

Family Handbook 2022-2023



CHELTEN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
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MISSION STATEMENT

Supporting families by providing a quality early childhood education in a safe and loving Christ-centered environment, creating opportunities for the development of the whole child: socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually, and spiritually.

VISION STATEMENT

All children would leave CCDC as confident, caring, and curious on their way to becoming all God created them to be.



CHERISH

Where children are regarded as precious because of who God made them to be



EQUIP

Where we equip every child to develop a passion for learning



EXCELLENCE

Where our good becomes better and our better becomes best



INTEGRITY

Where we are who we say we are and do what we say we do

WELCOME!

It is a pleasure to welcome you as a family to Chelten Child Development Center. We are a non-profit, early childhood learning center sponsored by Chelten, a Church of Hope. Our program serves children age nine months through five years, year round.

PHILOSOPHY

We are dedicated to providing a program for every child that meets his/her needs for physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual development. We believe that God has created each child in His image - special and unique. It is a privilege to provide this place where your child will feel loved and valued as he/she interacts with classmates and teachers. Our entire staff desires to model excellence and integrity. It is our hope that your child will leave our school equipped with a life-long long of learning.

OUR PROGRAM

Our daily schedule encourages children to play, learn, experience and grow at their own rate without undue pressure or competition. Our curriculum helps develop:

- **Cognitive Skills:** Through dramatic play, problem solving, language and literature experiences
- **Social Skills:** Through cooperation, expressing ideas and emotions, and developing self-concept
- **Large Motor Skills:** Through vigorous outdoor play, bike riding, climbing and games
- **Small Motor Skills:** Through puzzles, cutting, pasting, painting and finger plays
- **Self-Help Skills:** Through maintaining daily routines, hand washing, dressing and manners
- **Spiritual Sense:** Understanding who God is; learning to love Him, His creation and His Word.

We hope this year will be a rewarding and valuable learning experience for your precious preschool child. Please read through the following guidelines to help make our time together a success. Our staff is always available for your questions, comments or concerns.



2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR STAFF DIRECTORY

OFFICE STAFF:

Director:	Pam Post	ppost@cheltenhamchild.com
Asst. Director:	Kate Nagele	knagele@cheltenhamchild.com
Office Manager:	Beth Patitucci	ccdc@cheltenhamchild.com

TEACHING STAFF

Rm. 411/412	Chipmunks Laura Post (<i>lpost@cheltenhamchild.com</i>)
Rm. 413	Koalas Jenn Vincent (<i>jvincent@cheltenhamchild.com</i>)
Rm. 414	Joeys Lauren Shaw (<i>lshaw@cheltenhamchild.com</i>)
Rm. 225/226	Cubs Hannah Post (<i>hpost@cheltenhamchild.com</i>)
Rm. 223	Guppies Katie Humphries (<i>khumphries@cheltenhamchild.com</i>)
Rm. 224	Kittens Pam Stewart (<i>pstewart@cheltenhamchild.com</i>)
Rm. 222	Owlets Amanda Brown (<i>abrown@cheltenhamchild.com</i>)
Rm. 204	Lambs' Meadow Arianna Rivera (<i>arivera@cheltenhamchild.com</i>)
Rm. 202	Duckling Pond Thalia Rosado (<i>trosado@cheltenhamchild.com</i>)
Rm. 205	Puppy Pad Jess Miller

OUR PROGRAM

Admissions

All families interested in enrolling their child will be given an equal opportunity for admission. A completed registration form and a check for the deposit/registration fee are required for admission. A waiting list may be maintained and children will be accepted from the list based on the date their registration form was submitted and the openings available in the class. From the time of registration, parents are encouraged to share information regarding concerns about a child's development and services/supports that a child is currently receiving.

Curriculum

Our curriculum supports the Early Learning Standards created by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (<https://www.pakeys.org/pa-early-learning-initiatives/early-learning-standards/>). Our toddler classrooms use "The Creative Curriculum" which focuses on communication, language development, social interactions and exploring their environment. Our preschool classrooms use a variety of kindergarten readiness curriculum, focusing on pre-reading skills, simple math concepts, science and social studies themes.

Our teaching staff document observations of children and use them in creating developmentally appropriate activities that address the unique needs of all the children. All materials and equipment are accessible to all the children. Staff make adaptations to the schedule, transition times and routines to meet the needs of the children. Staff implement picture schedules, practice simple rules, and employ positive behavior supports that help all children. Staff incorporate individual accommodations and strategies that are suggested by special educators or in IEP/IFSP documents.

We believe that children of all abilities benefit from meaningful social relationships with their peers. Opportunities are provided every day for children to develop these relationships during play and small group activities. Staff facilitate and model positive interactions with peers. If extra supports are necessary, they are provided within the natural classroom environment.

Our students exhibit a range of abilities and a variety of needs. The staff considers these and works to meet the individual needs of each child to help them reach their full potential. We seek to create a balance of activities in the classroom: large group/small group, child-initiated/teacher-directed, and active/quiet. A private space where a child can play alone or with one friend is available in each classroom. Sensory activities and toys are accessible for those children who need them. Large group times include activities with active participation, as well as quiet listening activities.

Inclusion

Chelton Child Development Center welcomes children of all abilities and is committed to providing developmentally appropriate learning experiences that support the full access and participation of every child. We believe that each child is uniquely created by God and value each one's abilities from that perspective. We partner with parents and other professionals to provide the support every child needs to be all that God has created them to be.

We believe that all children benefit from an inclusive environment, surrounded by their peers. As a result, we support all children within the classroom environment. We seek to deal proactively with behaviors that interfere with learning in the classroom by adjusting schedules and routines, making behavioral expectations clear and consistent, implementing simple behavior interventions, and making use of available resources. Most behaviors can be handled within the classroom environment.

Chelten Child Development Center relies on honest information from families regarding their child's needs to determine if the school is able to meet those needs. If a family doesn't disclose those needs, including behavioral concerns, Chelten Child Development reserves the right to terminate enrollment.

If there are concerns about a child's development, families will be referred to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit or Early Intervention services for evaluation. If the child is eligible for services, we will partner with the service provider to support the child as indicated in the IEP/IFSP or behavior plan.

If a child's behavior poses a safety threat to either the child himself, the other children in the classroom, or the staff, Chelten Child Development Center will notify the parent that an alternative placement must be found. The school will document all the interventions and supports which have been implemented and share them with the parent. The school will also provide the family with information and resources that might be helpful.

Collaboration with Other Professionals

We serve many children with special needs who are supported by developmental and educational professionals such as therapists and behavior support. Chelten Child Development Center welcomes these professionals and partners with them to ensure the child's success. We work to accommodate the therapists' schedules whenever possible. We encourage everyone who works with the child to do so within the context of the early childhood classroom. We provide time for the service provider and the child's teacher to collaborate and share information. We host IEP/IFSP meetings and provide time away from the classroom so that the classroom teacher can attend these meetings.

In addition, we provide information and support for parents learning to navigate the early intervention system. Our special needs coordinator is available to review evaluation reports, IEP/IFSP documents, and attend meetings if families desire.

Arrivals and Departures

Please bring your child into the Center using the south entrance of the educational wing, beside the playground. Children must be brought into the classroom by a parent or other responsible adult. Please be sure to help your child wash their hands before starting to play. Please greet the teacher to be sure that your child has been checked into school.

Your child will be sent home only with people listed in the child's file as authorized to pick up the child. Please pick up your child promptly at the proper dismissal time to avoid a late charge. (Please refer to the financial policies on page of this handbook for specific information.) If for some emergency a parent should be delayed, please call the Center to inform the teacher in charge that you will be late..

Regular Attendance

Children can most benefit from a preschool program if they attend regularly. Please arrive on time so that your child begins his/her morning with the other children. One of the important developmental benefits to your child is the experience of relationships with other children. Please email or call the office if your child will be absent from school. Frequent absences or late arrivals may deprive your child of important group experiences.

SNOW DAYS AND WEATHER EMERGENCIES

CCDC normally follows the Upper Dublin School District closings for bad weather. In the event of ice or snow, you can do any of the following:

- Visit our website: www.CheltenChild.com for delay or closure announcements
- Check local news for UD School District (#311)
- Log on to Upper Dublin's website at www.udsd.org
- Tune in to Upper Dublin's cable channel
- If in doubt, call the school office at 215-646-5596 for a recorded announcement
- Check our Facebook page
- Notification via Procure sent to your email and via cell phone push-notification

If Upper Dublin School District is closed, ALL of our classes will close.

For a **1-hour delay** we will open our doors at **8:15AM** for FULL day classes.

(Half day classes begin at **9:00AM** as normal)

For a **2-hour delay** we will open our doors at **9:15AM** for **ALL** classes.

If heavy snow or other threatening weather conditions occur during the day, we will notify you of an early closing.

WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

Clothing

Because of the wide range of activities, it is recommended that children be dressed in washable, comfortable play clothing. Outdoor play is considered an integral part of our program during all seasons. Please dress your child accordingly: light jacket or sweater in spring and fall; heavy winter jacket in winter. Slip-on shoes or light sandals are not appropriate foot wear for pre-school activities; **we require sneakers for all students, each day.**

Winter Kit

To ensure that our students are able to go outside year-round, we ask parents to purchase and bring in a "Winter Kit" to be kept here at school. If purchasing these items is a financial burden for your family, please contact us as we have some resources available to help defray the costs.

Winter Kit Components: Please clearly label each item with your child's name and send each item in by October 15th or prior to your child's first day of school if s/he starts after November 1st.

- A [Muddy Buddy](#) or other one-piece rain suit that zips up.
- A [Balacava](#)
- [Mittens](#)
- [Rain Mittens](#)
- Waterproof [boots](#) (that warm socks will fit into)
- Warm [Socks](#)

Change of Clothing

Your child will need a complete change of clothing for the season (shirt, pants, underwear, socks) in a zip-lock bag **labeled with your child's name** to be kept in the classroom.

Food

Nutritious snacks are provided daily in the morning and afternoon for our preschoolers. Full day students should bring a packed lunch and drink, in a clearly labeled lunchbox. Families will be notified if a classroom is nut-free due to an allergy in the class. Parents of toddlers should pack all snacks and lunch for their child. All of our toddler classrooms are nut-free. Each item must be labeled with your toddler's name. Refrigerators and microwave ovens are available. We discourage foods with high sugar content: please, no candy, gum or soda. Please be sure your child has eaten his breakfast before arriving.

Toys

Children should NOT bring toys from home, because it is too easy for them to become lost or mixed up with school toys. Since we believe in promoting peaceful play and activities, we do not allow weapons, war toys or "super heroes" at preschool. Please do not allow your child to bring these items for "Show & Tell."

Resting Blanket

All full-day students (except Puppies) use a nap mat and sheet provided by CCDC for afternoon rest time. A fitted crib sheet is provided for the Puppy students' cribs. A cinch-sack will be given to each student to keep a rest-time blanket and small stuffed animal in. All items must fit in the cinch-sack. This bag will be sent home each Friday to be washed at home and must return to school on Monday.

Mats and sheets will be washed weekly at school.

FIELD TRIPS

Our four-year-old classes visit local sites, such as farms and nature centers, that support our curriculum. Children are transported on our little buses which have three-point seatbelts for all. Drivers must be at least 25 years old and must go through an approval process. Parents/guardians must give permission in order for a child to go on a school trip. If a field trip falls on a day that your child does not normally attend school, you and your child (no siblings) may arrange with your teacher to join the group, but you must supervise, transport and pay for your child and yourself.

We encourage parents to volunteer as chaperones on our field trips, and you can contact your child's teacher directly about specific opportunities.

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES

Communication:

- **Procare** (our communication app) – Families will receive a daily report which gives information about your child’s day, as well as photos, showing activities your child participated in. The messaging feature allows families and teachers to communicate in “real time”. (Please use this for communication with your child’s teacher only; any communication for the office should be sent via email to ccdc@cheltenchild.com.)
- **Newsletters** - You will receive a newsletter each month with general school news, announcements and specific information about the month’s activities in your child’s classroom. Please read them and post important dates on your home calendar!
- **Welcome boards** – The welcome boards outside each classroom have important information for families. Newsletters, lesson plans, teacher contact information and a daily schedule will be posted.
- **Teacher email** – Each teacher has a school email address which you will find on page 4 of this handbook. They check this once a day and will respond in a timely manner.
- **Back-to-School Night** - Plan to attend “Back to School Night” in September to get acquainted with your child’s teachers and get an overview of the school year ahead.
- **Formal and Informal Parent-Teacher Conferences** – Formal parent-teacher conferences are held in November and May and are a chance to talk about the progress a child has made, goals for the coming months, and any concerns about the child. Families may also contact their child’s teacher to set up an appointment if you have a concern to discuss.
- **Family Handbook** – Family handbooks are sent out in September and June via email. Parents/guardians must read it and sign an acknowledgement form. Any updates will be sent via email.

Assisting in the classroom:

- **Sharing Talents:** If you have a hobby, profession or skill which you would be willing to share with the children, please contact your child’s teacher. We love to have parents visit our classrooms, even just to read a story or lead a song. Do you play an instrument? Do you have a pet to share? Our children love to learn new things and will welcome you enthusiastically into their classroom!
- **Assisting with Special Occasions:** We welcome parental assistance with classroom holiday parties (providing snacks, planning and leading a game, making decorations or posters). We also need parent chaperones for many of our field trips.
- **Donating:** Our school can always use educational toys or books in good condition. Some parents have donated a new book for our classroom collections in honor of their child’s birthday. (You can also help by collecting General Mills “Box Tops” to help us obtain free equipment).
- **Observing in the classroom:** You are always welcome to visit, but we do ask that you arrange your visit with the teacher in advance. Please do not bring younger children when you come to observe.

Feedback:

Any suggestions for our preschool program are helpful and appreciated. Feel free to contact the director at any time. The center may send out surveys from time to time asking for specific

feedback. We appreciate your responses.

HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION

Your child's health and safety are of great importance to us. You will be immediately notified in case of illness or an accident during school. If a child has a minor injury, you will receive an accident report from your child's teacher (we call it a "Boo Boo Note") via Procure.

All students entering our classes must have up-to-date immunizations and a health form filled out by your family physician. The Department of Public Welfare requires toddlers to have health form updates at 9 months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, 24 months, and 36 months. Preschool age students are required to have updated health forms every 12 months. We **do not** accept children without up-to-date immunizations. Students may not continue without a current health form on file. Please notify us if there is a change in this information or in the emergency phone numbers that we keep on file.

Our staff is depending on you to help us maintain a good health policy. **For the protection of all children, your child may not be at school if they have either of the following:**

- A fever of 100.4° or higher*
- Diarrhea or vomiting within the last 24 hours*
- Discharging eyes (pink eye)
- Undiagnosed rash
- Contagious diseases (strep throat, etc.)

**Your child can return to school once s/he has been symptom-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication (Tylenol/Motrin).*

Your child may not be at school if s/he has a combination of the following:

- A fever of 100.4° or higher
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Persistent cough
- Runny Nose
- New smell or taste problems
- Body aches

Children with a combination of the symptoms listed above must stay at home, regardless of the cause.

- Children can return to school after the child has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and their other symptoms are improving.
- COVID-19 tests are not required when a child has the above symptoms.

If your child has tested positive for COVID-19:

- Your child can return to school after they've quarantined for 3 days. Day 1 is considered when the symptoms began or when the child tested positive if asymptomatic.
- Parents must provide a doctor's note allowing the student to return to school OR provide a negative COVID test signed by a medical professional. This note must be submitted to the office prior to the student's return to class.

If your child has been exposed to COVID-19 and is asymptomatic:

- Parents must inform the school office of the child's exposure.

- If the exposure was from someone *outside* of the child's immediate household, the child may continue to attend school, they do not need to quarantine.
- If the exposure was from someone *within* the child's immediate household, the child can return to school when the family member's quarantine is over and the child remains symptom-free.
- Please watch your child closely for the development of any symptoms.
- Should your child develop symptoms, the above policies apply.

The teacher in charge has the right to refuse to accept any child who shows any of these symptoms upon arrival. All parents should have alternative arrangements for their child in case of illness, emergencies, school closing, etc.

Please call or email the school office if your child will be absent due to sickness. If your child is diagnosed with a contagious disease, please report this condition to the Center so that we can notify other parents.

If your child needs to take any medication (prescription or non-prescription) while at school, please bring the medication in its original container labeled with the child's name and dosage. Parents must fill out an authorization form (called a medication log) for each medication that is to be given with your consent and signature, along with directions for administering.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

CCDC operates as a non-profit organization under the direction of Chelten Church. Our goal is to provide the best possible program while keeping our tuition costs as reasonable as possible. We rely on our families' prompt and faithful payment of monthly tuition to help us run our program efficiently.

Tuition

Tuition is based on a yearly cost, broken down into nine or twelve equal payments. You may pay tuition via Procure or paper check.

If paying by check, please make your check or money order payable to CHELTEN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (or CCDC), and deposit it in the tuition box outside the school office. **Tuition is due by the 1st of each month.** Special arrangements for bi-weekly payment can be made upon request.

If paying via the Procure App, please be aware that Procure charges and collects a 2.75% surcharge for all debit and credit card transactions. As you set up your account, please keep the following information in mind when adding your payment method.

- There is a 2.75% surcharge automatically applied to **credit card** payments at the time of payment.
- If you choose to use a **Debit Card**, a 2.75% surcharge will be added to your account after the 10th of each month (after all tuition payments are in) and will be reflected on the next month's statement.
- To avoid this charge, you can use **ACH**, by adding your checking account as the payment method, or by writing a paper check each month and bringing it to the office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

- **Due by the 1st of each month.**
- **Late fee of \$30 charged for payments received after the 10th of the month.**
- **After the 15th of the month, students may not attend until the account is brought current, including any accrued fees.**

Discounts

Two children from the same family will receive a 10% discount for the child with the lesser tuition, and a third child will receive a 15% discount. Chelten Church members receive a 10% discount. Only one discount can be applied per family.

Vacation Credits

Students attending **5 full days per week during the school year** are entitled to 10 vacation day credits, to be used between September and April 30th. Each child enrolled **5 full days per week for the entire summer** will be granted five days of sick/vacation credit during the summer (June -

August). These dates must be submitted in writing to the CCDC office by the 21st of the month in order to be applied to the next month's tuition. The Center is not responsible for tracking your child's absences for the purpose of vacation credits; that is the family's responsibility. Students attending 3 full days per week or morning preschool are not entitled to any vacation day credits. These credits do not carry over into the summer or the following school year.

Fees

The fees listed below may be also be assessed to your Procure account.

- **Key Fobs:** One of the components of our door and security system is a key fob that will release the lock for you to enter the building. Two fobs will be automatically issued to your family during your child's first week of enrollment. You can pick up your fobs the first week of school by stopping at the main office. A \$20 deposit will be added to your Procure account, which can be paid through the app. At the end of your time/years at Chelten, return the two fobs and receive your \$20 deposit back. Should you need an additional fob for a grandparent/babysitter, please ask for one at the office. We'd be happy to give you one and will assess a \$10 deposit per additional fob to your account.

In the event that a fob is lost, please inform the CCDC office immediately. We will deactivate the fob to ensure it cannot be used and your Procure account will be charged \$10 for replacement fob.

- **Cinch sacks:** Full day students will be charged \$10 for a cinch sack in which to keep their rest time blanket. If the bag tears at any time, the Center will replace it free of charge.
- **Late Fees:** If your child is picked up after 5:30PM, \$1 per minute will be charged for the first five minutes. If your child is picked up after 5:35PM, a flat late fee of \$50 will be charged. These fees are paid directly to the staff person who stays overtime with your child.

Security Deposits

A deposit of \$250 (per child) for full-day students and \$125 for half-day students is required upon enrollment. Security deposits will only be refunded if the following criteria are met:

- A child is leaving to attend kindergarten
- An attending family gives 30 days' notice of termination
- A new student attends the first month of school and then gives 30 days' notice of termination

Termination of Agreement

A child may be dismissed if fees have not been paid. In addition, if the school is unable to meet the needs of the child after pursuing all available resources, we reserve the right to help the family find an alternative placement for the child.

Request for Records

If your child has a formal IEP/IFSP (Individualized Education Plan), we require that you provide us with a copy so that we can work together with you toward your child's learning goals. Therapists may not work with a child here without a current IFSP/IEP on record. We have a good working relationship with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit and other agencies who may provide special services for your child during school hours.

Private Therapy

CCDC offers families the opportunity to enroll their children in private Speech and/or Occupational Therapy. These therapies are provided on-site by licensed therapists and are offered at a discounted rate to families. For more information on these services, please contact the office.

FINANCIAL POLICIES FOR MORNING PRESCHOOL STUDENTS:

Tuition

Based on a yearly cost, tuition has been broken down into nine monthly payments, September-May, and contracted by the "Agreement Form." Monthly tuition is due by the first of each month.

Sick Time

There are no refunds for absences up to two weeks' duration. After two weeks of a child's continuous, prolonged illness, fees will be reduced to one-half until the child returns to school, provided that the parents have notified the Center prior to the third week of illness. Paying the reduced rate insures the child's position until he/she returns. This does not apply for any reason other than illness.

Late Fees

If your child is picked up late, a fee will be applied. Repeated late pick-ups may result in expulsion from the school. Please respect our staff by picking your child up on time.

POLICY STATEMENT

Chelton Child Development Center, in accordance with applicable provisions of federal and state laws, provides services without regard to race, color, religious creed, handicap, ancestry, national origin, or sex.



2022-23 School Calendar

August 31-September 2 & 6	Teacher In-Service	<i>Center Closed</i>
September 5	Labor Day	<i>Center Closed</i>
September 7	Classes begin	
September 20	Back to School Night	
November 8	In-service for staff	<i>Center Closed</i>
November 16-21	Parent Conferences	
November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving	<i>Center Closed</i>
December 26-Jan. 1	Christmas Break	<i>Center Closed</i>
January 16	Martin Luther King Day	<i>Center open for all classes</i>
February 20	President's Day	<i>Center open for all classes</i>
April 7 & 10	Good Friday/Easter Monday	<i>Center Closed</i>
May 8-12	Parent Conferences	
May 29	Memorial Day	<i>Center Closed</i>
May 31	Last day of school	
June 1-2	In-service for staff	<i>Center Closed</i>
June 5	First Day of Camp	
July 4	Independence Day Holiday	<i>Center Closed</i>
August 29	Last Day of Camp	
August 30 - Sept 1 & 5	Teacher In-service	<i>Center Closed</i>
September 4	Labor Day	<i>Center Closed</i>