- Provide individualized attention to help the child deal with a particular situation.
- Use time-out by removing a child for a few minutes from the area or activity so that he/she may gain self-control. (One minute for each year of the child's age is a good rule of thumb.)
- Divert the child and remove from the area of conflict.
- Provide alternative and acceptable ways to release feelings.
- Point out natural or logical consequences of children's behavior.
- Offer a choice only if there are two acceptable options.
- Criticize the behavior, not the child. Don't say "Bad boy". Instead, you may say "That is not allowed here."

You can use positive discipline by showing love and encouragement:

- Catch the child being good. Respond to and reinforce positive behavior; acknowledge or praise to let the child know you approve of what she/he is doing.
- Provide positive reinforcement through rewards for good behavior.
- Use encouragement rather than competition, comparison, or criticism.
- Overlook small annoyance and deliberately ignore provocations.
- Give hugs and caring to every child every day.
- Appreciate the child's point of view.
- Be loving.

Positive discipline is NOT:

- Disciplining a child for failing to eat or sleep or for soiling themselves.
- Hitting, shaking or any other form of corporal punishment
- Using abusive language, ridicule, harsh, humiliating, or frightening treatment or any other form of emotional punishment of children
- Engaging in or inflicting any form of child abuse and/or neglect
- Withholding food, emotional responses, stimulation, or opportunities for rest or sleep
- Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for an inappropriately long period of time

Positive discipline takes time, patience, repetition, and the willingness to change the way you deal with children. But it's worth it because it works.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# EXPULSION POLICY

Unfortunately, there are sometimes reasons we have to expel a child from our program, either on a short term or permanent basis. We want you to know we will do everything possible to work with the family of the child(ren) in order to prevent this policy from being enforced. The following are reasons we may have to expel or suspend a child from this center.

## ***Immediate causes for expulsion***

- The child is at risk of causing serious injury to other children or himself/herself.
- Parent threatens physical or intimidating actions toward staff members.
- Parent exhibits verbal abuse to staff in front of enrolled children.

## ***Parental actions for child's expulsion***

- Failure to pay/habitual lateness in payments
- Failure to complete required forms including the child's immunization records
- Habitual tardiness when picking up your child
- Verbal abuse to staff
- Other

## ***Child's action for expulsion***

- Failure of child to adjust after a reasonable amount of time
- Uncontrollable tantrums/angry outbursts
- Ongoing physical or verbal abuse to staff or other children
- Excessive biting
- Other

## ***Schedule of expulsion***

If after the remedial actions above have not worked, the child's parent/guardian will be advised verbally and in writing about the child's or parent's behavior warranting an expulsion. An expulsion action is meant to be a period of time so that the parent/guardian may work on the child's behavior or to come to an agreement with the center. The parent/guardian will be informed regarding the length of the expulsion period. The parent/guardian will be informed about the expected behavioral changes required in order for child or parent to return to the center. The parent/guardian will be given a specific expulsion date that allows the parent sufficient time to seek alternate childcare. Failure of the child/parent to satisfy the terms of the plan may result in permanent expulsion from the center.

## ***A child will not be expelled if a parent/guardian***

- Made a complaint to the Office of Licensing regarding a center's alleged violations of the licensing requirements.
- Reported abuse or neglect occurring at the center.
- Questioned the center regarding policies and procedures.
- Without giving the parent sufficient time to make other childcare arrangements.

## ***Proactive actions that can be taken in order to prevent expulsion***

- Staff will try to redirect child from negative behavior.
- Staff will reassess classroom environment, appropriate of activities, supervision.
- Staff will always use positive methods and language while disciplining children.
- Staff will praise appropriate behaviors.
- Staff will consistently apply consequences for rules.
- Child will be given verbal warnings.
- Child will be given time to regain control. Child's disruptive behavior will be documented and maintained in confidentiality.
- Parent/guardian will be notified verbally.
- Parent/guardian will be given written copies of the disruptive behaviors that might lead to expulsion.
- The director, classroom staff and parent/guardian will have a conference to discuss how to promote positive behaviors.
- The parent will be given literature or other resources regarding methods of improving behavior.
- Recommendation of evaluation by professional consultation on premises.
- Recommendation of evaluation by local school district child study team.

Failure to take the appropriate actions in order to prevent expulsion will result in the loss of your family's prepaid tuition and security deposit.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## TECHNOLOGY POLICY

**Smart Start Academy uses the following social media/networking and/or other websites:**

✓Smart-StartAcademy.com    ✓ Facebook    ✓Instagram    ✓ DailyConnect    ✓Other

**Guidelines for conduct on Smart Start Academy social networking and/or other websites:**

Posting of photographs or videos of children, other than your own, is prohibited on your personal social media accounts. This includes but is not limited to photographs or videos of children obtained through handheld devices, computers, video monitoring systems, childcare monitoring apps and any other electronic device or transmission.

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

Posting of private or sensitive company, staff or prior staff, and/or enrolled or previously enrolled children/families information is prohibited.

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

Maintain professional boundaries in the use of electronic media. Social Networking/Media parent/staff relationships are limited to center sites and approved devices only.

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

Vulgar or abusive language, disparaging remarks and/or references of a disparaging manner, personal attacks of any kind or offensive terms targeting individuals or groups is prohibited.

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent action permitted when posting photos of their children ONLY on their social media:**

✓Tagging    ✓ Share    ✓Post

**Parent action permitted when on any SSA social media** (*please see above regarding language usage*)

✓ Comment

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

The use of electronic devices is utilized in moderation to enhance the lessons and daily activities planned by our teachers as part of our S.T.E.A.M. program (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Language Arts and Mathematics*). This may include but is not limited to iPad visuals, video clips, and audio, for educational and instructional purposes only. The length of time for a child over the age of 2 to be exposed to visual electronics shall never exceed 30 minutes per day/5 minutes per activity. Children under the age of 2 will not be exposed to TV/Computer/Video Clips and/or iPads.

*By signing below, you understand the full terms of Smart Start Academy's technology and media policy*

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## POLICY ON METHODS OF PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

As stated in the Technology Policy, Smart Start Academy is pleased to offer an interactive option that allows our families to feel connected to their children while apart. In addition to telephone & email notifications, when necessary, our Daily Connect app allows parents and teachers to interact throughout the day and share information regarding:

- ✓Illness/Accidents/Injuries
- ✓Requests for records/supplies
- ✓Childs Daily Updates
- ✓Community Information
- ✓Emergency Closures
- ✓Photographs
- ✓Unusual Incidents

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

While our teachers exercise their best efforts to input the necessary information in a “real time” fashion, at times it may become very challenging for the teachers to both tend to their students and immediately update their feeding/activity and other information into the app.

### **The staff guidelines for the use of electronic devices are as follows:**

Use of the DailyConnect is permitted only during the following time frames:

Upon Arrivals

10:30 – Breakfast, Circle Time

1 pm – Morning Lesson, Lunch, Diapering/Toilet & Nap

5:30 – Afternoon Activity, Dinner & Diapering/Toilet

Upon Dismissals

*Although the use of devices is permitted, if making updates during the above timeframe prevent the staff from adequately supervising the children, updates will come at a later time.*

**Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

Families may continue to message the teachers through Daily Connect at any time. Our teachers will respond to these messages during a time that does not affect the supervision of their students.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **POLICY ON THE RELEASE OF CHILDREN**

Each child may be released only to the child's parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s) to take the child from the center and assume responsibility for the child in an emergency if the parent(s) cannot be reached.

If a non-custodial parent has been denied access, or granted limited access, to a child by a court order, the center shall secure documentation to that effect, maintain a copy on file, and comply with the terms of the court order.

If the parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s) fails to pick up a child at the time of the center's daily closing, the center shall ensure that:

1. The child is supervised at all times.
2. Staff members attempt to contact the parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s); and
3. An hour or more after closing time, and provided that other arrangements for releasing the child to his/her parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s), have failed and the staff member(s) cannot continue to supervise the child at the center, the staff member shall call the 24 hour State Central Registry Hotline 1-877-NJ-Abuse (1877-652-2873) to seek assistance in caring for the child until the parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the child's parent(s) is able to pick up child.

If the parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s) appears to be physically and/or emotionally impaired to the extent that, in the judgment of the director and/or staff member, the child would be placed at risk of harm if released to such an individual, the center shall ensure that:

1. The child may not be released to such an impaired individual.
2. Staff members attempt to contact the child's other parent, or an alternative person(s) authorized by the parent(s); and
3. If the center is unable to make alternative arrangements, a staff member shall call the 24-hour State Central Registry Hotline 1-877-NJ-ABUSE (1877-652-2873) to seek assistance in caring for the child.

For school-age childcare programs, no child shall be released from the program unsupervised except upon written instruction from the child's parent(s).

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Children and Families Office of Licensing  
**INFORMATION TO PARENTS**

Under provisions of the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (N.J.A.C. 3A:52), every licensed childcare center in New Jersey must provide to parents of enrolled children written information on parent visitation rights, State licensing requirements, child abuse/neglect reporting requirements and other childcare matters. The center must comply with this requirement by reproducing and distributing to parents and staff this written statement, prepared by the Office of Licensing, Child Care & Youth Residential Licensing, in the Department of Children and Families. In keeping with this requirement, the center must secure every parent and staff member's signature attesting to his/her receipt of the information. Our center is required by the State Child Care Center Licensing law to be licensed by the Office of Licensing (OOL), Child Care & Youth Residential Licensing, in the Department of Children and Families (DCF). A copy of our current license must be posted in a prominent location at our center. Look for it when you're in the center. To be licensed, our center must comply with the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (the official licensing regulations). The regulations cover such areas as: physical environment/life-safety; staff qualifications, supervision, and staff/child ratios; program activities and equipment; health, food and nutrition; rest and sleep requirements; parent/community participation; administrative and record keeping requirements; and others. Our center must have on the premises a copy of the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers and make it available to interested parents for review. If you would like to review our copy, just ask any staff member. Parents may view a copy of the Manual of Requirements on the DCF website at <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/CCCmanual.pdf> or obtain a copy by sending a check or money order for \$5 made payable to the "Treasurer, State of New Jersey", and mailing it to: NJDCF, Office of Licensing, Publication Fees, PO Box 657, Trenton, NJ 08646-0657. We encourage parents to discuss with us any questions or concerns about the policies and program of the center or the meaning, application, or alleged violations of the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers. We will be happy to arrange a convenient opportunity for you to review and discuss these matters with us. If you suspect our center may be in violation of licensing requirements, you are entitled to report them to the Office of Licensing toll free at 1 (877) 667-9845. Of course, we would appreciate your bringing these concerns to our attention, too.

Our center must have a policy concerning the release of children to parents or people authorized by parents to be responsible for the child. Please discuss with us your plans for your child's departure from the center. Our center must have a policy about administering medicine and health care procedures and the management of communicable diseases. Please talk to us about these policies so we can work together to keep our children healthy. Our center must have a policy concerning the expulsion of children from enrollment at the center. Please review this policy so we can work together to keep your child in our center. Parents are entitled to review the center's copy of the OOL's Inspection/Violation Reports on the center, which are available soon after every State licensing inspection of our center. If there is a licensing complaint OOL/Information to Parents/May 2019 Page 2 of 2 investigation, you are also entitled to review the OOL's Complaint Investigation Summary Report, as well as any letters of enforcement or other actions taken against the center during the current licensing period. Let us know if you wish to review them and we will make them available for your review or you can view them online at <https://childcareexplorer.njccis.com/portal/>. Our center must cooperate with all DCF inspections/investigations. DCF staff may interview both staff members and children. Our center must post its written statement of philosophy on child discipline in a prominent location and make a copy of it available to parents upon request. We encourage you to review it and to discuss with us any questions you may have about it. Our center must post a listing or diagram of those rooms and areas approved by the OOL for the children's use. Please talk to us if you have any questions about the center's space. Our center must offer parents of enrolled children ample opportunity to assist the center in complying with licensing requirements; and to participate in and observe the activities of the center.

Parents wishing to participate in the activities or operations of the center should discuss their interest with the center director, who can advise them of what opportunities are available. Parents of enrolled children may visit our center at any time without having to secure prior approval from the director or any staff member. Please feel free to do so when you can. We welcome visits from our parents. Our center must inform parents in advance of every field trip, outing, or special event away from the center, and must obtain prior written consent from parents before taking a child on each such trip. Our center is required to provide reasonable accommodations for children and/or parents with disabilities and to comply with the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD), P.L. 1945, c. 169 (N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), P.L. 101-336 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Anyone who believes the center is not in compliance with these laws may contact the Division on Civil Rights in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety for information about filing an LAD claim at (609) 292-4605 (TTY users may dial 711 to reach the New Jersey Relay Operator and ask for (609) 292-7701), or may contact the United States Department of Justice for information about filing an ADA claim at (800) 514-0301 (voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TTY). Our center is required, at least annually, to review the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), unsafe children's products list, ensure that items on the list are not at the center, and make the list accessible to staff and parents and/or provide parents with the CPSC website at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>. Internet access may be available at your local library. For more information call the CPSC at (800) 638-2772. Anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that an enrolled child has been or is being subjected to any form of hitting, corporal punishment, abusive language, ridicule, harsh, humiliating or frightening treatment, or any other kind of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation by any adult, whether working at the center or not, is required by State law to report the concern immediately to the State Central Registry Hotline, toll free at (877) NJ ABUSE/(877) 652-2873. Such reports may be made anonymously. Parents may secure information about child abuse and neglect by contacting: DCF, Office of Communications and Legislation at (609) 292- 0422 or go to [www.state.nj.us/dcf/](http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/).



# Smart Start Academy

[www.smart-startacademy.com](http://www.smart-startacademy.com)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In keeping with New Jersey's childcare center licensing requirements, we are obliged to provide you, as the parent of a child enrolled at our center, with this informational statement.

The statement highlights, among other things: your right to visit and observe our center at any time without having to secure prior permission; the center's obligation to be licensed and to comply with licensing standards; and the obligation of all citizens to report suspected child abuse/neglect/exploitation to the State Central Registry Hotline (877) NJ ABUSE/ 877-652-2873.

Please read this statement carefully and, if you have any questions, feel free to contact your center's Director directly.

Very truly yours,  
SSA Management Team

*By signing below, you agree to have read and received a copy of the Information to Parents statement prepared by the Office of Licensing, Child Care & Youth Residential Licensing, in the Department of Children & Families.*

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_