Savanna School District Preschool Programs

Parent Handbook

1330 S. Knott Avenue Anaheim, CA 92804 714-236-3800



2024-2025

Dear Families,

Welcome to Bright Learners Academy in the Savanna School District! We operate early care and education programs on all four of our school sites in addition to our administrative office. Your child is eligible for preschool the day your child turns two years old until the child is eligible for Transitional Kindergarten.

BRIGH

LEARNERS ACADEMY

Our preschool programs are a place for young children 2-4 years of age to learn and grow in a safe and encouraging setting. We understand that **every child is unique**. Supporting children according to their individual strengths and interests makes all the difference to you and your child. Children are never too young to have their curiosity nurtured by teachers who understand the science of how they learn best - at their own pace, according to their own interests. Children want to explore their world with real people and real objects, engaging in meaningful work and play. Young children learn best through play and thoughtfully planned hands-on experiences. Our preschool programs support children in developing a love of learning that will last their entire lives.

For much of the day, children will create, play, pretend and express themselves through childdirected activity. This kind of independent play with teacher's support builds critical thinking skills, self-reliance and confidence for life. The primary role of the teacher is to guide and facilitate the learning process by presenting developmentally appropriate materials and activities that pose additional challenges and stimulate a child's curiosity. As your preschooler moves through their day, they will hear many open-ended questions such as "How did you do that?" or "Why do you think that happened?" further extending your child's own thinking. Teachers will be aware of the progress of each child in each area of growth so that individual differences in ability and interest are personally respected.

The development of a child's self-esteem and positive feelings toward learning are of utmost importance. **The goal of our program is to provide** opportunities for children to develop into confident, competent human beings in all growth areas – social, emotional, self-help and adaptive skills, physical, cognitive, and speech and language.

We are so happy that you have chosen one of our programs for your child, and look forward to working with you as a partner in your child's development. We welcome and encourage you to be involved in your child's program as your schedule allows, and are committed to keeping you well informed about your child's experiences, growth and development. We look forward to getting to know your family!

Program Overview

Mission

Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing and engaging early learning environment that effectively supports the diverse needs of children and families in our community and creates a foundation for children to be able to enter Transitional Kindergarten as a lifelong learner and a critically-thinking citizen.

Program Goals

Our goals as an early care and education provider are to:

- awaken a love of learning in children,
- help children build healthy relationships with peers and adults,
- assist children in developing executive function skills (working memory, inhibitory control, and cognitive flexibility),
- give children the opportunity to explore their interests through experiences that address their social/emotional, cognitive, physical, communicative and adaptive needs,
- prepare young children for school and beyond.

Contact Information

A full-time Site Supervisor is assigned to each site. Please contact the school office for the Site Supervisor's name and office number or contact the Savanna School District Early Care and Education Department at (714) 236-3800.

Days and Hours of Operation

Savanna School District Early Care and Education Programs operate Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. Please see the school calendar for scheduled holidays. Hours of operation for each program type (Early bird, School Day, Part Day and Late Bird) vary by school site. Please contact the Site Supervisor for your school site's hours of operation.

BRIGHT Learners Academy - Cerritos Elementary School 3731 W. Cerritos Avenue Anaheim, CA 92804 (714) 236-3830

BRIGHT Learners Academy - Hansen Elementary School 1300 South Knott Avenue Anaheim, CA 92804 (714) 236-3835

BRIGHT Learners Academy - Holder Elementary School 9550 Holder Street Buena Park, CA 90620 (714) 236-3840

BRIGHT Learners Academy - Twila Reid Elementary School 720 South Western Avenue Anaheim, CA 92804 (714) 236-3845





July-2024

4 - 5	Independence Day Observance
19	Last Day of 2023-24 School Year
22 - 31	B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Closed

August-2024



7

B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Closed
 First Day of 2024-25 School Year
 B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Closed

September-2024

2 Labor Day Holiday

October-2024

B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Closed

November-2024

4 - 8	Parent Conferences (minimum days)
	B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Closes @ 3:30 pm
11	Veterans' Day Holiday (observed)
28-29	Thanksgiving Holiday

December-2024

23-31 Winter Recess

January-2025

1-6	Winter Recess (continued)
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
31	B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Closed

February-2025

10	Lincoln's Day Holiday
17	Washington/President's Day

March-2025

3-7	Parent Conferences (minimum days)					
	B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Closes @ 3:30 pm					
28	B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Closed					
April-2025						

May-2025

26

Memorial Day Holiday

June-2025 20

Observance of Juneteenth

July-2025

4	Independence Day Observance
18	Last Day of 2024-25 School Year
21 - 31	B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Closed

Savanna School District 2024 - 2025 B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Program

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Preschool Program Closure Dates for the 2024-2025 School Year

July 4, 2024 Independence Day Holiday Non-student Day July 5, 2024 July 22-31, 2024 Summer Recess August 1-2, 2024 Summer Recess (continued) August 23, 2024 Non-student Day September 2, 2024 Labor Day October 7, 2024 Non-student Day November 11, 2024 Veteran's Day Thanksgiving Recess November 28-29, 2024 December 23-31, 2024 Winter Recess January 1-6, 2025 Winter Recess (continued) January 20, 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Dav January 31, 2025 Non-student Day Lincoln's Day Holiday February 10, 2025 February 17, 2025 Washington/President's Day March 28, 2025 Spring Recess Holiday May 26, 2025 Memorial Day Observance of Juneteenth June 20, 2025

Getting Started

An intake appointment with our Preschool Community Liaison will be scheduled with you after you provide pre-registration documents to review required enrollment forms and discuss monthly fees and payment policies. You will be provided the opportunity to meet the Site Supervisor and your child's teacher(s) at Preschool Orientation. During orientation, you will learn about the preschool program philosophy, daily routine and policies.

Helping Children Transition to The Program

Children are assigned to a full-time teacher at the program. This primary teacher has the responsibility of helping new children become familiar with the routines of the program. The teacher will learn your child's unique ways of communicating, and will review the different parts of the daily routine for him or her until he or she is completely comfortable.

Children respond in a variety of ways to new settings. Some settle in quickly and others may have a more difficult time adjusting. Children experience a variety of feelings (sadness, anger, and delight) as they learn to trust new teachers and understand that parents do come back at the end of the school day. Please be assured that your child will be supported during this transition time.

Parents can help their children by:

- Talking positively about the program, teachers and other children.
- Acknowledging and validating all feelings (I know that you are angry, sad, excited, etc.)
- Communicating a matter-of-fact confidence in the program staff and other district employees.
- Assuring your child that you love them, you are excited for them to learn and grow and that you will be back.
- Saying good-bye and then leave. (It's confusing to children when parents say good-bye and then remain on site.)
- Letting your child know when you are leaving the program. It is critical to your relationship that your child trusts that you will not sneak out to avoid upsetting him or her. It is much better for a child to experience momentary sadness than to have to deal with the possibility that a parent may disappear at any moment.

Helping Parents Transition to The Program

Parents may have mixed feelings about leaving their young children in group care. These are normal reactions to trusting your child with people who are initially unfamiliar. You may experience new feelings as children form attachments with teachers. These attachments are essential for a child's emotional development and school success. In order to help yourself feel comfortable, call and check on your child during the day. Site directors or teachers will make time to answer your questions or hear your concerns about your child.

What to Wear to School

Children are involved in sensory activities every day, often involving water, mud, glue, paint and other art materials. Please send your child in comfortable, washable clothes suitable for active and messy play. It is discouraging to children and staff when a parent arrives and is upset because their child's clothes are dirty. We will provide aprons or smocks for children who wish to wear them.

Clothes that are easy to manage encourage independence and self-help skills. Many toilet accidents are prevented if children can unbutton pants and unbuckle belts without a struggle.

When the weather is cool and unpredictable, be sure your child has a sweater or jacket kept at the program. In addition, each child must have at least one complete set of clothes (socks, underwear, pants, shirt or a dress) kept in his/her cubby.

Children should wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes to school. These types of shoes protect their feet during walks, bike riding and other outdoor activities. For safety purposes, if you send your young child to school with a hat, please be sure that it fastens under their chin with a snap or Velcro (not a string that ties). Please remove drawstrings from jackets and hoodies before sending them to school. Drawstrings can get caught in playground equipment posing a risk to the safety of your child.

Please label all clothes with your child's name!

Program Philosophy

- Play is the work of children.
- The safety and overall well-being of each child is our first priority.
- The classroom environment should be safe, nurturing and engaging.
- Children can be guided to develop self-control by learning to manage their bodies and emotions.
- The learning materials that we choose should be developmentally appropriate, open-ended and free of bias.
- The curriculum should meet the needs of all learners, including those with special needs and those that speak English as a second language.
- Learning experiences should be individualized to each child's specific needs and development.
- The role of the teacher is to be a facilitative guide to help children meet developmentally appropriate milestones through inspired learning.
- Teachers and families should work together as partners in both teaching and assessing children.
- Children learn best in social settings with hands-on, meaningful and constructive learning experiences.
- Learning experiences are most meaningful when the development, experiences, interests and culture of each individual child is taken into consideration.
- Learning experiences should be a balance of whole group, small group or individual teacher and child-directed activities.
- Culturally responsive learning experiences increase children's awareness, appreciation and inclusion of diverse beliefs and cultures.
- Children should be assessed on an ongoing basis using a variety of evidence-based methods to determine if they are appropriately meeting curricular objectives.

- Our curriculum should address all areas of children's development: physical, social/emotional, language & communication, cognitive and adaptive.
- Everything we do should be grounded in best practices for early childhood education.

Child Assessment and Parent Conferences

The goal of all of our programs is to ensure that children are making progress in all areas of development. We use the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP), a tool developed by the California Department of Education, Early Education & Support Division, to assess the development of children. All children are assessed within 60 days of enrollment and then twice yearly thereafter. Parent input is a necessary component of this assessment, and you will be invited to bi-yearly conferences to discuss your child's strengths, areas they are working on, and concerns that teachers or parents may have. Conferences are typically scheduled twice each year, but can be arranged any time at the request of parents or teachers. The results of assessments are also used to inform curriculum planning in the classroom. Curriculum goals are set each year based on the combined results of all children in the classroom.

Child Safety Statement

In the Savanna School District, we place extreme value on children's emotional well-being and physical safety. We are rigorous in our employee screening and selection process. Interviews, reference checks, fingerprinting, and our Expectations of Staff are all proven-practices to ensure proper staffing.

Once hired, all staff attend a Child Abuse Prevention Training Program, and our management staff receive additional training in this area. Additionally, policy disallows any contact between children and staff outside of Savanna School District programs or facilities.

We ensure proper staffing and knowledge through Savanna School District policies and guidelines that include:

- Staff/Child relationships
- Staff recruitment, training and supervision
- Parent's Rights and Responsibilities
- All Savanna School District staff are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and are trained in proper reporting procedures to Child Protective Services

Quality of Staff

Savanna School District is committed to quality early childhood education. All professional staff are trained in Early Childhood Education and/or Child Development and hold a Child Development Permit issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. In addition, they are certified in Pediatric First Aid and CPR and participate in ongoing professional development.

Staffing at each site consists of:

Lead & Associate Teachers: responsible for providing a safe and nurturing environment for children while implementing age-appropriate hands-on experiences and activities.

Site Supervisor: responsible for providing a safe and nurturing environment for children while implementing age-appropriate hands-on experiences and activities. The Site Supervisor is responsible for the daily operation of the program.

Supervisor of Preschool and Childcare Programs: responsible for assuring a high-quality and professional implementation of our early care and education programs.

Administrative Policies: Fee-based Families

Program Fees

Tuition is due in advance on a monthly basis. Tuition is due on the 1st business day of the month. After the fifth day of the month, if tuition is unpaid, a \$3.00 late fee will be assessed for each business day tuition is unpaid. If payment is not received as of the 10th business day of the month, preschool or childcare services will no longer be provided.

A non-refundable registration fee and deposit of \$50.00 is paid upon the enrollment of each child. If a child does not attend, the deposit will not be refunded. Due to Savanna School District policies and your child's safety, we cannot accept cash for tuition payment.

A parent may withdraw their child from Bright Learners Academy at any time; provided however, you shall notify the program of temporary or permanent withdrawal **in writing** two (2) weeks in advance of withdrawing your child from the program. Talking to the teachers or the Site Supervisor does not constitute notification. There is a one-month tuition charge if a two weeks' notice in writing is not given to the Site Supervisor or turned in to early care and education office.

Family Selection Process

Savanna School District maintains a wait list when our programs are full. For families who pay monthly tuition, children will be accepted into the program in the order of when families submit pre-admission paperwork, and when there is an opening in an age-appropriate classroom.

Grievance Procedure

If an issue cannot be resolved within the classroom, parents should contact the Site Supervisor at their program. Every effort will be made to resolve the issue at that level. However, if the issue remains, parents would then be directed to speak to the Supervisor of Preschool and Childcare Programs.

Administrative Policies: State Funded Families

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility is based on documentation and verification of at least **one** of the following:

1. Income

Total countable income means all income of the individuals counted in the family size, for example:

- Gross wages or salaries
- Overtime
- Tips
- Cash aid
- Child support payment received
- Portion of student grant or scholarships not identified for educational purposes as tuition, books, or supplies.

Income documentation is required for the month preceding certification or recertification. Current and ongoing income documentation may be requested. If you are **employed**, Savana School District needs a release authorization and consecutive payroll check stub(s) equivalent to one month's pay, a letter from your employer, **or** another record of wages issued by your employer. If you are **self-employed**, Savanna School District needs as many of the following types of documentation as necessary to determine your income: a letter from your source of income, a copy of your most recently signed and completed tax return, or other business records as requested.

We reserve the right to ask for additional documentation to verify income.

2. Current Aid Recipient

3. Homelessness

If a parent is homeless, Savanna School District needs a written referral from an emergency shelter or other legal, medical or social service agency OR a written declaration that the parent is homeless and a statement describing your living situation.

4. Child Protective Services

If the child is under protective services, Savanna School District needs a written referral dated within six months of your application for services that includes:

- A statement from the local county welfare department, child welfare services worker, certifying that the child is receiving Child Protective Services (CPS) and that child care and development services are a necessary component of the CPS service plan.
- Probable duration of the CPS service plan
- Name, address, phone number and signature of county child welfare staff.

5. At Risk of Abuse, Neglect, and/or Exploitation

If a child is *at-risk*, Savanna School District needs a written referral dated within six months of the application for services, including:

- A statement by a legally qualified professional (someone licensed in the state to perform legal, medical, health or social services for the general public) that the child is at risk of abuse and neglect and that child care and development services are needed to reduce or eliminate that risk.
- Probable duration of the at-risk situation.
- Name, address, phone number and signature of the legally qualified professional.

Family Selection Process

Savanna School District maintains a Wait List when our programs are full. All families are ranked. Ranking is based on your gross family income and your family size.

Priority for selection is:

- CPS or At-Risk
- Lowest rank

Documentation and Determination of Family Size

The information provided on the application for services shall be used to determine family size. A parent shall provide the names of the parents and the names, gender and birthdates of the children identified in the family. This information shall be documented on a confidential application and used to determine family size. The parent shall provide supporting documentation regarding the number of children and parents in the family.

The number of children shall be documented by providing one of the following documents, as applicable:

- Birth certificates
- Court orders regarding child custody
- Adoption documents

- Records of Foster Care placements;
- School or medical records;
- County welfare department records; or
- Other reliable documentation indicating the relationship of the child to the parent.

If only one parent has signed an application and the information provided above indicates there is a second parent who has not signed the application, the parent who has signed the application shall self-certify the presence or absence of the second parent under penalty of perjury. The parent who has signed the application shall not be required to submit additional information documenting the presence or absence of the second parent.

If the information provided by the parent is insufficient, Savanna School District shall request any additional documentation necessary from above to verify the family composition and family size.

For income eligibility and family fee purposes, when a child and his or her siblings are living in a family that does not include their biological or adoptive parent, only the child and related siblings shall be counted to determine family size. In these cases, the adult(s) must meet a need criterion to receive services.

Certification for Services

Parents must verify need based on documentation of one of the following:

- Child Protective Services (see eligibility above)
- At-Risk (see eligibility above)
- Parental Incapacity: If you are incapacitated, Savanna School District needs:
 - A signed release statement authorizing a legally qualified health professional to disclose information necessary to establish that you meet the definition of incapacity and
 - A statement (form CD 3906) from a legally qualified health professional that includes the following:
 - That the parent is incapacitated, that the parent is incapable of providing care and supervision for the child for part of the day, and the extent to which the parent is incapable of providing care and supervision, the days and hours per week that services are recommended, probable duration of incapacitation, name, business address, telephone number, professional license number, and signature of the health professional.
- Employment
- Training Toward Vocational Goal
- Actively Seeking Employment
- Seeking Permanent Housing
- Or a combination of the items listed above.

Gross family income must not exceed 85% of the state median income at time of the initial certification in order for the family to qualify for a state subsidy.

Fraudulent information or failure to report changes to Savanna School District will result in immediate termination of services. The parent(s) will be obligated to re-pay the State and Savanna School District for services rendered.

Contract Hours

Your contract hours for the school year will be based on the training or employment verifications of both parents. Contract hours will be assigned based on the need of both parents. While seeking employment, your hours will be limited to not more than 30 hours per week. If you need to modify your contract hours, please provide new documentation indicating reason for change, this may include a new training verification for the quarter, new employment verification or internship assignments. We request a one-week advance

notice on any changes to your contract hours. If back up documentation is not provided, we may not be able to accommodate your change. Drop-in care is not available at any of the programs.

Attendance

Unexcused absences by student families jeopardize the grant for all families. An unexcused absence would include the child not feeling like coming to school, or the parent or child waking up late. It is understood that special circumstances arise, but after three (3) unexcused absences you will be required to meet with the Site Supervisor to discuss your child care. Unexcused absences may result in termination of services.

Excused absences include:

- Child or parent illness or quarantine;
- Court ordered visitation with absent parent (maximum of four consecutive weeks- court order must be on file);
- Dental, doctor or therapy appointment (for child or parent);
- Family emergency (illness of sibling, death of immediate family members, funeral, car accident, weather conditions, court appearance, car trouble, etc.);
- Best Interest Days.

Best Interest Days are limited to ten (10) days per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). After you have exhausted your ten (10) best interest days for the fiscal year, any additional absences in the best interest of the child are considered unexcused absences. If your family accrues more than five (5) unexcused absences for the fiscal year (July 1- June 30), your family may be terminated due to excess absences.

Failure to give a reason for your child's absence will result in an unexcused absence.

Best interest Days include:

- Vacation (specific, with parent/relative);
- Day with family;
- Religious holiday;
- Occasional special event (school play, recital, etc.);
- School program/ field trip;
- Child's birthday;
- Other reasons which are clearly in the best interest of the child.

An absence is applied only if your child is out for the entire day.

Leave of Absences are not allowed. If your child leaves the program, it is your responsibility to fill out a new subsidized application to put your name back on the wait list. Priority will not be given for your anticipated return date.

California Department of Social Services – Effective: July 1, 2024									
State enrollment cutoff = 85% of 2024 State Median Income (SMI) from CA DOF (2022 ACS)									
Monthly Part-time									
Monthly Part-time Fee	Family Size 1 or 2	Family Size 3	Family Size 4	Family Size 5	Family Size 6	Family Size 7	Family Size 8 or more		
\$29.05	5,819	6,593	7,687	8,917	10,147	10,378	10,608		
\$29.45	5,897	6,681	7,790	9,036	10,282	10,516	10,750		
\$29.85	5,975	6,768	7,892	9,155	10,417	10,654	10,891		
\$30.25	6,052	6,856	7,995	9,274	10,553	10,793	11,032		
\$30.60	6,130	6,944	8,097	9,393	10,688	10,931	11,174		
\$31.00	6,207	7,032	8,200	9,511	10,823	11,069	11,315		
\$31.40	6,285	7,120	8,302	9,630	10,959	11,208	11,457		
\$31.80	6,362	7,208	8,405	9,749	11,094	11,346	11,598		
\$32.20	6,440	7,296	8,507	9,868	11,229	11,484	11,740		
\$32.55	6,518	7,384	8,609	9,987	11,365	11,623	11,881		
\$32.95	6,595	7,472	8,712	10,106	11,500	11,761	12,023		
			Monthly	Full-time					
Monthly Full-time Fee	Family Size 1 or 2	Family Size 3	Family Size 4	Family Size 5	Family Size 6	Family Size 7	Family Size 8 or more		
\$58.10	5,819	6,593	7,687	8,917	10,147	10,378	10,608		
\$58.90	5,897	6,681	7,790	9,036	10,282	10,516	10,750		
\$59.70	5,975	6,768	7,892	9,155	10,417	10,654	10,891		
\$60.50	6,052	6,856	7,995	9,274	10,553	10,793	11,032		
\$61.20	6,130	6,944	8,097	9,393	10,688	10,931	11,174		
\$62.00	6,207	7,032	8,200	9,511	10,823	11,069	11,315		
\$62.80	6,285	7,120	8,302	9,630	10,959	11,208	11,457		
\$63.60	6,362	7,208	8,405	9,749	11,094	11,346	11,598		
\$64.40	6,440	7,296	8,507	9,868	11,229	11,484	11,740		
\$65.10	6,518	7,384	8,609	9,987	11,365	11,623	11,881		
\$65.90	6,595	7,472	8,712	10,106	11,500	11,761	12,023		

Family Monthly Fee Schedule California Department of Social Services – Effective: July 1, 2024

Based on 2022 American Community Survey (2022ACS) Information provided by California Department of Finance, April 2024

California Department of Social Services Jul-24

Billing Procedure and Payment of Fees

A family fee assessment is based on your income and family size.

- A family fee is charged based on the number of contracted hours for the month. Full time monthly
 fees are assessed when a child is scheduled to attend 25 hours or more per week. Part time
 monthly fees are assessed when a child is scheduled to attend less than 25 hours per week. There
 is no adjustment for excused or unexcused absences. There is an exception to the family fee if the
 family income is below 40% of State Median Income, or if the family is receiving CalWORKs cash
 aid.
- Your monthly family fee is based on current income verification and family size. If you pay for child care for another child not in one of our programs, your monthly family fee will be adjusted upon verification of other child care fees paid to a different provider for your family. If you pay fees to other service providers because we are not able to meet all of your child care needs, you will be given credit for this when you submit a receipt or cancelled check.
- State regulations require that a family fee be charged even when your child is absent due to vacation or illness.
- Your family fee is due in full on the first of each month and is delinquent if not paid by the fifth working day of the month. If payment is not received by the 5th working day, a notice of action will be issued to terminate services two weeks from the date of the notice. A reasonable repayment plan may be accepted, and you must comply with the repayment plan for continued services.
- We cannot accept cash for tuition payment.
- A two-week's notice in writing is required when terminating from the program.

Uniform Complaint Procedures Notice

It is the intent of Savanna School District to fully comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Anyone has the right to file a complaint regarding Savanna School District's alleged violation of a statute or regulation that the California Department of Social Services is authorized to enforce. This includes allegation of unlawful discrimination.

Complaints must be signed and filed in writing with:

Savanna School District 1330 S. Knott Avenue Anaheim, CA 92804 Attn: Uniform Complaint Coordinator

If the complaint is not satisfied with the final written decision of the Savanna School District, remedies may be available in federal or state court.

A person filing a written complaint alleging unlawful discrimination may also pursue civil remedies.

Health, Safety and Nutrition Policies and Procedures

Program staff maintain clean, safe, and healthful environments. Our goal is to protect and enhance the health and safety of all children and staff. Adults model good health and safety behaviors and promote good daily health routines.

Health Requirements for Admission

Health regulations are determined by the California Department of Social Services and the State Department of Health. For the protection of all children enrolled in the program, the following requirements are necessary:

- Verification of your child's current immunizations must be on file before your child may attend school.
- Your child must have documentation showing that they are free from active tuberculosis or a waiver from their physician stating that they are not in a high-risk category.
- A physical exam by a licensed physician is required prior to enrollment.
- An additional health history completed by parents is requested to help teachers become better acquainted with your child.
- Immunization records must be kept current while your child is enrolled in the program.

Sign In and Out Procedures

Signing in and signing out your child is required by law for the safety and supervision of the children. Community Care Licensing requires that you or an adult (over the age of 18 years) authorized by you, sign your child in and out of the program each day. If you forget to sign your child in or out, you will be called to come back and do so. For your child's safety *always* let a teacher know when you and your child arrive and before taking your child from the program.

Please call the program by 8:00 am if your child will be absent or late.

If someone other than a parent is to pick up your child from the program, you must list that adult on your child's Emergency and Identification Form with their signature. If the adult taking your child from the program is not on the form, we must have your written permission in advance. Adults listed on your child's Emergency and Identification Form must show a photo ID before they will be allowed to sign your child out of the program. Please speak to your child's teacher or the Site Supervisor if there is a change in your routine pick up plan, so that we can remind your child during the day.

We must be able to reach you or someone on your authorized pick-up list at all times. Please make sure that all people on your emergency list are aware that they are listed, and are willing to pick your child up in case of illness or emergency. Failure to comply with this may jeopardize your child's enrollment at the program.

Please carefully supervise your child **and their siblings** when entering or leaving the program. When you sign your child out, you are responsible for their safety and supervision.

Emergency Pick Up

If you or someone on your emergency form is unable to pick up your child, protocol is for you to call the program and speak to the Site Supervisor or Supervisor of Preschool and Childcare Programs, who may authorize an alternative person to pick up. Teachers may not make this authorization. You will need to provide a description of the person and the person must bring photo identification.

Late Pick Up Policy

It is very difficult for children to be left at school after their normal pick-up time. We ask that parents make every effort to observe their scheduled hours and the program's closing time, and are respectful of the staff's needs to get home to their own families and other obligations. If you are late, staff will attempt to reach parents and emergency contacts by phone. Please be assured that your child is always our concern and will be well cared for until your arrival. We understand that unavoidable situations arise, however, we have found it necessary to implement the following policy:

Children must be picked up at the end of their scheduled program. Any child remaining after the end of their scheduled program will be charged \$20.00 for the first 15 minutes and a \$1.00 for each minute thereafter. Our staff will attempt to contact parents or authorized adults on the child's emergency form to pick up the child. **Repeated lateness may result in termination of service.**

Child Custody Changes

Unless the program has a copy of a court order or restraining order on file at the site, we cannot legally deny a parent or legal guardian the ability to pick up their child. If such an order has been issued, and a copy has been submitted to the early care and education office, the program staff will follow the custody arrangement as specified on the order. The most recent copies of all court orders and restraining orders must be submitted to the Site Supervisor immediately.

Cell Phone and Photography Policy

All programs have a "no cell phone" policy inside the programs. If you must take or make a phone call, please step outside to do so. Transitions are made easier when your child has your full attention at drop off and pick up, and your full attention allows for clearer communication between teachers and parents. Photography of children by parents or family members with a cell phone or other electronic device (iPad, camera, etc.) is not allowed in our programs at any time. However, photos and/or videos may be taken at family events at your child's program, such as potlucks, ice cream socials, pancake breakfasts, or performances. In these instances, we ask that parents refrain from posting pictures or videos of other people's children on social media without parent permission.

Health

State regulations require that a teacher evaluate each child's health when the child arrives at school. Teachers do not allow sick or possibly ill children in the classroom. Teachers use their discretion and best judgment when sending a child home.

Because of our concern for the health of your child and all other students in the program, the following guidelines have been created. We appreciate your cooperation and compliance.

Students who are ill will not be accepted at the program. Students who become ill during the day will be sent home.

Please keep your child home from school if he/she has:

- had a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher within the previous 24 hours.
- had vomiting or diarrhea within the previous 24 hours.
- an unexplained rash or skin irritation until cleared to return with a note from doctor.
- red, itchy, watery, or crusty eyes.
- green or yellow drainage from the eyes, ears, or nose.
- a severe headache, stomachache, earache, or sore throat within the previous 24 hours.
- a contagious illness, until cleared to return with a note from your doctor.

If you have any doubts about your child's health, please keep your child home and contact your doctor.

Teachers appreciate knowing if your child is undergoing any unusual or traumatic experiences that might affect their behavior at school. This information allows teachers to better meet the needs of your child during school hours.

If Your Child Should Get Sick During the Program

In the event your child becomes ill while at the site, you will be promptly notified. We expect that you will come to the site as quickly as possible to take your child home. Program staff will discuss with you the tentative date your child may return to school and the program.

Our Site Supervisors and staff provide basic first aid for injuries and illness that occur on our school sites. While we will have nursing staff available in the district throughout the hours of the program, we do not have a clinic on site, and our staff do not treat diseases and cannot be a substitute for a personal health care provider.

Medication and Health/Medical Needs Policy

Savanna School District and BRIGHT Learners Academy prioritize the health and safety of all children attending our preschool programs. In compliance with District and Community Care Licensing Standards, and to ensure a safe environment, it is mandatory for parents to submit all health paperwork before their child can attend. This includes documentation related to any allergies, health conditions and/or medical needs including a list of medication required during school hours.

Failure to provide the necessary paperwork will result in the child being unable to attend the preschool program until all required documentation is submitted and reviewed by the appropriate school personnel to ensure necessary requirements have been met. If your child develops a serious health-related condition after they have been enrolled, your child's attendance may have to be paused until the required documentation is submitted and reviewed by the appropriate school personnel to ensure necessary requirements have been met. Your cooperation enables us to maintain a comprehensive understanding of each child's health needs and respond appropriately in case of emergencies.

Any child who has been sent home from school with a "Report of Medical Referral" for a possible contagious condition must have a note from their health care provider in order to return to the program. The parent must bring the health care provider's note to the Site Supervisor.

Injuries, First Aid and Emergency Medical/Dental Treatment

All program staff are trained on CPR/First Aid annually. Teachers will give appropriate first aid to an injured child. In all cases, except very minor injuries, the parents will be contacted. In case of serious medical or dental injury (such as a head injury, suspected bone injury, severe cuts, broken tooth), parents will be notified immediately to determine the necessary medical attention to be sought. If administration and staff deem the injury is life-threatening, paramedics will be called to the school, and a parent/guardian will be contacted. If a parent cannot be contacted, the school will use the emergency contacts provided by the parents in the student's records. An Injury and First Aid Report is completed by the supervising staff for any accident or injury and signed by the Site Supervisor. A copy of this report will be sent home upon request.

Developmental and Health Screenings

Programs utilize the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3 and ASQ SE), which is a developmental screening and monitoring tool. Upon entry, parents are given the opportunity to fill this out, which provides a look at how their child is doing in important developmental areas. Parents can choose to participate, can opt out, or can choose to participate at a later time. If a parent chooses to participate, they will take the ASQ questionnaire home, complete it, and return it to the program. The Site Supervisor or the child's primary teacher will score the questionnaire and will share the results with the family as soon as possible, either verbally or in writing. Completed questionnaires and score sheets will be placed in the child's file and kept confidential.

After the questionnaire is scored, parents will receive a recommendation which may range from no further action necessary, a parent-teacher conference to discuss next steps, a list of activities that parents can do with their child at home, or referrals for additional screenings. If referrals for vision/hearing, health care, behavior screening or early intervention are recommended, the Site Supervisor and Community Liaison will help connect families to these resources.

Sunscreen

Children spend a great deal of time outdoors during most days. If you would like your child to use sunscreen, please apply it in the morning before coming to school. If you wish for your child to re-apply sunscreen during the school day, parents and an authorized health care provider must fill out the *Parent/Guardian and Authorized Healt Care Provider Request For Medication* form. Please see your Site Supervisor for assistance.

Sleeping Arrangements

Your Site Supervisor will discuss napping and sleeping arrangements with you during parent orientation. Our preschool programs are required to provide a napping/resting period for all children. Our licensing requirements prevent us from disrupting a child's sleep by waking them up, or forcing them to sleep if they are not tired.

Nutrition

Family style eating is an integral part of our programs. Teachers sit with children during mealtimes to serve as role models and to encourage healthy eating habits. Meals and snacks are planned by the Nutrition Services Department according to the recommendation of the USDA Federal Child Care Food Program. Monthly menus are posted in each program. Parents may request a copy of the monthly menu or it can be accessed on the district website.

Programs provide breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. All meals and snacks contain, as a minimum, food components and quantities established by the USDA guidelines. A physician's note is required if your child requires food substitutions or is unable to participate in program meals. Parents of any child with severe food allergies or special nutritional needs should see the site director of your program.

Please note that all programs are NUT FREE, which means that no peanuts, peanut butter, or tree nuts (such as almonds and walnuts) may be brought into or served at the program.

Emergency Procedure and Disaster Plan

In the event of an emergency or natural disaster, all students will be kept with Savanna School District staff until an authorized adult pick them up. If the program must relocate to another facility, a note in a visible location will be posted for your information. Our relocation site is Cypress College, 9200 Valley View Street, Cypress, CA 90630

Parents are asked to pick up their children as soon as possible, and to limit phone calls. Although we know you will be concerned about your child, we need to be free to care for all children and the phone lines need to be kept free for emergency use. All programs have first aid supplies, food, water, and blankets on hand if children need to remain in the programs for an extended period of time. Sign out procedures will be followed. If you send another adult to pick up your child, they must be on your child's emergency list.

Each month the programs have drills to keep staff and children prepared for an emergency. Children participate in fire and earthquake drills, as well as lock down drills. Teachers are trained in CPR and First Aid, and all programs are equipped with smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers.

Parent Volunteers

Parent Volunteer Policy

BRIGHT Learners Academy welcomes volunteers to its programs. We recognize the importance of parent involvement in their children's education and encourage parents to become active participants. We also

consider the safety of our students and staff to be one of our highest priorities. All volunteers must submit a *Volunteer Application* to the Site Supervisor annually.

The term volunteer refers to any individual who is not an employee or student, who helps out regularly at the school during school hours when children are present.

Tuberculosis Test

Volunteers must submit proof of a negative TB test within the past 60 days or complete a TB screening with a Savanna School District nurse to determine that he/she is free of active tuberculosis. Volunteers who test negative shall thereafter be required to take a tuberculosis test every four year in accordance with Education Code 49406. (Education Code 45106, 45347, 45349, 49406)

If you have had a TB skin test or IGRA with a negative result within the past 4 years, you do not need to be tested again. You only need to bring in a copy of the medical report to the school.

The District will not pay for any costs related to obtaining medical records or testing. The volunteer should assume all responsibility in providing the school with the proper clearance paperwork. If you have any questions about this requirement, please feel free to contact our school nurse at the number provided below.

Credentialed School Nurse (714) 236-3800

Statement of Health

Per Title 22, Community Care Licensing regulations, all volunteers must provide the program with a written self declaration of good health and the ability to work with young children.

Immunizations

Per Title 22, Community Care Licensing regulations, volunteers must provide proof of:

- TDaP Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis.
- MMR Measles, Mumps and Rubella.
- Influenza vaccine (may choose to decline, but sign a statement)

Fingerprinting

Any adult that will be volunteering at the school will be required to have their fingerprints taken. There will be no charge for this service. Parents will need to come to the school office to pick up the required forms for fingerprinting. If you have older students attending a Savanna School District school, and have been previously fingerprinted, no additional fingerprints are needed. Any person with a felony conviction will need to speak with a District Administrator regarding the specific category of the felony committed. The District Administrator will conduct an Individualized Assessment to determine volunteer opportunities. An Individualized Plan for school visitation and volunteer opportunities will rest soley on the Savanna School District. The Savanna School District reserves the right to withdraw visitor/volunteer consent at any time to provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff or if a visitor/volunteer willfully disrupts the operation of the school.

Volunteer Guidelines

- All volunteers must read and accept the conditions of the volunteer application prior to volunteering at the school.
- All volunteers are required to check in at the main office prior to going to their designated location.
- All visitors are required to provide a photo ID and pick up a visitor badge/sticker.
- Visitor badges/stickers need to be worn and visible at all times while on campus.
- Although volunteers may be wearing a visitor's badge, school employees may ask for identification. Please be assured this is a safeguard for our students.

- Voluteers are required to sign out when leaving the school.
- Volunteers must prearrange their volunteer times wth their child's classroom teacher.
- Volunteers may only visit the designated located assigned to them. Visits to outside areas other than classrooms (playground, etc.) require permission from the school administrator.
- Volunteers must dress appropriately for a school environment.

General Information

Informal Daily Communication

Check in with your child's teacher every morning at drop-off time. It is important for us to be aware of any information that may affect your child's day at school. You may occasionally receive a call from the teacher to advise you about an incident during the day or to ask for your input on an issue that has come up during the day. Always feel comfortable to call us any time to check on your child. Please take a moment at pick-up time to find out how your child's day has been.

Program Parent Area

There are parent bulletin boards or parent windows in all programs with information concerning program activities, meetings, announcements, health notices and menus. Each classroom also has a bulletin board with curriculum plans and other announcements.

Email Communication and Newsletters

Programs will send newsletters and reminders home either by email or by placing them with the sign-in sheets to keep families informed about the program, parent events, classroom activities and general information and reminders of interest to all families.

Celebrations, Holidays and Birthdays

Savanna School District is a multicultural community of people from diverse backgrounds. Our activities, programs and everyday interactions are enriched by our acceptance of one another, and we strive to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. Valuing diversity is an important part of our curriculum. Out of respect for our diverse community we do not celebrate holidays in our preschool programs. Instead, staff work with children to create their own meaningful celebrations that focus on the children's interests.

Birthdays are an important day for many children and their families. Programs may choose to recognize a child's birthday by drawing pictures and creating a birthday book, singing a birthday song or reading a special book. Due to USDA Federal Food Program guidelines as well as the prevalence of food allergies, parents are asked not to bring food into the program to share for birthdays.

If you would like to "celebrate" your child's birthday at school, we ask that an appropriate age level book, instructional game or craft supplies be donated to the classroom in place of food items. Parents may also bring goody bags with non-food items to be sent home with students at the end of the school day. Your cooperation on this issue is greatly appreciated.

Parent Relationships with Staff

We strive to have close yet professional relationships with the families that we serve. Please respect the personal boundaries of Site Supervisors, teachers and instructional aides by not asking to "friend" or follow them on social media sites, or asking for their cell phone or home phone numbers. Site Supervisors, teachers and instructional assistants are not able to babysit for children enrolled in the program, attend birthday parties or social events, or provide services such as tutoring or private lessons of any kind.

Parent/Guardian Concerns

If you have any problem or concern about our program or your child's progress, please contact the Site Supervisor or the Supervisor of Preschool and Childcare Programs at the Savanna School District office at (714) 236-3800. Your concern is our concern.

Field Trips and Walks

To enrich curriculum experiences, we may take walks on the school site campus. If the possibility of an offcampus field trip arises, parents will be informed in advance and must fill out a field trip permission form. We follow state ratios for field trips, carry first aid equipment and emergency forms, and a cell phone. Transportation for any field trip will be provided by Savanna School District Transportation Department.

Positive Behavior Management

We strive to create an environment where children are safe and where they know they will be cared for and listened to, not just by their teachers, but by one another as well.

In order to minimize conflict, much effort is taken to provide appropriate activities, create an inviting environment, and meet the individual needs of children. Still, conflicts are a natural occurrence as children try to relate to one another in a group setting.

Many techniques are used for assisting children through conflict resolution. Although our interactions vary depending on the age of the children and the severity of the situation, all means seek to guide children as problem solvers.

The following techniques are used regularly at the programs:

Limit Setting- In order for children to build trusting relationships and feel confident to explore, they must clearly know what is expected of them. Rules are kept basic, clear and concise. Boundaries and expectations expand in keeping with the abilities of the children.

Consistency- So that children know what to expect (and from that can anticipate, predict and change their own behavior accordingly), limits and expectations are consistent throughout the classrooms. All adults respond in a consistent manner to conflict situations.

Modeling- The adults in the program set an example of compassionate, caring individuals who are able to express their own feelings and needs clearly and calmly.

Passive Intervention- Children are given time to work through their own problems. If a situation does not escalate to destructive or aggressive behavior, a teacher may choose to simply observe as the children seek a solution, or their presence nearby can serve as a gentle reminder to use words instead of action. Teachers trust children to 'figure it out' but are there to help if they should need it. When additional intervention is necessary to facilitate the resolution process, it is as non-intrusive as possible.

Physical Intervention- Children will be physically stopped when hurting each other. The focus will then turn to resolving the conflict at hand.

Identifying/Interpreting- "You both want the dinosaur." Such a simple statement can clarify the problem, diffuse tension and help the problem solving begin. Children also need help to consider other's emotions or needs especially when they are upset themselves. For example, "Look, he is crying. It really hurt when you hit him."

Validating Feelings- Constructive thinking is impossible when a child is overcome by an emotion such as anger, sadness, fear or frustration. Acknowledging the emotion is imperative before any other learning can occur. "I will not let you hit her. Tell me why you are so angry." It is important that all children in a conflict be

honestly listened to. Children are asked to actively comfort or offer help to the child they hurt/upset. Adults may say, "I'm sorry you got hurt" and at some point, children will spontaneously do the same.

Giving Choices/Offering solutions- Adults offer choices and possible solutions to children who are having a difficult time finding them on their own. Some options given are negotiating and collaborating with peers.

Redirection- A request to stop a negative behavior is accompanied by a suggestion for an appropriate behavior with which to replace it..."You may not climb on the fence; if you would like to climb you can use the climber."

Natural Consequences- Consequences for behavior are those that are logical to children. "If you are not able to stop throwing the sand, then you will need to come out of the sandbox." When children are able to understand the results of their own behavior, they are better able to modify it.

Discipline Policy

Although it is a popular discipline method, "time out" is not considered a viable option at the programs. While it may interrupt a negative behavior, it does not help children acquire the skills to deal with the situation should it arise again. Young children are generally not yet capable of the reflective thought necessary to make "time out" a learning situation. If a child needs time to calm down, teachers facilitate this in a non-punitive manner by helping children find a way to calm themselves.

Our preschool programs have a strict policy against spanking or any form of physical punishment. Please do not request staff to spank your child as a form of discipline.

We are dedicated to creating a safe, nurturing and respectful environment for all children through use of encouragement, positive guidance techniques and problem-solving strategies.

When More Support is Needed

Occasionally a child's behavior is excessively disruptive or harmful to individual children or the class. If the teacher and Site Supervisor concur that they need additional support and expertise to best meet a child's needs, some or all of the following steps will be required of the family:

<u>Additional parent/teacher conferences</u> will be held. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the challenges the child is having at the program and brainstorm and document through a positive behavior support plan any changes the staff and family can make to reinforce consistency between home and school.

<u>Community Resources</u>- Professional support may be sought. The Site Supervisor and Community Liaison facilitates the referral process, working with parents, staff, and specialists.

Savanna School District is committed to seeking solutions for difficult situations with children and families.

Biting Policy

One of the most upsetting yet normal behaviors of early childhood is biting. Infants may bite because their gums hurt, and to bite down hard on something gives relief. With toddlers and young preschoolers, social skills are still limited. It is difficult for young children to distinguish between what is loving and what hurts. When an older child bites, it is usually a means of expressing emotions. Young children are just beginning to develop a social conscience. They may fully understand that when they bite, someone cries; but they have not yet connected all of the consequences to the behavior.

Parents will be notified if their child has been bitten. The name of the child who is the biter will not be included when informing the parent of the incident. If the bite has broken the skin, it will be washed with soap and water. Parents will be notified immediately and requested to call their child's physician for further instructions.

If biting becomes an ongoing behavior, the Site Supervisor and the child's teachers will talk with parents and together they will carefully analyze the circumstances. Anecdotal information noting when the incident happened, where it happened, what precipitated the bite, who was involved, and the times of day the biting occurs will be documented. A teacher will be assigned to stay close to the child to interrupt the biting behavior before it happens and to provide needed support. Reasonable action will be taken to modify the environment, routines or interactions within the group, to help diminish the biting. If further action is needed, the Site Supervisor, teachers and parents will meet to create a positive behavior plan for the child.

Termination of Services

A family will be terminated from the program if they fail to meet subsidy requirements or knowingly use incorrect or inaccurate information to obtain a benefit that they would otherwise not be entitled to receive.

The Program may also terminate your child's enrollment under the following circumstances:

- Non-payment for your child care services and/or lack of adherence to tuition payment policies.
- Repeated late pick up of your child(ren).
- Parents falsify information on enrollment forms or otherwise knowingly falsify information.
- Parents do not agree or do not follow and comply with the policies set forth in this handbook.
- Lack of parental cooperation with the Program's efforts to resolve difference and/or to meet the child's needs through parent/staff meetings or conferences.
- Inappropriate or abusive behavior and/or verbal abuse or threats by parents, relatives, guardians or other parties toward the Program staff, other parents or children.
- Inability of parents to deal in a professional manner with program staff or other parents and children at the program.
- The continued enrollment of the child poses a risk to the health and/or safety of themselves, other children, parents or program staff members or continued enrollment of the child constitutes an undue burden on the program's resources.

If services are terminated for any reason, your family will not be eligible to re-apply for services for a minimum of six months. Re-application for services will be subject to review by Savanna School District.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Questions or complaints of alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying, equity or Title IX equity and compliance concerns should be directed to the Non-Discrimination/Title IX Coordinator at: Assistant Superintendent Savanna School District 1330 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, California 92804 714-236-3800 assistant.superintendent@savsd.org

TITLE IX STATEMENT

The Savanna School District is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects individuals from discrimination (including sexual harassment and sexual violence) based on sex in any educational program or activity. Title IX also prohibits retaliation for asserting or otherwise participating in claims of sex discrimination.

For more information, contact the Title IX Coordinator at:

Assistant Superintendent Savanna School District 1330 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, California 92804 714-236-3800 <u>assistant.superintendent@savsd.org</u>

The Savanna School District is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals in district programs and activities. District programs, activities, and practices shall be free from unlawful discrimination, including discrimination

against an individual or group based on race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information; a perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.



Parent Handbook Receipt

____ I have received a copy of the Bright Learners Academy parent handbook.

____ I have read all policies in this handbook and agree to them.

_____ I understand that failure to follow these policies may lead to disenrollment of childcare services.

____ I received an Effects of Lead Exposure Pamphlet during the enrollment process.

Child's Name

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Site Supervisor Signature

Date

Date



