



Tiger

LEARNING CENTER

2021-2022

PARENT HANDBOOK



Texarkana
Independent School District

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Tiger Learning Center Directory of Information **903.792.7991**

Morriss Elementary
Tiger Learning Center

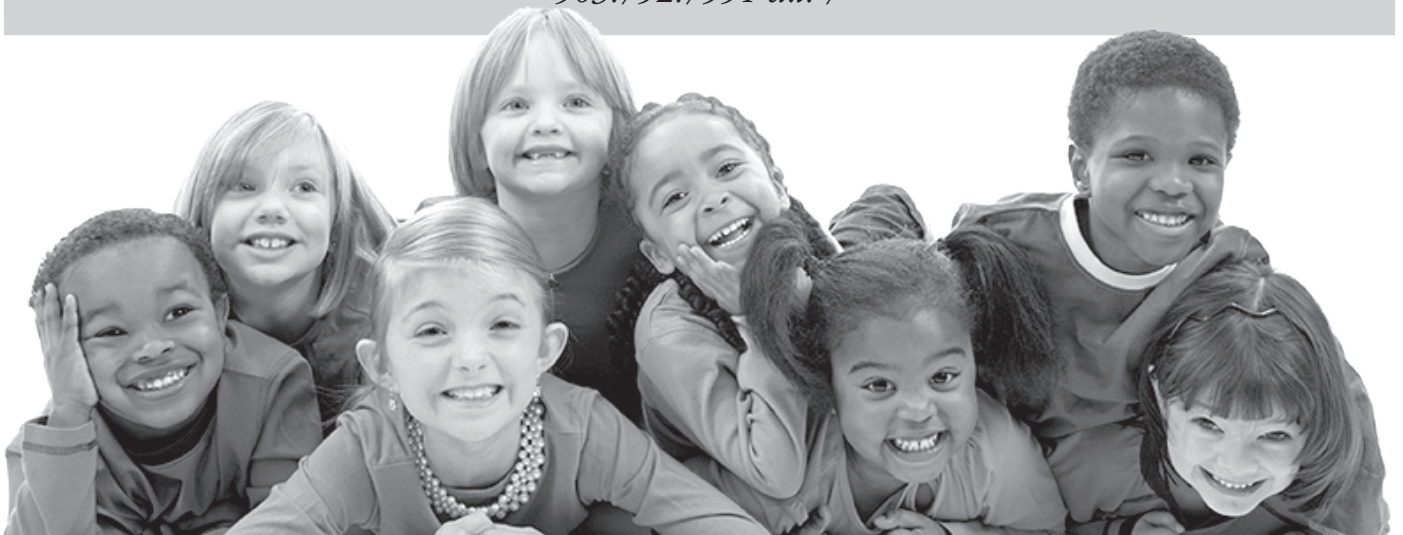
Nash Elementary
Tiger Learning Center

Spring Lake Park Elementary
Tiger Learning Center

Waggoner Creek Elementary
Tiger Learning Center

Wake Village Elementary
Tiger Learning Center

Jennifer Treadway, Coordinator of Children's Services
903.792.7991 ext. 7



PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Texarkana ISD Tiger Learning Center is to provide a safe and nurturing environment where parents and staff work together to help each child move to the next stage of their life with success.

FOR THE CHILDREN: To nurture the social, emotional, cognitive and physical development of each child at their individual level so they may develop self-worth, respect of others and a love of learning.

FOR THE PARENTS: To be a resource and support for parents in the areas of child development and successful parenting techniques. To encourage parents to interact with the staff and their child in the developmental process both at home and at the center.

FOR THE COMMUNITY: To support community-wide efforts to improve the conditions for the care and education of children through teacher training workshops and advocacy efforts.

SPECIAL NEEDS

The program is committed to include children with special needs and to be responsive to individual differences among children. Staff will work closely with parents and specialists to develop a plan to meet the special needs of an individual child. The program will collaborate with families, teachers, and specialists to be accessible to all children.

The centers are open for all children, regardless of race, nationality, sex, disability, religion or political belief. If you think you have been discriminated against, you must write immediately to: Director of Civil Rights, Texas Department of Human Services, M.C., E-609, 701 W. 51st Street, Austin, Texas or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

CURRICULUM GOALS

The Tiger Learning Center Afterschool Program utilizes the following curriculums which include but is not limited to:
After-School Kidzlit reading enrichment program which allows the children to express their feelings, and explore big ideas through discussion, drama, art, movement and writing.

Science Explorer Program that develops a variety of skills, from measuring and classifying to predicting, experimenting, and forming hypotheses. It blends academic content with curiosity-building activities.

Conscious Discipline by Dr. Becky A. Bailey helps staff develop positive classroom management Skills.

The Waggoner Creek Preschool Program utilizes the following curriculum:

Frog Street Press- Frog Street Pre-K is a comprehensive, research-based program that integrates instruction across developmental domains and early learning disciplines.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

ADMISSION POLICY

- A student must be between three years and twelve years of age to attend the school age program.
- Enrollment forms and all required information must be complete and on file at the center prior to the child's first day.
- Students that are in DAEP due to removal from their home campus may NOT attend the TLC program.
- Students must be able to use the restroom without assistance and be completely potty trained to attend the Tiger Learning Center Preschool and Afterschool Program.

HOURS AND DAYS OF OPERATION (subject to change)

Monday-Friday School Calendar Day

- Waggoner Creek Elementary Tiger Learning Center Preschool 7:00 am-6:00 pm
- Afterschool Programs
Morriss, Nash, Spring Lake Park, Wake Village and Waggoner Creek 3:00 pm-6:00 pm

Summer, In-service and Holiday's

- Wake Village and Spring Lake Park Tiger Learning Center 7:00 am-6:00 pm
- Morriss, Nash and Waggoner Creek Tiger Learning Center CLOSED

All TISD Tiger Learning Centers will be closed for the following holidays:
September 6, November 25 & 26, December 23, 24, 30 & 31, 2021, April 18, May 30 and July 4-8, 2022

FEE STRUCTURE

Waggoner Creek Preschool	\$100.00 per week	7:00 am-3:00 pm
Waggoner Creek Preschool extended care	\$25.00 per week	3:00 pm-6:00 pm
Afterschool Program	\$60.00 per week	3:00 pm-6:00 pm
Summer Camp (Full day)	\$85.00 per week	7:00 am-6:00 pm
Summer Camp (Half day)	\$60.00 per week	7:00 am-12:30 pm or 12:30 pm-6:00 pm
Drop-in Rate (Full day)	\$22.00 per day	7:00 am-6:00 pm
Drop-in Rate (Half day)	\$15.00 per day	7:00 am-12:30 pm or 12:30 pm-6:00 pm

- Tuition is due on Monday of each week. A \$5 late fee will be applied on Tuesday for any unpaid balance.
- Drop-In tuition is due the day of service. Parents must call and check space availability prior to dropping the child off.
- A late pick up fee of \$1.00 per minute, per child will be charged for every minute your child is at the center after 6:00 pm. The late fee is due before the child/children may continue care.
- Child Care Assistance Payments are due at the beginning of each month.
- Tuition may be paid by check, money order or online at www.myschoolbucks.com. NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- Return checks will be sent to the TISD Central Office where a second attempt will be made to deposit the check. A fee will be associated with each transaction. In the event the check is not cleared, Central office will call the parent directly and mail a letter to the child's address. Parents will have 10 days to respond before the returned check is filed with the County District Attorney's office.

The Tiger Learning Center cannot collect funds to cover return checks. The parent must contact Louisa Strutton at TISD Central Office (903)794-3651 extension 1022 to make payments on return checks.

LATE PAYMENTS AND REFUND INFORMATION

- Past due tuition will accumulate a \$5.00 late fee per week for each week past due. The student may be dropped from care if an account is over one week past due.
- In the event the Tiger Learning Center owes the parent a refund one of the following will occur:
 1. The overpayment will be credited to future charges.
 2. A payment voucher will be sent to the accounting department and a check will be issued within two weeks and mailed to the parent's address.

SUBSIDIES

Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas provides tuition assistance for parents who qualify. Parents may contact Workforce Solutions at 903-794-8999 and ask for childcare services.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

- Adults are required to sign students in and out from the Tiger Learning Centers
- Parents are responsible for the care of their child before students are signed in and after they are signed out.
- Siblings under the age of 18 may sign a child in and out if the parent has given permission on the student's application.
- Students must be accompanied by an adult when entering or exiting the Tiger Learning Center program.
- Only persons listed on the student's application may pick the student up unless permission is given in person by the parent or guardian.
- A picture ID is required if staff is not familiar with the person picking up the student.
- When arriving or departing, an adult must make contact with a center staff member.
- **The center has no legal authority to refuse either parent the right to pick up their child unless a court has granted temporary or permanent custody to one parent or to a third party and the center has been furnished with a copy of the order bearing the courts signature.**
- Persons attempting to pick a child up that do not have permission will be declined. TISD security will be called for assistance. Parents of the student will be notified immediately.

ABSENCES

If your child is absent for any reason you must notify the Tiger Learning Center office as soon as possible. You may call the Tiger Learning Center directly or send an email to the center director.

STUDENT SAFETY

EMERGENCY-CLOSING/EVACUATION

- In the event that the TISD Schools are closed for inclement weather, the Tiger Learning Center's will also be closed.
- If bad weather occurs during holiday break please listen to local radio, TV stations or call the Tiger Learning Center Office to verify if the center is open.
- In the event the above lines of communication are unavailable, the Tiger Learning Center supervisors will make every attempt to notify our parents.
- If the center has to evacuate the area, students will be relocated to the Texas High School Gym located at 4001 Summerhill Road, Texarkana, TX 903-794-3891. The center will attempt to notify parents of the relocation. A notice will be placed on the front door of the center.
- The Emergency Preparedness Plan is available for review by parents upon request. The Emergency Preparedness Plan addresses natural, health and human caused events.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

- Toxic materials are stored in locked areas.
- Staff is certified in CPR and First Aid before being alone with a group of children.
- Staff is trained to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies as stated in the “TISD Crisis Management Procedure Manual”.
- Parents may only make physical contact with their child.
- Playground and Classroom safety checks are performed and documented daily.
- Some activities require increased supervision such as cooking or water play. Extra staff will be provided during these activities.

FIELD TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips off campus are planned for students 4 years old and older. Field trips on campus are arranged for all children. Field trips reflect the goals, cultures, and interests of the students.

- Parents must pay field trip fees prior to the child attending the field trip.
- Badges provided by the center with the center name, address and telephone number must be worn by all children for the duration of the field trip.
- Children who choose to not behave prior to field trips may be left at the center with the Tiger Learning Center personnel.
- Children misbehaving on the field trip may be returned from the field trip and the parent notified.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation of the students is provided by the Texarkana ISD Transportation Department.

All Tiger Learning Center personnel have received transportation safety training and field trip safety training prior to going on a field trip.

PARENT INFORMATION AND INVOLVEMENT

PARENT ORIENTATION

Parent Orientation to the center will be offered at the time of enrollment. During the orientation process, parents will have the opportunity to:

- Tour the facility
- Meet the teaching staff
- Visit the classroom
- Be giving the opportunity for an extended visit in the classroom by both parents and child for a period of time to allow both to be comfortable
- A parent resource area will be available with an overview of family support resources and activities in the community.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

Parents are invited to visit the program at any time during the Tiger Learning Center’s hours of operation to observe their child, the childcare center’s operation, and program activities, without having to secure prior approval.

Tiger Learning Center offers a variety of activities through-out the year which may include but are not limited to Fall Festivals, Christmas Parties, and Valentine’s or End of the year Celebrations. Parents are welcome to attend. Parents will be asked to check in with office personnel and sign the visitor log.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents are encouraged to share interest and talents with students and staff. All content must be pre-approved by the center supervisor. Volunteers must receive orientation and complete required paperwork. Please check with your center's supervisor for more information.

PARENT EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

www.parenttoolkit.com

www.discoveryeducation.com/parent/

www.pbs.org/parent/

www.choosemyplate.gov

PARENT CONFERENCES AND UPDATE PROCEDURES

NOTIFICATION OF POLICY CHANGES

Parents will be notified by memo when a Tiger Learning Center policy change will be made. A signed and dated copy of the memo will be placed in the students file.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

Several methods of communication are available.

- The Tiger Learning Centers may reach out to parents via email, phone or written notification.
- The first line of communication is on the child sign in/out sheets under “comments”. The comment section helps to notify the parent that the office personnel needs to communicate something to the parent.
- Office personnel may choose to call the parent during the workday to communicate needed information concerning the student.
- Parents may choose to call the center during the workday to communicate needed information concerning the student.
- Parent conferences are offered twice a year with child evaluations or when requested by the supervisor and/or parents.
- A parent bulletin board contains current information on center programs and projects as well as public school information.
- In the event of an incident or illness, parents will be notified by phone and will receive a written report within 48 hours.

UPDATE INFORMATION POLICY

- Update information sheets will be available at all times for parents to complete and return to the Tiger Learning Center supervisor in the event the information in the child’s file has changed.
- Center surveys will be available at all times in the parent resource area.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- Tiger Learning Center supervisors will make every effort to minimize misunderstandings and disagreements.
- If you have any concerns about classroom activities, center policies, and/or procedures for general operations you should discuss these with the center supervisor.
- If the center supervisor is unable to resolve your concerns, please contact Jennifer Treadway, Coordinator of Children services to assist you.

The Tiger Learning Center program firmly believes that by communicating with each other directly, we can resolve any difficulties that may arise in order to provide the best care for your children.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND CELL PHONE USE

In order to facilitate better communication between parent(s) and staff, and the parent and child it is best if parents are not distracted by use of electronic devices while at the center. Please refrain from cell phone use.

PICTURES AND VIDEOS

The Tiger Learning Center may take pictures or videos of our students enjoying activities and field trips. These pictures or videos may be placed in newspapers, social media, TV or for training purposes. You may choose to exempt your child from pictures and video by signing NO on the authorization and release form located in your child's application.

DRESS AND GROOMING

- Students are expected to follow the dress and grooming code as provided in the TISD Student Handbook located at www.txkisd.net under the student link.
- Students under the age of five or with special needs should have a change of clothes in a labeled bag at the center.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Children will go outside for physical activities daily (weather permitted). Indoor gross motor activities will be planned in the event children are unable to go outside.

SCREEN TIME POLICIES

TV/VIDEO, Computer and video games may be used at the center. Screen time will not exceed two hours per day. DVD's and Video games, cell phones or other electronic devices may not be brought from home.

PLAYGROUNDS

The outdoor playground equipment used at the public school facility may not meet Licensing Standards specified by the Texas Minimum Standards for Licensed Childcare Centers.

ITEMS BROUGHT FROM HOME

The Tiger Learning Centers are not responsible for toys brought from home. We reserve the right to not allow toys brought from home. Toys of violence will not be allowed. Please put your child's name on all toys or personal items brought from home.

ANIMALS

Classroom pets will meet the regulation for the Texas Minimum Standards for Licensed Childcare Centers. Parents will be notified of any animals in the center. Animals may not be brought from home.

LICENSING INFORMATION

Parents may review a copy of the Minimum Standards for License Child Care Centers at <https://hhs.texas.gov>. The most recent licensing inspection report is posted above the parent resource area and is available for review upon request. The Local DHHS Childcare Licensing office is located at 3103 Summerhill Road, Texarkana, TX 75503 or call 903-791-3406.

TEXAS RISING STAR

The Tiger Learning Centers strive to produce a high quality childcare operation that exceeds the States Minimum Child Care Licensing Standards for director and staff qualifications, caregiver-child interactions, age appropriate curriculum and activities, nutrition and indoor/outdoor activities as well as parent involvement.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Daily activities reflect the children's interest and are in line with the Tiger Learning Center Philosophy and Goals. Staff will regularly involve students in planning daily activities and special events. Activities that reflect the cultures of children are included. Activity plans are posted in the classroom and kept on file for three months.

HOMEWORK

A dedicated homework time is set aside daily. Staff will offer assistance when needed. Parents are responsible for checking homework for accuracy.

WATER ACTIVITIES

When doing water activities, the center may utilize the following items which include but are not limited to water sprinklers, water tables, water tools and water toys. No swimming takes place. On water days, we ask that you send your child with a towel, change of clothes and a dry pair of shoes. ***Sunscreen will need to be placed on your child at home prior to attending water activities.***

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND PROCEDURES

FOOD

Snacks are provided for students in the afternoon all year. If your child has special nutrition needs, please bring it to the attention of the office staff. Menus are posted monthly in the Parent Information area.

A morning snack and lunch will be provided during the summer through the TISD Summer Food Program. The days the TISD Summer Food Program is not serving students are asked to bring a sack lunch. The Tiger Learning Center will provide a morning and afternoon snack that meet the nutritional guidelines for childcare centers.

PROGRAM NUTRITION PRACTICES

- Liquids and food hotter than 110 degrees F are kept out of reach.
- Staff are educated on food allergies and take precautions to ensure children are protected.
- On days that providers serve meals, prepared food that is brought into the program to be shared among children is commercially prepared OR prepared in a kitchen that is inspected by local health officials
- Healthy Snacks (as listed by the Texas Department of Agriculture) are available for school age children as students arrive.
- Staff do not reward good behavior or clean plates with foods of any kind.
- On days providers serve meals, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables are available for children who bring lunches from home.
- Children who bring lunches from home are offered a USDA prepared meal.
- Meals served by the Tiger Learning Center are provided by the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program.

MEALS AND/OR SNACKS PROVIDED BY PARENTS

- Parents may provide meals and/or snacks for their children instead of the childcare center. Parents are encouraged to provide meals with adequate nutritional value. Children are NOT allowed to share their meal and/or snack with other children.
- Parents have access to TISD nutrition newsletter and the USDA Choose My Plate website through www.txkisd.net, Parent Resources.
- Tiger Learning Center has limited space for storage of items needing refrigeration. Carbonated beverages and previously opened food are not allowed.

MEDICAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ACCIDENTS/ILLNESSES

- In the event of an accident or illness of a student first aid will be administered.
- Parents or designated release contacts will be notified by telephone or in person as soon as possible if professional medical treatment is necessary for an injured or ill child.
- In the event an accident or illness is of a serious nature an ambulance will be called and the parent will be notified as soon as possible.
- In the event of a minor accident or illness first aid will be administered and the parent will be notified in writing when the student is picked up from care.
- Parents or designated release contacts will be notified if a student becomes or arrives at the center ill. Notification will be made to parent by telephone or in person. If a parent cannot be reached, the center will contact a person listed on the application as a contact person. Ill students will need to be picked up immediately.
- Ill students will be isolated in the supervisor's office until parent or designated release contact arrives.
- If a student attending the center develops a communicable disease parents will be notified by posting a sign in the parent area and/or a written notice will be given to the parent.
- Children with elevated temperatures are considered contagious and will be excluded from the center.
- Children must be free of fever, without the use of aspirin or aspirin substitutes for 24 hours in order to return to the center.
- Children must be free of symptoms of illness for 24 hours before returning to center
- The center reserves the right to require a doctor's statement before the child can be readmitted to the center.
- The handling of children with chronic health conditions will be arranged with the help of the parent, center staff and the child's physician.

According to the Texas Health and Human Services, students cannot attend the childcare center if one or more of the following conditions exists:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in facility activities
- The illness results in a greater need for care, than the staff can provide without compromising the health, safety, and supervision of the other children.
- The child has any one of the following:
 1. Armpit temperature above 100.00 degrees or greater, oral temperature above 101.00 degrees or greater, or rectal temperature of 101.4 degrees or greater, accompanied by behavior or other signs or symptoms of illness.
 2. Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness such as lethargy, uncontrolled breathing, uncontrolled diarrhea, vomiting illness (2 or more episodes in a 24-hour period), rash, mouth sores with drooling, wheezing, behavior change or other unusual signs.
 3. The child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease, until medical evaluation determines that the child is no longer communicable and is able to participate in the facilities activities.

FOOD ALLERGY EMERGENCY PLAN

A food allergy emergency plan must be kept on file for each child with a known food allergy that has been diagnosed by a health-care professional.

The food allergy plan is an individual plan prepared by the child's health care professional that includes:

- A list of each food the child is allergic to
- Possible symptoms if exposed to a food on the list; and
- The steps to take if the child has an allergic reaction

The allergy emergency plan must be signed and dated by BOTH the child's health care professional and the parent. For more information about food allergies visit www.foodallergy.org

ACCIDENTS INSURANCE

Through their school, parents have the opportunity to purchase accident insurance that will help meet medical expenses in the event of injury to their child. By declining the insurance offer or failing to respond to it, the parents are accepting full responsibility for costs associated with a student's injury or injuries. The District is not responsible for the cost of treating injuries and cannot assume liability for any other cost associated with an injury.

HEALTH CHECKS

Health checks are done daily on students when they arrive at the center or shortly afterward.

MEDICINE

- Parents must sign an authorization and include times for Tiger Learning Center employees to administer each medication according to label directions;
- The medication must be in the original container labeled with the child's full name and the date brought to the childcare center;
- Employee of the center must administer the medication in amounts according to the label directions or as amended by a physician (must have physician statement);
- Employee of the center must administer the medication only to the child for whom it is intended;
- Employee of the center must not administer the medication after its expiration date;
- If a child has a periodic and reoccurring medical problem such as headaches, asthma attacks, or allergic reactions the parent or the child's health-care professional may sign a medication authorization allowing the center employee to administer the medication when symptoms occur for up to a six-month period;
- The authorization must include information on symptoms to watch for;
- The center employee must notify the parent immediately after administering the medication and document this in the child's record.
- Medication not given will be documented on the medicine chart with reason for not giving.

VISION/HEARING SCREENING, IMMUNIZATION, TB REQUIREMENTS

- Students that are 4 years of age, or in the first, third, fifth or seventh-grade must have a vision and hearing screening or supply a signed statement that the screening is current and on file at the public school the student attends. The name, address, and telephone number of the public school is required;
- Students must supply a copy of current immunizations or a signed statement that the immunization record is current and on file at the public school the student attends. The name, address, and telephone number of the public school is required;
- All students must have a TB questionnaire or a copy of TB test.

CHILD GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE POLICIES

THE TIGER LEARNING USES GUIDANCE TO TEACH DISCIPLINE RATHER THAN PUNISHMENT DISCIPLINE MUST BE:

- Individualized and consistent for each child;
- Appropriate to the child's level of understanding;
- Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

A caregiver may only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction, which include at least the following:

- Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior.
- Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements;
- Redirection of behavior using positive statements; and

- Using brief supervised separation from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development, which is limited to no more than one minute per year of child's age.

There must be no harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment of any child. The following types of discipline and guidance are prohibited:

- Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment;
- Punishment associated with food, naps, or toilet training;
- Pinching, shaking, or biting a child;
- Hitting a child with a hand or instrument;
- Putting anything in or on a child's mouth;
- Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child;
- Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language;
- Placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet with the door closed; and
- Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods of time for the child's age.

Normal childhood incidents will be handled in the above manner. If behavior is not corrected by the above means the following actions may include the following.

- If a problem is a recurring situation parents will be notified either orally or by written notification.
- Students may be removed from a classroom and placed in the office or another classroom if the above techniques have failed to produce behavior that allows a peaceful classroom. Parents will be notified orally or by written notification when this occurs.
- Staff may call parents during the day to discuss the problem immediately.
- If further problems occur the parent may be asked to come to the center to visit with the child or remove the child from the center for the day.

Children are expected to treat teachers, other students, and equipment with respect. Students are required to follow the center rules as well as the TISD district policies. Students that do not abide by the district or center policies may be expelled from the center. Depending on the seriousness of the behavior one or more of the following procedures may occur:

- Parent conference with Supervisor by phone or in person;
- Parent conference with Supervisor and Coordinator of Tiger Learning Center Child Development Programs in person or by phone;
- Student will be expelled from the center for a number of days;
- Student will be expelled from the center

EXPELLING

- The Tiger Learning Centers reserve the right to expel a child for the behavior of the child, parent, guardian or family member.
- The Tiger Learning Centers reserve the right to expel a child for non-payment of tuition and fees.
- The Tiger Learning Centers reserve the right to expel a child for the parent/guardians failure to provide required enrollment information.

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN

Employees are required annually to obtain a minimum of one-hour training on preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children.

Methods used for increasing employee and parent awareness of issues regarding child abuse and neglect including warning signs that a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect and prevention techniques are as follows:

- Printed materials are available for parents and staff relating to increasing employee and parent awareness of issues regarding child abuse and neglect, including warning signs that a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect.
- Poster “Keeping Children Safe” located on parent information board.
- Refer parent to Child Abuse Hotline at 800 252-5400 or www.dfps.state.tx.us

Strategies for coordination between the center and appropriate community organizations include:

- Open communication between community organizations by mail, email or telephone.
- Attending meetings and/or trainings with community organizations.
- Refer parent to Child Abuse Hotline at 800 252-5400 or www.dfps.state.tx.us

Actions that the parent of a child who is a victim of abuse or neglect should take to obtain assistance and intervention are as follows:

- Refer parent to information on poster “Keeping Children Safe” located on parent information board.
- Refer parent to Child Abuse Hotline at 800 252-5400 or www.dfps.state.tx.us.
- Refer parent to TISD Police at 903 793-1965 or local Police at 911.

MANDATED REPORTER

- Tiger Learning Center staff are by law mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect.
- Parents that arrive to transport a child that appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to call someone else to drive. If compliance is not given TISD security will be called to assist in the matter.
- Child Abuse Hotline telephone number is 1.800.252.5400

GANG-FREE ZONE

As a result of House Bill 2086 that passed during the 81st Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 42 of the Human Resource Code will be amended to include Section 42.064 requiring that information about gang-free zones be distributed to parents and guardians of children in care at licensed child care centers.

What is a gang-free zone?

- A gang-free zone is a designated area around a specific location here certain gang related activity is prohibited and is subject to increased penalty under Texas law. Specific locations where certain gang related criminal activity is now prohibited include, but are not limited to public schools, playgrounds, video arcade facilities and day care centers.

The area that falls within a gang-free zone can vary depending on the type of location. For example, certain gang-related criminal activity that occurs within 300 feet of a video arcade facility is a violation of the new law, whereas certain gang-related criminal activity that occurs within 1000 feet of a school or day care center is a violation of the law.

How do parents know where the gang-free zone ends?

- The gang-free zone is within 1000 feet of the Tiger Learning Center. Maps may be produced for the purposes of prosecution and may be updated by the local municipal or county engineer. Parents may contact their local municipality to attempt to obtain a copy of the map if they choose to do so.

Why are gang-free zones needed?

- Similar to the motivation behind establishing drug-free zones, the goal of gang-free zones is to deter certain types of criminal activity in areas where children gather by enforcing tougher penalties.