

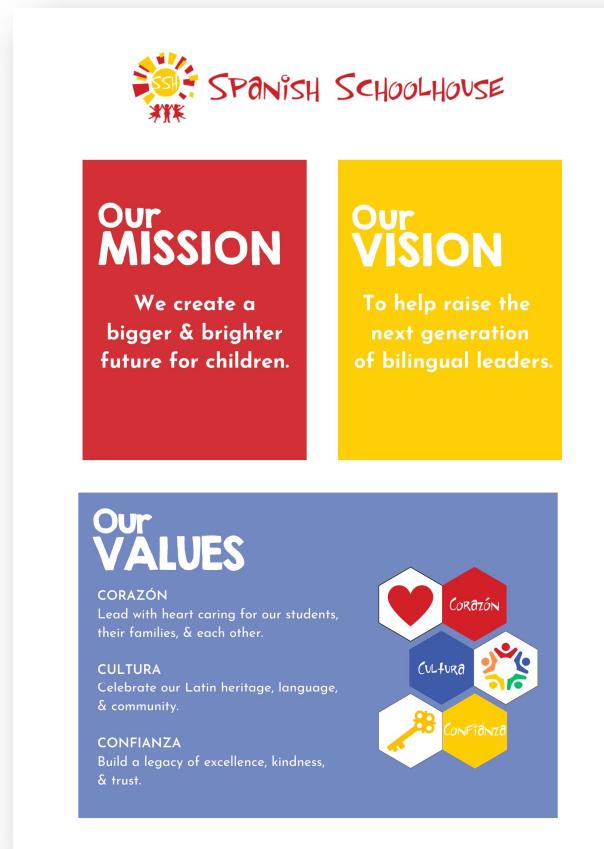


# Spanish Schoolhouse Parent Handbook of Operational Policies

Keller

2026-2027

# ¡Bienvenidos a Spanish Schoolhouse!



The image shows a brochure for Spanish Schoolhouse. At the top is the logo 'SPANISH SCHOOLHOUSE' with a sun icon. Below the logo are three main sections: 'Our MISSION' (red box), 'Our VISION' (yellow box), and 'Our VALUES' (blue box). The 'MISSION' box states: 'We create a bigger & brighter future for children.' The 'VISION' box states: 'To help raise the next generation of bilingual leaders.' The 'VALUES' box lists three: CORAZÓN (Lead with heart caring for our students, their families, & each other), CULTURA (Celebrate our Latin heritage, language, & community), and CONFIANZA (Build a legacy of excellence, kindness, & trust). To the right of the 'VALUES' text is a graphic of three interlocking hexagons representing these values.

**Our MISSION**  
We create a bigger & brighter future for children.

**Our VISION**  
To help raise the next generation of bilingual leaders.

**Our VALUES**

**CORAZÓN**  
Lead with heart caring for our students, their families, & each other.

**CULTURA**  
Celebrate our Latin heritage, language, & community.

**CONFIANZA**  
Build a legacy of excellence, kindness, & trust.

Welcome to Spanish Schoolhouse Preschool and Summer Camp! We are excited to have you and your child on this Spanish language immersion journey. Spanish Schoolhouse is the nation's leading Spanish immersion preschool and are proud to have taught over 25,000 children across Texas!

The following policies and information are important in order to maintain a healthy, safe and positive atmosphere for your child. Please read the policies carefully and refer to them throughout the year. Thank you! *¡Gracias!*



# Let's celebrate childhood!

We strive to prepare our students for elementary education and beyond. Our teaching philosophy is based on the principle that children learn best when they are engaged. Every child is immersed in a language-rich environment designed to spark curiosity, joy, and creativity. Because of our low teacher-to-student ratio, teachers can focus on the whole child, celebrating their milestones and discoveries with them!

Children who are engaged in an active learning environment construct their own knowledge through their interactions with the world and the people around them. In a Spanish immersion program, the Spanish language drives these interactions. Children experience and interpret the world around them in Spanish and eventually take full ownership of the second language.

Our goal is to prepare each child with an excellent early childhood education coupled with the benefits of the Spanish language and cultural awareness. An education at Spanish Schoolhouse creates a platform for future academic success. Equally important, it empowers children with a cultural awareness that brightens the future... for them and for the world!

## What will you find in a SSH classroom:

- Freedom for students to explore and learn in a safe, nurturing environment.
- Low teacher to student ratios.
- Students using language to describe what they are doing and feeling. (in Spanish, of course!)
- Opportunities to participate in celebrations and traditions of Latin culture, expanding each child's worldview.
- Teachers and staff supporting children by encouraging and challenging their reasoning, problem-solving, and creativity.



**SSH graduates leave our program equipped for academic success and a brighter future ahead!**

**“Learn the Language. Experience the Culture. Create the Future.”**



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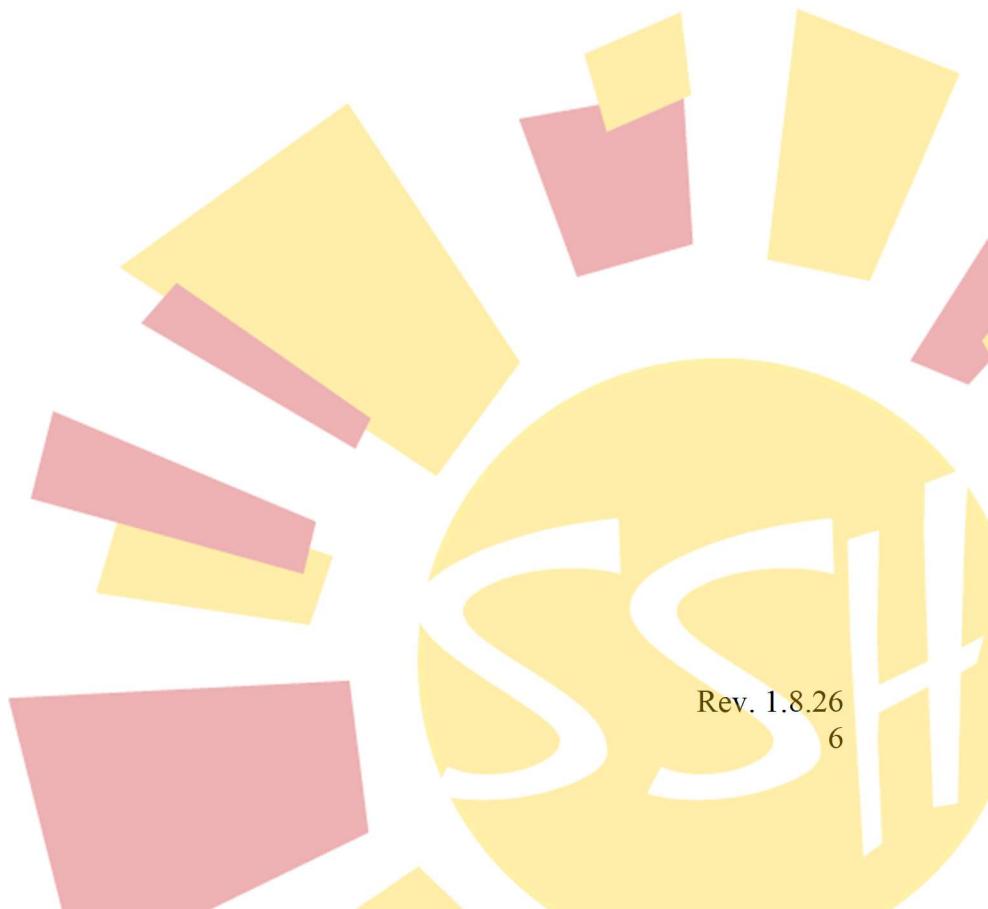
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## General Information

### **Open Door Policy**

We have an “open-door” policy and invite you to drop in at any time. Stop in and visit the school whenever you wish. However, early childhood education is very important to us, so we ask that you do not disturb the classrooms or stay in the classroom for long periods of time. If you would like to visit inside the classroom, please contact the office to arrange a time in order to minimize disruptions in the classroom.

### **Christian-based School**

Please note that we are a Christian-based school. Although we do not teach Bible stories or discuss the Bible, we do celebrate Christmas and Easter in our classrooms. In addition, the children say a prayer before eating lunch or naptime. If you would like more details, please ask the office.

We also introduce other holiday traditions like Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, and Chinese New Year through stories for certain age groups during the academic year. Any parent wishing to share more about their own cultural traditions or holidays is invited to speak to the director about coming in to their child’s classroom to read an age-appropriate book (book must be preapproved by the director).

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

Applications for enrollment are accepted regardless of race, disability, religion (creed), color, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), family/parental status, political beliefs, or national origin (ancestry).

## Enrollment & Fees

### Required Forms

The school must have all necessary forms completed and **on file before** the child's first day of attendance to comply with state regulations. Forms may be emailed, mailed or brought to the school during regular business hours. These forms include:

1. **Child Admission/Registration Form** (Completed through the family profile on the SSH website)
2. **Health Statement** – Signed by physician. This document is valid for only one calendar year and will need to be updated yearly. **Summer Camp students who do not have a current Health Statement on file at Spanish Schoolhouse or another school are required to provide this prior to starting camp.**
3. **Immunization records or affidavit** – We will need an updated immunization record every year. **Summer Camp students are also required to provide these records if they don't have them on file at Spanish Schoolhouse or another school.** For more information about immunizations, visit the Texas Department of State Health Services website at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/public.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/public.shtm) If submitting an affidavit (must be the original, not a copy) or requesting an exemption, please note the following:
  - a. **Affidavits for reasons of conscience:** Must be updated every 2 years
  - b. **Exemptions for medical reasons:** Only a doctor (MD/DO) can write a note explaining why someone can't get vaccinated. A signed note is only valid for one year (unless a lifelong exemption has been stated).
4. **Allergy Emergency Plan**, if applicable (required for any diagnosed food allergies as determined by the child's physician). Food preferences or intolerances are not part of an Allergy Emergency Plan.

Preschool and Kindergarten parents, please see the "Hearing and Vision Screening" section on page 19 regarding the required Hearing and Vision forms for children who are **4 and 5 years old by September 1**.

### Keeping Your Contact Information Updated

For the safety of your child, it is very important that we have current contact numbers and emails, emergency contacts (**must be different from primary and secondary contact**), and allergy information. Please be sure to update your student's information on our website immediately if there are any changes. You may log in to your account and update your profile at any time. Any updates to your account require you to re-sign (the admission form requires signature in two places) and resubmit your child's admission form acknowledging any changes made.

## Preschool/Kindergarten Registration Fee

The annual non-refundable registration fee will be due upon registration each school year to secure your child's spot. **All registration fees are non-refundable.** If you drop your child's enrollment at any time or for any reason after registering, registration fees will not be refunded. If registering at multiple locations, please refer to page 10.

## Preschool/Kindergarten Tuition Policy

Spanish Schoolhouse tuition is an annual fee divided into 10 equal monthly payments. All tuition is due by the first day of the month, beginning August 1. The tuition payment is the same amount each month, regardless of illness or holidays. **Please be aware that you will not receive a statement each month.**

**How to Pay:** Payments may be made online monthly, or by enrolling in the Auto-Pay system. A PayPal account is required to sign up for Auto-Pay. To sign up, navigate to the "Make Payment" page and check the "Auto-Pay" box. The website will prompt the remaining steps to complete sign up. Checks are also accepted at the school.

**Late fees:** On the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month, any unpaid tuition will incur a late charge of \$15.00 per child. If tuition is unpaid by the 10<sup>th</sup>, an additional fee of \$20.00 will be added to your tuition, and **the student will not be permitted to attend school until full payment, including late fees, is received.**

**Important August Tuition Note:** *If payment is not received by August 3, your child's spot cannot be guaranteed.* We reserve the right to drop your child's unpaid enrollment after August 3 to allow wait-listed families to enroll. Wait-listed families will be contacted beginning August 4. If you need to withdraw your child before August, the last **date to drop or change enrollment without financial obligation for August tuition is July 1.** Please refer to Withdrawal Policy page 10 for financial obligation information.

**Returned Checks:** There will be a \$35.00 charge for all returned checks. Please pick up the check and replace it with a money order or cashier's check within 2 business days of being notified of its return. Your account will be put on a money order or cashier's check, or payment via credit or debit card basis after two returned checks.

# **Withdrawal Procedure, Enrollment Modifications, and Transfers during the School Year**

If you need to make any changes to your preschool or kindergarten enrollment including withdrawing and/or transferring, the policies below will apply.

**Withdrawal Policy:** A 30-day written notice by email is required for withdrawal and you are financially obligated for tuition during this 30-day period. If written notice is not given, tuition equivalent to 30 days will be charged to the account. A verbal notice is not sufficient for withdrawal.

**Enrollment Modifications:** To modify an enrollment, specifically to reduce the number of days or add extended care, a 30-day written notice is also required before the changes will go into effect. A 30-day notice is not required if you wish to increase your enrollment days/hours. Please submit your request in writing and you will receive confirmation based on space availability.

**Multiple Spanish Schoolhouse Registrations:** Holding a spot for your child at multiple SSH locations will generate a non-refundable registration fee at each location. If you choose to register your child at multiple locations, please note that you must notify us in writing of your final campus decision by July 1 to avoid financial obligation for August tuition at multiple locations. This allows us to offer unused spots to other families and removes your obligation to pay the August tuition at the additional locations, per our Withdrawal Policy.

**Transfers:** Transfers to another Spanish Schoolhouse campus are dependent upon space availability. Please contact the director of your current school if interested in transferring. A 30-day written notice is requested but not required, to plan for staffing.

**Transfer Enrollment Period:** Currently enrolled families seeking to transfer to another location the following school year may do so during the Transfer Enrollment period. If a family pays at multiple locations during the transfer enrollment period, they will have 30 days from the time that they enrolled to decide on their preferred location. Please contact your current school for more information.

# Summer Camp Tuition Policies

## Refunds

- Summer Camp refunds will be given if requested in writing by the Friday 10 days before the camp start date. They will incur a \$50 administrative fee per family per camp.
- No refunds will be given for cancellations that are requested less than 10 days before the camp start date.
- Make-up days, credits, or refunds will not be given if a student is absent or if the school experiences a closure due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances

## Changes

- Changes to camp days/dates can be made at no cost if requested in writing on Friday 10 days before the camp start date.
- Changes requested less than 10 days before the camp start date will incur a \$50 administrative fee per family per camp. Any changes are subject to space availability.

## Returned Checks

- There will be a \$35.00 charge for all returned checks. Please pick up the check and replace it with a money order or cashier's check within 2 business days of being notified of its return. Your account will be put on a money order or cashier's check, or payment via credit or debit card basis after two returned checks.

## Available Discounts

We proudly offer the following discounts at SSH Keller:

### All Programs:

- 10% Sibling Discount - The highest tuition in each family is charged at the full rate and additional siblings enrolled at the same time receive a 10% discount.
- Switch for Free

Enrollment fee credit for:

- Military
- Teachers from Keller ISD
- Police/Fire/EMT

Once the first payment is received, the enrollment fee will be credited to next month's tuition.  
Discounts cannot be combined.

## Make-up Days Policy

Spanish Schoolhouse does not offer a reduction in tuition for illnesses, vacations, scheduled holidays/breaks, or weather/emergency closings. Additionally, because we must maintain our student: teacher ratios, we cannot offer make-up days for any missed days, apart from the two scheduled weather make-up days which are listed on the preschool/kindergarten calendar. Make-up days are included in the annual tuition and are not transferable or refundable. Families must be in good standing in order to use designated make-up days.

## Emergency Drop-In Days

During the academic year, adding days or extended care may be available in case of emergencies. Drop-in fees must be paid at pick up or drop-off the same day as the emergency drop-in day. Contact our office for rates and availability.

## Hours of Operation

### School Hours

The school year runs August 12, 2026 – May 27, 2027. Summer camps are held in June and July and may be registered for separately. **School is closed the first weeks of August.** No childcare is provided as our schools prepare for the new school year.

Spanish Schoolhouse is open Monday – Friday. Regular preschool school hours are 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Extended care hours are 7:30 am – 6:00 pm. Please make every effort to arrive promptly, as the first hour of the day includes morning activities and Circle Time, which are fundamental for learning and socialization.

Children cannot be dropped off earlier than 8:55 am unless enrolled in the extended program. To ensure the safety of our students, all parents and students must enter the school through the main entrance. All visitors during school hours must check in at the school office.

### Closures/Bad Weather Policy

Our school follows the Keller ISD Calendar for major breaks, holidays and weather closures. A school year calendar will be provided to you in August and may be viewed on our website.

Please note: If the ISD is closed due to bad weather, we will also be closed. In addition, if the ISD opens late, we will open at the same time as the elementary schools. In the event of bad weather, please check the local TV stations/websites for information on ISD closings. During the school year, Spanish Schoolhouse will offer a maximum of two (2) make-up days for bad weather. Make-up days are not provided during Summer Camp.

### Late Pick-Up Fee

Spanish Schoolhouse staff will remain with students until all children are picked up. The following fees and procedures apply for late pick-ups:

- For the regular program Preschool/Kindergarten program (9 am-2 pm), there will be a 10-minute grace period due to carpool. After 2:10, a late fee of \$1/minute will be assessed.
- For the regular Summer Camp day (9 am-2 pm), there will be a 5-minute grace period. After 2:05, a late fee of \$1/minute will be assessed. Late pick-up charges must be paid before the child can return to camp.

- For families enrolled in Stay & Play extended care, there is no grace period. A late fee of \$3/minute will be assessed if the child is not picked up by 6 pm. **All late fees are per family, not per child.**
- The parent or individual picking up the children will be asked to sign a form acknowledging that the late fee will be added to their account.

**Repeated late pick-ups or non-payment of late fees may be cause for removal of the child from the program.**

## Arrival & Departure

### Sign In & Out

Please sign your child in on the appropriate folder upon arrival and sign your child out when picking up. This is a state requirement and is the parent's responsibility, unless using carpool.

### Release of Child to Authorized Individuals

If anyone other than the parent is picking up the child, they must be listed on the "Release of Child" section on the admission form and will need to show a driver's license. The staff will make a copy of the license and keep the copy in the child's folder. If the person is not listed under "Release of Child," parent or guardian must authorize the pick-up person in writing to the school before pick-up time. Authorized pick-up person must provide valid ID.

### Parking Lot Safety & Cell Phone Policy

The safety of our students and families is our number one concern. Our parking lot is extremely busy at arrival and departure times. Please follow these rules in the parking lot:

1. Drive slowly and be observant.
2. **Cell phone usage is prohibited** (unless parked in a parking space).
3. When crossing the parking lot, please hold your child's hand.
4. Please do not leave children in an unattended vehicle, even for a short period of time.

### Carpool During the School Year

Carpool (drive-through line to pick up) is available for your convenience in the afternoons. After the carpool process is complete, the front office will sign your child out on the attendance folder.

PM – A pick-up carpool lane will be available between 2:00 pm – 2:10 pm

You are welcome to walk in to pick up your child instead of using the carpool, but please refrain from long conversations with the teachers, as their focus needs to be on the safety of the children during the carpool process.

Please do not park your car in the carpool area to drop off or pick up your child as this will cause a traffic jam. If you are using carpool, a staff member will help get your child and his/her belongings into the car; parents are responsible for buckling in their own children. Thank you for your cooperation.

You will be provided with more specific carpool instructions during the first weeks of school. Your child's safety comes first! Please help us by following the carpool procedures.

## Health & Medical Information

Spanish Schoolhouse does not have a medical professional on staff, and we are not trained to perform medical assessments. We do make general visual observations regularly to look for obvious signs of injury or illness such as vomiting, diarrhea, high temperature, etc.

Parents are required to disclose if a child has a physical or medical condition prior to enrollment so that the school can appropriately address the needs of the child and determine if the school is able to provide reasonable accommodations. A meeting with the director may be requested in order to understand the child's needs. Please refer to "Special Care Needs" for more information.

### Illness

Your child's health is of great importance. To safeguard the health of all children and minimize the spread of germs, we strictly adhere to the following policies.

Do **not** send your child if they have any of the following:

- An oral, forehead, ear, armpit (axillary) temperature of above 100 degrees
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Respiratory symptoms such as a persistent cough

If your child becomes ill while at school or camp, i.e. a child registers a temperature 100°F or higher that is accompanied by behavior changes, you will be notified immediately to pick them up. In such an event, your child will be removed from the classroom and will wait in a designated area (comfortably with a quiet activity) until you arrive.

In order to return to school or camp, **your child must be free of fever, diarrhea, and vomiting for 24 hours (without the use of medicine)**. If your child requires antibiotics, they must be taken for a full 24 hours prior to their return.

If your child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, such as chickenpox, conjunctivitis (Pink eye) or Hand, Foot, and Mouth, please notify the school immediately so that we may inform the parents in that classroom. **A child with a communicable disease must have a doctor's note to return to school or camp.** Spanish Schoolhouse does not offer a reduction of tuition or make up days for missed days due to illness.

We appreciate your full cooperation with this policy, as it will decrease the number of times the children are exposed to contagious illnesses.

## Medication

If your child needs to be given any medication at school or camp, you must request and complete a [Medication Authorization Form](#). The medication log will be completed by staff **each time** a child is given medication. All prescription medication must be in the ***original container***, indicating the child's name, type, date of prescribed medication, expiration date, dosage amount, and instructions on administering medication.

Over-the-counter medications sent by parents must be in their original containers, with the child's full name, and must be given according to the labeled directions only. No medications can be measured in advance or put into other containers. Diaper rash medication will be applied by request only and must be in the original container and labeled with the child's full name. If the diaper rash medication is prescribed by a doctor, a medical authorization form must be filled out with instructions.

**All medication provided by the parent must be current and non-expired. Expired medication will be disposed of or returned to the parent.**

We ask parents to apply sunscreen and insect repellent at home prior to arriving at school, if needed. Should there be a need to reapply during the day, a Medication Authorization Form must be filled out with instructions and left in the office with the product in its original container.

Teachers are all CPR-certified and trained to use an Epi-pen in case of an emergency.

## Head Lice

Children are sent home from school or camp if live lice are found in their hair. They are allowed to return after one medicated treatment has been given. When the child returns, a discreet head check may be performed by school personnel to ensure that no live lice remain. At the Director's discretion, the school may escalate to a "no nit" policy, as needed.

## Allergies

Per the state of Texas, a written [Allergy Emergency Plan](#) from your child's pediatrician office is required to be on file at the school for any diagnosed food allergies **before the child's first day of attendance**. If the child's physician deems it necessary, please note that the Director may prohibit a certain food item in the classroom if a child in that class has a severe food allergy.

## **Special Care Needs**

Spanish Schoolhouse complies with and acts in accordance with all federal and state laws concerning the inclusion of persons with disabilities and acts in accordance with regulations and guidance issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Parents of students or campers with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations during the registration process prior to the child's first day of attendance by stating the child's needs on the admission form. Requests for accommodation made after the start of the school year must be submitted in writing to their school's email and their admission form must be updated. Verbal requests are insufficient and will not be considered.

## **Prohibition of Discrimination on the basis of Disability**

Spanish Schoolhouse, LLC will not discriminate against any individual with a disability on the basis of disability with regard to the full and equal enjoyment of the services at Spanish Schoolhouse. Spanish Schoolhouse, LLC will make reasonable modifications in its policies, practices, or procedures, when the modifications are necessary to afford services to individuals with disabilities, unless Spanish Schoolhouse, LLC can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of its services.

## **Medical Emergencies**

The staff will make every effort to ensure the safety of your child while in our care. Unfortunately, accidents or illnesses may occur. We will notify you immediately in the event of illness or accident.

In the unlikely event that a medical emergency arises, the following steps will be taken:

- 1.) SSH staff members will assess the situation and begin first aid or CPR as needed.  
A second staff member will phone 911 if a true medical emergency exists.
- 2.) Every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians, or the emergency contact listed if the parents/guardians cannot be reached.
- 3.) A staff member will accompany the student to the hospital and remain with him/her until a parent/guardian arrives.
- 4.) An incident report will be completed and signed by both director and parent within 48 hours of the time the incident occurred.
- 5.) Within 48 hours, Spanish Schoolhouse will inform the Texas Health and Human Services of the emergency that occurred.

## **Hearing and Vision Screening**

The state of Texas law requires that all preschool or kindergarten children who are 4 years old and 5 years old by September 1 of the school year must have an annual hearing and vision

screening on file. We may coordinate this service at the school one time per year; however, the screening would be at the parents' expense. Parents may choose to have the screening done by their own pediatrician/physician and then provide us with the results for the child's file. If you are providing screening results, these must be on file with the school no later than November 15. **If the required forms are not received by the deadline, your child may be unable to attend school.**

## **Staff Vaccine Policy**

Texas Health and Human Services requires that childcare centers have a written policy on staff vaccinations. We respect our staff members' rights to make informed decisions about their personal vaccinations, and Spanish Schoolhouse employment contracts do not require that staff be vaccinated.

## **Breastfeeding Mothers**

Mothers have the right to breastfeed or provide breast milk for their children. If you require an area for breastfeeding, please speak to the Director and a quiet, comfortable area will be provided for you.

## **Outside Playtime and Activities**

## **Weather Policy for Outside Play**

Per Texas State Licensing Requirements, children must have an outdoor recess time every day, weather permitting.

- During the **cool months**, we will follow the [Child Care Weather Watch1](#). PLEASE SEND A COAT TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD ON COLD DAYS so that the children may play outside comfortably.
- During **warm months**, we will check the Air Quality Index daily through [Airnow.gov](#).
  - If we are in condition **GREEN**, children will go out in the morning and in the afternoon if the child is enrolled in Stay & Play.
  - If it is **ORANGE**, children will have a shortened outdoor time.
  - If it is **RED**, children will not go out in the morning or afternoon.

## **Promotion of Indoor and Outdoor Physical Activity**

Spanish Schoolhouse strongly believes in and supports the need for physical activity each day. When children participate in physical activity every day, multiple health benefits accrue. Regular physical activity builds healthy bones and muscles, improves muscular strength and endurance, reduces the chance of developing chronic disease risk factors, improves self-esteem, and reduces stress and anxiety. Beyond these known health effects, physical activity may also have beneficial influences on academic performance. In addition, cognitive skills and motor skills

appear to develop through dynamic interaction. Research has shown that physical movement can affect the brain's physiology.

Spanish Schoolhouse will promote active play for all children every day. Children will have ample opportunity to do moderate to vigorous activities, such as running, climbing, dancing, skipping, and jumping, to the extent of their abilities.

**Children ages two or younger** will be offered a minimum of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous active play each day during the hours of operation.

**Children aged three and older** will be offered a minimum of 90 minutes of moderate to vigorous active play each day during the hours of operation.

All children will participate each day in:

- A daily, structured Music and Movement class for 30 minutes to promote gross motor development and rhythm.
- Outdoor recess for 30 minutes between 9 am and 2 pm and 30 minutes between 2 pm and 6 pm.
- Alternative indoor physical activity will be provided if weather does not permit outdoor recess.

Physical activity may take place in the classroom or on the playground. Per Texas Health and Human Services Requirements, children must have an outdoor recess time every day, weather permitting.

When participating in physical activity, children's clothing should protect them from sun exposure and permit easy movement (not too loose and not too tight) that enables full participation in active play. Footwear should provide support for running and climbing. Hats may be worn to protect children from sun exposure.

Examples of appropriate clothing/footwear include:

- Gym shoes or sturdy shoe equivalent
- Clothing for the weather, such as a lightweight, breathable jacket without a hood or neck strings.

Examples of inappropriate clothing/footwear include:

- Footwear that can come off while running or that provides insufficient support for climbing.
- Clothing items that can catch on playground equipment, such as those with drawstrings or loops.

***Please mark all personal items for easy identification.***

## Uniform Policy & Extra Clothing During the School Year

Uniform orders may be placed before school begins, as well as throughout the school year. Spanish Schoolhouse uniforms can be purchased at [www.spanishschoolhouseuniforms.com](http://www.spanishschoolhouseuniforms.com).

A school uniform is required each day, other than the school's designated "Periquito Azul" days (*Note: Does not apply during Summer Camps*). A Spanish Schoolhouse shirt, dress, or jumper must be worn daily with logo visible; bottoms may be long pants, leggings, shorts or skirts in the following colors only: **navy blue, khaki, or denim** (blue only). When needed for extra warmth, a long-sleeved t-shirt may be worn under uniform shirts or dress/jumpers.

Available uniforms Include:

- T-shirts
- Polo shirts
- Sweatshirts (hoodie or microfleece)
- Sweaters (V-neck and cardigans)
- White button-down blouses/shirts
- Jumpers or dresses

If a child comes to school without a uniform, the school will lend one to the student one time. If a second instance occurs, please note that we will provide a new one for you to keep and will apply a charge of \$13 to your account.

Please note that SSH summer camp t-shirts are not acceptable uniforms for the August – May school year.

### Send Extra Clothing

Each child will need one complete set of extra clothing at the school for accidents and/or spills. The extra clothes do not need to be uniform items. Please make sure that the extra clothes are seasonally appropriate. *Please mark your child's name on all personal items* such as coats, sweaters, gloves, mats, etc. for easy identification.

### Water Play

At certain times of the year, the children may participate in water activities, which include sprinkler play, water toys, and water table play.

## In the Classroom

### Classroom Placement

Texas public schools (and many private schools) allow enrollment into each grade level based on the student's age by September 1. At Spanish Schoolhouse, we encourage preschool parents to enroll their children using the same guideline, but in some cases, we can extend the cut-off to September 30. Please contact the Director for more information.

**Please note that falsification of your child's date of birth may result in the removal of the child from our program.**

### Potty Training

Children in the 3-year-old and 4-year-old classrooms must be potty trained before starting class. **For summer camp: Children participating in summer camp must be potty trained before the start of the camp.** If a child is not potty trained at the start of school, the director will request to have a conversation with the parents about the next steps.

Diapers are permitted in the 18-month and 2-year-old classrooms only. If children are not potty trained, they cannot enroll and progress to the 3-year-old class.

### Diaper and Wipe Supplies

Parents of our 18-month and 2-year-old children are responsible for keeping a supply of personal disposable diapers and wipes at the school for diaper changes. **Do not send cloth diapers.** We will send a written notification if your child's items need to be resupplied.

### 18-month-old Walking

One milestone that is important for your student to reach before school starts is walking. Please be aware that we do require that children in this class be able to walk independently (unless they have a diagnosed disability and prior approval from the director). If your child has not started walking by early August, please contact us about the possibility of providing reasonable accommodation.

### Behavioral Management

At Spanish Schoolhouse, we strive to develop respectful, responsible, and happy learners. Our schools use the Love and Logic® methodology, and our teachers are trained in these techniques. This method helps teach respect for self and others and encourages personal responsibility and academic motivation.

Incorporating Love and Logic®, Spanish Schoolhouse believes in setting limits and providing children with many choices within those limits throughout the school day. Making mistakes is a part of the learning process and our goal is to help students learn and grow from these experiences. When a student makes a choice that is not within the limits, teachers will remind the student of acceptable choices using positive statements and encourage the student to cooperate and take personal responsibility.

If these strategies are not effective, a short “thinking time” in the classroom may be used to help the student regain focus and self-control. The use of physical punishment is never permitted. If needed, discipline will be in English, to make sure the student understands.

When a child makes choices that are not within the limits, we will send parents a notification in writing describing what happened and what actions the teacher took to support the child in making acceptable choices.

**During the school year, when children consistently make choices that are not within the limits or demonstrate behaviors considered atypical compared to their peers (including such things as not reaching developmental goals or exhibiting behavior that is aggressive or interferes with the operation of the classroom), the following support plan will be implemented. Before the following plan is implemented, directors will inform parents in writing.**

## **Behavioral Support Plan**

### **1. Observation and Documentation**

- Parents will receive notifications in writing describing the behavior through “Just to Let You Know” notes. We will send additional notes if the behavior continues.

### **2. Communication**

- If the behavior continues, the director will arrange an Initial Conference (IC) with the child’s parents. Director, teacher(s), parent(s) must be present. Together they will create a plan designed to help the student improve his/her behavior.
- During the Initial Conference (IC), a Follow-Up Conference (FC) will be scheduled.

### **3. Working Together (Home/School Team)**

- If the child’s behavior has improved and the Home/School team is working together in a positive way, we will continue with the plan and set up a third conference (TC).
- If there are no improvements in the child’s behavior, or if the Home/School team is unable to work together positively, the child must be evaluated by an ISD or a behavior specialist within the next 21 days. If behavior causes a safety concern for the child or others, the child may not be able to attend school during this period.

#### **4. Decision**

- Once we have received a specialist's evaluation/diagnosis of the child, we will consult with the specialist and the family to determine if SSH's resources are sufficient to support the child, or if another school with specialized resources would be a better fit.
- If we do not receive evaluation results and/or the parents do not take the child to the specialist's appointment, the student will be removed from our program.

If a child is consistently aggressive or poses a safety concern at the school, the school will contact the parent or guardian for the child to be picked up immediately. Spanish Schoolhouse reserves the right to suspend a child from school either temporarily or permanently.

### **Biting Policy**

Biting is common among toddlers. Children at this stage of development do not always have the words to express themselves. Their expression may come in the form of biting. If your child bites or is bitten, you will be notified in writing. All names will remain confidential. Teachers will use preventative techniques in the classroom as needed to prevent future biting as much as possible and protect all children.

Biting usually stops by the age of three, as most children have the language skills at that point to express their needs. If a younger child bites persistently or a child three years and older bites, all parties involved will be notified, and the Behavioral Support Plan above will be implemented.

### **Discipline Policy Required by the State**

We are required by Texas state law to give you the following information regarding discipline: Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Chapters 746 and 747, Subchapters L, Discipline and Guidance

Discipline must be:

- (1) Individualized and consistent for each child;
- (2) Appropriate to the child's level of understanding; and
- (3) Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control; and
- (4) A positive method of discipline and guidance that encourages self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction, including the following:
  - (A) Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior;
  - (B) Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements;
  - (C) Redirecting behavior using positive statements; and
  - (D) Using brief supervised separation or time out from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development, which is limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age.

There must be no harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment of any child. The following types of discipline and guidance are prohibited:

- (1) Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment;
- (2) Punishment associated with food, naps, or toilet training;
- (3) Pinching, shaking, or biting a child;
- (4) Hitting a child with a hand or instrument;
- (5) Putting anything in or on a child's mouth;
- (6) Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child;
- (7) Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language;
- (8) Placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet; and;
- (9) Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods of time for the child's age, including requiring a child to remain in a restrictive device.

## **Personal Belongings**

Children should not bring toys or personal electronics from home, as the school cannot be responsible for these items, and they create a distraction in the classroom.

**We cannot replace lost articles and/or be held responsible for lost items.** When you bring your child to school, all parents are asked to place the student's belongings in the designated space and to not lay them down for the teacher to put away. Because we have many students entering the classroom, it can be difficult to remember every child's coat, sweater, etc. Parents are responsible for putting the child's name on clothing, mats, coats, and each item that enters the school.

Please check to be sure that you have all your child's items before leaving the school. This will help decrease the number of items lost.

## **School Pictures**

School pictures will be taken at least once during the school year. There is no charge at the time of the session, and purchase of these pictures is optional.

## **Naptime**

After lunch, a nap or rest period is provided for all children. Please provide a rest mat for your child ([note: this excludes summer campers between 6 and 8 years of age](#)). A plastic, accordion-folding nap mat is preferred for hygienic reasons. Plastic mats can be purchased at Walmart or online. A **small** blanket with your child's name is optional. For the safety of the children, please avoid sending full-sized pillows, mats, or blankets to school (small, child-size items are acceptable). Cloth mats and personal blankets or other personal items must be taken home each day. Torn nap mats will be sent home.



## Nutrition

The school is not responsible for the nutritional value of the lunch provided by the parent or guardian.

- We will provide all children with a morning snack. Children enrolled in Stay & Play will also receive an afternoon snack.
- Students are required to bring:
  - Their own lunch from home, including utensils.
  - A spill-proof water bottle or spill-proof cup daily.
  - If sending perishable items, please place an ice pack in the lunch, as we are not able to refrigerate or heat lunches.
  - Please do not send food or drink items in glass containers, for safety reasons.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the following foods are the most common choking hazards for children under 4 years old:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Hotdogs</li><li>▪ Hard Candy</li><li>▪ Peanuts/Nuts</li><li>▪ Seeds</li><li>▪ Whole Grapes</li><li>▪ Whole Cherry/Grape Tomatoes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Raw Carrots</li><li>▪ Apples</li><li>▪ Popcorn</li><li>▪ Chunks of Peanut Butter</li><li>▪ Marshmallows</li><li>▪ Chewing Gum</li><li>▪ Sausages</li></ul>
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Please be aware of these potential choking hazards and cut food into small pieces when packing lunch for your child or providing snacks for parties.

## Classroom Treats

Special treats will be provided periodically, so parents must provide written notice of any food allergies or food restrictions in their child's admission form.

For the safety of all children, any outside food brought into the school to be shared with others must be store-bought, in original packaging with the ingredient list.

## **Candy in the Classroom**

Spanish Schoolhouse values children's health and would like to encourage healthy habits. Therefore, Spanish Schoolhouse will not give candy to the children in the classroom. We also ask that parents who are arranging parties please provide healthy choices. Some good alternatives are goldfish crackers, pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.

## **Birthday Celebrations**

If a parent wants to distribute physical party invitations, we strongly encourage you invite all of your child's classmates. If a parent does not want to invite the whole class, they may request the class directory and contact families individually.

Parents wishing to celebrate their child's birthday may do so as long as it does not cause a major disruption to the classroom routine. Goody bags are allowed and should be labeled with who the birthday child is. A parent/guardian (at the director's discretion) can participate in singing happy birthday. However, piñatas or other birthday-related activities are not permitted.

## **Emergency Plans and Drills**

By law, emergency drills are held periodically to acquaint your child with evacuation procedures. This may make quite an impression on your child when the drills are held, but your child will soon become accustomed to it and know what to do in the event of an emergency. Fire drills are practiced monthly, and drills for severe weather and lockdown emergencies are practiced quarterly.

In the event of a drill or an actual emergency, teachers follow a detailed Emergency Plan (a copy of this plan is available in the front office if you would like to review it). Teachers account for all students and then exit the building to the designated Meeting Point. Among other items, teachers take class lists with emergency contact numbers, attendance logs/sign-in sheets, and any prescribed student medications. We have designated staff ready to assist teachers in the 18-month and 2-year-old classes, and anyone with limited mobility or mental/vision/hearing impairments, in leaving the premises safely.

## **In the Event of an Actual Emergency**

If we must evacuate the school, children will be led to the meeting point outside the building, and then, if necessary, escorted to the following relocation center:

Keller Chamber of Commerce: 420 Johnson Road Keller, TX 76248

Keller Library: 640 Johnson Road Keller, TX 76248.

If the school building cannot be re-entered, parents will be contacted with detailed instructions on the location and pickup procedures. Each child's pickup will be noted to ensure that all children are accounted for. Staff will report the emergency to parents and the state licensing office.

# Severe Weather Policy

## In Case of Severe Weather Threat

When there is a threat of severe weather, SSH employees will monitor the situation closely. If a tornado or severe storm WATCH is issued for the area, children will not go outside for recess, and teachers will be alerted to the possibility of going into the safe areas. If a tornado WARNING is issued or a tornado is spotted, a warning signal will be sounded, and all students will be directed to the designated safe area and will sit in the protective position. Everyone will remain in the sheltered area until the warning is discontinued.

## Communications during an emergency

If a severe weather/tornado warning is in effect close to pick-up time, if time (and connectivity) permits, the school will send an email to all parents notifying them that the children are being moved to the safe area and that children will not be dismissed until the warning is lifted. No late fees will be charged. If time permits, the school voicemail will be changed to a temporary greeting advising parents of the same. If a parent has already arrived at the school, he/she will be directed to the safe area. Parents are encouraged to stay in the safe area in the building, rather than leave in potentially dangerous conditions.

***Please understand that in an emergency situation, we may not be able to answer the phone, as our first priority is the safety of the children and staff. Check your email and texts for updates. If the power is out and you do not hear anything from us, know that we are keeping the children safe.***

## Preschool/Kindergarten Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held in the Fall semester, and written progress reports will be sent home in October, January, and May. Additional Parent-Teacher conferences are available as needed or requested by the parents and/or teacher at any time throughout the school year. You will be notified in advance of conference dates.

If any questions or concerns arise regarding our school, curriculum, or staff, the Director is available for conferences throughout the year.

## Home – School Communication

Preschool and Kindergarten students will be provided with a folder to carry information between home and school. Please check your child's folder daily for schoolwork and important information. Your child's teacher will also check the folder daily for notes from home. **VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND YOUR CHILD'S FOLDER TO SCHOOL EACH DAY.**

Please note that most information will be sent electronically, and paper correspondence will be kept to a minimum. You will receive the following regular communications electronically:

- Monthly Newsletter
- Monthly Calendar
- Weekly Email Reminders

In addition to the above communications, the School Year Calendar and a monthly Events Calendar can be found on our website.

## Forms of Communication

Spanish Schoolhouse prides itself on maintaining open communication between parents, teachers, and office staff. Teachers will offer regular verbal feedback about your child, including behavior, academic progress, and anecdotes, as well as written progress reports three times per year.

**Teachers are not authorized to provide input regarding students or school matters via cell phone or messaging apps.**

Families may sometimes connect with each other through messaging apps or email chains, to celebrate important milestones of their children and events at the school. We are proud to have an active school community which has made Spanish Schoolhouse a vibrant and welcoming place for our children, families, and staff.

We please ask that families use their best judgement when contributing to parents' chat groups or email chains. Please note that these are not official channels of SSH communication, and teachers and staff are not authorized to contribute to these parents' chat groups or email chains.

The primary forms of communication between the school and families regarding students, or school events will come from our office staff who use the following:

- School email
- School phone (excludes text messages)

## Parent Information and Involvement

### Parent Involvement

We invite and encourage parent involvement during the school year! Our volunteer coordinator is responsible for collecting volunteers' names at the beginning of the school year as well as throughout the year. Classroom parties, fundraisers, and special events are a great way to volunteer at our school. Shortly after the school year begins, the volunteer coordinator will have a meeting to create volunteer committees. Specified "room parents" will help the volunteer coordinator arrange events and assist the teachers and/or office.

***Please note that all volunteers must complete a criminal background check and be cleared before being able to volunteer in the school. The official form of communication for volunteers will be through email and not through other forms or apps such as WhatsApp.***

## **Open Communication with Parents**

In our commitment to providing a safe and warm environment for our children, Spanish Schoolhouse policy is to remain neutral during a custody change such as families undergoing divorce or separation. We will provide equal access to communication to parents/guardians and will comply with any court orders indicating changes to child custody, requesting additional information or records, etc. Spanish Schoolhouse is only obligated to contact the primary account holder when communicating 'Just to Let You Know' notes or courtesy tuition payment reminders.

## **Parent Code of Conduct**

We love seeing our parents and guardians visiting our schools, participating in our family activities, and contributing their time as volunteers. Spanish Schoolhouse expects appropriate behavior not only from our parents but from any visitor that enters our building.

Spanish Schoolhouse prohibits the use of offensive words on our premises including, but not limited to, swearing and cursing. Please also be mindful of music that may be heard from your vehicle during drop off/pick up or from the parking lot.

There are times when parents may have questions about their child's care and education. At Spanish Schoolhouse, we promote open communication and discussion and encourage parents to ask questions about their child's care and set a time to meet with the Director. We expect parents to handle disagreements in a calm and respectful manner. **Threatening staff, children, or other parents will not be tolerated and could result in the termination of care for your child.**

Spanish Schoolhouse also reserves the right to terminate care in the event of disruptive behavior from any parent, guardian, or visitor. All threats will be taken seriously and will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

**For safety reasons, please do not allow children to enter or exit the building unsupervised, run in the hallways, or open secured doors for other individuals even if they are employees.**

## **Parents' Rights**

A parent or guardian of a child(ren) enrolled in our school has the right to:

- Enter and examine the childcare facility during the facility's hours of operation without advance notice.
- Review the childcare facility's publicly accessible records.
- Receive inspection reports for the childcare facility and information about how to access the facility's online compliance history.
- Obtain a copy of the childcare facility's policies and procedures.
- Review, at the request of the parent or guardian, the facility's:
  - Staff training records

- Any in-house staff training curriculum used by the facility
- Inspect any video recordings of an alleged incident of abuse or neglect involving the parent's or guardian's child, provided that:
  - Video recordings of the alleged incident are available
  - The parent or guardian of the child does not retain any part of the video recording depicting a child that is not their own
  - The parent or guardian of any other child captured in the video recording receives written notice from the facility before allowing a parent to inspect a recording.
- Have the childcare facility comply with a court order preventing another parent or guardian from visiting or removing a parent's or guardian's child.
- Be provided the contact information for the childcare facility's local Child Care Regulation office
- File a complaint against the childcare facility by contacting the local Child Care Regulation office
- Be free from any retaliatory action by the childcare facility for exercising any of the parent's or guardian's rights.

## **Fundraisers During the School Year**

Please note that participation in fundraisers is OPTIONAL.

While tuition and fees supply our operating budget, fundraisers allow the purchase of additional equipment and supplies that enrich our program. Participation in our fundraisers is completely voluntary. We appreciate and welcome your participation at whatever level is comfortable for your family.

## **School and Camp Policies**

In the event of a policy change, you will be notified of the new policy by email. If you have any questions or concerns about a policy or procedure, please feel free to discuss this with the Director when you are at the school or to schedule a time for a private conference.

## **Licensing Information**

Because we are licensed by the state of Texas, there are standards by which we must abide. To view a copy of the standards or the most recent inspection report for our school, please ask the Director. This information will be available for your review at all times. You can also contact the Texas Health and Human Services at 1-800-735-2989 or visit the website at <https://hhs.texas.gov/> <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/child-care/contact-child-care-licensing>

HHSC values your privacy. For more information, read our privacy policy online at <https://hhs.texas.gov/policies-practices-privacy#security>

The addresses are as follows:

Ft. Worth Area:	1501 Circle Dr., Suite 310, Fort Worth, Texas 76119	(817) 321-8604
Dallas Area:	8700 N. Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75247	(214) 951-7902
Denton:	535 S Loop 288, Suite 2001, Denton, TX 76205	(940) 381-3447
Plano:	550 E. 15th St., Suite 120, Plano, Texas 75074	(469) 229-6900 x6901
Houston Area:	1330 E. 40th St., Houston, Texas 77022	(713) 287-3238

## **Gang-Free Zone**

We are required by the state of Texas law to inform parents that our school is in a gang-free zone. A gang-free zone is a designated area around a specific location where prohibited gang-related activity is subject to increased penalty under Texas law. The specific locations include schools. The gang-free zone is within 1000 feet of all schools. For more information about what constitutes a gang-free zone, please consult sections 71.028 and 71.029 of the Texas Penal Code.

## **Gun-free Zone**

Firearms (including concealed firearms) and other weapons are prohibited in school as required by Texas state law. Peace officers and security officers commissioned by the Texas Private Security Board who are trained and certified to carry a firearm on duty are the only persons who may have a firearm on the premises of a school.

## **Prevention and Response to Child Abuse and Neglect**

Spanish Schoolhouse employees are required to obtain a minimum of 24 hours of training each year relevant to the age of the children for whom they provide care. At least one hour of annual training must focus on prevention, recognition, and reporting of child abuse and neglect, in accordance with the Texas Health and Human Services, Rule 746.13089 of the Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers.

Employees and parents may find information on child abuse and neglect, including warning signs that a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect and techniques for prevention of abuse and neglect, at: [https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Contact\\_Us/report\\_abuse.asp](https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp)

Coordination between Spanish Schoolhouse and appropriate community organizations will always be through and upon advisement of the Department of Family and Protective Services, and our current Child Care Licensing Representative.

For assistance and intervention for a child who is a suspected victim of abuse or neglect, please contact DFPS at 1-800-252-5400 or 1-800-4-A-CHILD or [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org).

## **Parent and Student Access to Educational Records**

By law, both parents, whether married, unmarried, separated or divorced, have equal access to a student's records until the student becomes 18 years of age and is no longer a dependent for tax purposes. Legal guardians have the same rights as do parents.

Parents or guardians have full rights, unless the school has been provided with evidence that there is a court order, State statute, or legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation, or custody that specifically revokes these rights.

[https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/ferpa#0.1\\_se34.1.99\\_14](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/ferpa#0.1_se34.1.99_14)

## **Tax Statements**

According to the Internal Revenue Service, childcare expenses for working parents are tax deductible. Your payments and our Tax ID number are available on the website. Log in to your account and click the "Payment History" tab at the top of the screen to view and print your payment history.

# EMERGENCY ANTI-SEIZURE MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Spanish Schoolhouse, LLC is committed to complying fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and other applicable laws and regulations pertaining to children with disabilities.

Children with seizure disorders, including epilepsy, who attend Spanish Schoolhouse will require assistance in the event of a seizure. Some children will require the administration of an emergency anti-seizure medication, such as diazepam rectal gel (Diastat), in the event of a prolonged or an acute repetitive seizure. The Director of Spanish Schoolhouse shall designate those staff members who are trained and authorized to administer such medication.

Before school personnel will administer an emergency anti-seizure medication to a child in an emergency situation, the student's parent or guardian shall provide Spanish Schoolhouse with a completed Seizure Emergency Action Plan (see [Attachment 1](#)) signed by the parent or guardian and the student's primary-care physician or treating neurologist. In addition, the student's parent or guardian shall provide Spanish Schoolhouse a completed Physician's Order for the Administration of Diazepam Rectal Gel (Diastat) (see [Attachment 2](#)) completed by the student's primary-care physician or treating neurologist.

Prior to its date of expiration, the prescribed medication shall be supplied to Spanish Schoolhouse in its original package with the dosage locked in by the dispensing pharmacy. The parent or guardian and the Director of Spanish Schoolhouse, or the Director's designee, will verify that the correct dosage is visible in the display window and that the green "ready" band is visible. The parent or guardian shall be responsible for ensuring that the prescribed medication has not passed its expiration date. Because the medication shall be dispensed in emergency circumstances, a parent or guardian must complete the Authorization for Dispensing Medication form in accordance with Spanish Schoolhouse's medication procedures, and Spanish Schoolhouse shall not be liable for administering expired medication.

A parent or guardian's written authorization to administer emergency anti-seizure medication shall be effective for the entire school year in which it is granted. This authorization must be renewed annually.

Diazepam rectal gel is not to be used more frequently than as specified by the parent/guardian and physician in the Physician's Order for Administration of Diazepam Rectal Gel (Diastat). The dosing instructions must be specified in the student's Seizure Emergency Action Plan and in the Physician's Order for the Administration of Diazepam Rectal Gel (Diastat).

A student's parent or guardian who has given Spanish Schoolhouse written authorization to administer emergency anti-seizure medication shall, in accordance with the student's Seizure Emergency Action Plan, notify the Director or the Director's designee if emergency anti-seizure medication is administered to the student at a time when the student is not present at Spanish Schoolhouse. Such notification shall be given before or at the beginning of the next school day which the student attends. If the student has received more than the amount of anti-seizure medication than authorized in the student's Seizure Emergency Action Plan and in the Physician's Order for the Administration of Diazepam Rectal Gel (Diastat), Spanish Schoolhouse may require that the student not attend school until Spanish Schoolhouse receives written communication from the student's physician that it is safe for the student to return and

receive anti-seizure mediation on an emergency basis as authorized by the Seizure Emergency Action Plan and Physician's Order for the Administration of Diazepam Rectal Gel (Diastat).

**Training Requirements:**

Training of designated staff members shall be conducted and repeated annually. A list of trained staff will be maintained in the Director's Office. All staff members trained to administer emergency anti-seizure medications shall also be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

**Notifications:**

When a trained staff member determines that the administration of diazepam rectal gel to a student is necessary, the parent or guardian and the Director shall also be notified as soon as possible.

**For any compliments, concerns, or questions, please contact your school or Customer Service at 972-618-2500 or at [info@spanishschoolhouse.com](mailto:info@spanishschoolhouse.com)**