



Parent Handbook

www.ekobeschooloflearning.com

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#376105175

A. Introduction

Our purpose - 4
 Preschool Name - 4
 Our Mission - 4
 Our Approach- 5
 Emergent Curriculum - 5
 Language Program : Portuguese and Spanish
 Atelierista - Art Room - 6
 Hours of Operation - 6
 Program Age Served - 6 to 7
 Calendar - 7
 Daily routine - 7
 Schedule - 7
 Holidays Closed - 7

B. Enrollment Policies

Admission & Registration - 8
 Inspection Authority of Childcare Licensing - 8
 Payment Method -9
 Adjustment period - 9
 Easy goodbyes - 9
 What to bring on first day - 9
 Personal Rest Mat - 9
 Emergency kit - 9
 Attendance - 10
 Notification of Absences - 10
 Late Drop off - 10
 Late Pick Up - 10
 Authorized Pick Ups - 10
 Fees - 11
 Annual Registration and Material Fee - 11
 Four-week Notice Deposit - 11
 Delinquent Account - 11
 Returned payment fee - 11
 Tuition Reduction - 11
 Annual Tuition and Fee Increase - 12
 Siblings - 12
 Schedule Change Request - 12
 Withdrawal - 12
 Dismissal - 12
 Public Health Emergency closing and inclement weather - 12
 Remote Learning - 13

C. General Information

Drop off and Release Procedure - 13
 Drop-Off Policy: Child Handover to Teachers
 Parking area - 13
 Personal Items - 13
 Lost and Found - 14
 Breakfast, Snack, and Lunch - 14
 Water bottle - 14
 Rest Time - 14
 Potty/Toilet - 14
 Dress Code - 15
 Footwear - 15
 Jewelry - 16
 Cubbies - 16
 Birthdays - 16
 Items not allowed - 16
 Religious Instructions - 16

D. Health, Safety and Nutrition

Communicable Diseases - 17
 Accident/Incident -18
 Hand Washing - 18
 Lice policy - 18
 Dogs - 18
 Sunscreen -18
 Medications - 19
 Incidental Medical Services - 19
 Record keeping - 20
 Storage - 20
 Allergies - 20
 Nut-free environment - 21
 Injuries and Other Emergencies - 21
 Emergency Disaster Plan -21
 Gates and doors - 22
 Mandated Reporter - 22
 Transportation Arrangements - 22
 Choking hazard accessories - 22
 Biting -22
 Smoking Policy - 22
 Behavior Guidance - 23
 Health School Act of 2000- Pesticide - 23

E. General policies and Code of Conduct

General - 23
 Respectful behavior -23
 Social Media - 24
 Parents Right to Access - 24

Communication - 24
Confidentiality - 24
Babysitting - 25
Mindfulness - 25
Get to know your child's teacher - 25
Visitors - 25
Staff Replacement - 25
Audio and video monitoring - 26
Teachers Leading for Creativity - 26
Parent Yearly Engagement and Buy-out Policy - 26
Non-discriminatory policy - 26

INTRODUCTION

Our Purpose

We believe children are active learners. We believe they are capable. Together, we nurture the learning process. We create the environment for growth. We help them thrive...one child at a time!

Ekobé School of Learning

Our school name was carefully chosen by the founder of Ekobé School of Learning. Ekobé means the “Essence of Life” and we believe the “Essence of Life is Found in the Child.” The letter “O” has a brush stroke in the middle of the word to represent the creative mind of the child, the leaf in the center represents the growth of the child, and the circle represents community engagement.

The essence of life is found in the creative mind, the inquisitive thoughts, the passion, the love, the compassion and the curiosity of the young child..

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide an educational environment that fosters a positive approach to respecting children’s ability to learn and grow in an open-ended learning experience through exploration, creativity and collaboration.

We are committed to creating a nurturing environment that inspires learning while stimulating the social, emotional, cognitive and physical well-being of the child to fully thrive in a diverse and inclusive community.

We value the communication among children, teachers and parents to create a challenging and joyful space that promotes the potential of all children.

Our Approach

Our teaching philosophy is inspired by the Reggio-Emilia approach to learning.

THE IMAGE OF THE CHILD

We view the child’s ideas as valuable tools for learning and exploring their potential growth. The Reggio Emilia approach takes the children seriously and the children are trusted as active participants in building knowledge while exploring the environment.

THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER

The teacher takes a distinguished role from the traditional teaching approach. The teacher is the listener, the observer, the documentor, the researcher, the negotiator, and the supporter of the children's ideas.

THE THIRD TEACHER

The environment is the third teacher. The environment is created with flexibility to stimulate opportunities for transparency, curiosity, relationship and reciprocity. The environment, the children and the teacher collaborate in the social construction of knowledge.

THE EMERGENT CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is child-centered. It is created with flexibility to embrace children's interests. The children provide the direction for how the curriculum will be developed. Teachers engage with children by asking reflective questions to encourage more elaborated answers.

THE RELATIONSHIP

The relationship among the children, teachers, and parents is fundamental to how well children construct knowledge based on reciprocity. The culture of engagement builds the shared sense of responsibility for all children.

THE DOCUMENTATION

Documentation makes children's growth development and interests visible. Documentation creates an opportunity to have a glimpse into children's world of imagination. It allows teachers to understand and interpret children's working process instead of simply evaluating. Documentation is produced and presented by photographs, written observations, journals, audiotape and videotape.

Emergent Curriculum - Toddler Component and Preschool Program

Our curriculum is child-centered and Reggio Emilia Inspired for both Toddler and Preschool Age. It is created with flexibility to embrace children's interests and it will be developed according to their developmental stage.

In the Toddler program, curriculum will be designed to foster toddler's independence along with activities that will strengthen their individual learnings, language, gross motor skills, while building a strong relationship between the teacher and child.

In the Preschool program, the children will provide the direction for how the curriculum will be developed. Teachers engage with children by asking reflective questions to encourage more elaborated answers.

Our experienced staff embraces a dynamic curriculum that will prepare our young learners to thrive in the classroom and beyond. Our curriculum incorporates a play-based approach with a variety of hands-on opportunities for exploration of the world around them.

We will also implement the Conscious Discipline and Kindness Curriculum within our learnings.

Language Program: Portuguese and Spanish

The language program will be offered twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday) for children attending Ekboé School of Learning. Parents will be notified once the Language Program starts. The program is still under development and preparing qualified teachers. Parents will be provided with the choice of language Portuguese or Spanish. Time to start : TBD.

Atelierista - Art Room

The atelier (art room) will be used by all students under the supervision of their teachers and the Atelierista. The atelierista will incorporate art concepts and explorations of different art mediums (clay, wood, paint, fabric, charcoal, etc) with the children. The atelierista will collaborate with your child's teacher to further explore their interest and ways of expressing their learnings and views. Parents will be notified once we hire the right Atelierista to join our team.

Hours of Operation

Ekobe School of Learning is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM.
Full-Day : 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

Program Age served

Toddler program - Ages 18 months to 36
Preschool program - 2 years old to 5 years old

***Parents choosing to enroll their child in the toddler program must provide a written permission to enroll their child into the program (18 months and 36 months of age). A form will be provided and accessible for download on our website. No child in the toddler program shall be placed in the preschool program before the age of 30 months without written permission from the child's authorized representative along with Director's permission and assessment of the child's developmental stage. Both parents and director must agree under written form when transition to preschool program should take place. Ekobé School of Learning reserves the right to deny any transition request to preschool programs if the child is not at the developmental stage and/or for any other reason that could impact the normal operation of the facility in relation to teacher/ratio capacity.**

Calendar

The yearly calendar will be posted online for easy access to parents and inside the classroom.. The school reserves the right to make any changes necessary to the calendar during the year at any time.

Daily Routine

Our daily routine is determined by the children and their teachers; it can be a routine that is flexible, predictable and balanced, loud/quiet, indoor/outdoor, child-led/teacher-led, and structured/free play.

Schedule

7:30 AM : Ekobé School of Learning opens
 8:30 AM: Breakfast (provided by parents)
 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM : Indoor or Outdoor Activities
 11:45 AM : Lunch (provided by parents)
 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM : Rest Time
 03:00 PM: Afternoon Snack (additional snack provided by parents)
 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM : Indoor or Outdoor Activities
 5:30 PM: Ekobé School of Learning closes

Holidays Closed, Teacher Training Days, Summer and Winter Break

*Please refer to updated list of closed days/holidays on our website

ENROLLMENT POLICIES

Admission and Registration

Students may enroll at any time through the year. If space is not available, you can request to be placed on our waitlist. The application process must be completed each year, as student records must be updated annually.. To secure your spot in the program, please submit the documents (hard copy) below. All forms must be turned in on the first day of attendance. Any forms not returned within two weeks, a charge of \$25 per week will be added to your account.

Enrollment application
 Registration fee (annual/non-refundable)
 Materials fee (annual/non-refundable)
 Admission Agreement (contract)
 Notification of Parent's Rights (LIC 995)
 Personal Rights (LIC 613A)
 Identification and Emergency Information (LIC 700)
 Consent for Emergency Medical Treatment (LIC 627)

Child's Preadmission Health History (LIC 702)
Physician's Report (LIC 701)
Up to date immunization record Immunizations
Child's Profile Photo 4X6 - photo will be used for Child's Folder - Office (color)
Any other requirement documents - see on website for updates

Inspection Authority Of Childcare Licensing

The State Licensing Department has the authority to interview children or staff without prior consent. The State Licensing Department has the authority to inspect, audit, and copy child or childcare center records upon demand during normal business hours. Records may be removed if necessary for copying. Removal of records shall be subject to the requirements in Sections 101217(c) and 101221 (d). The State Licensing Department has the authority to observe the physical condition of the child(ren), including conditions that could indicate abuse, neglect or inappropriate placement.

Payment Method

Tuition payments must be made through our software system. Please check online for direct payments and/or with our office.

Adjustment Period

Some children take their own time to adjust to a new environment. Please, prepare your child for the new transition by talking to your child about the new preschool and visiting the preschool before your child's first day in class. Enrollment fee and material fee are non refundable if no adjustment occurs.

Easy Goodbyes

Prolonged goodbyes might create more anxiety and emotional distress to your child. Quick, clear, and eye contact with your child will help make the goodbye easier on a daily basis. Keep the same wordings and routine daily, "I love you and mom/dad will pick you up after working/running errands.." Always say goodbye to your child even if your child is upset. They will remember your words and teachers will comfort your child. Sneaking out is never suggested as it can create frustration and fear in the child. Always say goodbye.

What to bring to preschool on your child's first day

A list of items will be accessible to parents online. Please, do provide all the items on the list. Teachers will communicate if any item needs to be replenished.

Personal Rest Mat

In order to avoid the spread of germs, we consider resting mat a personal item. Parents are responsible for purchasing and providing their child's rest mat. Rest mat (tri-fold) is available for purchase at the office (price will be the same as online to facilitate) or online at www.comunityplaythings.com. No other type of rest mat will be accepted. Please, check with the office for purchase.

Emergency Kit

Please do provide an emergency kit for your child in case of emergency or major disaster (earthquake, lockdown, etc). The emergency Kit List is provided to you online on our website. Please, make sure to label all items before handing over the kit to your child's teacher. An emergency kit must be provided on the first day of child's attendance.

Attendance/Sign- In and Sign-out

Children may attend only on those days and for those hours that they are enrolled under a signed contract.

Parents are required by law to sign in and out the child daily. Sign in and out attendance will be done electronically via designated parent's account under Procare App. Parents will receive a PIN to log the child in and out daily.

Ekobé School of Learning reserves the right to terminate any contract and service if a parent chooses to disregard this important policy

Notification of Absence

Parents should notify Ekobe School of Learning by phone or email whether the child will not be present for the day or a time period such as vacation and/or illness. All absences should be reported/ communicated by 9:00am.

Late Drop-off

The child attending childcare must be present by 09:30 a.m. No child will be accepted after this time. We will only accept a late drop-off by 11:00am with a doctor's note. Parents should present a doctor's note to the front office.

Late Pick-Up

Please, be considerate of our teacher's schedule. They are to close the preschool by 5:30pm. Please, pick up your child before 5:30pm. I understand that if I fail to pick up my child by the scheduled closing time and agreed under contract, I will be charged a late-flat fee of **\$20.00** per any minute up to every 15 minutes increments if my child is not picked up after closing hour 5:30p.m or half-day ending time at 12:00pm. The late fee will not be prorated by minutes. If you enter any 15 min block, another \$20.00 will be charged. Late-fee will be charged to your account.

Authorized Pick Ups

Any person picking up your child must be listed in the State Form as authorized person to pick up your child. The person authorized must present their ID at the reception and sign-out the child. Please, do not send anyone without adding the person's name to the list.

Fees

Wait List Fee (non-refundable)

Annual Enrollment Fee (non-refundable)

Annual Material Fee (non-refundable)

Four-week Notice Deposit (to be used towards the last 4 weeks of withdrawal)

Tuition must be paid via Procure/Tuition Express.. Parents will complete the Recurring Payment Authorization Form so that payments will be automatically deducted from bank account or credit card weekly or each month.

Tuition payments are deducted every Monday for an amount determined under a signed contract. Please, review the Admission Contract for more detailed tuition payment guidelines and fees.

Annual Registration and Materials Fee

An annual non-refundable registration fee and material fee are due at time of registration.

Yearly Material fee

Material fee is due yearly on the first day of the child's month enrollment. The material fee is \$400.00. This fee covers items such as classroom supplies, art materials, books, replacement of broken toys and furnitures, and any other educational resources used throughout the preschool year. The Annual Material Fee must be paid by the 1st day of the

month of the child's enrollment and every year thereafter on the same first day of the month.

Re-enrollment Fee

Re-enrollment period during the first week of September. A re-enrollment fee will be applied on the first week of september.

Four-week Notice Deposit

A payment of four-week notice deposit must be made upon registration period. This deposit will be used towards the last month your child will be attending (withdrawal). A **30-day** withdrawal must be filled within the office.

Delinquent Account

A late-payment charge of \$40.00 per week will be applied to your account until the delinquent amount is paid in full. The preschool reserves the right to remove the child from attending preschool, at any moment, until the account is paid.. If legal action is taken to collect delinquent accounts, parents or guardians are responsible for the payments of all costs associated with the collection of debt, including but not limited to the following: any collection costs, court costs, applicable fees, and attorney fees.

Returned Payment Fees

Any and all returned payments and declined ACH payments will be charged \$40.00. Ekobé School of Learning does not accept out-of- state checks. Cashiers' check or money order will be accepted until a proper payment is issued.

Tuition Reductions

Ekobé School of Learning staffs its program, purchases supplies and equipment, and plans its operational budget on the assumption that children are enrolled for a complete year. As such, there is no reduction in tuition for absences, sick days, vacation, holidays, inclement weather, school closures, emergency closures, or short academic months.

Annual Tuition and Fee Increase

Ekobé School of Learning reserves the right to make any necessary tuition and fee increase annually to ensure the quality of service is met and to sustain operational costs. Annual Tuition and fees increase will be informed with at minimum thirty (30) days notice.

Siblings Discount

Ekobé School of Learning does not offer discounts for siblings attending our center. We believe that every child and family deserves the same quality of care and the same fees should be applied to every child and family.

Schedule Change Request

All changes in schedule require a 60-day written notice by completing and signing a new contract and requires approval from the Director. No schedule changes are permitted for illness or holidays. We will facilitate schedule changes on a first come, first serve basis and will accommodate schedule changes sooner than 60-days if possible. Parents must sign a new contract/tuition reflecting the new schedule.

Withdrawal

Withdrawal from the program after the start date requires **a 30-day notice** to the Director. Full tuition for this period is required. If no written withdrawal is given, the full tuition will be due and payable for the entire 30-day. **A Withdrawal form must be completed.**

Dismissal

Ekobe School of Learning reserves the right to dismiss a child from attendance for any reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, health, lack of adjustment to the preschool setting, behavior that disrupts the cooperative climate of the classroom, or delinquency of the tuition account.

Public Health Emergency Closing and Inclement Weather

It is the intention of Ekobé School of Learning to be open and provide childcare service every week of the year specified in the contract/calendar. I agree that in the event the preschool is closed for an extended period of time due to inclement weather, natural/national disaster, major building issue, any public health emergency (e.g. covid) and/or any other public health emergency defined by the State that may disrupt or cause the childcare service to close from time to time; it is parents full responsibility to continue tuition payments according to contract. During such time, parents are to contact the preschool to ensure the preschool will be open or closed.

Remote Learning

Ekobé School of Learning will not be offering remote learning during closures. Teachers will not be required to teach or to provide learning materials during such time. We recognize that pandemic closures can be highly stressful for all families including for our own staff and teachers. Ekobé School of Learning will, in our best capacity, provide online resources to parents with activities they can do at home with their children. Teachers will be required

to check in via phone or online weekly with students to continue building connections. Tuition will be processed as normal during this time; please see the contract for tuition payments.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Drop off and Release Procedures

Please make every effort to be on time for school for both drop off and pick up. Parents are required by law to sign their children in and out each day. Ekobé School of Learning reserves the right to terminate its services to any family who disregards the sign-in and out policies. The parent or guardian should use a full legal signature when signing in/out and record the time of day. If a person from the authorization list picks up the child, a copy of the photo identification will be required and it will be added to the child's file.

Drop-Off Policy: Child Handover to Teachers

For the safety and well-being of all children, we kindly ask parents and guardians to follow our drop-off procedure:

1. Direct Handoff:
Parents must bring the child directly to where a teacher or staff member is at drop-off. If teachers are outside in the playground, the handoff must happen in the playground or where the teacher and children are. Please do not leave your child in the classroom alone, at the gate, or outside without making sure a teacher is aware and has acknowledged the child within the classroom or playground group under her supervision.
2. Verbal Acknowledgment Required:
Always ensure that a teacher or staff member acknowledges the child before you leave. This helps us take responsibility for your child's supervision from that moment forward.
3. No Unattended Drop-Offs:
 For security reasons, children may not be left unattended in any part of the school. If a teacher is not immediately visible, please wait until one becomes available. **It is the parent's responsibility to hand the child to the teacher for her supervision.**
4. Late Arrivals:
 If you arrive after the regular drop-off time, please make sure to ensure a quiet arrival to avoid any interference with the classroom routine and naptime. Parents must have full acknowledgement from the teacher that the child is being handed over to her care.

Drop-Off Policy: Supporting Smooth Morning Transitions

We recognize that some mornings can feel more emotional or challenging for children. To ensure a safe and nurturing start to the day, we kindly ask parents and guardians to follow these guidelines:

1. Take a Moment Before Entering:
If your child is showing signs of separation anxiety (examples but not limited to : protest (wanting you to stay), despair (crying and withdrawing), and detachment (holding together until you come back), please take a few minutes outside or in the car to offer comfort and reassurance before walking in. Taking this time helps ease the transition and creates a smoother start for your child.
2. Stay Calm and Reassuring:
Your energy helps shape your child's confidence. A calm, consistent goodbye—such as a hug, a wave, and a simple “I’ll see you after naptime.”—can help your child feel more secure.
3. Do Not Leave Your Child in Distress Without Teacher Acknowledgment:
It is the parent's responsibility to ensure their child is not left in visible distress without being properly handed off to a teacher. Please wait for a staff member to acknowledge and receive your child before leaving the premises.
4. Trust the Teachers:
Once your child is in our care, we will offer connection, redirection, and support to help them ease into their day. Most children adjust quickly with gentle guidance.
5. Keep Us Informed:
If your child is experiencing a particularly difficult start in the day, please share that with us so we can provide additional support and, if needed, a brief update later on.

Sibling Visit Policy During Drop-Off

We understand that mornings can be a busy time for families, and siblings may occasionally accompany parents during drop-off. To support a smooth transition for enrolled children and to ensure we meet licensing regulations, please adhere to the following policy: Visiting siblings must remain under direct supervision of their parent/guardian at all times. Staff are not permitted to supervise or be responsible for visiting siblings, as this affects teacher-to-child ratios and licensing compliance. Any non-enrolled sibling not under parental supervision, even briefly, may put us out of compliance with our required supervision ratios. Please do not leave siblings in the classroom or on the playground without your direct supervision, even for a moment. Siblings who are ill (including colds, fever, or any contagious symptoms) should not accompany you into the classroom or preschool facility. Please remind visiting siblings to use walking feet, indoor voices, and gentle hands when entering the premises.

Parking Area

Ekobé School of Learning offers a large parking area for drop off and pick up. When arriving at the parking lot, please enter via the first entrance coming from Genesee as you enter Mt. Herbert Ave. To exit, please go around the parking lot and exit to Mt. Herbert on the side where garbage containers are located. Please, be patient and kind to other drivers and aware of children getting in and out of cars. Please, hold your child's hand when cautiously walking in the parking lot to enter or exit the building. Never leave small children unattended in a vehicle when dropping off or picking up preschoolers. Please, be mindful of your child's precious time and turn off your cell phone during drop off and pick up. We highly discourage the use of cell phones within the center.

Please, never park in ADA parking or Director's reserved parking. ADA parking is reserved for those with permits.

Personal Items

The school will not be responsible for items brought from home. All items should be marked with your child's name including sweaters, shoes, lunch bag and water bottles. Staff will not be searching for lost items; if lost items are found by a staff or parent, the item will be placed in the Lost and Found Corner.

Lost and Found

Items left unclaimed for more than one month will be donated to a charity or non-profit organization.

Breakfast, Snack, and Lunch

Effective September 01, 2024 Ekobé School of Learning will no longer provide afternoon snacks with two-food components. Licensing regulations require that when serving snacks, two food groups are offered. ESL will continue to offer an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables at snack times. Because we will only be offering one food group, we are required to inform our families and offer them the opportunity to send additional snack items if desired. If you would like your child to have a second food group, please send an additional snack to school.

Parents are responsible for providing their child's daily meals (breakfast, lunch, and an additional snack). The lunch box and all items must be labeled with your child's name. All children are encouraged to bring a nutritional lunch. We discourage any sugary items like donuts or cookies and might be sent back home.

Water Bottle

A filled water bottle for your child must be sent to school daily, labeled with your child's name. We can refill water bottles with fresh, cold water at school when necessary.

Rest Time

Rest time is from 12:30PM – 2:30PM everyday. During this time, relaxing music might be played and the lights are turned off. Children are not required to sleep, although they are required to rest quietly. Resting mats are considered personal items and parents must purchase a resting mat in the office or at www.communityplaythings.com. No other style or brand will be accepted due to space and storage in the classrooms. Parents are to provide two child-size bed sheets and/or blankets. Parents are fully responsible for laundering children's bed items. Items will be sent home every Friday.

Potty/Toilet

A toilet learned child is a child who can do the following:

- Be able to TELL the adult they have to go potty BEFORE they go on their diapers or underwear. They must be able to say the words "I have/need to go potty".
- Be able to pull down their underwear and pants and get them back up without assistance.
- Be able to wipe themselves after using the toilet.
- Be able to get off the potty by themselves.
- Be able to wash and dry hands.
- Be able to postpone going if they must wait for someone who is in the bathroom or if we are outside and away from the bathroom.

The child should be in diaper/underwear during the school hours. Children are expected to use the toilet and clean up properly without assistance from teachers or staff. Assistance with hand washing reminders and clothing fastening will be given if necessary.

In the event the child is found not to be fully toilet learned as indicated by three "accidents" (inability to reach the toilet on time, wetting or soiling undergarments), at the discretion of the teacher, the child will be asked to take a 2-week leave from the center to work towards readiness. Parents who choose not to take the 2 week potty train may continue bringing the child to childcare and potty training will be addressed again in a few months. During the time of leave the parents will be billed as if the child were attending as enrollment will be reserved for the child. Soiled garments will be placed directly in a Ziploc bag to be sent home. Teachers are not expected to potty train your child. It is the parent's responsibility to nurture the process at home until the child is ready to be without diapers and fully potty trained. Make sure to send 3 pairs of extra clothes during this period of training, extra pair of shoes, and diapers for nap/rest time. Please, avoid any clothing item with snaps and buttons during this period.

At Ekobé School of Learning, **we have a no pull-up policy.** Before or during potty-training period, the child must wear regular diapers or underwear during the training period.

Please, before sending your child to preschool without diapers, please communicate with your child's teacher to assess whether your child is ready to be off diapers. **Parents and teachers should both agree on the right date to try the process of potty training.**

Potty training is a long process and part of your child's growth.
Potty training is a major milestone! So, celebrate with your child!

Dress code

We encourage you to send your child in sturdy, washable clothes because we will be painting, enjoying messy projects, and doing exercising each day. Clothing should allow movement without being baggy. Please leave a full change of clothing enclosed in a Ziplock bag in your child's backpack. If no clothes are provided, parents will be notified to bring some. Ekobé School of Learning is not responsible for clothes and shoes that are soiled, stained, or ruined during daily activities.

Footwear

Comfortable running shoes with velcro are recommended in our program. For your child's safety, **we do not allow** flip-flops, crocs, sandals, or open-toed or open-heeled shoes. We play outside everyday so footwear that is strong enough to protect your child's feet and little toes is extremely helpful.

Jewelry

If your child wears jewelry, we request your child to wear pieces that are secured to your child and not easily pulled, tangled, or hooked on to the child's clothing or to other children. If your child wears earrings, as a safety precaution, please make sure that the earrings are properly secured to the child's earlobe and the design will not hook onto clothing of another child. It should not easily be pulled out or fall out. We will not be held responsible for the loss or damage of jewelry or any valuable items that a child wears or brings to preschool. For safety reasons, we highly recommend no jewelry for children under the age of 5.

Cubbies

Your child will have a cubby to keep his/hers belongings in during the day. Please check the cubby at the end of each day. We use the cubbies as a means of communication with the families and you will find your child's artwork and other important notices and information there.

Birthdays

Birthdays are very important for the children and are recognized at our preschool. We do not serve birthday cake or cupcakes at school. Parents are encouraged to check with their child's teacher if you wish to provide a special project/craft for that day. No goodie bags or balloons at school are allowed. If you are having a party at home to which the whole class is invited, invitations may be given out at school. If everyone is not invited, the invitations must not be brought to school.

Items not allowed at Ekobé School of Learning

Any items listed below brought from home or left inside a child's bag will be removed, discarded, or placed under director's discretion. The list includes, but are not limited to items like toys, any electronic device, cell phones, ipads, candy, medicine, spray sunscreen, recording device, glass bottles, glass containers, hand sanitizer for children's use, money, any toy used for "playing war/weapon" and guns. Guns are not allowed in the preschool and you will be asked to leave the premises.

Religious Instructions

While at Ekboé School of Learning we strongly believe it is important to model and teach good values such as concern and respect for all people; we believe it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide religious instruction of their choice and we refrain from religious instructions or worship.

For parents interested in religious learning and engagement for their family and child. We will direct you to the Clairemont Fellowship Church upon request and they will provide you with their own resources and teachings.

HEALTH , SAFETY AND NUTRITION

Communicable Disease

Certain symptoms in children may suggest the presence of a communicable disease

A communicable disease is one that is spread from one person to another through a variety of ways that include: contact with blood and bodily fluids; breathing in an airborne virus; or by being bitten by an insect.

Excluding an ill child may decrease the spread of the disease to others in the child care and school settings. Recommended exclusion varies by the disease or infectious agent. Children with the symptoms listed below should be excluded from the child care or school setting until symptoms improve, or a healthcare provider has determined that the child can return.

A note from the doctor allowing the child's return to school must be presented. The school reserves the right to deny services to a child who is ill.

Fever: Elevation of body temperature of 100 degrees or above.

Diarrhea and vomiting

Rashes of unknown origin

Discharge from the nose and eyes

Any symptoms or behavior indicating possible illness: when the child is unusually tired, has uncontrolled coughing, unexplained irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing, or other unusual symptoms or behavior for the child.

Any child presenting any of the listed symptoms above, will be isolated and parents will be contacted for pick up.

If a child who is sick has a sibling attending Ekobé School of Learning; in order to minimize the spread of diseases within the center, we ask that both children (in the family) to stay home until well enough to return.

Children attending Ekobé School of Learning must be well and healthy to engage in normal activities, symptom free and/or on antibiotics for at least 24 hrs.

*Any other diseases not listed above, parents should consult a doctor before bringing the child to school and present a doctor's note for returning to school.

Accident/Incident reports

In case of any event like accident/incidents involving your child occurring during daily activities while at our center, an Accident or Incident Report will be completed and placed in your child's file. Review the report and if you find it necessary to have a deeper

understanding of the event please reach out to the office or the teacher to set a date and time.

Hand Washing

We kindly ask visitors, parents, children, and staff to wash hands when entering the building. Frequent hand-washing is encouraged at Ekobé School of Learning - LLC as a conscious effort to minimize the spread of germs.

Lice policy

Children with nits or lice will be sent home. The child must be treated and upon return, office staff will check your child's head. Ekobe School of learning reserves the right to deny services to a child who has lice at any time.

Dogs

Dogs are not allowed inside the school grounds or on the sidewalk or parking lot. All dogs must be secured at a safe distance from the premises.

We love dogs! But, we also understand the risks and how we prioritize the safety of all children attending Ekobé School of Learning.

Sunscreen

Parents must apply sunscreen daily before sending the child to school. During warmer seasons, we advise you to apply an 8-12 hour full coverage sunscreen to your child before you drop them off in the morning. Parental permission form must be provided if sunscreen (only lotion, not spray allowed) is needed for the afternoon playground activity. The teacher will only apply sunscreen in the afternoon as needed. Please, check expiration dates before sending it to preschool. We will dispose of any expired item.

Medications

Ekobé School of Learning does not dispense any medications with the exception of asthma inhalers and EpiPen. Parents must provide the inhalers and EpiPen. Medications must be labeled with your child's name, instructions and dosage.

Incidental Medical Services

EKOBÉ SCHOOL OF LEARNING prefers not to administer any medications while a child is in our care. We do realize sometimes it is necessary to do so for the health and welfare of the child. Medications will be administered under the following conditions.

Types of incidental medical services to be provided will be prescription medications and OTC medications with a doctor's note only.

Prescription medications will be administered only if the medication is in its original container with a prescription label attached. The doctor recommended dosage must be on the label as well as the child's name. A consent form must be filled out and signed by parents or guardians along with authorization to contact the child's health provider. Consent forms will be placed in your child's file. If a change in dosage occurs, a new label must be obtained.

OTC medications will be administered only if the medication is in its original container. A consent form must be filled out. Consent forms will be placed in your child's file. OTC medications also require a doctor's note with the following information. The duration the child will be taking the medication, start date, stop date, amount to be administered, and a time schedule of when the medication is to be administered. The note must be on the prescribing doctor's letterhead with a phone number, doctor signature, and an office stamp.

Epi Pens, Inhalers, Nebulizers, and medications will be given with a prescription and according to doctor instructions, require written parental consent and an individual plan. Epi pens require an allergy list that is to be kept in a child's file with a list of reactions to look for. If an Epi Pen is administered, parents will be called. A consent form must be filled out and signed by parents or guardians along with authorization to contact the child's health provider.

Records shall be maintained in each instance and provided to a parent representative. Written instructions from the child's Physician. Staff training is to be provided by the child's doctor, it must be written instructions or referral to a website. The referral to a website must be in writing. It is the parent's responsibility to obtain training materials for the childcare staff. A record of medication service log with the times that medication was administered will be kept in the child's file.

Medication will be kept inside a box and placed in the kitchen cabinet above the sink away from children's access. Medications that require refrigeration will be kept in the refrigerator. It is the parent's responsibility to collect medications at the end of the day.

In case of evacuation/disaster, the box with medications will be at easy access in the kitchen cabinet. The kitchen is the main path to outside, thus making it possible for helpers and teachers to take the box along with the children outside for a safer location.

The Director will administer all medications authorized by the parent or guardian. If the Director is not available, the assistant staff in charge will administer the medication. Medications will be brought to field trips or to an evacuation due emergency situation, if deemed necessary.

Gloves will be worn while administering medication to insure no potential exposure to blood or body fluids. Hands will be washed immediately after removal and disposal of

gloves, and disposal of used instruments in approved containers.

Any emergency prescribed medications such as Epi pens, inhalers, nebulizers when needed in an emergency situation to save a child's life will be reported to the licensing supervisor. The date and time, the amount used prescribed by the doctor will need to be written down and reported to the licensing.

Parents will be communicated immediately before and/or after medication has been given to the child. And, in the event that medication is deemed necessary to save the child's life; the staff in charge will administer the medication and call the emergency help - 911. Then, staff will notify the parents right after by phone call, text message, and/or email.

Record Keeping

Records to be obtained and maintained are Parental/Authorized representative permission to provide the incidental medical service. A copy of the prescription and written instructions from the child's Physician are also required. Staff training is to be provided by the child's doctor or a person authorized by the physician in administering the appropriate service, the instructions must be in written format and must include use and maintenance of required equipment/supplies and what to do in the case of an emergency.

Storage of medication

All medications (inhaler and EpiPen) must be given to the office staff in a sealed Ziplock bag with the child's name clearly labeled, storage instructions, and the medication's expiration date. Storage of medications/prescriptions will be kept in a secure location, out of reach of children.

Allergies

Please notify us with any allergies your child has and what precautions must be taken in the case of an allergic reaction. If your child has an EpiPen, parents must provide an EpiPen.

Nut/Peanut - Free Environment

We are a nut-free preschool. Please, be mindful of foods that can possibly contain peanuts, walnuts, almonds, cashews to avoid any allergic reaction to our little friends.

We strive to be a Nut-Free school. We know that we cannot guarantee this, especially because we share space with the church and outside groups that use rooms. Many children have life-threatening nut allergies. In order to provide a safe environment for these children, please do not send peanut butter or other nut butters, or whole nuts of any kind in

your child's personal snack bag. The nut butters stick to fingers and surfaces even through washings and whole nuts can be stepped on and smashed without anyone noticing. Please read the labels on food you send to school for your child's personal snack so we can avoid nuts. If your child has a life- threatening allergy to another food, please make sure the classroom teachers know and office staff as well.

Injuries and Other Emergencies

Minor cuts and abrasions that occur at our school will receive proper care; they will be washed with warm, soapy water and bandaged. Any minor injury and treatment will be communicated. If the injury is serious, the guardian will be notified so the child can be transported to the hospital or doctor's office. (I.e. needs stitches, broken arm, or dislocation, etc.). All expenses associated with injuries to the child will be the responsibility of the guardian.

In case of a medical emergency, guardians will be contacted immediately. If a guardian is not reached, emergency contacts listed on the emergency card will be contacted. If emergency contacts cannot be reached, a staff member will transport your child to his/her doctor or to the hospital, if necessary. If immediate intervention is required, appropriate action will be taken, including calling 911 and having your child transported to the nearest hospital. Guardians are responsible for the cost of medical help or treatment due to accidents or illness while at our facility.

Emergency Disaster Plan

In the case of an emergency, our school has an emergency disaster plan that will go into effect in the event of an emergency or disaster. Your child will be cared for until you are able to pick him/her up. In the event that the building must be evacuated, you will be notified of the new location. Ekobé School of Learning will provide you with a view of the emergency and evacuation plan upon request.

Gates and Doors

Make sure you secure all gates and doors immediately after you go through them. Please do not expect staff to close the door for you. Every child attending the school is important to us. Safety is a priority and it should be taken seriously by all families entering and exiting the school.

Mandated Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse

Ekobé School of Learning's staff and teachers are mandated reporters. They are required by law to notify Child Protective Service of any reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected.

Transportation Arrangements

No transportation will be offered by Ekobé School of Learning. Parents are responsible for their child/ren transportation to and from school. No arrangements or transportation for field trips are determined under this 2024 year.

Choking Hazard Accessories/Teething Necklaces

For the protection, health and well-being of the children. The preschool does not allow choking hazard accessories in classrooms with children under the age of 3 years old.. Although all children in the Center are closely supervised, it only takes a moment for a child to get a hold of a choking hazard accessory and attempt to put it in their mouth. Examples of choking hazard accessories include, but are not limited to: Teething Necklaces, Hair Ties, Rubber bands, Bows, Barrettes, and Earrings. When necessary, the administrative team will determine how to manage choking hazard accessories brought in or worn by a child and the item will be removed.

Biting

Biting is a normal part of development. Preschoolers may have many emotions that they are just learning to manage and may bite to express anger or frustration or simply because they lack the language skills needed to express their feelings. Parents are expected to understand the possibility of this event to happen and how developmentally appropriate this behavior can happen with and to any child of young age. Parents and teachers are encouraged to find ways to minimize the behavior. If you believe you need more understanding of a child's behavior on why biting happens, a pamphlet with more information may be provided to you.

Smoking Policy

Any type of smoking or vaping inside the building, in the playground, or in the parking lot area is prohibited at all times.

Behavior Guidance

Redirection is used to guide inappropriate behaviors. As we implement and make daily use of the Conscious Discipline and Kindness Curriculum, we expect and will strive to curb and diminish any unusual and inappropriate behavior during our daily routine. In the case of persistent behavior, parents and teachers are to address the best way to help the child and both (parents/teacher) must agree to the solutions. Ekobé School of Learning reserves the right to terminate a contract with any child/family whose inappropriate behavior persists or becomes violent, unsafe, and/or creates a tense environment.

Health School Act of 2000- Pesticide

This law requires public schools to notify parents and school employees about pesticides being used in school environments.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND COMMUNICATION

General Policy

Limits are established to assure the safety and well being of all children, and we use positive reinforcement techniques to assist children and adults with peaceful conflict resolution. Mindful and respectful language is always used. Inappropriate behaviors are redirected in a positive way, and appropriate and safe choices are always offered. At no time will a child be subjected to punishment including corporal (physical) punishment, shaming, frightening or humiliating methods, or any type of verbal abuse, threats, derogatory remarks, deprivation of food, or any other violation of personal rights. A child who seems overwhelmed or over-stimulated may be offered the chance to “be mindful,” which is space and time to cool down.

If behavior problems persist and/or begin to be disruptive to the learning environment and/or a child’s behavior begins to threaten the personal happiness and well-being of another child(ren), a parent conference will be arranged as soon as possible. The purpose of the parent-teacher conference will be to determine and implement an appropriate and fair behavior intervention plan.

Respectful Behavior

Parents are to be respectful of all children, families and staff at all times. The preschool reserves the right to terminate any family/child’s enrollment at any time without notice if behaviors such as: the use of inappropriate language, yelling, physical and intimidating actions, unprofessional behavior, any speech that may damage the preschool reputation, any gossiping, conversations, and hurtful words about children, staff and/or parents, threats or harassment of any kind are used within the preschool or via social media.

Social Media Code of Conduct

Any use of social media to complain, gossip, harass or to create prejudice by a parent/family enrolled is considered inappropriate by Ekobé School of Learning. Any

concerns you may have must be made directly to the classroom teacher and the director. Libelous or defamatory posts will be taken seriously and any family/contract will be terminated. Ekobé School of Learning reserves the right to seek any legal option against such poor use of social media. As educators and parents, we should strive to create an environment where children are protected not just physically but also mentally. Thus, any social engagement that disturbed the environment in which our children are cared for is not appropriate and highly unacceptable.

Parents Right to Access

Parents and guardians of a child in our care are entitled to immediate and equal access to their child without prior notice, as provided by law. In cases where the child is the subject of a court order we must be provided with a Certified Copy of the most recent order and all amendments thereto. The orders of the court will be strictly followed. In the absence of a court order on file, all guardians shall be afforded equal access to their child as stipulated by law. It is the parent's responsibility to inform the preschool of such conditions.

Communication

We believe that a good relationship between the teachers and parents is an important part of each child's experience. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions about your child's day or would like more information about what is happening in the classrooms. Parents are also encouraged to communicate with the teachers about their child's day when picking up their child. A parent – teacher conference can be requested at any time during the year by the parent or teacher. The teacher will communicate with parents via *Weekly Exploration Newsletter (WEN)*. Please, keep communications during childcare hours from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. No text or email will be answered by teachers or any employee after childcare hours or during the weekend unless it is an emergency. Any concerns and questions should be addressed during the hours of operation.

Confidentiality

For your child's safety, confidential and sensitive information will only be shared with employees in order to most appropriately and safely care for your child. Confidential and sensitive information about faculty, other parents and children will not be shared with parents. Please refrain from asking questions about another child besides your own. **Confidential information includes, but is not limited to: names, addresses, phone numbers, special needs information and health related information.** California authorities with legal rights may review children's files upon request.

Babysitting/non-solicitation policy

Parents are to maintain professional relationships and are not to enter into any contract with any employee from Ekobé School of Learning for personal babysitting activities. The

administration understands that parents need babysitters from time to time. We hope this policy does not present difficulty for your family and appreciate your observance. Many babysitting companies are based locally and available for your needs.

Employees of Ekobé School of Learning are not allowed to babysit for enrolled families. No exceptions can be made as it creates a conflict of interest and can lead to favoritism, breaches in confidentiality and privacy of other families and including your own. In case such an event occurs, parents' contracts will be terminated and employees as well.

Mindfulness

Drop off and pick up time is all about communication with your child and the teaching staff and we want to give you our full attention at all times. We prefer you finish all cell phone conversations before you enter the preschool.. Cell phone conversations at any time detract from the importance of your child and his or her day. Please refrain from using your cell phone during this time.

Get to know your child's teacher

Teachers not only play a huge role in the development of our children, they can have a lasting impact on them for the rest of their lives. Be respectful of their time in and outside the classroom. Teachers do one of the most important jobs in our community. Take some time to show appreciation during Teacher's Appreciation Week (celebrated during the first full week of May), Birthday, and Holidays.

Visitors

All visitors to the school are required to check in at the front desk upon arrival. Photo identification is required. All visitors are asked to sign in upon arrival with their name, ID, time and purpose of visit.

Staff replacement

Ekobé School of Learning will strive to maintain staff retention. The childcare industry has been changing over the last few years with an average of job changes every 2 to 3 years. While transitions might happen while your child is attending our center, we will try to make this transition as easier as possible for your child.

Audio and video monitoring

At this moment, we do not have audio and video monitoring. However, it will be a technical device we will be installing sometime in the future. Parents will be notified once installed.

Once installed, the system will be used for administrative purposes and not accessible for livestream for parents/families. Access to video will be only viewable with court order.

TLC - Teachers Leading for Creativity

TLC is an in-service educational training for teachers and staff of Ekobé School of Learning that will happen throughout the year. The goal is to educate the minds and also care for the body. When we take care of our teachers and staff, we take care of our children. We hope to extend some of the training to parents as well. Training will vary from Reggio Emilia Understanding and Approach, to Behavior guidance, to Nutrition education and much more. Parents will be informed and invited when open to parents.

Parent Yearly Volunteering and Buy-Out Policy Fee

The principles of Reggio Emilia were created based on the work of parents and the community in the benefit of the children. At Ekobé School of Learning, we believe that family participation can only contribute to children's learning and development. Families enrolled at Ekobé School of Learning are required to **volunteer 10 hours per school year** towards the enhancement of the classroom or the preschool **aside from regular family events, conferences.**

It is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to take initiative in inquiring about volunteer opportunities. We encourage families to reach out to the classroom teacher or administration to:

- Express interest in volunteering
- Learn about available volunteer roles or classroom needs
- Coordinate suitable dates and times for participation
- Understand any requirements (e.g., TB test, background check, orientation)

Communication and Planning

To ensure a smooth and safe experience for all children, all volunteer activities must be scheduled in advance with the classroom teacher or director. Drop-in volunteering is not permitted.

Volunteering opportunities may be fulfilled through: reading to children, sharing a family tradition, talent, or cultural experiences, classroom assistance, supporting class activities or projects, cleaning or organizing materials during events, garden and outdoor maintenance, administrative help, sharing a special skill or presentation with the classroom or office, and any educational materials donated

to the classroom (wish list), preschool yearly cleanup. **It is the parent's responsibility to connect with your child's teacher to inquire about how to best support.**

All hours must be pre-approved and recorded by a classroom teacher or school staff at the day of the volunteering performed.

Reporting Volunteer Hours

To ensure accurate tracking:

- Parents must report completed volunteer hours to the classroom teacher or designated staff member at the same day
- Parents must fill out the volunteer sheet available in your child's classroom
- The teacher will verify and sign the Volunteer Log.
- Volunteer logs will be submitted to the office to be counted by the end of May of each year.

We understand that some families may be unable to dedicate the time to meet the volunteer requirements. In that case, a **buy-out fee at a rate of \$20.00 per service** hour will be invoiced if volunteer hours are not presented by the end of May. Any family whose volunteer hours or buy-outs have not been fulfilled will be **billed on June 1st at the buy-out rate with payment due on June 30.**

Thank you for supporting our preschool community. Your time and contribution make a meaningful impact to our children.

Non-discriminatory policy

Ekobé School of Learning admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, and activities generally accorded to or made available to all students at the preschool. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its policies and programs.

Ekobé School of Learning respects and values all families, children, cultures, traditions, and diversity. Parents and children should respect any other children, family, teacher, staff members who work, attend, or visit the preschool who might have different values, traditions, or views of the world other than their own.

I have received a copy of the Parent Handbook. I have read and I understand its contents and policies and I agree to be bound by the same.

Student's Name: _____ Classroom: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____