



1200 W. Spring Valley Rd. Richardson, TX 75080 (972) 231-6998  
14045 Waterfall Way Dallas, TX 75240 (972) 437-3880  
Admin@LittleScholarsDFW.com

## **MISSION**

Our mission at Little Scholars Academy is to take children on an educational journey to expand their imagination and introduce them to new learning experiences while further enhancing each child's cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and fine and gross motor developmental skills.

- We are dedicated to giving children a love of learning in a safe and secure environment.
- Our school is a safe, secure, clean and happy environment for children to grow and learn.
- We will make the transition from home to school a positive experience.
- Each child is treated as a unique individual. They are given individual attention within a group allowing them to progress according to their own needs and rate of development.
- Communication with parents is the key. It is open, honest and respectful, encouraging involvement and support. Parents are informed daily and/or weekly of their child's progress and development.
- We strive to provide the best in childcare and development. We are committed to Little Scholars Academy standards of excellence and are continually seeking to improve.
- Our number one priority is providing every child with a loving and caring atmosphere conducive to the development of self-esteem, confidence, creativity and a love of learning.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Our philosophy at Little Scholars Academy is to incorporate playing as part of learning. Learning is integrated into the daily routine and not separated from playing. Each child will be viewed as a unique individual and their learning experience will be planned to meet their individual needs. We are committed to providing a warm, loving, and enriching environment for each child entrusted in our care. The children at Little Scholars Academy are an important part of our family and will be cared for with respect and individual attention.

## **GOALS**

Our goal at Little Scholars Academy is to provide a developmentally appropriate and safe environment for infants, preschool, and school aged children. We strive to provide the highest level of educational learning, through our hands-on approach. Each child will receive quality instructions and guidance while nurturing their individual talents. Learning happens best when we align our goal and methods with the parents. **Parent/family involvement represents one of the most important factors in successful childhood development.** In addition, Little Scholars Academy pledges to cater nutritional foods which promote healthy eating habits.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

At Little Scholars Academy, we do not discriminate against any child or family based on race, color, religions, creed, civil union status, national origin, ancestry, sex orientation, sex, age, and/or disability.

To ensure all enrolled children benefit from the curriculum and activities planned, non-school age children must arrive by **9:30AM**, unless prior arrangements were made. School age children must arrive by **7:50AM** for remote school learning, by **9:30AM** if school is out of session, and after **2:50pm** during the standard school year. If your child is going to be late, you must call to notify the Center. For all enrolled School Age children, the Center must be notified in advance for any absences from bus pick up.

### **DRIVEWAY USE**

If you plan to be in the building for an extended period of time and during **high traffic** times for drop off (7:45AM to 8:30AM), and pick up (5:00PM to 6:30PM), please park your vehicle in the designated parking spaces. The carport is for quick drop off's and pick up's.

### **SAFE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

Children are to arrive clean and fed (unless arriving just before meal time). We always try to send your child home with a clean diaper and would appreciate the same consideration when you drop off. It is normal for some children to have difficulty separating from parents, or cry when dropping off. Please make your drop off brief. The longer you prolong the departure, the harder it gets. A smile, cheerful good-bye kiss, and a reassuring word that you will be back is all that is needed. From our experience, children are generally quick to get involved in play or activities as soon as parents are gone.

### **PARKING LOT SAFETY**

LSA is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and productive environment for all persons occupying our schools. Considering the significant risk posed by vehicle exhaust emissions, especially to children, we ask that vehicles in our parking lot avoid idling for any longer than 5 minutes. Vehicle exhaust is linked to increases in asthma, allergies, and heart and lung disease. Children are especially at risk because their lungs are still developing, and they inhale more air per pound of body weight than adults. When entering and exiting school property parents should drive slowly and avoid distractions as young children are present while parents are loading and unloading children from their vehicles. LSA cannot be held liable for damages that occur in our parking lot. It is the responsibility of each individual to ensure that their vehicle is secure before entering the building and that no valuable property such as purses or brief cases are left in plain sight. Please understand that it is your personal responsibility to be proactive with your vehicle and personal belongings. Our cameras will only monitor certain areas of the parking lot and could act as a deterrent to criminal activity. Our primary focus remains with your children and their safety within our school.

### **FEE STRUCTURE & PAYMENT PLAN**

Tuition is due every Monday. Regular tuition is still due even if we are closed due to Holidays or inclement weather. If a Holiday we observe falls on a Monday, tuition may be paid on Tuesday. Once enrolled, tuition is due every week, regardless of sickness or vacation. (Example: Child is not present for 2 weeks during Christmas break, tuition is still due for the 2 weeks.)

### **LATE PAYMENT**

Tuition is late if not paid by Tuesday. The late fee of \$5 per day will be assessed. Late Pick-up is \$1 per minute (with a grace period of 5 minutes). Please call if you foresee being late.

## **WELLNESS POLICY**

Little Scholars Academy will do all we can to promote a healthy environment for your children. Our teachers make sure children wash their hands before and after meals, after art/craft projects, after toileting and diapering, after coming in from outside, and after wiping their nose. Our teachers also wash their hands before serving meals and snacks, wear latex gloves while diapering or assisting a child with toileting, and when coming into contact with any bodily fluids. We also disinfect toys on a daily basis.

### **HEALTH CHECKS**

Our teachers will do a visual check of the children upon arrival each morning. If a staff member notices anything unusual, they are required to point this out to the parent(s). If your child has an accident overnight, please notify staff members when dropping off so that we can assist in watching the child for side effects.

### **ILLNESSES / COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Little Scholars Academy observes the standards set by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services for ill children. Children who are ill cannot be appropriately cared for in a childcare setting. Exclusion is merited whenever care exceeds the capability of the teachers or when the child cannot participate in all activities. Parents will be contacted to pick up their child and must pick up an ill child within 1 hour of notification by phone. Temporary care will be given to the child within the means of the facility until parent arrives.

With your cooperation in keeping a child home when he/she is showing symptoms of illness will help cut down on the spread of illness throughout the school. By maintaining a healthy environment and reasonable health policies, all of our children will benefit.

Please do not bring your child to school with a fever or any other contagious illnesses. Your child should be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to school. Children must present a doctor's note stating they are no longer contagious and can return to the program. Little Scholars Academy reserves the right to refuse to allow a child to return if the Center Director or designee believes the child to be too ill to participate in the program.

The State of Texas requires the children be sent home or kept out of school if they have been diagnosed with a communicable illness or if they are exhibiting the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101.4 rectally, 100.4 orally, or 99.4 under the arm
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Mouth sores with drooling
- Rash with fever
- Wheezing
- Any other signs of possible illness

If your child will be absent due to illness, we request that you notify the Director. This enables our staff to keep track of any illnesses, which may occur at our school. This information will only be shared with faculty on a "need to know" basis. If your child has a communicable disease, we ask that you share the diagnosis with the Director, so that the parents of the children in the school maybe notified that a communicable disease is present. Once again, only the communicable disease information will be shared. Little Scholars Academy will take all measures necessary to protect your child's confidentiality.

### **HEARING AND VISION SCREENING**

The Vision and Hearing Screening Program, Texas Health and Safety Code requires that all children enrolled for the first time in any public, private, parochial, or denominational school or in a Department of Health and Human Services licensed child-care center and licensed child care home in Texas, or who meet certain grade criteria (specified below), must be screened or have a professional examination for possible vision and hearing problems. We will have outside agencies conduct hearing and vision screenings at our school and the cost to perform this service will be billed directly to the parent by the vendor. Parents may also bring in a screening proof from their local pediatrician.

WHO MUST BE SCREENED	WHEN SCREENING MUST BE DONE
4-years-old by September 1st Kindergartners Any other first-time entrants (4 years* through 12th grade)	Within 120 days of admission

### RELEASE OF CHILDREN

Little Scholars Academy maintains a strict policy regarding the individuals to whom we will release a child. Our normal procedure is to release the child only to his/her parents, or someone else the parents designate on the **Authorized Pick Up and Emergency Contact Form**. In the event that a parent is unable to pick up their child, they may authorize another legal adult to pick up. Children will not be released to a minor. A verbal notice is fine on that day, if this person is on the list of people who are authorized to pick up your child. If the person is NOT on that list, we **MUST** have written permission to release your child. Authorized adult must bring a picture ID. Children will not be released to adults without a picture ID. If you have questions or concerns, please schedule a time to meet with the Director of the facility.

### REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

Mandated reporters are required to report any suspicion of abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. The employees of LSA are considered mandated reporters, under this law. The employees of LSA are not required to discuss their suspicions with parents prior to reporting the matter to the appropriate authorities, nor are they required to investigate the cause of any suspicious marks, behaviors, or conditions prior to making a report. Under the Act, mandated reporters can be held criminally responsible if they fail to report suspected abuse or neglect. LSA takes this responsibility very seriously and will make all warranted reports to the appropriate authorities. The Child Protective Services Act is designed to protect the welfare and best interest of all children. As mandated reporters, the employees of LSA cannot be held liable for reports made to Child Protective Services which are determined to be unfounded, provided the report was made in "good faith." Causes for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect include, but are not limited to:

- Unusual bruising, marks, or cuts on the child’s body
- Severe verbal reprimands
- Improper clothing relating to size, cleanliness, season
- Transporting a child without appropriate child restraints (e.g. car seats, seat belts, etc.)
- Dropping off or picking up a child while under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol
- Not providing appropriate meals including a drink for your child
- Leaving a child unattended for any amount of time
- Failure to attend to the special needs of a disabled child
- Sending a sick child to school over medicated to hide symptoms, which would typically require the child to be kept at home until symptoms subside.
- Children who exhibit behavior consistent with an abusive situation

If parents feel they need assistance with possible child abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse, we encourage you to get help. Please call the National Parent Hotline at 1-855-427-2736 or visit [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/I\\_Am/parents.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/I_Am/parents.asp) or <http://www.getparentingtips.com>.

The statewide Abuse & Neglect phone number is 1-800-252-5400, if you would like to report any suspected abuse or neglect

## **ALLERGIES & MEDICATION**

### **ALLERGIES**

Allergies of any kind must be made aware of to all staff as well as the cook. In addition to the type of allergy the student has, we also must know the type of reaction that it may cause, i.e. rash, hives, swelling, and anaphylaxis. Once the allergy and reaction have been established, the parent, director, and teacher will implement a plan of action in case of emergency, i.e. Epi Pen.

- Allergies need to be posted above the infant's cubby as well as on the refrigerator.
- Allergies for preschoolers and above must be posted in the student's classroom.

### **MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION**

LSA will only dispense over the counter and/or prescription medication that is in original, labeled containers and is accompanied by a doctor's note with explicit dosage and administration instructions. LSA will only give medication to the child for whom the doctor's note is written and for whom the medication container is labeled. One doctor's note per course of treatment is required. The initial dosage of medication must be administered by the parent unless written permission from a doctor for life-threatening situation such as administration of an Epi-Pen. If a child, for example, is to be given a course of antibiotics for 10 days, the doctor's note must identify the dates that the medication is to be given. LSA will only dispense prescription medication that is prescribed three or more times in a day. Medication prescribed once or twice a day must be given by the parent at home. Parents are required to complete a Medication Form each day that medication is to be dispensed. Medication Forms can be found at the front office. Medication Forms, doctor's notes, and medication are to be turned into the School Director. LSA will dispense over the counter, fever reducing/pain medication (ex. Children's Tylenol, Children's Motrin) on an as needed basis, with a doctor's note detailing the recommended reasons for administration and appropriate dosage. Parents are required to supply an unopened bottle of the fever reducing/pain medication clearly labeled with their child's name. (One note and bottle of fever reducing/pain medication is required per child.) Prior to administering fever reducing/pain medication, the director will contact a parent or person listed on emergency contact form, if a parent cannot be reached, to inform them of our need to administer the medication. The director will also inform the parent or emergency contact person if it is necessary for the child to be picked up due to illness. Refer to the policy listed above regarding picking up ill children. Parents are responsible for ensuring that all prescription medication is properly labeled by a pharmacist and replaced prior to the expiration date. Medication delivered by a device such as Epi-Pens, inhalers, and nebulizers must have written documentation from the doctor indicating when it is appropriate to administer such medication; including signs and symptoms that the medication is needed. The parent must also demonstrate to employees who will be administering medication through a device the proper use and any special care after use of the device. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that life-saving medication be replaced prior to the expiration date and an updated doctor's note is on file.

### **BPA AVOIDANCE**

BPA stands for bisphenol A, an industrial chemical used in the manufacturing of certain polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins. BPA can cause a number of negative health effects and should be avoided when used in contact with food and drinks. BPA may be used in sippy cups, toys, canned foods, etc. so extra vigilance is required to monitor for BPA in the facility.

### **STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

Revised 3/31/2022

As a professional organization you can be assured that all information regarding your family's needs, file contents and handling, medical information and conversations will be handled with the appropriate confidentiality. Information will be shared only with those persons requiring the knowledge to better serve your family.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

Below is the Emergency Preparedness Plan designed for Little Scholars Academy. Parents are encouraged to read this information carefully. In the event a parent is present in the building during an emergency, Little Scholars Academy will ask parents to participate accordingly. During any emergency the best course of action is to BREATHE AND STAY CALM. Each staff will carry emergency contact information and class attendance records. Parents will be contacted by phone and given the pick up location.

In all situations in this Emergency Preparedness Plan, the Director or designated person in charge will notify Child Care Licensing and/or the Health Department and/or call 911 as each situation dictates.

### **FIRE / EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Little Scholars Academy conducts monthly fire and emergency/evacuation drills. Parents, staff and children will not be made aware of drill dates or times, as this is the most effective way to assess the effectiveness of fire and emergency/evacuation plans. If the school is in the midst of a fire/emergency drill, parents will be required to wait until the drill is completed and the staff and children are returned to the building to sign their child out of the program. If the school is having a real fire/emergency situation, parents will be asked to wait until the director or designee has accounted for all staff and children and gives the staff permission to release children. Once again, it is important for parents and staff to work together, remain calm, and cooperate with the fire/emergency personnel and center administration during these important and critical situations.

### **PANDEMIC**

In the event of a pandemic, Little Scholars Academy will, at a minimum, follow the rules set forth by Local County and State regulations. Additionally, we will in certain circumstances, add additional safety precautions to maximize the safety for all individuals in our facility. Please watch for our emails, social media and postings at the front for additional safety precautions.

#### Additional Safety Measures

For everyone's safety, we ask that you please wear face masks anytime you are in the facility. Also, if you are going out of state, please either keep your child home and away from the center for 14 days from the day you return or provide a negative covid test result completed after your return to the state. Our staff members also fall under the same rules, ensuring the safety and well-being of all our families. Please abide by the guidelines to help keep all our children, parents and staff healthy and safe.

Basic hygiene, social distancing, staying home, masks, and mindfulness are all steps we can take to help combat the virus around us. Lastly, honesty during this time plays a vital role. If you feel sick or your child has any other COVID-19 type of symptoms, please stay at home.



# EMERGENCY/DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PARENT INFORMATION FORM FOR REUNIFICATION

Name of Provider/Program	Little Scholars Academy
Program Address	1200 W Spring Valley Rd, Richardson, TX 75080
Emergency/Disaster contact at the child care program	Elaine Webb
Phone Number of emergency/disaster contact	(972) 231-6998
Alternate emergency/disaster contact phone Number	(972) 437-3880
In the event the facility must be evacuated because of an emergency/disaster, the staff and children will leave the building and gather in the immediate area at	Carolyn Bukhair 13900 Esperanza Rd Dallas, TX 75240 (469) 593-4900
In the event the facility must be evacuated because of an emergency/disaster in the immediate area, the children and staff will be transported by <u>VANS</u> to	Little Scholars Academy at 14045 Waterfall Way Dallas, TX 75240
Address, Phone Number, and Contact person at the relocation site is	14045 Waterfall Way, Dallas, TX 75240 (972) 437-3880  Jennifer Tamayo Vickie Vicente
Address, Phone Number, and Contact person of the alternate relocation site (#2) if the first relocation is not accessible is	Dobie Pre-Kindergarten School 14040 Rolling Hills Ln, Dallas, TX 75240 (469) 593-4100
If necessary, children will be transported to this health care facility	Medical City Hospital
Address, Phone Number, and position title of contact at health care facility	7777 Forest Lane Dallas, TX 75230 (972) 566-7000

\*Please see your child care provider if you would like to review the complete emergency/disaster preparedness plan.



## EMERGENCY/DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PARENT INFORMATION FORM FOR REUNIFICATION

Name of Provider/Program	Little Scholars Academy
Program Address	14045 Waterfall Way Dallas, TX 75240
Emergency/Disaster contact at the child care program	Jennifer Tamayo
Phone Number of emergency/disaster contact	(972) 437-3880
Alternate emergency/disaster contact phone Number	(972) 231-6998
In the event the facility must be evacuated because of an emergency/disaster, the staff and children will leave the building and gather in the immediate area at	Cottonwood Animal Hospital (Next Door) 14055 Waterfall Way Dallas, TX 75240 (469) 330-0357
In the event the facility must be evacuated because of an emergency/disaster in the immediate area, the children and staff will be transported by <u>VANS</u> to	Little Scholars Academy at 1200 W Spring Valley Rd Richardson, TX 75080
Address, Phone Number, and Contact person at the relocation site is	Little Scholars Academy 1200 W Spring Valley Rd, Richardson, TX 75080 (972) 231-6998  Elaine Webb Syble Scales
Address, Phone Number, and Contact person of the alternate relocation site (#2) if the first relocation is not accessible is	Dobie Elementary School 14040 Rolling Hills Ln, Dallas, TX 75240 (469) 593-4100
If necessary, children will be transported to this health care facility	Medical City Hospital
Address, Phone Number, and position title of contact at health care facility	7777 Forest Lane Dallas, TX 75230 (972) 566-7000

\*Please see your child care provider if you would like to review the complete emergency/disaster preparedness plan.



## **CURRICULUM**

Little Scholars Academy believes that essential readiness skills are nurtured through play. Children involved in hands-on experiences, real-life adventures, and assisted discovery as they explore concepts through play. The following curriculums provide developmentally and age-appropriate activities and materials for exciting and wonder-filled environments.

### Infants & Toddlers – *Frog Street Early Learners*

Based on the research about how infants learn and develop, this curriculum is packed with strategies and activities to help provide the very best in early child care in a nurturing environment. The skills include:

- Developing Cognitive Skills
- Communication and Language Skills
- Literacy Development
- Gross and Fine Motor Skills
- Music and Movement
- Enhancing Sensory Development
- Exploring the Natural World
- Encouraging Social Skills

### Preschool – *Language Enrichment Activities Program LEAP – Learning by Leaps and Bounds* by Nell Carvell (funded by Texas Instruments Foundation and supported by Southern Methodist University).

*Learning by Leaps and Bounds* focuses heavily on the following:

- Language with Stories – Listening and Literature
- Language with Words – Vocabulary and Expression
- Language with Sounds – Phonological Awareness
- Language with Letters – Alphabet Knowledge
- Language with Ideas – Concept Development and Linguistic Skills
- Language with Math & Science – Numeracy and Pre-Math Development
- Language with Motor Skills – Fine Motor Skills Development

After School Care and Holiday Care – Our program goes beyond homework assistant. We take into consideration the special needs of this active group. Whether they want to work on homework, do creative art project or just relax, we assist the school-age in creating a fun environment where School Age students want to be. We also offer transportation for kids from their local public school to our facility.

Summer Camp - We provide ample of fun and engaging learning opportunities through our planned, theme-based curriculum, age appropriate field trips, indoor and outdoor enrichment activities including science experiment, arts & crafts, and sports that promote teamwork, collaboration, and exploration. Students are expected to work independently and in teams to develop a sense of responsibility. A weekly lesson plan is compiled of the following concepts:

- Creative Arts
- Healthy Living
- Guidance
- Dramatic Play
- Relationships
- Math Activities, Language Arts
- Creating Effective Environments
- Clubs and Enrichment
- Characteristics
- Field Trips

## **GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE**

At Little Scholars Academy, we believe the best way to prepare children to live successfully and productively, is to help them develop self-control, self-esteem, self direction, and resolve conflicts, and become increasingly responsible for their actions and behaviors. Adults must model desirable behavior in order for children to learn to understand, acknowledge, and cope with their feelings. We accomplish this through the use of positive guidance techniques that offer developmentally appropriate choices and set clear and consistent rules and consequences. We know children must be involved with each other, with teachers, and with materials and equipment to learn how to work and play. Sometimes children may be separated from the group for short periods when they need a quiet place away from the overwhelming emotions of peers and play. At Little Scholars Academy, this cooling-off period, often called "Time Out", is only used judiciously and as a last resort for serious behavior problems. We firmly believe children should never be made to feel humiliated or rejected. Physical, verbal, or emotional punishment or abuse is never allowed. If we have concerns about a child's behavior, we will inform his/her parents as soon as possible and collaborate on a plan of action for positive change. Little Scholars Academy will never use Corporal Punishment or negative discipline that may hurt or humiliate a child.

## **PARENT'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE**

For many children, the most important role models are their parents and caregivers. Children look up to their role models to help shape how they behave in school, relationships or when making difficult decisions. Encourage your child to become involved in activities that reflect your values.

At Little Scholars Academy, we value your opinion. You have an opportunity to influence and impact the center to enhance the quality of your child's experience. We accomplish this by requesting our parents to complete surveys throughout the year. In order to have the biggest impact, you must complete and return the surveys.

## **OPEN DOOR POLICY**

Parents are welcome in the Center at any time, in any area of our school to observe their child. Little Scholars Academy is privately owned and operated facility. We have the right to refuse service at any time to anyone.

## **CELL PHONE USAGE**

Proper parent communication is imperative when working with young children. It is difficult to communicate when cell phones are in use. Effective December 1, 2010, the Texas Department of Health and Human Services passed new regulations prohibiting the personal use of cell phones in classrooms. Please end all calls prior to entering the building so that our teachers and directors can properly communicate with you.

## **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Classroom assignments are based on each individual child's chronological age, developmental age, emotional age, and physical age. LSA typically will transition children to new classrooms twice a year, however from time to time we may request a transition sooner based on the individual child's needs.

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

Parents are invited and encouraged to be involved in their child's school activities. There are many different ways in which parents can participate and volunteer at LSA. Parents may volunteer to attend field trips, read in the classroom, assist teachers, and/or coordinate special events. We want you to feel confident that your child is getting the best care. When necessary, a parent teacher conference may be scheduled at your convenience. If you have any questions about the policies and procedures of the center, please schedule a time to meet with the classroom teacher and/or the Director of the facility.

Any person who volunteers are required to pay for and secure all criminal background checks, as required by our licensing regulations. Any person, including parents, with felony convictions, sex offender convictions and/or open investigations into any criminal activities will not be permitted to volunteer in the classroom, or on field trips.

### **PARENT COMMUNICATION**

For children 2 years old and under you will receive a daily report which includes the following information: Diaper Changes, Naps, Meals, Activities, Medication, and any needed Supplies (i.e. diapers, wipes, formula, etc.).

For children 2 years old through Pre-K, folders go home every Friday with: completed projects, weekly newsletter, and any additional necessary information.

### **PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Teacher conferences can consist of a face to face meeting, phone call, or written evaluation. They are scheduled at the parent/teacher convenience.

*Infants & Toddlers* – Teacher will discuss the assessment of your child’s cognitive, language, motor, social, and emotional development. (Teacher completes assessment 2 or more times per year.)

*Preschool* – Teacher will discuss the assessment of your child’s cognitive, language, motor, social, and emotional development and Kindergarten readiness. (Teacher completes assessment 2 or more times per year.)

*School Age*– Teacher will discuss the assessment of your child’s general skills and abilities, social and emotional development, work habits, and physical abilities. (This assessment is only completed once a year for School Age.)

### **CUSTODY SITUATIONS**

Little Scholars Academy will NOT get involved with custody disputes. LSA will follow a court order exactly as written. If your family has a court order on file, please provide us with the most recent copy. *PLEASE NOTE: PER STATE LAW, IN THE ABSENCE OF A COURT ORDER, BOTH PARENTS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS.* It is imperative that all enrollment forms are completed with both parents’ information. A copy of a child’s birth certificate may be requested at the Director’s discretion. In the event that a custody dispute takes place on our property, the local police will be called and asked to handle the dispute. Our staff will not be placed in the middle of such disputes. If a custody issue creates a risk for our facility or staff, Little Scholars Academy has the right to terminate childcare.

### **GANG-FREE ZONE**

Under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1000 feet of a childcare center is a gang-free zone, where criminal offenses related to organizational criminal activity are subject to a harsher penalty. Little Scholars Academy is a gang-free zone.

### **WITHDRAWAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURE**

We are always sad when one of our Center’s children leave. We do request that a two weeks written notice be given to the Director if you intend to withdrawal from our Center. Should written notice not be received, you will be responsible for one week of tuition after withdrawal. If your child is dismissed from the program, it goes into effect immediately.

## **SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION**

Little Scholars Academy is proud of our history of working with the individual needs of our children and will work with the parents whose children may need additional support and will make reasonable accommodations to their policies, practices and procedures as appropriate in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. LSA will allow outside resources/therapists into the program to work with any child as needed, provided those services are communicated in advance, the provider of the services has the appropriate clearances to be in the building, the behavioral/therapeutic plan is shared with the administration and the resource/therapist works cooperatively with LSA staff to meet the needs of the child. Any child who is a safety threat to themselves or to others will be subject to suspension/exclusion and/or disenrollment from the program if the dangerous behavior cannot be eliminated through reasonable accommodations provided for under applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Temporary suspension from the school may be necessary for the safety of the child and others while any appropriate evaluations are completed and/or while securing the appropriate support services from the appropriate agency.

## **OPERATIONAL POLICIES**

1. LSA (Little Scholars Academy) is open Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:30pm year round with the exception of the following holidays: New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the following Friday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
2. Children will be released to parents or other individuals designated by the parent, only with proof of identification; we always ID those that we are not familiar with.
3. If you are sick you may not come to our school. (Enclosed is a child development center wellness policy.)
4. Medication is only dispensed with a doctor's note (RX label) doses must be clearly labeled and a parent signature must be on the medication log.
5. Procedures for handling medical emergencies are as follows: For major emergencies, 911 will be called. For minor emergencies, staff certified in First Aid will administer safety procedures in the child's best interest. Parent will be notified by the Director directly after the "incident".
6. Parental notifications are only done through the Director. Parent is notified by phone for all emergencies.
7. Discipline and guidance practices are enclosed.
8. We reserve the right to warn, suspend, or dismiss any child that harms, disrupts, distracts and/or disrespects another student or teacher. Additional factors considered in student dismissal may include the following: late pickups, late payments, disrespectful parents. All efforts will be made to educate the child/children on acceptable and unacceptable behavior while they are under LSA custody of care. Parents will be given as much advance notice of concerns and issues as soon as reasonably possible but given the uniqueness of each infraction, LSA reserves the right to immediately terminate service for any child when necessary.
9. All staff, substitute staff, and volunteers at LSA will follow these safe sleep recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for infants to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome/Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS/SUIDS):

- Always put infants to sleep on their backs unless you provide an Infant Sleep Exception form 2710 signed by the infant's health care professional [§746.2427 and §747.2327].
- Place infants on a firm mattress, with a tight fitting sheet, in a crib that meets the CPSC federal requirements for full size cribs and for non-full size cribs [§746.2409 and §747.2309].
- For infants who are younger than 12 months of age, cribs should be bare except for a tight fitting sheet and a mattress cover or protector. Items that should not be placed in a crib include: soft or loose bedding, such as blankets, quilts, or comforters; pillows; stuffed toys/animals; soft objects; bumper pads; liners; or sleep positioning devices [§746.2415 and §747.2315]. Also, infants must not have their heads, faces, or cribs covered at any time by items such as blankets, linens, or clothing [§746.2429 and §747.2329].
- Do not use sleep positioning devices, such as wedges or infant positioners. The AAP has found no evidence that these devices are safe. Their use may increase the risk of suffocation [§746.2415 and §747.2315].
- Ensure that sleeping areas are ventilated and at a temperature that is comfortable for a lightly clothed adult [§746.3407(10) and §747.3203(10)].
- If an infant needs extra warmth, use sleep clothing. Place only one infant in a crib to sleep [§746.2405 and §747.2305].
- Infants may use a pacifier during sleep. But the pacifier must not be attached to a stuffed animal or the infant's clothing by a string, cord, or other attaching mechanism that might be a suffocation or strangulation risk [§746.2415 and §747.2315].
- If the infant falls asleep in a restrictive device other than a crib (such as a bouncy chair or swing, or arrives to care asleep in a car seat), move the infant to a crib immediately, unless you provide an Infant Sleep Exception form 2710 signed by the infant's health care professional [§746.2426 and §747.2326].
- Our program is smoke-free. Smoking is not allowed in Texas child care operations (this includes e-cigarettes and any type of vaporizers) [§746.3703(d) and §747.3503(d)].
- Actively observe sleeping infants by sight and sound [§746.2403 and §747.2303].
- If an infant is able to roll back and forth from front to back, place the infant on the infant's back for sleep and allow the infant to assume a preferred sleep position [§746.2427 and §747.2327].
- Awake infants will have supervised "tummy time" several times daily. This will help them strengthen their muscles and develop normally [§746.2427 and §747.2327].
- Do not swaddle an infant for sleep or rest unless you provide an Infant Sleep Exception form 2710 signed by the infant's health care professional [§746.2428 and §747.2328].

10. Meals are prepared in the kitchen and brought to the classroom to be served "family style". Children are allowed to say grace before eating. (Children with certain religious beliefs are excused.)

11. Immunization records MUST be kept current at all times. A copy of the current immunization record MUST be provided to Little Scholars Academy as new immunizations are administered.

12. Hearing and vision screening is required for all four year old children. (Test is offered in February to parents as a convenience.)

13. Parents will be notified in writing of any changes to the operational policies and enrollment agreement. Parents will be required to sign the acknowledgement of any changes that have been implemented and a copy will be retained in their child's records.
14. Written permission is required for any children being transported.
15. Water activities can only be authorized by a parent. (Only child seven years old and older will be permitted to participate.)
16. Permission slips must be filled out and signed by a parent in order to participate in field trips.
17. Little Scholars Academy is a pet free facility.
18. Insect repellent (OFF!) and sunscreen (parent supplied) will be applied each time the children go outside. If your child is allergic to the products, you will be required to provide the appropriate supplies specific for your child.
19. If you have a concern, complaint, or suggestion, please immediately discuss them with the Director. You are welcome to do so in person, by phone, or by email to the Richardson location at [ewebb@LittleScholarsDFW.com](mailto:ewebb@LittleScholarsDFW.com) or the Dallas location at [itamayo@LittleScholarsDFW.com](mailto:itamayo@LittleScholarsDFW.com). We will review the matter and have a response within 10 business days.
20. Parents are welcome in the Center at any time to observe your child's classroom. We also welcome parent participation on field trips. We want you to feel confident that your child is getting the best care.
21. Parents may review a copy of the State of Texas Minimum Standards and our current Licensing Inspection Report. The report is located in the Hallway Bulletin Board.
22. Parents may contact the Local Licensing Office, Hotline, and Abuse Hotline.
  - Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400
  - Child Care Licensing Office 1-800-582-6036  
8700 N. Stemmons, Suite 104  
Dallas, TX 75247  
[www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)
23. Little Scholars Academy practices safety for all types of inclement weather; tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, or even intruders. Staff is responsible for moving children to designated Tornado Safer Zones and evacuating children to designated evacuation routes which are posted in each classroom.
  - Baby School Center @ 14045 Waterfall Way, Dallas
    - Safe area for tornadoes – Laundry Room
    - Safe area in case of fire – Cotton Wood Animal Hospital (next door)
  - Pre-School & After School Programs Center @ 1200 W Spring Valley Rd
    - Safe area for tornadoes – Back Hallway going towards playground
    - Safe area in case of fire – We will relocate to Carolyn Bukhair Elementary
      - 13900 Esperanza Rd, Dallas, TX (469) 593-4900
24. We understand that breastfeeding is a natural process and we encourage mothers to feed their children here at LSA. We have set up a specific place for you to privately nurse your child with a

rocking chair. We also strongly encourage those breastfeeding to bring their breast milk for us to feed their child while they are in our care.

25. At LSA, our staff goes through annual training to gain recognition of neglect and abuse of children. The Director will assist parents and/or children who are victims of abuse or neglect to help obtain assistance and intervention. Employee and parent awareness are key in ensuring the safety of our children; knowing the early warning signs is fundamental. Flyers are displayed in the Hallway Bulletin Board to make the public aware.
26. LSA performs a visual health check assessment on each student upon arrival. The child is inspected for any signs of illness, abuse, or neglect. Teachers observe to see if the child seems out of the “norm” and are not their usual self, if so; a more in depth assessment is performed. If any signs of illness, neglect or abuse are present, they will be documented on the attendance sheet and the director will be notified right away.
27. Employees at LSA are required to get the Influenza (Flu) immunization at the beginning of Flu season every year. If an employee is exposed to a sick child that could potentially be contagious, the employee given Airborne Immune Booster as a preventative measure. Immunization records are retained in each employee file.
  - a. Little Scholars Academy is a gang-free zone. A gang-free zone is a designated area around a specific location where prohibited gang related activity is subject to increased penalty under Texas law. The purpose of gang-free zones is to deter certain types of criminal activity in areas where children gather. Any gang related criminal activity that takes place within one thousand feet around our facility will be immediately posted to our parents on our front door.

### **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

We are all part of the team working to support your family. Little Scholars Academy strives to meet all of your family’s needs. In the event that you have a concern, please go directly to the source to handle the concern most efficiently or by email [Admin@LittleScholarsDFW.com](mailto:Admin@LittleScholarsDFW.com). If your concern is not resolved, please continue up the ladder until we have reached an understanding.

Texas Department of Health and Human Services  
8700 North Stemmons Freeway, Suite 104, Dallas, Texas 75247  
1-800-252-5400  
[https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/child\\_care/](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_care/)

On-site Owners, Michael & Stacy Sun  
Director, Elaine Webb at Spring Valley Location  
Lead Teacher – Syble Scales at Spring Valley Location  
Director, Jennifer Tamayo at Waterfall Way Location  
Lead Teacher – Vickie Vicente at Waterfall Way Location

## FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

### **Child Care Group** - Child Care Assistance

1420 West Mockingbird Lane, Ste. 300

Dallas, TX 75247

Phone: 214-630-5949

[www.childcaregroup.org](http://www.childcaregroup.org)

### **CITY OF DALLAS Program** - Child Care Assistance

Lucy Hernandez

Phone: 214-670-8838

### **Network Richardson**

741 S. Sherman Street

Richardson, Texas 75081

Phone: 972-234-8880

[www.thenetwork.org](http://www.thenetwork.org)

- *Food Pantry*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Big Meals for Little Kids Project*
- *Toyland Express Program*
- *Tools 4 School*
- *Tooth Fairy Dental Outreach Program*
- *Stabilization Programs*

### **Warren Center**

320 Custer Road

Richardson, TX 75080

Phone: 972-490-9055

<https://thewarrencenter.org>

- Early childhood education from birth to three
- Therapy services from 3 – 5
- Autism
- Parent Support Groups
- Workshops





1200 W. Spring Valley Rd. Richardson, TX 75080 (972) 231-6998  
14045 Waterfall Way Dallas, TX 75240 (972) 437-3880  
Admin@LittleScholarsDFW.com

## PARENT HANDBOOK POLICY REVIEW AND REVISIONS

This handbook of policies and procedures is reviewed by the Owners and Director annually or upon state regulatory changes. Should changes occur, you will be notified of the changes.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (Parent/Guardian Name) have been given a copy of the Little Scholars Academy Parent Handbook, I have read the policies outlined, and given the opportunity to ask questions regarding LSA policies. I understand the policies and will agree to follow the policies outlined in the Little Scholars Academy Parent Handbook. I understand that LSA has the right to terminate care at any time if the parent policies are not followed.

Child(ren)'s Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_