

RIVER CANYON SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK

River Canyon School's mission is to spark a love of learning in our children by engaging the intellect, enlivening the imagination, connecting with nature, and nurturing the unique power of each individual.

River Canyon School is a play-based school for children 3-6 years of age. As much a community as a school, River Canyon works in partnership with families to enhance children's growth and development, and to provide a safe learning environment. The interaction between teachers, classmates, parents and the community play an important role in the development of your child. Each can encourage a child's creativity and learning, as well as intellectual, emotional and physical development.

The school aims to be a fun and happy place for your child. We want him/her to be comfortable here, making River Canyon School a positive experience for both your child and you. This handbook is intended to explain our customs and policies. *We understand that some of these traditions and practices may be unfamiliar. Please do not hesitate to ask our School Director, teachers, or veteran families if you need additional information. We are excited to have you in our community!*

I. RIVER CANYON SCHOOL WAYS

A. PROGRAM, ELIGIBILITY, AND TIMES OFFERED

The school year runs from September to May, observing most statutory and public school holidays. Please refer to the School Calendar for more information. We offer the following programs:

PROGRAMS

Full Day Kindergarten (8:30-3:30)	-----	4 days \$590/month + \$95 supply fee/semester	EVERYDAY Until 3:30
Half Day Kindergarten (8:30-12:30)	-----	4 days \$385/month + \$95 supply fee/semester	EVERYDAY! Until 12:30
2 day Kinder (8:30-12:30)	2 days \$230	+ \$95 supply fee/semester	M/W or T/TH until 12:30
Extended (12:30-3:30)	2 days \$135 3 days \$205		M / T / W / TH

*Registration in the Kindergarten class will be open to children who will be 3 years of age on or before September 1st of their attending school year.

B. TUITION AND SUPPLY FEES

Each family will receive a Tuition and Fee Schedule (see above). Monthly fees are set in accordance with the needs of the program. Checks must be made payable to River Canyon School. They may be placed in Director's mailbox by sign-in table or mailed to

River Canyon School
730 25 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81505

It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that the fees are paid by the first day of each month. A charge of \$20.00 will be levied for any checks not honored by the bank. Also, a late fee of \$15 will be assessed after the 10th of each month.

C. OUR CLASSROOM AND COMMUNITY

In our school, most learning occurs through play, which is often imitating adults. Children plant seeds and tend the garden, build and demolish, mold beeswax and paint with watercolors, sing, listen to and enact nursery rhymes and fairy tales. The toys they share are simple and natural, leaving room for the child's own imagination. Outdoor play is an important part of the day.

The effort in kindergarten is to create a harmonious, orderly environment in which children can develop confidence in themselves and a natural respect for others and the world in which they live. The teachers accomplish this peaceful tone through a carefully planned, rhythmical program that balances periods requiring more and then less concentration, group and then individual participation, and indoor then outdoor activity. Following is the rhythm of the day in the classroom:

Rhythm of the Day Sample

8:15 Meet outside for greetings, walk in wild area, holding hands, listening to nature, skipping and running.
9:35 Wash hands, set table, eat snack around the inside table
10:00 Circle time
10:15 Wash dishes, inside creative play, main activity, craft
11:15 Clean up
11:20 Story time, folk, nature or fairy tale
11:40 Wash hands, packed lunch around the table
12:15 Pick up outside

Morning main activity and snack schedule (all snacks are served with fruits or vegetables)

Monday- painting – rice
Tuesday- seasonal craft - oats
Wednesday - baking - millet
Thursday- seasonal craft - bread and vegetable soup

On birthdays, snack is fruit and cake.

D. THINGS TO BRING TO SCHOOL

Please label all items brought to school with your child's symbol or name.

What to bring every day

- Water bottle with child's symbol attached. Please take home daily to clean and refill.
- Healthy lunch – protein, carb, and fruit or veggie. Please, no sweets or drinks other than child's water bottle.
- Hat for shade and/or hat for warmth, depending on season. Hoods do not suffice, as they tend to fall off.
- Closed-toe shoes and socks. Please, no flip-flops or sandals.
- Appropriate outerwear and footwear (coat, jacket, gloves or mittens, boots), depending on season

What to have in cubby/at school

- One full spare outfit, rolled and tied with a ribbon or placed in a small bag. Please label all items with child's name.
- Slippers for indoor wear. Slippers with a closed back tend to stay on best.

Videos, TV and Media Policy

- Early media consumption by children hinders the educational foundation of inner picture building and transformation, and the strengthening of the will that are essential to Waldorf education. Our teachers are actively guiding the students to build inner imaginations based on true stories and real world sense experiences. These are the foundation of our children's education; they are moral, beautiful and true. Students take these images into their sleep and come back the next day ready to build the concepts of their education from these pictures, which they have transformed and made their own. Videos, TV and Music Media as well as virtual images are never a part of the child's day at River Canyon.

E. CLOTHING AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS

We appreciate your consideration of the following:

- Please be conscious of the weather and remember that we are outside EVERY DAY. When children are properly dressed, the weather does not get in the way of play
- We ask that your child's clothing be absent from cartoons or commercialized characters. Please do not send clothing or shoes with flashing lights, as they become a distraction.
- Children may not bring toys, trinkets or money from home. It is too easy to have things lost, broken or quarreled over. If these items are brought to school, they will be put away until the child is ready to go home. Absolutely no electronics are to be brought to the school.
- Please check the lost and found basket next to the front door for any missing belongings.

F. DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Drop-Off

- Each child should be ready to participate by 8:30 each morning. You may arrive as early as 8:15.
- It is our request that children arrive without having watched early morning television or videos; listened to recorded tapes, CDs, or radio; or used electronic games, devices, or computers.
- Place everything neatly in the cubby, with water bottle outside of lunch box for easy access throughout the morning.
- Go with your child to use the toilet and wash hands. We use the classroom sink for all hand washing.
- Sign in at the Parent Nook, and check your pocket in the Parent Nook for any notes or items.
- Get the children properly dressed in layers to go outside.

Pick-Up

- Please arrive by 12:15-12:30 to pick up your child (3:15-3:30 for extended day). Parents are invited to pick up their child on the playground. Please wait outside until the teacher has dismissed the class.
- If any person other than the expected parent/caregiver is to pick up the child, please inform the teachers before pick-up. These names should be listed on child information sheet.
- Gather items to be taken home from your child's cubby.
- Sign out at the Parent Nook.
- Please see "Policies" section of this handbook for Late Pick-Up Policy.

G. SPECIAL OCCASIONS

River Canyon School has several special events, festivals, and fundraisers throughout the year. Please refer to the school calendar and River Canyon Tales for details. This section describes our most common special occasions.

Birthdays

Birthdays are very meaningful at River Canyon School. We will hold a special ceremony for each child on the day of, or near, their birthday. If your child was born in the summer, we will celebrate the child's half birthday, or as close to it as possible. We so look forward to sharing these celebrations with you!

The children in the classroom will make a Birthday Wish Book for the birthday child. The teachers will be have prepared a gift too: 1st year children will receive an angel; 2nd year children will receive a bean bag; 3rd year children will receive a pocket tooth fairy for under their pillow.

Please bring the following on the morning of your child's special day:

- One beeswax pillar candle decorated for your child. (See teachers for decorating wax; pillar candles are available locally at Vitamin Cottage.)
- A framed picture of your child for their special table.
- A lunch for yourself, since you will be in the class during that time. Families are welcome to join us promptly at 11:25 on the day of their child's celebration.

Festivals

We celebrate many festivals throughout the school year -- some during the school day and others with families in the evenings. Please see the School Calendar for specific dates and make every effort to attend, as the children so look forward to sharing these events with their families.

The *Harvest Festival* takes place in late October. We celebrate with crafts, games, apple cider, and food. We usually gather at the school in wholesome and or imitable costumes, such as firemen or farmers, avoiding commercialized characters, superheroes and scary dress. The children take part in crafts, hear a story, we share a meal, and song around the bonfire. The parents are usually expected to provide a soup or some kind of baked good to share.

The *Lantern Walk* is held on a November evening as the nights grow longer and colder. The children make lanterns and sing lantern songs in class for weeks before. We all join together for hot apple cider and a story around the fire, then light our lanterns and venture out into the cold, dark night, singing and lighting the path along the way with our own small lights, which together make a larger, brighter light.

The *Winter Spiral* is held in early December. All children and their families are invited to attend, even if it is not a regular school day. Like the Lantern Walk, it carries the theme of our own little light joining the light of others in order to bring a greater light into the world. Each child walks the pine bough spiral carrying a candle in an apple holder. The candle is lit on the large white candle in the center and then carried out the other side, placing it on a golden star to light the path as they leave. As each child passes through, the room grows brighter and brighter. This is our most reverent of all our festivals and carries a silent, sweet but solemn tone.

The *Mayfaire Festival* is celebrated in late April or May when the weather is warm and sunny. There will be flower crowns and craft making, a spring puppet play, songs to sing and dancing around a Maypole. Our Mayfaire festival includes a popular silent auction fundraiser and bake sale at which we hold a silent action to sell fabulous themed baskets donated by local businesses and/or provided and assembled by the parents. This celebration is full of gaiety and movement outward toward the summer.

Field Trips and Special Activities

In keeping with seasonal themes throughout the year, a variety of field trips may be taken. In the event of a field trip, you will receive a permission slip to be signed before your child will be allowed to go. When on a field trip, strict adult/child ratios will be maintained; each staff member is assigned a select group of children to make sure that the children are properly supervised and monitored ; regular headcounts will be conducted, and no driver will leave until all children are accounted for.

RCS does not provide transportation for field trips. It is the responsibility of parents to arrange transportation to and from field trips. Carpooling is suggested, but it is not the responsibility of the school.

First Aid kits are always taken on field trips. In case of emergency, 911 will be called and the parents notified. If a child arrives to school late and the group has already left for the field trip, it will be the responsibility of the parent to transport their child to the site of the field trip or to make other childcare arrangements for that day.

H. PARENT/FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

River Canyon School relies on parent/family participation to run smoothly, and we find that the benefits of such involvement far outweigh the time commitment required. Because family support and participation is essential to the success of our school, families who fail to complete these responsibilities may be asked to withdraw their children from the program, or to find other ways of offering support.

Here are some of the things we all do to support the school:

Volunteer Hours

Each family is asked to contribute volunteer hours each month, as follows:

- 3 hours/month for each child who attends 4 times a week
- 2 hours/month for each child who attends 2 times a week

Parents may choose from a variety of ongoing or one-time duties in order to fulfill their monthly volunteer hours. Common jobs include:

- Doing daily dishes, weekly laundry, vacuuming, or bathroom or kitchen clean-up
- Joining in a monthly work day (usually on the weekends, all kids welcome)
- Helping make a festival happen
- Cutting the corners off the watercolor paper, helping with other classroom prep
- Weeding the gravel areas, helping with gardening (check with Laura Carter first to learn how and what)
- Making a birthday cake using ingredients and recipe supplied by school
- Mending broken toys, costumes, hand towels, napkins, etc.

For more ideas, check the to-do list posted in the Parent Nook, read *River Canyon Tales* newsletter, or ask the teachers. It is the parents' responsibility to find ways to complete their hours.

Volunteer hours should be recorded on the clipboard on the sign-in table. Those who are unable to complete these duties in any given month may pay \$45 in place of volunteering.

Parent Helper Days

Parent Helper Days are offered, but not required. You may sign up for the day(s) you desire on the sign-up sheet in the Parent Nook. For details, see the Parent Helper Day information sheet posted in the Parent Nook.

Festival Support

Families are also asked to help with festivals and fundraising events. Examples of such support include planning, set up/clean up, and providing refreshments or other materials.

Each family is asked to donate a themed basket worth at least \$50 for our Mayfaire silent auction in May. Most families ask local businesses for donations. Baskets are due a week before the event.

Parent Meetings

Parents are required to attend parent meetings, usually held on the last Wednesday of the month. These meetings serve an essential role in building relationships with teachers and other River Canyon School families. They are also an opportunity to learn more about the teaching philosophy of RCS and how it can be incorporated into family life. Parent meetings usually include a short "topic of interest" from teachers, followed by conversation and/or hands-on activities such as candle making, crafting, and learning songs from the school. Time spent at parent meetings may be counted toward volunteer hours.

River Canyon Tales

Reading this weekly e-newsletter from the teachers is an important way to stay informed about school events and expectations. It will often have information about how you can help and fulfill your hours, as well as information about what's happening that week at school – birthdays, upcoming field trips, meetings, etc.

II. RIVER CANYON SCHOOL POLICIES

A. RIVER CANYON SCHOOL BOARD

The River Canyon School Board is responsible for the administrative and business affairs of the school. The Board serves in an advisory/consultative capacity to the teacher(s) and takes responsibility for the growth and well-being of the school. Change of guidelines, program decisions, and policies may be made by a consensus of the Board at a Board meeting. The parent group will be informed of any major changes through written notice when necessary. Any proposed by-law changes will be presented to the members and held for vote at an annual, general or special meeting. Board meetings are open to the public, unless noted as a "closed meeting."

B. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

River Canyon School does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, creed, political affiliation or financial status. The School, at present, cannot provide therapeutic services for severely disabled children. Children with less severe disabilities may be allowed into the school provided that parents and teachers agree that and a letter of approval from a medical professional or other care provider.

C. ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

Admission

Students are admitted on a “first come, first serve” basis, in the following order:

- Founding families and current students
- Siblings of current students
- New registrants

Wait List Policy

We do maintain and strictly adhere to an ordered waiting list. When contacted by phone or email (as indicated by you) to determine your availability to fill a vacancy in a class, you will be given 48 hours to provide a response. If the enrollment coordinator has not heard from you within 48 hours, the registrar will contact the next family on the waiting list. If you would like to update your contact information on the wait list or be removed from our wait list at any time, please email info@rivercanyonschool.com.

Registration

Registration forms and release forms are to be filled out entirely to complete your child’s registration prior to school commencing. Completely fill out the attached registration forms and submit them together with all required checks to the Director/Enrollment Coordinator in order for your registration package to be accepted. Please update any information that may change throughout the year on your child’s registration form located in the classroom, and initial and date all changes. Parents may be asked to update information on the registration form twice a year.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$50.00 due at the time of student registration. This fee is non-refundable. The registration fee must be supplied with the registration forms to secure your child’s spot in the program.

Withdrawal

Once the program has started, the teachers, parents of the child and /or the Board may remove a child from the program upon recommendation. Members wishing to resign must tender their withdrawal in writing to the enrollment coordinator at least one full month prior to their resignation to receive a refund. If received late, the board reserves the right to keep the fees for that month. Monthly fees will be refunded accordingly. We strongly encourage new parents to try our program for at least a month before withdrawing a child from the program.

Probationary Period

Each student will be subject to a six-week probationary period. This period will begin on the first day the child attends school. A child’s continuation in the program is at the discretion of the teachers and the RCS Board.

D. HEALTH, ILLNESS, MEDICATION & ACCIDENTS

A completed Health & Immunization Form or Waiver must be on file at the school before the child can attend. State regulations require that physical exams and immunizations be current and renewed yearly.

Illness Policy

The health of all the children is our primary concern. Please safeguard your child and others by keeping him/her at home if signs of illness are present. The teachers have the right to refuse a child’s admittance to class when in doubt about the child’s health. They also have the authority to request a written statement from the child’s doctor indicating a clean bill of health before the child returns to school.

If a child becomes sick while at school, the parent will be contacted to pick up their child. The child will be isolated (if necessary) from the other children until the parent arrives.

Please contact the facility when your child is ill and describe the illness. If a specific diagnosis is made, e.g., strep throat, conjunctivitis, chicken pox, etc., let the facility know so other families can be alerted. If your child contracts a communicable disease such as mumps, chickenpox, lice, whooping cough, red measles, scarlet fever, etc., your family doctor or public health nurse should be contacted and their recommendations be followed regarding return to school. The incident must be reported to school teachers and the Department of Health.

Clearly there are instances when it is necessary for a child to remain at home. A child must be kept at home if he/she:

- A child's temperature should be normal without medication for 24-hours before the child is brought to the center. If your child has a fever in the evening, he/she should not be brought to the center in the morning, even if his/her temperature is normal. Fever is defined as 100.6° F or higher.
- If your child vomits during the night, he/she should not be brought into school the next day, unless it is certain that the vomiting was not due to an infectious condition.
- Diarrhea, as defined by the CDC, consists of more than one abnormally loose stool. A child should not return to the center until his/her bowel movements have returned to a normal consistency.
- Conjunctivitis (Pinkeye): a child with pinkeye must be on medication before returning to the center.
- Rash: body rash, not associated with diapering, heat or allergic reactions, especially with fever or itching.
- Sore throat coupled with a fever or swollen neck glands.
- Lice, Scabies: Children must not return to childcare until they are free of lice and nits (eggs). Children with scabies can be admitted after treatment.
- If your child is unusually tired, pale, shows a lack of appetite, is difficult to wake, confused, or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child from preschool.

Please note: Classroom teachers will use their best judgment, as well as these guidelines, to determine when to send children home.

- Has or has had a fever of 100 degrees or more within the past 24 hours.
- Has discharge from the eyes or ears, is coughing up a lot of mucus
- Is not well enough to go outside and play
- Meets any of the conditions for exclusion indicated below

Bronchitis	<p>Signs and Symptoms: Coughing and breathing difficulties</p> <p>Communicability: By contact with germs from saliva, mucus, or the tears of an infected person.</p> <p>When to Return: When well enough to participate in program activities.</p>
Chicken Pox	<p>Signs and Symptoms: A mild fever and itchy rash that starts as pink bumps that turn into blisters and finally into scabs.</p> <p>Communicability: By close contact or from airborne droplets from one to two days before, and until about five days after the rash appears. New cases can appear up to 20 days after contact.</p> <p>When to Return: Not until the sixth day after the rash starts.</p>
Colds	<p>Signs and Symptoms: Sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, cough, watery or irritated eyes, headache, and crankiness - sometimes a fever.</p> <p>Communicability: By contact with germs from the saliva or mucus of an infected person, form one to two days before symptoms appear until several days after symptoms appear.</p> <p>When to Return: When well enough to participate in program activities.</p>
Ear Infections (Otitis)	<p>Signs and Symptoms: Earache, pulling at the ear, unusual crankiness, difficulty in hearing, or funny sensations in the ear caused by a mucus backup in the middle ear.</p> <p>Communicability: Not contagious.</p> <p>When to Return: When well enough to participate in program activities.</p>

Fifth Disease

Signs and Symptoms: A distinctive rash beginning on the face that makes the child appear to have very red cheeks. After one to four days a rash appears on the arms and moves to the trunk, buttocks, and thighs. The body rash may come and go for one to three weeks, usually appearing when the child is hot.

Communicability: 50% of exposed children will come down with the rash 10-14 days afterwards.

When to Return: Because this disease is mainly contagious during the week before the rash begins, a child who has the rash is no longer contagious and does not need to stay home from school.

Signs and Symptoms: Fever, weakness, loss of appetite, nausea, dark urine, and yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes.

Hepatitis A

Communicability: Contact with virus infected food, stool, water, or environment. The virus is shed for up to three weeks, starting two weeks before symptoms appear. The illness may occur up to 50 days after contact.

When to Return: One week after the illness starts and when the fever is gone.

Medication Policy

Only prescription medications will be given while a child is at school. If your child has a prescription medication, please record this on the registration form. The school requires a signed request form from the parent, and detailed instructions from the child's physician for any medication that must be administered during school hours. Prescription medications must be provided in the original container. The parent is required to provide their request before the child starts school, or at the start of the prescription if started during the school year. The school is not responsible for any complications in this regard. Forms are available from the teachers and must be submitted each year. Any other medical conditions need to be dealt with the teachers on a one-to-one basis.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure the prescription medication is given to the teacher before each class. The teacher will ensure it is not accessible to the children, but quickly accessible by the teacher in an emergency. The parent is responsible for picking up the medication at the end of class and will always ensure the medication has not expired. Under no circumstances will the teacher give out any other medication while a child is at River Canyon School.

Sunscreen Policy

Teachers will apply sunscreen provided by the school if child does not have any sunscreen on. Please provide your own if you prefer another brand.

Medical Emergency Policy

Please ensure that the child's registration form is properly filled out indicating the doctor's name, health care number, emergency contact, and allergies for the use in the event of an emergency.

If an accident or medical emergency occurs at the School that requires the child to be rushed to the hospital, an ambulance will be called. It would be the responsibility of one teacher to accompany the child while the assistant or parent will remain with the other children.

Medical Problems and Situational Concerns

If your child has health problems, you as a parent/guardian are responsible to inform the teachers. In some cases, it may be necessary to provide the school with a signed waiver of responsibility, absolving the school, its staff and the parent helpers from legal responsibility.

Please keep us informed about disturbances and difficulties in your child's life. As children grow, they may experience transformation in their routines, suffer occasional illness, or struggle with concerns related to home, family, or friends. Please communicate any changes that affect your child. The greater our communication, the better we can support your child.

Incidents/Accidents Involving Children During Class Time

The teachers will document any incident causing injury or emotional stress. All accidents will be documented indicating injury and any first aid given.

An incident form allows for accurate descriptions of an incident or accident that occurred during class time. The form will be given to the parent(s) to read. Both teachers and parent(s) are required to sign it. The original will be kept with the child's file. Parents can request a copy if they choose. The Director will review incidents/accidents that occur and make recommendations to ensure the safety of the children.

If a minor injury occurs, we will take the necessary action. If a major accident occurs, those listed on the child's emergency card, including your health care provider, will be contacted in order of your preference. Should we be unable to contact any of them and immediate medical help is required, we will call an ambulance and your child will be taken to Community Hospital or the hospital specified on your emergency file card. The teachers are required to hold current CPR and First Aid certifications.

It is our policy to report suspected child abuse to the proper authorities. As a parent of a child/children in licensed childcare, you may report any suspected abuse by calling: Child Abuse Hotline @ 720-944-3000

E. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Fire drills will be held once a quarter.

Fire Safety

In the event of a fire in the River Canyon School facility or the Koinonia Church facility, the following procedure will be followed:

1. Alert everyone verbally.
2. Children are lined up quickly and quietly in front of a teacher.
3. One teacher leads the children out of the room, choosing the door that she/he feels provides the safest exit. The other teacher and Parent Helper (if present) will follow the group.
4. Teacher takes attendance.
5. Proceed with relocation procedures.

Relocation Procedures

1. Teachers and Parent escort the children to the far corner of the parking lot away from the school.
2. Parents will be phoned to pick up their children. If they cannot be reached, the Emergency Contacts will be phoned to pick up children.
3. When possible, an Evacuation Notice will be posted on the outside door to notify parents if the teachers are unable to reach them.
4. The Teachers and Parent will remain with the children until all children have been picked up.

F. EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

In the event of a snow day, we will follow the lead of Mesa County Public School System when deciding to close the school because of inclement weather. Please listen to radio or television broadcasts to find out about closures.

G. LATE PICK-UP POLICY

It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to ensure the child is picked up after class. The teacher is not responsible for the children after class. If by 10 minutes after class, no one authorized has arrived to pick up your child the following actions will be taken:

1. There will be a \$10 late pick up fee at 12:40pm and 3:40pm.
2. The following people from the child's registration form will be contacted in the following order until someone is reached to come and pick up the child: parents, authorized persons to whom the child may be released, emergency contacts.
3. If no one is reached, the teachers are required to call the police to arrange safekeeping of your child until you do arrive.
4. If someone other than the parent is reached to pick up the child, a phone message (if possible) and a note on the entrance door of River Canyon School will be left to advise the parent(s) of the child's location.

In the case of an emergency, you may be late picking up your child. Please call the teacher to inform him of your expected arrival or what other arrangements you have made for your child's pick up. (Call RCS: 970-639-0514).

H. DISCIPLINE AND CHILD GUIDANCE POLICY

Respect for adults, fellow classmates and property is an attitude that is valued and encouraged at River Canyon School. If these areas of respect are disregarded, then the need for discipline arises. Normally, the teachers will handle the day-to-day reminders that children need through redirection, purposeful work, and age-appropriate building of social skills. If a child is having difficulty, it is often helpful for him/her to work with the teacher in a meaningful task until equilibrium is recovered. If more persistent problem occurs, a parent-teacher conference will be scheduled and appropriate action will follow.

River Canyon School maintains a positive approach in problem solving, including the following measures:

a. Set Clear Expectations

The teachers will develop and share with the children positive expectations that are age and developmentally appropriate, ensuring that safety of all children, adults and materials in the program.

b. Redirection

If the teachers see a potential problem they will try engaging one or more of the children in another activity.

c. Purposeful Work

When difficulties arise children will be given "a job" to assist the teacher and be helpful in the classroom.

d. Problem Solving

The teachers will apply problem-solving approaches, which encourage children to resolve conflicts with others.

e. Time Outs/Finding "Golden Actions"

If the actions of a child put themselves or others at risk of injury the child will leave the play area. Children are asked to sit on "the watching bench" until we see that they have found their golden actions again.

f. Teacher/Parent Meetings

When there are continued difficulties within the classroom, the teachers will meet with the child's family to develop goals and strategies to deal with the situation. When necessary, with written (parental/guardian) permission, the teachers may access community resources for consultation or referral.

g. Facilitator/Teacher/Parent Meetings

If the teachers feel that a child is disruptive to the point that the safety, learning, and enjoyment of other children is being affected on a recurring basis, after the actions of clause (f) above, the teachers will arrange a meeting with the parents (without the child present) and three independent board members -- normally the Director, Secretary (takes minutes) and a board member in the same class.

I. PROTOCOL FOR HANDLING ISSUES OR CONCERNS

We want your school experience to be a happy one for both your child and your family. If you have concerns or issues regarding your child, the teachers, or the program, please bring them up for discussion by following this protocol:

1. Bring concerns to a teacher's attention by special appointment or at a mutually agreed upon time for a phone discussion. Please refrain from discussing concerns with the teacher while class is in progress or while children are in the room. This way the teachers can devote all their attention to the discussion of the problem or concern. Work together with the teachers to develop goals, strategies and possible solutions.

a. Express issues or concerns respectfully while keeping confidentiality in mind.

b. The teachers may be able to provide another view to a situation. Remember he/she is the "expert" in child development and the co-op environment.

c. Remember to look towards the policies and guidelines of the program. Perhaps they can be of assistance.

2. If things are unable to be resolved between parent and teacher, please contact the Director for assistance. Again, a meeting may be necessary to help generate strategies and solutions.
 - a. Inform the other party before involving the Director.
 - b. The Director will look to both parties involved for information and act to help mediate the problem solving process.
3. If the problem is still unable to be resolved, the Board will need to take the situation to a Board meeting for resolution.
 - a. Both parent and teacher will be informed before this action is taken.
4. If the above “Child Guidance Policy” has been addressed and the teachers have handled a situation and have exhausted their best efforts, then the teachers have the option to send the child home from school.

This protocol is in place to help maintain a positive and respectful environment in our program even during times of conflict. We also want to ensure the confidentiality of the children and their families is maintained at all times. If any questions or concerns rise concerning our facility, you may call the Colorado Office of Childcare Services at 303-866-5958.

J. SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

It is important that children be signed in when brought to school, and signed out when picked up so that we have an official daily record of everyone in attendance. There is a sign in/out book in the Parent Nook. Please initial and write the time of arrival or departure.

During the school day, children and teachers all stay together. We have regularly scheduled times when all visit the bathrooms together. The children are instructed to always ask a teacher before they leave the room to use the bathroom at other times, and the classroom door is kept open until they return. The teacher from whom permission was sought is responsible to be aware of the child’s departure and return. When outside, the children have boundaries within which they must stay. The teachers must be able to keep the children within sight at all times and to maintain a consciousness of each child’s whereabouts. Upon returning indoors, a head count will be taken to ensure that all are present.

K. VISITORS POLICY

- All visitors must sign in and out on the Visitors Sign-in Sheet located on the Parent Nook table at the end of the hall.
- Visitors must comply with both River Canyon Policies and Procedures and Colorado Department of Human Services Rules and Regulations.
- Visitors must be in the presence of a staff member during all interactions with River Canyon School students.

L. DIAPERING/TOILET TRAINING

Children who attend River Canyon School are required to be fully toilet-trained prior to admittance. We have no diapering or toilet training facilities on the premises.

M. PRIVACY POLICY

River Canyon School considers issues relating to your and your child’s privacy to be a serious matter. At the same time, River Canyon School needs to collect, store, use and disclose personal information to enable it to operate the School.

River Canyon School has created and implemented a privacy policy so that you understand what River Canyon School may and may not do with your and your child’s personal information. River Canyon School encourages you to review the Privacy Policy, which is included with the registration packet.

N. BYLAWS

A copy of River Canyon School’s bylaws is available upon request. Although we try to keep this handbook up to date, any policy changes will be noted in the Executive meeting minutes are located in the Parent Handbook binder in the classroom. RCS follows all licensing rules and regulations of the State of Colorado.

