



EAGLE'S NEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Parent Handbook

2026-2027

e-mail: academy@swflministries.com

Florida League of Christian Schools (FLOCS) #4523

Florida Dept. of Children and Families #C20CO0021

Revised 2026-07-07



This booklet covers the following areas:

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| ✦ Purpose Statement | ✦ Return Check Policy |
| ✦ Core values or guiding principles | ✦ Health Information/Illness Policy |
| ✦ Licensing | ✦ Emergency Information |
| ✦ Program Goals | ✦ School Closed |
| ✦ VPK standards | ✦ Attendance |
| ✦ Curriculum | ✦ Withdrawal |
| ✦ Art, Music and Chapel | ✦ Sign In/Out |
| ✦ Parent communication and involvement | ✦ Discipline Policy |
| ✦ Enrollment | ✦ Lunches and Snacks |
| ✦ Tuition Schedule/Policy | ✦ Dress Code |
| ✦ Food Related Activity Permission | ✦ Rest Period/Nap Time |
| | ✦ Conferences |

It is our goal to keep parents informed and to make information available in a timely manner. This handbook covers our general policies and philosophy. It is not exhaustive. We will continue to make information available to you throughout the year. Please take notice of the bulletin board by the front desk. Flyers and reminders are posted there.



Eagle's Nest Christian Academy is a ministry of Eagle's Nest Worship Center operating under the supervision of the Senior Pastor and Board Of Directors. We are here to be a blessing to you and your family. If your family ever has any kind of need, please let us know. We are more than a school; we are here to serve the families of Southwest Florida.

Purpose:

Eagles Nest Christian Academy (ENCA) is committed to providing a loving, Christian, educational environment. We believe it is our responsibility to work with you in teaching and nurturing your child towards becoming a loving and caring individual. Our goal is that each child will strive to reach their fullest potential and discover their unique God-given gifts and talents.

Values:

- ✦ Educate children to reach their full academic potential
- ✦ Convey an awareness of God, His wonderful love and His importance in their lives
- ✦ Assist their social and emotional growth
- ✦ Assist children in the development of their motor skills, coordination, and physical health
- ✦ Develop a sense of respect for others, for property and good citizenship
- ✦ Encourage the development of self-discipline and self-control
- ✦ Encourage artistic and creative expression

Program Goals: Our Pre-K program is designed for children ages 0-5 and is intended to prepare them for kindergarten. We offer physical education, art, and music, which are incorporated into our weekly class routine.

"Essentials Preschool Curriculum" is a complete year of easy-to-use lessons in all subjects. 52 themes integrated in a topic, Bible story, and a social emotional character development, covering basic kindergarten preparation like colors, shapes, numbers, and letters. While preschoolers know they get to see, say, hear, touch, and do plenty of fun things, you will know that they are developing language, science, social studies, math, motor skills and much more - *all* while discovering the richness of God's Word.

VPK Students also use additionally, **"The Creative Curriculum"** designed for all children birth to age 5. *Creative Curriculum* is used in all types of early childhood settings, including inclusive and early intervention programs that are based in homes, centers, and schools. Learn more about VPK at: www.elcofswfl.org

Preschool Graduation: A formal graduation ceremony is provided for your Child at the end of the school year. This can be very meaningful to you and your child as you chart their growth and developmental milestones in their lives. This is not required by the State VPK Program and not covered by state funds. **If you desire your child to participate** in the graduation ceremony, **there will be a fee for cap and gown.**

Chapel: all students, two and up, attend chapel once a week where we have fun, sing and dance to praise music, see puppet shows and skits, and most of all learn about God's love for us and truths from the Bible. Parents are welcome to join us.

Infant/Child Care: Childcare is available for children from birth to 2 years of age. With considerably smaller child to adult ratios, infants/toddlers are provided a loving, warm and secure environment.



Enrollment: All children are considered for enrollment regardless of race, religion, social demographic or national origin. Students with special needs are considered based on our ability to make reasonable accommodations for them.

Enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis. Existing students are placed first, followed by those for whom we have a completed application. When classes are full, a waiting list is established and the office will make parents aware as openings become available.

Parents are encouraged to check back regularly for any enrollment changes. DO NOT assume that your child has a place in a classroom until you have been told directly by the school office. Questions should be directed to the school registrar.

Students attend at the discretion of ENCA administration. We reserve the right to withdraw students from their program due to behavioral issues, unpaid tuition, problematic parent relationships or any other reason seen as irreconcilable by the administration. **Parents are still responsible for the remaining annual tuition if the child is withdrawn early. (See withdrawal policy).**

Health / Illness:

Students **MUST** be up to date on all immunizations and physical exams.

Important: Your child must have an immunization form and a student health exam form on file **BEFORE** the first day of school. If Religious Exempt, a certificate of exemption must be on file in the Academy Office.

Please do not send children to school who have:

- **Fever**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Pink Eye**
- **Rash**
- **Sore Throat**
- **Vomiting**



If your child becomes ill you will be notified right away. Your child will be able to rest in the infirmary until pick up. Children must be completely recovered or on medication 24 hours before returning to school.

Medications will be given as requested by the parent, if the proper forms have been completed. For child's safety, medicine must be kept in the front office. Make sure the child's name is on the bottle and there are clear instructions on dosage and frequency. Medication must be in the original container and will not be given if this information is not provided. **DO NOT put any medications in your child's backpack!**

Emergency Information:

Keeping up to date emergency information is vital. Notify the front desk or school office of any changes in your personal information, work numbers or cell phone numbers, addresses, etc.

School Closings:

Half-day VPK students closely follow the Collier county school schedule.

In the event of severe weather we will follow the Collier County schedule unless otherwise notified by ENCA. We will be closed to all students on the following days:

- New Year's Day
- President's Day
- Good Friday
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Last Day of Summer Program - Staff orientation for new school year.
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving and Day After
- Christmas Break



Special Events:

Throughout the year your child will have the opportunity to be involved in many special events and musicals. We encourage you to take advantage of these Fine Arts activities. Special promotion and invitation will be offered. These events will be a highlight of the year that the entire family can enjoy.

Attendance Policy:

At the beginning of each school day, you are responsible to sign your child in at the receptionist desk and take them to the classroom.

ENCA is not a daycare but a Preschool Program, so it is important that every child receives the full benefit of our program. Please arrive at the start of the class time. A late arrival means your child will miss important activities, instructions and lessons.

Those students in VPK will find their start and closing times posted in their respective classrooms, and on the parent bulletin board.

All classes begin at 9:00 am except VPK morning classes which run from 8:30-11:30 am and (if provided) afternoon classes run from 12:15 - 3:15 pm. Summer VPK schedules will be announced, if offered.

We understand that on occasion a child may miss school for various reasons. The latest time for a student arrival, due to an appointment is 10:30 am. Please inform the office of any days your child will be tardy or absent.

State Of Florida VPK Attendance Requirements:

Florida State VPK regulations are 80% attendance per program. In the event that your child would have more than 20% absence, he/she will be terminated from the program immediately. However, an option to register for "private pay" may be offered to continue your child's education with ENCA.

Withdrawal Policy:

A two week notice of withdrawal is required. If your student is withdrawn from ENCA, parents **will be responsible for the remainder of the annual tuition.**

Sign In/Out

ENCA opens at **7:00 am** and closes at **6:00 pm**. Your child's safety is important. Parents **MUST** sign students in and out using the touch screens at the front desk. This is an important security issue as well as an administrative one.

Discipline Policy

We believe discipline is for the purpose of instruction, training and correction, not punishment. We **DO NOT** use corporal punishment of any form, humiliation, shaming, performing meaningless tasks or withholding food. Here are some guidelines we use in the classroom:

- ✦ Set clear, understandable goals
- ✦ Redirect students who are losing focus and reward acceptable behavior.
- ✦ When a child is exhibiting unacceptable behavior they will be taken aside and their behavior will be discussed.
- ✦ If the behavior continues the child will be:
 - Placed in the thinking chair
 - Removed from the class and taken to the office
 - The parent will be called.

This policy is expounded upon in the signed discipline policy.

Lunches and Snacks:

Kids are growing and they need healthy food to grow healthy minds and bodies. All full day students are responsible for a morning snack and lunch every day. We do not microwave or refrigerate lunches, so plan accordingly.

½ Day VPK students do not eat at school. Please make sure they eat breakfast or lunch before coming to school. This will help them concentrate and learn.

Food Related Activities Permission:

My child has permission to be involved in food related classroom parties and activities at ENCA. I understand I must provide a signed document of exemption to withhold my child from food related activities brought in or made during cooking projects.

Dress Code:

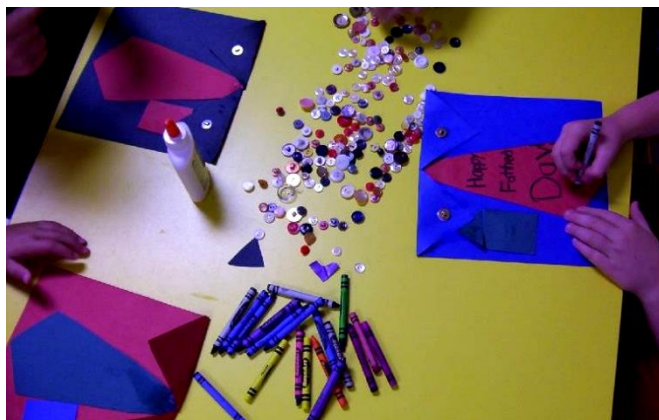
Our students will be engaged in a number of activities throughout the day. Proper clothing is essential to their safety and ability to participate. Each student must wear their ENCA shirts every day. Closed toed shoes are also required. Crocs are not fitting foot protection on the playground.

Rest Period / Nap Time:

All students, (except afternoon VPK) will have a rest period between 1 & 3 p.m. Most students will nap. Bring clean linens each week and take them home every Friday.

Conferences:

Feel free to schedule a conference with your child's teacher if you feel it is necessary. Please respect the importance of your teacher meeting and greeting each child in the morning. This is not the appropriate time to discuss issues you may have. We want to work *with you* to resolve any conflicts and answer any questions you might have.



Eagle's Nest Christian Academy
operates on an
ANNUAL TUITION Basis
as we are a Pre-school and not simply Childcare

To learn of our Tuition Rates and Fees along with optional payment plans, please schedule an appointment with our Register TODAY for a Tour and Information Session.

We offer Infant~Care for children birth to 2 years of age as well as our Preschool for children 2 years of age up to 5 years of age.

We also offer a Fifty-two (52) week program or a Forty-two (42) week program for those who wish to take a summer break.

For those children in the Florida State provided VPK program who need extended hours of care for their child, we offer an affordable and convenient VPK Wraparound schedule.

So contact our Registration Office Today!

VPK Only requires a valid State Issued VPK Certificate (there are no additional fees

Purpose of 52/42 Week Programs: The 52 Week Program is our standard and best rate offering. It is for the majority of our children whose parents work year round. The 42 Week Program is offered primarily for those children whose parents work seasonally, such as public school teachers.

**Eagles Nest Christian Academy has agreed to participate in the Voluntary Pre-K program. Should funding not be received in accordance with the contract, Eagles Nest Christian Academy reserves the right to withdraw from the VPK program and immediately begin charging parents the tuition rate for non-VPK students.*

NOTICE: Tuition Fees are on an annual basis and upon the registration of your child into the program, it is with the understanding that payment of the entire tuition is due, even upon early withdrawal or dismissal from the Academy.

Please Note: In order to maintain the quality of services provided to students and their families, the Board of Directors may increase tuition and/or fees during the school year due to economic conditions. We reserve the right to make additional increases during the school year, should unforeseen increases in costs, such as utilities, insurance, new hourly rate laws, etc. arise. Parents will be provided written notice a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the implementation of such an increase. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

URGENT NOTICE

The current Inflation Rate makes it impossible to budget for an entire year. If the trend continues there will most likely be Tuition increases during the coming School Year. Thank you for your understanding.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

2026-2027 School Year

Effective August 2026

PARENTS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR STUDENTS ANNUAL TUITION as first agreed to upon enrollment, either for 42 Weeks or 52 Weeks. The Full Tuition is DUE on the First day the child begins school, unless a signed Payment Agreement is on file. Our payment plans are for your convenience, and parents remain responsible for those payments even when the school is closed for Hurricanes or events beyond Eagle's Nest control.

Eagle's Nest Christian Academy operates on an Annual Budget and not week to week. This includes the cost of staffing and operations, and staffing agreements are made according to these sureties.

Discounts are available to those who pay their tuition, IN FULL, by August 1st of the calendar year.

To assist our families in making their Annual Tuition Commitments, ENCA has several creative ways to make payments toward their Annual Tuition.

Upon Registering your child our, Registrar will cover these options with you and assist you in setting up your payment plan.

Monthly installments are due by the 1st of each month; late fees apply after the 5th. Those using the weekly payment option **MUST** use *Tuition Express which includes a \$10 processing fee.*

Tuition Discounts

- 4% discount if paid in full by August 1st 2026 via Cash/Check to ENCA

Returned checks are subject to a \$35 fee. Upon 3 returned checks in one school year, personal checks will no longer be accepted.

Late pick up charges: 6:00 pm - 6:15 pm \$15, + 6:16 pm-6:30 pm \$30.

VPK Only Early Drop-off / Extra Care Charges: \$15 for the first 15 minutes; \$15 for each additional 15 minutes thereafter.

Phone: 239-593-0060

www.swflministries.com

e-mail: academy@swflministries.com

Getting In; Getting Out...



Out: Check the Back Seat



- In just **10 MINUTES**, a car's temperature can increase by **19°**
- Before getting out of your car, check the back seat ... **DON'T FORGET YOUR CHILD!**
- **NEVER** leave your child alone in a car and **CALL 911** IF YOU SEE ANY **CHILD LOCKED IN A CAR!**
- Place something in the back seat that you will need at work, school, or home (your laptop; your lunch).

Developed by:
PREVENTION UNIT
Office of Family and
Community Services

Getting In; Getting Out...



In: Check Behind The Car



- **BEFORE GETTING IN THE CAR AND STARTING THE ENGINE**, walk around the car and **CHECK FOR KIDS, TOYS, AND PETS!**
- Make sure there is **NOTHING UNDER OR BEHIND YOUR CAR** that could attract a young child.
- **PICK UP TOYS, BIKES, CHALK, OR ANY TYPE OF EQUIPMENT** around the driveway so that these items don't entice kids to play.

Developed by:
PREVENTION UNIT
Office of Family and
Community Services

Licensing Standards

This child care facility is licensed according to the minimum licensure standards included in section 402.305, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

FLOCS #4523

License # C20C00021

For more information regarding the compliance history of this child care provider, please visit: www.floridaclear.com/childcare

Every licensed child care facility must meet the minimum state child care licensing standards pursuant to s. 402.305, F.S., and ch. 65C-22, F.A.C., which include, but are not limited to, the following:

General Requirements

- ✓ Valid license posted for parents to see.
- ✓ All staff appropriately screened.
- ✓ Maintain minimum staff-to-child ratios:

Under 1 yr. old	1:4
1 yr. old	1:6
2 yrs. old	1:11
3 yrs. old	1:15
4 yrs. old	1:20
5 yrs. old & older	1:25

- ✓ Maintain appropriate transportation vehicles (*if transportation is provided*).

- ✓ Provide parents with written disciplinary practices used by the facility.

- ✓ Provide access to the facility during normal hours of operation.

Physical Environment

- ✓ Maintain sufficient usable indoor floor space for playing, working, and napping.

- ✓ Provide space that is clean and free of litter and other hazards.

- ✓ Maintain sufficient lighting and inside temperatures.

- ✓ Equip with age and developmentally appropriate toys.

- ✓ Provide appropriate bathroom facilities and other furnishings.

- ✓ Provide isolation area for children who become ill.

- ✓ Practice proper hand washing, toileting, and diapering activities.

Training Requirements

- ✓ 40-hour introductory child care training.

- ✓ 10-hour in-service training annually.

- ✓ 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours of training in early literacy and language development.

- ✓ Director Credential for all facility directors.

Health Related Requirements

- ✓ Emergency procedures that include:

- Posting Florida Abuse Hotline number along with other emergency numbers.

- Staff trained in first aid and Infant/Child CPR on the premises at all times.

- Fully stocked first aid kit.

- A working fire extinguisher and documented monthly fire drills with children and staff.

- ✓ Medication and hazardous materials are inaccessible and out of children's reach.

Food and Nutrition

- ✓ Post a meal and snack menu that provides daily nutritional needs of the children (*if meals are provided*).

Record Keeping

- ✓ Maintain accurate records that include:

- Children's health examination/immunization record.

- Medication records.

- Enrollment information.

- Personnel records.

- Daily attendance.

- Accidents and incidents.

- Parental permission for field trips and administration of medications.

Parent's Role

The parent's role in quality child care is vital to it's success. In partnering with the caregiver to achieve this goal, parents should:

- ✓ Familiarize themselves with the child care standards used to license the child care facility.

- ✓ Inquire about the qualifications and experience of child care staff, as well as staff longevity.

- ✓ Know the facility's policies and procedures.

- ✓ Communicate with the caregiver.

- ✓ Visit and observe the facility.

- ✓ Participate in special activities, meetings, and conferences.

- ✓ Talk to their child about their daily experiences in child care.

- ✓ Arrange alternate care for their child when they are sick.

To report non-compliance with state licensing standards, please contact your local licensing office.



Quality Child Care

Quality child care offers healthy, social, and educational experiences under qualified supervision in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Children in these settings participate in daily, age-appropriate activities that help develop essential skills, build independence and instill self-respect.

When evaluating the quality of a child care setting, the following indicators should be considered:

Quality Caregivers

- ✓ Are friendly and eager to care for children.
- ✓ Accept family cultural and ethnic differences.
- ✓ Are warm, understanding, encouraging, and responsive to each child's individual needs.
- ✓ Use a pleasant tone of voice and frequently hold, cuddle, and talk to the children.
- ✓ Help children manage their behavior in a positive, constructive, and non-threatening manner.
- ✓ Allow children to play alone or in small groups.
- ✓ Are attentive to and interact with the children.
- ✓ Provide stimulating, interesting, and educational activities.
- ✓ Demonstrate knowledge of social and emotional needs and developmental tasks for all children.
- ✓ Communicate with parents.

Quality Environments

- ✓ Are clean, safe, inviting, comfortable, and child-friendly.
- ✓ Provide easy access to age-appropriate toys.
- ✓ Display children's activities and creations.
- ✓ Provide a safe and secure environment that fosters the growing independence of all children.

Quality Activities

- ✓ Are children initiated and teacher facilitated.
- ✓ Include social interchanges with all children.
- ✓ Are expressive including play, painting, drawing, story telling, music, dancing, and other varied activities.
- ✓ Include exercise and coordination development.
- ✓ Include free play and organized activities.
- ✓ Include opportunities for all children to read, be creative, explore, and problem-solve.



To report suspected or actual cases of child abuse or neglect, please call the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873.

For additional information, please visit www.myflorida.com/childcare or contact your local licensing office below:



Know Your Child Care Facility



CFRPI 175-24, 102007

This brochure was created by the Department of Children and Families, Child Care Program Office pursuant to s. 402.3125(5), F.S.,



INFLUENZA VIRUS

**"The Flu"
A Guide
for Parents**

During the 2009 legislative session, a new law was passed that requires child care facilities, family day care homes and large family child care homes provide parents with information detailing the causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus (the flu) every year during August and September.

My signature below verifies receipt of the brochure on *Influenza Virus, The Flu, A Guide to Parents*:

Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Date Received: _____

Signature: _____

Please complete and return this portion of the brochure to your child care provider, in order for them to maintain it in their records.



What should I do if my child gets sick?

Consult your doctor and make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks a lot of fluids. Never give aspirin or medicine that has aspirin in it to children or teenagers who may have the flu.

CALL OR TAKE YOUR CHILD TO A DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY IF YOUR CHILD:

- Has a high fever or fever that lasts a long time
- Has trouble breathing or breathes fast
- Has skin that looks blue
- Is not drinking enough
- Seems confused, will not wake up, does not want to be held, or has seizures (uncontrolled shaking)
- Gets better but then worse again
- Has other conditions (like heart or lung disease, diabetes) that get worse



How can I protect my child from the flu?

A flu vaccine is the best way to protect against the flu. Because the flu virus changes year to year, annual vaccination against the flu is recommended. The CDC recommends that all children from the ages of 6 months up to their 19th birthday receive a flu vaccine every fall or winter (children receiving a vaccine for the first time require two doses). You also can protect your child by receiving a flu vaccine yourself.

What can I do to prevent the spread of germs?

The main way that the flu spreads is in respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. This can happen when droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person are propelled through the air and infect someone nearby. Though much less frequent, the flu may also spread through indirect contact with contaminated hands and articles soiled with nose and throat secretions. To prevent the spread of germs:

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Cover mouth/nose during coughs and sneezes. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
- Limit contact with people who show signs of illness.
- Keep hands away from the face. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.



When should my child stay home from child care?

A person may be contagious and able to spread the virus from 1 day before showing symptoms to up to 5 days after getting sick. The time frame could be longer in children and in people who don't fight disease well (people with weakened immune systems). When sick, your child should stay at home to rest and to avoid giving the flu to other children and should not return to child care or other group setting until his or her temperature has been normal and has been sign and symptom free for a period of 24 hours.

For additional helpful information about the dangers of the flu and how to protect your child, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> or <http://www.immunizeflorida.org/>

What is the influenza (flu) virus?

Influenza ("the flu") is caused by a virus which infects the nose, throat, and lungs. According to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the flu is more dangerous than the common cold for children. Unlike the common cold, the flu can cause severe illness and life threatening complications in many people. Children under 5 who have the flu commonly need medical care. Severe flu complications are most common in children younger than 2 years old. Flu season can begin as early as October and last as late as May.



How can I tell if my child has a cold, or the flu?

Most people with the flu feel tired and have fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and sore muscles. Some people, especially children, may also have stomach problems and diarrhea. Because the flu and colds have similar symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. In general, the flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms such as fever, body aches, extreme tiredness, and dry cough are more common and intense. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations.



For additional information, please visit www.myflorida.com/childcare or contact your local licensing office below:



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This brochure was created by the Department of Children and Families in consultation with the Department of Health.



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