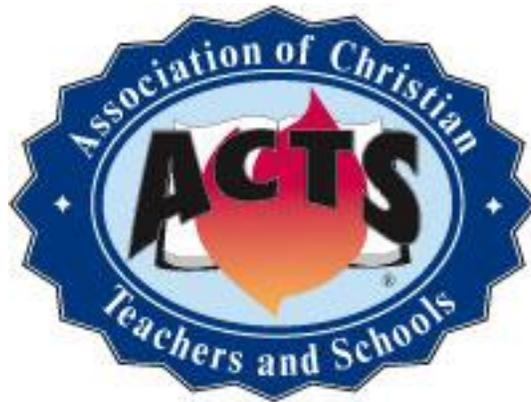


**GOLD SEAL ACCREDITATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR
MEMBER CHRISTIAN CHILD CARE CENTERS**

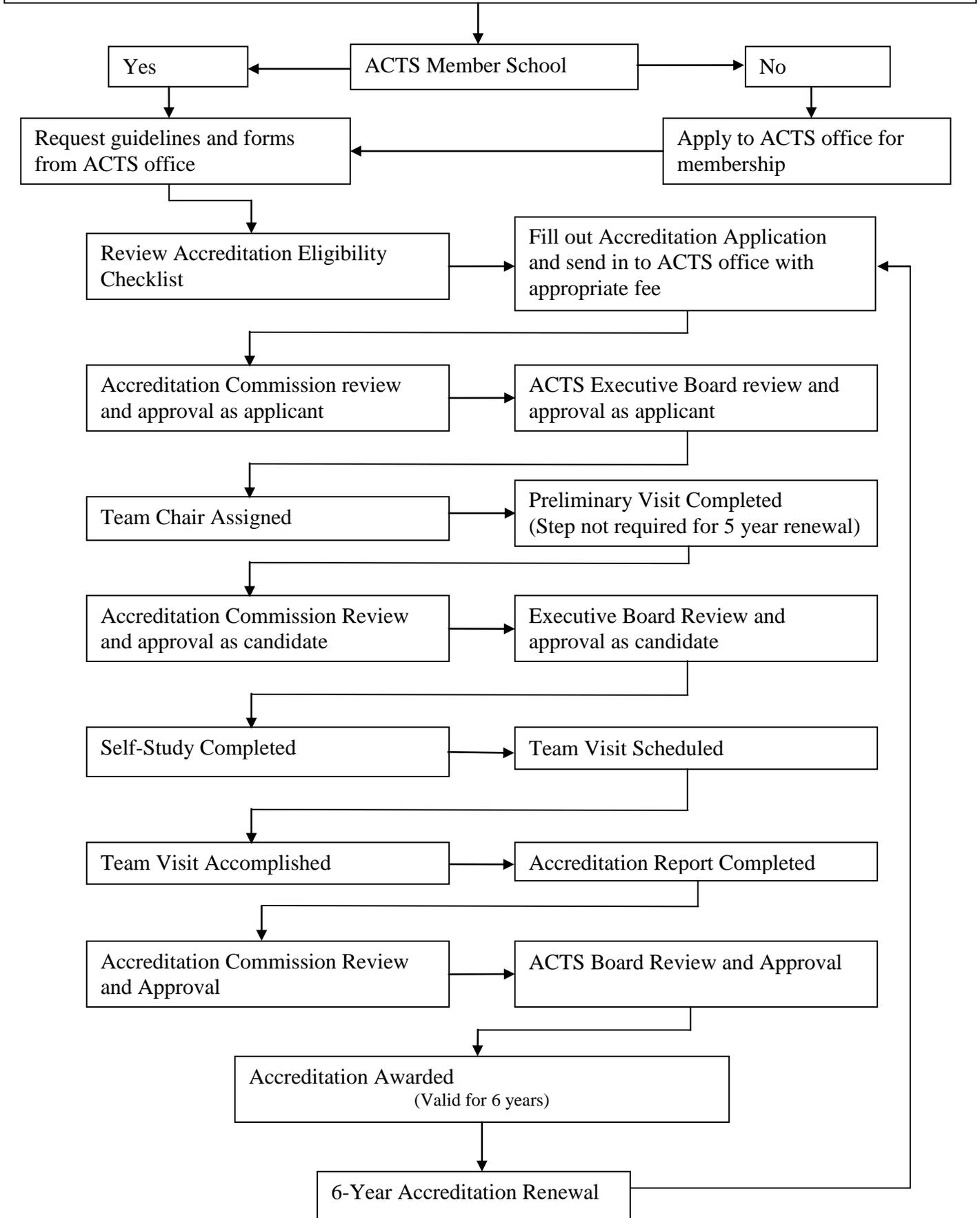
**ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND
SCHOOLS**



JULY 2015

**ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS
911 S. PARSONS AVE., SUITE G
BRANDON, FL 33511
www.actsschools.org**

ACTS Accreditation Process



ACTS GOLD SEAL ACCREDITATION
GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER CHRISTIAN CHILD CARE CENTERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....5

ACCREDITATION PROGRAM7

SECTION I – PHILOSOPHY, GOVERNANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Mission, Vision, and Philosophy.....21

1.2 Corporate Structure22

1.3 Governance Evaluation & Compliance Responsibilities.....25

1.4 Fiscal Responsibilities.....26

1.5 Admissions.....29

1.6 Children’s Information and Conduct17

SECTION II - PERSONNEL

2.1 Staff Hiring Practices and Benefits.....32

2.2 Director35

2.3 Instructional and Support Staff Qualifications43

2.4 Instructional Staff44

2.5 Support Staff46

2.6 Child-Staff Ratios47

2.7 Internal Relations49

SECTION III - CURRICULUM

3.1 General Practice Overview53

3.2 Physical Development54

3.3 Spiritual, Social and Emotional Development56

3.4 Teaching Strategies57

3.5 Language and Literacy – Core Knowledge62

3.6	Mathematical Awareness – Core Knowledge	65
3.7	Science – Core Knowledge	66
3.8	Social Studies – Core Knowledge	67
3.9	Fine Arts – Core Knowledge	69
3.10	Program and Child Assessment.....	69

SECTION IV – NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICES

4.1	Food Preparation	76
4.2	Parent and Guardian Information.....	77
4.3	Social Interaction	79
4.4	Food for Infants and Toddlers	80

SECTION V – PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5.1	Lighting and Ventilation.....	82
5.2	Classrooms	82
5.3	Restroom Areas	85
5.4	Diapering of Infants and Toddlers	86
5.5	Staff Space	87
5.6	Outdoor Areas.....	88

SECTION VI – HEALTH AND SAFETY

6.1	Documentation of Inspections.....	93
6.2	Children’s Health Records	93
6.3	Emergency, Health, and Security Information.....	94
6.4	Policies Regarding Illnesses	94
6.5	Special Health Needs of Children	94
6.6	Administering and Storing of Medicines	95
6.7	Medical Log.....	95
6.8	Blood-borne Pathogens	96
6.9	Cleanliness Requirements	96
6.10	Washing of Infant and Toddler Bedding.....	97
6.11	Health Screenings.....	97
6.12	Safety.....	97

SECTION VII – FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

7.1 Public Relations	107
7.2 Parent or Guardian Handbook	107
7.3 Communications	108
7.4 Parent or Guardian Education.....	111
7.5 Stakeholders Survey.....	114

APPENDIX

Child to Staff Ratio Form.....	118
Staff Qualifications.....	119
Glossary.....	120
Bibliography	123
Supplemental Format.....	126
Statements of Faiths.....	132

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ACTS wishes to acknowledge the work that the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA) Early Education Task Force, of which ACTS participated as a writer, in the development of the early childhood accreditation program standards. Any parts adopted from the NCPSA accreditation manual are done so with full written permission from the NCPSA.

Accreditation Program

These guidelines are designed to guide member childcare centers through the ACTS Accreditation Program. Information is provided to help you understand the set of standards and the evaluative process that is in place to help verify a member school's commitment to its constituency and others that it is carrying out its Christian purpose.

This manual will help preschools complete the Initial Accreditation Application and prepare a self-study, file Continuous Accreditation Report, and complete the Fifth-Year Re-Evaluation Accreditation Renewal.

The ACTS Accreditation Commission is the recognized accrediting body for member preschools. The Commission is the representative body charged with carrying out the accreditation process.

The Chairperson of the Commission provides direction for the accreditation program. Final review of the accreditation program and policies is made by the Commission, which then makes recommendations to the ACTS Board for final approval.

The Accreditation Program is designed to meet or exceed the minimum standards recognized by the major Christian School Accrediting Associations. It is important for all member preschools to strive to be accredited. Only member preschools may apply for accreditation. The initial process takes about one year. Accreditation is an ongoing process promoting excellence in Christian education.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Accreditation Program is to establish high, uniform standards among ACTS member preschools. Achievement of accreditation status represents a standard of excellence which is recognized by other institutions and the constituency of the community in which the preschool is located. Accreditation requirements identify educational and spiritual criteria which establish high expectations for childcare centers. Parents seek accredited preschools because they believe such preschools offer a quality program. Likewise, the larger community of business and higher education value the standard of excellence established by preschool accreditation.

To become accredited, a preschool will complete a self-study evaluation and open their preschool to an on-site visit by a qualified team of educators who will visit a preschool and examine its program to determine whether it is being operated within the published guidelines of the accrediting agency. ACTS standards are recognized by Regional Accrediting Agencies and are designed to meet or exceed the standards for those accrediting associations. ACTS Standards are recognized by the National Council for Private School Accreditation.

LEVELS OF ACCREDITATION

In the accreditation process, a preschool progresses from Applicant to Candidacy to Accreditation. A preschool may remain in Applicant status or Candidacy status for a maximum of two years after being accepted by the Accreditation Commission. If significant progress is not made toward accreditation within this two year timeframe, a preschool will be dropped from the accreditation process. At the end of this two year timeframe, a preschool must submit a new application and pay an additional \$650 application fee.

1. Applicant Status: A preschool is in Applicant Status from the time an official application is filed with the Executive Director until all items have been received and accepted by the Accreditation Commission. A preschool at this stage of accreditation may only refer to themselves as being an Applicant with ACTS.
2. Candidacy Status: Once a preschool's application and accompanying documentation have been received and accepted by the Accreditation Commission, the preschool will be advanced to Candidacy status and assigned to a chairperson as an advisor. After the preschool receives their formal notice that their application has been accepted, they may refer to themselves as having Candidacy Status with ACTS.
3. Accreditation: Upon completion of the on-site visit, the visiting team will submit a report and recommendation to the Accreditation Commission. The Accreditation Commission then makes a status report to the ACTS Board. Accreditation may be granted by the ACTS Board for a maximum of five years. A preschool may refer to themselves as Accredited by ACTS upon receipt of the notice of approval by the ACTS Board.
4. Revocation of Accreditation: A preschool may be dropped from accreditation for failing to maintain compliance with the standards or for failing to file a Continuous Accreditation Report. A preschool must first be notified by the Executive Director of the reasons for the pending revocation by certified mail. A preschool so notified has the right to a hearing before the ACTS Board. The decision of the ACTS Board shall be final. The preschool will be notified of board action by certified mail. Upon receipt of said notification, the preschool must immediately stop referring to itself as an ACTS accredited preschool. (See page 9 for Appeal and Complaint Procedures.)

PROCEDURES TO APPLY FOR INITIAL SIX-YEAR ACCREDITATION

A preschool wishing to become accredited may contact ACTS, Executive Director, 911 S. Parsons Ave., Suite G, Brandon, FL 33511; Phone (815) 239-6673; FAX (815) 977-5806. Guidelines and forms will be forwarded to the preschool.

When a preschool submits its initial application, a chairperson will be appointed to make an initial on-site visit to the preschool. The purpose of this initial visit is to verify that the applicant preschool has met all of the initial requirements listed in the Eligibility Checklist. At the time of this visit, the applicant preschool must be prepared to provide documentation that will verify that all eligibility requirements have been met.

The chairperson will file a written report to be included with the preschool's application. The applicant preschool is responsible to pay all expenses associated with this campus visit.

When a preschool seeking initial accreditation has its application processed and accepted by the Accreditation Commission, a contact/chairperson is appointed to assist the preschool in

understanding the accreditation guidelines and completing the forms for the self-evaluation study. After the forms have been filled out completely and returned, a chairperson and a visiting committee will be appointed.

The following Accreditation Eligibility Checklist identifies areas that must be met for preschools seeking accreditation.

ACCREDITATION ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

As soon as the preschool's accreditation application is received in the ACTS office, an advisor will be assigned to make a preliminary visit to the preschool. The preschool should be prepared to demonstrate to the chairperson that the preschool meets all of the requirements in the Eligibility Checklist. The advisor will make a written report to the Accreditation Commission detailing how the preschool meets each of the eligibility criteria. This report will be attached to the preschool's application and the preschool will be given a copy. A preschool's application for accreditation will not be considered by the Accreditation Commission until this visit and report are completed. A school has a maximum of two years from the time an application is filed to complete this visit and report. If this is not completed within two years, the school must file a new application, including fees, and begin the process again. The school is responsible for the travel expenses of the chairperson related to this visit.

The preschool:

1. Is a current member of ACTS.
2. Has legal authority to operate and must be able to address each of the following areas:
 - a. Philosophy and Objectives: Each accredited preschool shall be required to have a concise, clearly written statement of its philosophy and objectives in order to guide the academic program and the overall development of its students.
 - b. Curriculum: Each preschool shall have a curriculum consistent with its philosophy and objectives. This shall be designed to effectively fill the needs of the students enrolled. Curriculum offered shall be organized sequentially and described in current written curriculum guides and courses of study by subject and grade level.
 - c. Preschool Plant and Facilities: The plant and equipment shall be suited to the purpose and adequate for the total program of each preschool. Evidence of conformity to local codes for preschool building and health, safety, and sanitation must be present.
 - d. Faculty and Administrative Staff: The preschool professional staff must meet criteria established by the accrediting body which are suitable to the program and mission of the preschool. The criteria must address the requirements of degrees and/or certification.
 - e. Transfer of Student Records/Data: Standards shall insure the maintenance and safe-keeping of accurate student records and the provision of a transcript indicating work covered by students.
 - f. Financial Records/Accounting: The financial resources and management of the preschool shall be such as to sustain an educational program consistent with its philosophy and objectives. Evidence of financial stability in the form of a financial statement shall be prepared annually and be available for review by the Accreditation Association during evaluations.
 - g. Health and Safety: All preschools shall meet all applicable local and state laws relating to fire protection, safety, sanitation and health. Evidence of evacuation drills and emergency procedures are required. The preschool buildings shall comply with local and state zoning, structural and fire codes.

- h. Non-Discriminators Policies: All preschools must issue statements of nondiscrimination (in writing) stating that they do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin.
 - i. State Laws and Regulations: Accreditation standards must require each preschool to comply with all applicable state laws and regulations.
3. Is under control of a governing body, duly empowered with its governance, and meeting all state legal requirements.
 4. Is administered by a chief administrative officer designated for the preschool.
 5. Has been in operation a minimum of one (1) year.
 6. Has written statements of purpose and faith that are not in conflict with Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God (See Appendix).
 7. Must send a minimum of two representatives to at least one National or ACTS approved regional conference each year.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

VISITING COMMITTEE

This visiting committee will consist of at least three or more people who have current education experience. This may include preschool administrator, college faculty, or a teacher with classroom experience who holds a master's degree or higher.

The committee chairperson will guide the preschool through the accreditation process. Chairperson responsibilities include the following:

1. Communication with the preschool administrator regarding ACTS accreditation standards.
2. Identification of areas needing improvement prior to the visit.
3. Setting a date for the committee's on-site visit. This should be a three-day visit which includes attending an evening worship service (usually Sunday) and two instructional days.
4. Coordination of the Visiting Committee's activities.
5. Responsibility for the final written report.

The Visiting Committee members shall each receive a copy of the self-study at least one month before the on-site visit. If the self-study is not received at least 30 days prior to the visit date, the team visit will be rescheduled. All classes, programs, and records should be open to the committee. Committee members will talk with the pastor, administrator, teachers, staff, and students during the visit.

Preliminary results of the evaluation will be given to the administration on the day of the evaluation.

Detailed results will be provided in writing by the chairperson of the committee. Any reported deficiencies must be corrected before accreditation is granted.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

1. The primary purpose of the Visiting Committee's visit as a part of the process of accreditation is to verify the preschool's self-study and to determine if it accurately reflects the preschool's programs and ministry. The visiting committee serves a key role in the accreditation process and in the assessment and improvement of the preschool.
2. The objectives of the accreditation visit include the following:

- a. Providing for the ACTS Accreditation Commission a final report that addresses every aspect of a preschool's program, assuring that the preschool's self-study is objective and accurate and that it reflects the preschool strengths;
- b. Having a Visiting Committee that brings objective expertise to the preschool to assist in conducting the evaluation. This provides insight that can lead to preschool improvement and future planning;
- c. Serving as a stimulus for reviewing and/or changing those areas of the preschool's operation that are not in compliance with ACTS Standards;
- d. To determine that the preschool has no violations of ACTS Standards.

VISITING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS

1. The chairperson shall have served on a previous visiting committee on-site visit and have experience as a preschool administrator, principal, assistant principal, or college education department director/faculty member. Workshops are provided at ACTS National Conferences to train perspective team chairs.
2. The selection of the Visiting Committee chairperson is the responsibility of the Director of Accreditation and the Executive Director. The Director of Accreditation, with input from the office of the Executive Director, consults the preschool's administrator concerning any input that he/she might have on the selection of a visiting team from a list of qualified persons. A list of qualified persons shall not include an individual deemed to have a conflict of interest, including but not limited to an employee of the applying institution, a relative or church member. The preschool personnel may veto a suggested appointment if they feel a bias exists.
3. The Visiting Committee will consist of a chairperson and at least two committee members. Additional committee members may be added by the Director of Accreditation after consultation with the Executive Director, the Visiting Committee chairperson, and other appropriate personnel, such as the preschool administrator or pastor.
4. The final selection of the Visiting Committee members is the responsibility of the Director of Accreditation with input from the Executive Director. When possible, the Visiting Committee members are chosen from the same region or state in which the preschool to be visited is located.
5. The selected Visiting Committee members are chosen to provide balance and competence to the evaluation. Their professional background and expertise shall include the areas of teaching, programs, curriculum, administration, finance, facilities, and community relations.
6. No Visiting Committee chairperson or members shall serve without receiving training in the ACTS Standards and accreditation process. This training is provided at all ACTS conferences and may be provided prior to the visit by the team chair.

7. The administrator/principal of the preschool to be visited will be given the names of the visiting committee members by the Director of Accreditation at least 30 days before the visit.
8. Any changes in Visiting Committee members or dates of the visit must be made with the Director of Accreditation through the office of the Executive Director. No one shall be contacted for participation on a team by the administrator/director of the preschool without prior approval of the Director of Accreditation through the office of the Executive Director.

VISITING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS EXPENSES

1. All Visiting Committee member expenses (lodging, meals, travel) incurred during the visit are to be borne by the preschool being visited. When possible, the preschool should make arrangements to pay directly to the motel/hotel the meals/lodging costs incurred by the visiting team.

The mileage for travel while on business for ACTS is the current rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. Other possible travel costs include parking, taxi, tolls, travel other than by automobile, etc.

2. Any costs for meals incurred by a Visiting Committee member en route and any costs for meals during the visitation should be reimbursed by the school. All expenses should be indicated on the expense form. The expense form should be submitted directly to the administrator/principal of the school visited for reimbursement.
3. The Visiting Team members are to be paid a fee of \$100.00 (by the school) for preparing/compiling the team report. The check will be issued by the school upon completion of the visit.

INSTRUCTION AND FORMS FOR VISITING COMMITTEE

Pertinent instructions and forms for the Visiting Committee chairperson and members are contained in the *Accreditation Visiting Team Guidelines and Forms*.

LENGTH OF ACCREDITATION

Initial and sixth-year re-evaluation accreditation is for a maximum term of six years. When a school is accredited, no matter the date, their accreditation expiration date will be June 30th of the sixth year following their initial or sixth-year re-evaluation accreditation.

CONTINUOUS ACCREDITATION REPORT OF ALL ACCREDITED PRESCHOOLS

All accredited preschools are required to submit a completed continuous accreditation report by September 1 each year along with the annual accreditation renewal fee of \$500.00.

PROCEDURE TO APPLY FOR SIXTH-YEAR RE-EVALUATION ACCREDITATION

A preschool planning to apply for sixth-year re-evaluation accreditation must complete the application for sixth-year re-evaluation Accreditation and a new self-study and return it to the ACTS office. An onsite team visit will be made using the same procedures as in the initial accreditation visit (See pages 10 & 11).

CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL ACCREDITATION TRANSFER

A preschool that is currently accredited by any NCPSA recognized organization may transfer their current accreditation to ACTS with no interruptions of their accredited status by completing the following process:

1. Join ACTS
2. Have their standing within any other organizations validated.
3. Submit a completed application along with the current accreditation fees.
4. Upon acceptance, submit the preschool's most current self-study instrument along with the latest team visit report to a designated Team Chair for review.
5. The preschool must host an on-site visit by the Team Chair.
6. The Team Chair will write and send a report of the visit to the ACTS Accreditation Commission and Executive Board for accreditation confirmation.
7. All confirmed accreditation transfers will be valid for the preschool's current accreditation time frame.

Appeal and Complaint Procedures

Appeals and complaints are handled on a case by case approach. Each case is reviewed and action taken with the full involvement of the individuals, preschool, and sponsoring church, as well as members of the ACTS Accreditation Commission.

A preschool's accreditation may be withdrawn only by action of the ACTS Accreditation Commission. This action includes the process of a representative of the commission visiting the preschool and submitting a review/report concerning the recurring and not corrected violations by the preschool. In cases when accreditation has had to be withheld or withdrawn, every effort is made to have an ongoing and open communication to correct the situation. All appeals from any decision made shall be submitted in writing to the ACTS Accreditation Commission. An appeal should review specifically the appellant's position in regard to each item of the decision.

An appeal of an unfavorable decision concerning a preschool's accreditation status or complaint may be made to the Executive Board of ACTS at the next scheduled meeting after the decision was made. A preschool suspended or not accredited for failure to meet standards may be re-evaluated in the next year if efforts to rectify deficiencies are evident.

When complaints are filed those involved are encouraged, if possible, to resolve the complaints. If the preschool or person filing the complaint does not feel that it has been resolved, the Executive Director's office should be contacted for input and/or mediation. If necessary, the complaint will be referred to the Accreditation Commission.

Issues or concerns can be brought by an ACTS member preschool before the scheduled Association meeting.

ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS & PRESCHOOLS (ACTS)

Application for Initial Accreditation Candidacy/Sixth-Year Re-evaluation Accreditation

In submitting this application to the appropriate office you are asserting that you are a member in good standing and that you have carefully read the Accreditation Program Guidelines and that you are requesting to become involved or to continue involvement in the accreditation process of ACTS. Please return this Application for Accreditation Candidacy/Sixth-Year Re-evaluation Accreditation form with attachments to:

ACTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
911 S. Parsons Ave., Suite G
Brandon, FL 33511

When a preschool submits its initial application for accreditation, a chairperson will be appointed to make an initial on-site visit to the preschool. The purpose of this initial visit is to verify that the applicant preschool has met all of the initial requirements listed in the Eligibility Checklist. At the time of this visit, the applicant preschool must be prepared to provide documentation that will verify that all eligibility requirements have been met.

The chairperson will file a written report to be included with the preschool's application. The applicant preschool is responsible to pay all expenses associated with this initial campus visit.

Once these items have been received and accepted by the Accreditation Commission, the preschool will be notified of its advancement to Candidacy status. A contact chairperson will be identified to assist during this period. Once the self-study has been submitted and accepted, a chairperson and a visiting committee will be appointed. When the preschool is ready, an on-site visit by the Visiting Committee will be scheduled.

Upon completion of the on-site visit a report will be compiled by the Visiting Committee chairperson and submitted to the Accreditation Commission. This commission will present its findings and recommendation to the Executive Board.

This application must be accompanied by:

1. A check for \$650 for the application fee payable to ACTS. The application fee is non-refundable.
2. A copy of the resolution appearing in the preschool board minutes which approves of the preschool seeking accreditation with ACTS. (Initial accreditation candidacy only.)
3. A written statement indicating that the preschool is responsible for the Visiting Committee's expenses during the on-site visit.
4. An understanding that the preschool must meet certain accreditation guidelines (standards) in order to progress from **Accreditation Candidacy to Accreditation**.
5. An understanding that the Self-Study must be submitted to the ACTS office and visiting team members at least 30 days prior to the scheduled committee visit.

**ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND PRESCHOOLS (ACTS)**

Application for Accreditation Form page 1

Date _____ Preschool Telephone No. (_____) _____

School Name _____

School Physical Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fax No.(_____) _____ Email Address _____

Administrator _____ Director _____

Person to serve as school contact for ACTS Accreditation _____

Report Complied by _____

Year Founded _____ Total Enrollment _____

CHECK APPLICABLE GRADE LEVELS OFFERED AT THE PRESCHOOL

- _____ Birth
- _____ 1 year old
- _____ 2 years old
- _____ 3 years old
- _____ 4 years old
- _____ 5 years old
- _____ Other (please describe) _____

Sponsoring Church or Organization _____

Pastor/Chairman of the Board _____

Denomination: Assemblies of God Other _____

Is the preschool incorporated separately from the sponsor? _____

Is the preschool a direct extension of a church and/or ministry? _____

**ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS & PRESCHOOLS (ACTS)**

Application for Accreditation Form page 2

If the preschool is not incorporated separately or a direct extension of a church or ministry, how is the preschool organized?

Identify which curriculum/curricula is/are in use in the preschool:

- Bob Jones University Press
 - A Beka
 - Alpha Omega
 - Combination Christian/Secular
 - Essentials Bible Curriculum
 - Other (please describe) _____
-

Does the preschool have plans to change the curriculum in the next five years? _____

If yes, describe the changes to be made: _____

Is your preschool registered with the state? _____

Is your preschool accredited by another agency? _____

If yes, indicate which agency? _____

If your preschool is currently not accredited but is seeking accreditation with another agency, please indicate the agency: _____

Accreditation to be completed by preschool year _____

Signature: Administrative Officer/Principal

Date

Suggestions for Preparation of the Self-Study

Preschools applying for accreditation are responsible for demonstrating compliance with the ACTS Accreditation Standards. The most effective way to do this is to explain in a narrative format the manner in which the preschool meets each individual standard. This also gives the preschool the opportunity to use the self-study as an instrument for school improvement. The narrative explanation should be supported by appropriate, well-organized documentation.

The self-study should consist of necessary information to substantiate the preschool's compliance with the ACTS accreditation standards. The Self-Study is to be in a digital format saved on a USB flash drive (One per team member and one for ACTS office). Copies of the completed self-study are to be mailed at least 30 days prior to the team visit to the Visiting Committee Chairperson, each Visiting Committee member and to the ACTS national office. The self-study filed with the ACTS national office becomes the school's self-study of record and permanent property of ACTS, with all rights and usage maintained, therein.

After studying the Standards, Rationale, and Self-Study Document requirements, the director and staff begin preparing a self-study document describing the program as it meets the standards required in the accreditation manual. The accreditation manual will designate when a document is to be submitted in the self-study or to be made available for review upon the validation visit. In most cases, a three-ring binder divided into sections will be sufficient to hold required documents.

Each standard is preceded by a rationale and preceded by a self-study document requirement or on site review, and a series of ratings. The director and staff of the early education department will determine if the program exceeds, meets, partially meets, or does not meet each requirement depending on the rating opportunities. Programs that are able to meet a significant number of exceptional compliance ratings will be more likely not to have to meet every standard as written.

Directors are encouraged to add explanations for how the program meets a standard without compromising the integrity of the rating system in the self-study notebook.

After the early education program has studied each section of the accreditation manual, the staff will be able to evaluate whether or not the program is already meeting the standard; will be able to add improvements prior to the validation team visit; or if a program improvement plan will need to be adopted. When a program improvement plan is adopted, submit a copy of the plan at the end of the section corresponding to the section topic.

Upon completion of the self-study, qualified validators will read, analyze and validate the self-study report, visit the center to observe classrooms in progress, and interview administration, parents and staff. A report will be generated to reflect commendations and recommendations and affirm program improvement plans. The report will be sent to the early childhood commission who will approve or deny accreditation.

The self-study document should be organized as follows:

Title Page

- Name of Preschool.
- Name of sponsoring church.
- Address of Preschool.
- Telephone number, Fax number, and E-mail.
- Contact Person, Title.
- Purpose of the petition, i.e. to request initial approval or renewal of accreditation.

Narrative

- Organize on a standard-by-standard basis, quoting both the standard number and the standard, followed by a detailed explanation of how the school meets the standard.
- Refer to documentation of explanation by exhibit number and page. Quote the document in the narrative where appropriate.
- Explanations which simply restate the standard will not be accepted.

Organization of the Self-Study

- Title Page
- Brief history and overview of the preschool. The purpose of this is to provide the team with background information about the school prior to their arrival on your campus.
- Narrative which addresses each standard (See Narrative above).
- Documentation. This should include copies of documents referenced in the narrative. This might include student and faculty handbooks, curriculum guides, school calendar, etc.

Other Considerations

- There should be a table of contents.
- Pages of the narrative must be numbered.
- Appendices should be added, as necessary.

CONTINUOUS ACCREDITATION REPORT (CAR)
Due September 1 each year for the
ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

The Continuous Accreditation Report for Continued Accreditation is to be completed by the administration each school year, no matter the effective date of the accreditation. The CAR provides a Self-Assessment and review of the Accreditation Standards.

The school's administration should submit the CAR in electronic format, including all forms and supporting documentation along with the Annual Renewal fee of \$500 to: ACTS, 911 S. Parsons Ave., Suite G, Brandon, FL 33511. A Late Fee of \$150 will be assessed to any report not postmarked by Sept 15th. The ACTS Accreditation Commission will review the CAR to verify that the school continues to maintain accreditation standards. This commission makes its recommendations for continued accreditation to the Executive Board during its annual meeting.

(Please type) Complete the following information for the last full school year. Academic year _____

Name of School _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Name of Administrator _____ Name of Pastor _____

Initial Accreditation Awarded Date _____ Fifth Year Re-Evaluation Accreditation Awarded Date _____

Total Enrollment: _____ Preschool _____ Kindergarten _____ Grades 1-6 _____ Grades 7-8 _____ Grades 9-12 _____

STAFF: _____ Number on Teaching Staff: _____ Other: _____ Average Teacher/Pupil Ratio: _____

School improvements during the last year in program (such as addition/deletion of grades, L.D. division, etc.)
No Change: _____ Change: _____ (Provide explanation on items requiring current validation forms.)
(Failure to report a change can adversely affect the school's accreditation status.)

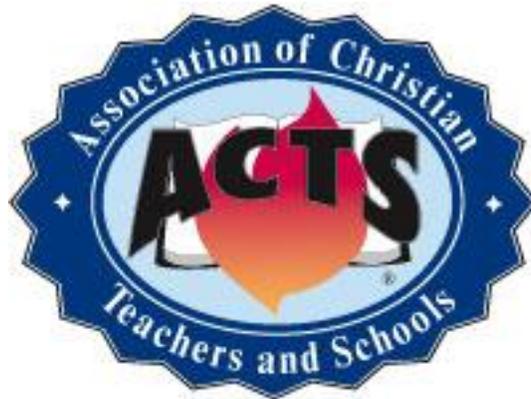
ITEMS FOR SUBMISSION WITH IAR:

1. A copy of the current budget for the school academic year.
2. A letter from an auditor or external reviewer of the school (e.g., a church auditor or business or church board).
3. Identification of all major fund-raising activities and what the funds were used for.
4. Current tuition fee for the school academic year.
5. Current school academic calendar.
6. Current summaries of standardized tests by grade.
7. A list identifying faculty and support staff changes during the last year. Include both those new to the staff this year and those that left at the end of last year. For faculty new to the staff include the type of professional certificate (state or private) and the level of college degree (B.A., M.A., etc.) they hold. For those who do not have an appropriate degree for the subject or who do not have a current professional certificate, a copy of the professional development plan must be attached, showing current enrollment in a program.
8. Identification of any new staff in-service/development activities implemented this school year.
9. Identification of any new resources used by your faculty that was implemented this school year.
10. Identification of each National or ACTS approved regional conference your school attended (Must send a minimum of two representatives per school, per year).
11. A complete list of recommendations, along with action taken on each recommendation, from the school's latest Visiting Team Report.

SECTION I

PHILOSOPHY, GOVERNANCE, & ADMINISTRATION

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS
911 S. PARSONS AVE., SUITE G
BRANDON, FL 33511
www.actsschools.org

Section I

1.0: PHILOSOPHY, GOVERNANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION

RATIONALE

The role of the governing entity is to provide oversight of the early education program and to create general policies that will ensure high-quality care and educational opportunities for the children. The governing entity should empower the administrator, director, or program head to make day-to-day decisions concerning the implementation of the policies and programs being offered by the organization. These policies should be reflective of the mission and philosophy of the early education program.

Nationally accepted research provided through a cooperative effort of the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, and the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care, *The Children of the Cost, Quality and Outcomes Study Go to School* and The National Research Council in *Eager to Learn* notes that a well-planned, high-quality early childhood program leads to the success of children in later academic years. This is especially true for young children who are at greater risk of school failure because of poverty, low level maternal education, and other factors that limit opportunities and resources that enhance learning and development (Bowman 2001).

STANDARDS

1.1: MISSION, VISION, AND PHILOSOPHY

1.1.1 Mission and Vision Statements: The program has a written mission statement and a written vision statement that clearly articulates the program’s purpose for the care and/or education of young children and is agreement with an approved ACTS statement faith (see the Appendices).

Self-study document #		Include a copy of the mission and vision statements and describe how they were developed and by whom.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: The mission and vision statements clearly articulate the program’s purpose for existence.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard substantially met: The program has a mission or vision statement but not both.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: There is no evidence of a mission or vision statement.

1.1.2: Philosophy of Education Statement: The program has a written philosophy regarding the care and/or education of young children, the philosophy is based on current research and “best practices” in the field and is consistent with the program's

mission and vision statements, and is stated in the preschool’s literature informing staff, parents, children and prospective families of the preschool’s philosophy.

Self-study document #		Include a copy of the program’s philosophy statement and cite the research and/or “best practices” on which it is based.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exceptional compliance: It is evident that a substantial amount of research was used in developing the program’s philosophy statement, and the statement reflects the mission and vision of the program.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: The philosophy statement is based on research and reflects the program’s mission and vision.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard substantially met: The program has developed a philosophy statement. However, it is not backed up by research.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: There is no written philosophy statement.

1.2: CORPORATE STRUCTURE

1.2.1: Bylaws: The corporate status of the entity having oversight of the early education program, whether incorporated, franchised, proprietary, or religiously affiliated, has clearly articulated bylaws that include the early education program.

Self-study document #		Define the corporate status of the entity having oversight of the early education program, demonstrating that clearly articulated bylaws include educational options sufficient to cover the early education program.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: The corporate status of the entity having oversight of the early education program—whether incorporated, franchised, proprietary, or religiously affiliated—has clearly articulated bylaws that include the early education program.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: The corporate status of the entity having oversight of the early education program—whether incorporated, franchised, proprietary, or religiously affiliated—does not have clearly articulated bylaws that include the early education program.

1.2.2: Governance Entity: Programs under the auspices of another organization and/or agency are represented by a governing entity or committee (hereinafter referred to as “the governance”) responsible for the general policies and the financial stability of the early education program. Individuals within the governance shall be spiritual leaders of a local church.

Self-study document # Include a diagram of the authority structure of the governance and of the early education staff. Discuss whether the governance is responsible for the general policies and the financial stability of the early education program, or by whatever other means fiscal soundness is achieved.

Rating Standard met: The self-study contains a diagram of the authority structure of the governance and of the early education staff. The governance is responsible for the general policies and the financial stability of the early education program.

 Standard not met: The self-study does not contain a diagram of the authority structure of the governance and of the early education staff, and/or the self-study does not contain information indicating that the governance is responsible for the general policies and the financial stability of the early education program.

Self-study document # Include a list of the governance members’ names, years of service on the governing entity, means by which service is determined, term of service and selection of members as required in the by-laws.

Rating Standard met: A list of governance members’ names, years of services, and demographic information is included.

 Standard substantially met: Governance members are listed with years of service. However, demographic information is not provided.

 Standard not met: The self-study does not contain a complete list of governance members’ names with years of service.

1.2.3: Bylaws Authority: The governance operates in conjunction with and under the appropriate bylaws of the corporation.

Self-study document #		Include a copy of the corporation's bylaws that provides specific oversight of the early care and educational programs operated under the corporation.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: Bylaws of the corporation give specific oversight to early care and educational programs operated under the corporation.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: The self-study does not contain bylaws of the corporation that give specific oversight to early care and educational programs operated under the corporation.

1.2.4: Governing Policies and Procedures: The governance establishes and maintains written governing policies and procedures that are consistent with the program's philosophy.

Self-study document #		Include a copy of the current policies and procedures manual for the early education program and/or inclusive of the early education program.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: Policies and procedures reflect the program's current practices and the program's philosophy.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard substantially met: Policies and procedures are consistent with the program's philosophy. However, they have not been reviewed and brought up to date in more than a year.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: The policies and procedures are not consistent with the program's philosophy.

1.2.5: Governance Role and Responsibilities: The governance has clearly defined roles and responsibilities in the early education program, new governance members are provided with an orientation when they join the governance consisting of the *program's written policies defining roles and responsibilities of board members and staff.*

Self-study document #		Define the roles and responsibilities of the governance and how new members receive orientation information.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: The roles and responsibilities of the governance are defined, and the governance orientation process includes written policies defining roles and responsibilities of board members and staff.

- Standard substantially met: The roles and responsibilities of the governance are loosely defined, and there is no governance orientation process described.
- Standard not met: The roles and responsibilities of the governance are not defined, and there is no governance orientation process described.

1.2.6: Minutes of Meetings: Written minutes of governance meetings are maintained on file.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: Copies of the governance minutes from three governance meetings referring to the early education program are available on site to the visiting team chair or to his/her designee.
 - Standard not met: Copies of three governance minutes referring to the early education program are not available on site to the visiting team chair or to his/her designee.

1.3: GOVERNANCE EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

1.3.1: Evaluation of Director: The governance ensures an annual evaluation of the early education administrator/director (hereinafter referred to as “the director”).

Self-study document # Submit copies of the evaluation tools used, and explain the process used in the evaluation process of the director.

- Rating
- Standard met: An annual evaluation form used to annually evaluate the director is provided.
 - Standard substantially met: A satisfactory explanation of the director’s annual evaluation is supplied.
 - Standard not met: Evidence of an annual evaluation is not supplied.

1.3.2 Response to Civil Authorities' Requirements: The governance ensures the program meets and/or exceeds all requirements of civil authorities in the areas of health and safety, child-staff ratios, background screening, fingerprinting, and staff training requirements (or training requirement equivalencies) regardless of any exception status that may be present.

Self-study document # Licensed programs must include a copy of the program's current license and last inspection report. Programs exempt from licensure will be expected to validate how all minimal state licensing requirements are met or exceeded, regardless of exemption.

- Rating
- Exceptional compliance: Evidence throughout the visitation demonstrates that the program highly exceeds requirements by civil authorities in the areas stated above.
 - Standard met: The program meets/exceeds requirements of civil authorities in the areas stated above.
 - Standard substantially met: The program meets/exceeds some of the requirements of civil authorities in the areas stated above but not all of them.
 - Standard not met: The program does not meet any requirements of civil authorities in the areas stated above.

1.3.3: Evaluation of Program: The director (or director qualified personal) submits an annual program evaluation based on early childhood/child development theory, research, and best practices, and assists the governance in setting and prioritizing short- and long-range goals for the program.

Self-study document # Include a copy of the last annual evaluation of the program and a prioritized list of short- and long-range goals for the program.

- Rating
- Standard met: The last annual evaluation is provided, and the evaluation includes short- and long-range goals.
 - Standard substantially met: A copy of the last annual evaluation or a copy of goals is provided, but not both.
 - Standard not met: The data do not satisfactorily validate either an annual evaluation or short- and long-range goals.

1.4: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1.4.1: Financial Stability and Integrity: The program is not undergoing financial reorganization to protect itself from creditors.

- Standard met: The program is not undergoing financial reorganization to protect itself from creditors.
- Standard not met: The program is undergoing financial reorganization to protect itself from creditors.

1.4.2: Governance Responsibility for Fiscal Matters: The governance provides oversight of the program, and it reviews the financial position of the program and ensures its stability.

Self-study document # Describe how the information about the program’s activities and financial records is prepared and from whom the governance receives this complete information. Discuss whether these records and the reporting system are adequate and how the governance ensures the stability of the program’s financial position.

- Rating
- Standard met: The program’s financial records and financial reporting system to the governance are adequate, and the governance ensures the stability of the program’s financial position.
 - Standard not met: The self-study data do not satisfactorily demonstrate that the program’s financial records and financial reporting system to the governance are adequate and that the governance ensures the stability of the program’s financial position.

1.4.3: Financial Records: The governance requires a review of the program’s financial records, including an annual external review or audit. General accounting procedures used by the program have been validated by an appropriate outside source.

Self-study document # Available on site are the last internal review and verification that general accounting procedures used by the program have been validated by an appropriate outside source.

- Rating
- Standard met: A financial review report is available on site, as well as verification that general accounting procedures used by the program have been validated by an appropriate outside source.
 - Standard not met: One or both of the following are not available on site: a financial review and verification that general accounting procedures used by the program have been validated by an appropriate outside source.

1.4.4: Insurance: In order to ensure the stability of the program in the case of a significant litigation, the governance maintains adequate liability and accident insurance including insurance on any vehicle that transports children.

Self-study document # Include a copy of each proof of insurance that the governance maintains.

Rating Standard met: The governance maintains adequate liability and accident insurance as described in the standard.

Standard not met: The governance does not appear to maintain adequate liability and accident insurance as described in the standard.

1.4.5: Staff Salaries and Benefits: The governing entity approves wages and benefits. Wages, benefits, recruitment procedures, and staff retention are reviewed at least annually by the governance. Policies reflect an effort to compensate and retain quality staff by including benefits such as health coverage, sick leave, vacation leave, continuing education, Social Security, and an opportunity to participate in a tax sheltered annuity, or other type of retirement plan on a prorated basis where applicable. *Paid planning time away from children is also provided.*

Self-study document # Report what percentage of the annual budget is reflected by wages and benefits for the staff. Define how wages are set and approved, what benefits are available to whom, and how often the governance reviews wages, benefits, recruitment procedures, and staff retention.

Rating Standard met: The governance approves wages and benefits that compensate staff as described in the standard, and the governance reviews wages, benefits, recruitment procedures, and staff retention at least yearly.

Standard not met: The governance does not approve wages and benefits that compensate staff as described in the standard, and/or the governance does not review wages, benefits, recruitment procedures, and staff retention at least yearly.

** The research on staff/child ratio's, class size, and teacher qualification continues to be an issue of concern for many early education programs. To date, there has been no scientifically validated research to conclusively prove that one proven format for the education of young children is better than another. This accreditation document considered the most current research and that which is generally accepted among nationally recognized accreditation programs and among early education specialist in developing accreditation standards.*

1.5: ADMISSIONS

Clear admissions policies and procedures are stated in writing. These policies and procedures are open in admissions, inclusive, and nondiscriminatory. Policies reflect the diversity of all children, various family structures, and the community being served.

Self-study document #		Include a copy of the program's admission policies and procedures. Define the growth in the program over the past few years and population demographics.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: Clear admissions policies and procedures are stated in writing. These policies and procedures are inclusive and nondiscriminatory, and they reflect the diversity of all children, various family structures, and the community.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard substantially met: Clear admissions policies and procedures are stated in writing. However, either they are not inclusive and nondiscriminatory, or they do not reflect the diversity of all children, various family structures, and the community.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: The self-study does not contain clear admissions policies and procedures.

1.6: CHILDREN'S INFORMATION AND CONDUCT

1.6.1: Records: The director ensures current, complete, confidential records for each child are kept and are available to authorized personnel. The file might include such information as the child's life history, behavioral patterns, assessments of developmental and cognitive development, interests, and appropriate health records as noted in the Health and Safety section of this document.

On-site observation		The visiting team chair or his/her designee will review children's records and the policies regarding who can see these records.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: Current, complete, confidential children's records are filed and available only to designated staff.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard substantially met: Children's records are filed but at least one of the following is true: the records are not current, they are not complete, and they are not stored in a confidential location.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: Children's records are not kept.

1.6.2: Discipline: The director oversees interaction between staff and children, publishing the discipline policies and procedures for parents/guardians and staff and taking appropriate measures to maintain discipline. Corporal punishment or legally questionable practices will not be utilized. Christian values and principles are prevalent across disciplines and are interwoven throughout each day's activities in an age-appropriate manner.

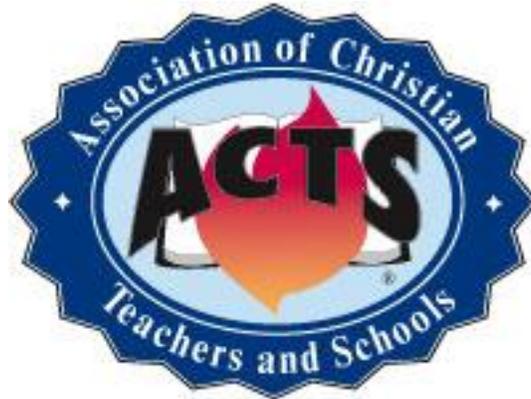
Self-study document # Include a copy of the program's discipline policies and explain how staff are trained and parents/guardians are informed of the policies.

- Rating
- Standard met: A copy of the above described discipline policies, training procedures, and information given to parents/guardians is included in the self-study.
 - Standard substantially met: The above-described discipline policies are included in the self-study, but there is insufficient documentation that staff training regarding the policies takes place and that the program provides information regarding the policies to parents/guardians.
 - Standard not met: The discipline policies are not sufficiently addressed.

SECTION II

PERSONNEL

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS
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Section II

2.0: PERSONNEL

RATIONALE

Research suggests that *the performance of the program director, particularly as it relates to providing leadership in a program, functioning at the administrative level, and providing high-quality supervision and feedback, predicts program quality* (NCEDL). The quality of care and education received by the children, the continuing education and professional growth of the staff, and the confidence the parents will have in the program, is dependent on the knowledge and skills of the early education administrators (CFOC Standards 2002).

Extensive research has been conducted concerning the effect of early education programs on young children. The education of the staff and the training they have received in the field, as well as child to staff ratio's and group sizes and staff turnover, may play a significant role in the quality of an early education program. The longer the amount of time children attend such programs, the more likely both positive and negative consequences can be attributed to the quality of the program (Helburn 1995)

Children in early education programs who are taught and cared for by an educated staff have been shown to be more compliant and socially competent. College-educated early educators are also better equipped in developing age appropriate goals and activities for children (Fiene 2002).

Several research studies suggest that child to staff ratio's and group size impacts the health, safety, and school readiness of young children (Fine 2002, Bowman 2001, CFOC 2002). The Children of the Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study Go to School research project found that children in early education programs with lower ratio's and low staff turnover built closer teacher-child relationships which resulted in better classroom social and thinking skills, language ability, and math skills into the elementary school years (1999).

STANDARDS

2.1: STAFF HIRING PRACTICES AND BENEFITS

2.1.1: Employee Handbook: All staff receives a copy of the employee handbook. The staff are instructed at least annually on the program's employee policies.

Self-study document # Submit a copy of the staff employee handbook.

Rating Standard met: All staff receives a copy of an employee handbook and have indicated receipt of same, and the administration reviews these policies with the staff on an annual basis.

 Standard substantially met: All staff receive a copy of an employee handbook. However, there is insufficient

documentation that the administration reviews the policies with the staff on an annual basis.

- Standard not met: There is insufficient documentation that all staff receive a copy of an employee handbook and that the administration reviews policies with the staff on an annual basis.

2.1.2: Nondiscrimination Policy: The program has a published nondiscrimination policy relating its hiring practices that shows God’s love for people regarding “race, color, sex, and/or ethnicity.”

Self-study document # Include a copy of the program’s nondiscrimination policy and a copy of an actual position advertised in any form, the wording of which includes nondiscriminatory language.

- Rating
- Standard met: A copy of the program’s nondiscrimination policy and of an actual position advertised in any form, the wording of which includes nondiscriminatory language, is included in the self-study.
 - Standard not met: The program shows insufficient evidence of a nondiscrimination policy.

2.1.3: Spiritually, Culturally and Racially Appropriate Staff: The program actively seeks a diverse staff that reflects the school population and its surrounding community. All members of the preschool staff shall be Christian and shall exhibit Christian character in all areas of life. The “Fruit of the Spirit” according to Galatians 5:22-23 shall be evident in all staff members.

Self-study document # Describe how the program actively seeks a diverse staff. Include how the staff communicates with children whose first language is not English.

- Rating
- Exceptional compliance: The program has a culturally diverse staff.
 - Standard met: The program is seeking a culturally diverse staff.
 - Standard not met: There is no documentation showing that the program has or is seeking a culturally diverse staff.

2.1.4: Background Screening: The program’s hiring procedures include background screening and fingerprinting to obtain a history regarding abuse and any criminal

convictions for all employees and for others who have direct access with the children in the program.

On-site observation Personnel files will be reviewed by the visiting team chair or his/her designee in order to confirm background screening and fingerprinting.

- Rating
- Standard met: Civil authorities have cleared all staff to work with children after consideration of the staff's background screening and fingerprinting used to check for a history regarding abuse and any criminal convictions.
 - Standard substantially met: All staff documentation has been submitted to the appropriate civil authorities, and clearance is pending.
 - Standard not met: Insufficient evidence of staff screening and fingerprinting is available.

2.1.5: Staff Orientation: New staff are provided with an orientation and/or a Staff Manual that should include but not be limited to the following:

- goals and philosophy of the program
- planned activities for the program
- appropriate classroom management techniques
- routines and transitions in which the children in the program are engaged
- discipline policies and procedures
- communication with parents
- mealtimes and food-handling policies
- occupational health hazards
- emergency health and safety procedures
- general health policies and procedures including but not limited to the following:
 - hand-washing techniques
 - diapering techniques and toileting (including proper diaper disposal and diaper-changing techniques where applicable)
- child abuse/child neglect detection, prevention, and reporting
- cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting procedures
- recognition of symptoms of illness, documentation of these symptoms, and implementation of ill-child policies that include the following:

- applying the program’s policies regarding exclusion of ill children and readmission of them after illness
- cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting procedures
- documenting and administering prescribed medication if given to children during program hours by program employees
- notifying parents/guardians regarding a communicable disease occurring in children or staff
- assessing the health of children daily

Self-study document # Include documentation of presentation of orientation procedures, verifying that the above-mentioned items are addressed with the staff.

- Rating Standard met: An orientation as described above is provided to the staff.
- Standard not met: An orientation program is not provided to the staff.

2.2: DIRECTOR

2.2.1: Qualifications: The director of the early education program is a minimum of 21 years of age and has professional training as evidenced by having obtained a minimum of a bachelor’s degree (or documentation as listed below) from an accredited institution. The director also obtained a minimum of 9 credit hours of college course work in administration, leadership, or management and a minimum of 24 credit hours of specialized college course work in early childhood education, child development, elementary education or early childhood special education

Director Qualification Documentation:

- Documents indicating a plan in place to meet the above qualifications within five years
- Documents meeting an appropriate combination of formal education, work experience, and relevant training and credentials, (as outlined in the NAEYC Alternative Pathways Table.)

Self-study document # Include a copy of the resume for the director and for any other director-qualified leadership staff that perform director duties.

Rating

- Exceptional compliance: The director has a post baccalaureate degree in early childhood education/child development from an accredited institution or has any post-baccalaureate degree with a minimum of twenty-four credit hours in early childhood education/child development from an accredited institution and a minimum of 9 credit hours in administration, leadership, or management.
- Standard met: The director has a minimum of a bachelor's degree as described above, 9 credit hours of college course work in administration, leadership, or management and a minimum of twenty-four credit hours of specialized college course work in early childhood education, child development, elementary education or early childhood special education or a Director Qualification Documentation has been approved.
- Standard substantially met: The director does not have a minimum of a bachelor's degree as described above however, is qualified as defined by state statute and has acquired a minimum of five credit hours of college course work in business practices.
- Standard not met: The director does not have a minimum of a bachelor degree and does not have a professional development plan in place that will culminate in a bachelor's degree as described in the standard.

2.2.2: General Responsibilities: The director is charged with assuming responsibility of the day-to-day operations of the program, maintaining program policies, and monitoring the program's compliance with applicable requirements of civil authorities. The director's leadership addresses the program's goal of fostering the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and character development of children.

Self-study document # Include a copy of the director's job description.

- Rating
- Standard met: A current job description for the director delineates the above-mentioned responsibilities of the director.
 - Standard not met: The self-study does not contain a current job description for the director, delineating the above-mentioned responsibilities of the director.

2.2.3: Experience: The director and/or program director has experience working directly with children whose ages are represented in the early education program for which the director/program director has oversight.

Self-study document # Submit a copy of the director's/program director's resume listing experience working with children.

- Rating
- Standard met: The director/program director has documented experience working with children the same ages as those represented in the early education program over which the director/program director has oversight.
 - Standard substantially met: The director/program director has experience working with children but not specifically with the age groups represented in the early education program over which the director/program director has oversight.
 - Standard not met: The director/program director has no previous experience working with young children.

2.2.4: Continuing Education and Development: The director obtains a minimum of thirty clock hours during the first year of employment especially as relates to State requirements. An additional twenty-four hours per year of continuing professional development, provided by a qualified entity, in such areas as emergent literacy and mathematics, child or staff development, programming, administration, health and safety, family relations, legal issues, communications, and technology is recommended. Whenever possible, continuing education should be validated by college credit and provided as a benefit of employment, part of tuition reimbursement program or financial assistance.

Self-study document # Include verification of the director's continuing education

- Rating
- Exceptional compliance: The director has obtained thirty hours of continuing educational training during the first year of employment in the area of State requirements. In addition twenty-four hours of annual continuing education was obtained as a part of the director's professional development provided by a qualified entity and includes business administration.
 - Standard met: The director obtained thirty hours of training in the first year and annually obtains twelve clock hours of professional development, provided by a qualified entity, in the stated areas.

- Standard substantially met: The director has not met the required thirty hours in the first year however, does meet the twelve clock hours of professional development and has an action plan in place with a target date for completion to obtain the remaining hours for the current year and the following years.
- Standard not met: The director had not obtained the thirty hours of training in the first year and does not annually obtain twelve clock hours of professional development. No action plan is in place with target dates for completion to obtain the remaining hours for the current year and the following years.

2.2.5: Hiring Staff: The director/administrator is responsible for hiring staff who support the philosophy and mission of the program in accord with applicable governance procedures and are a minimum of 18 years old.

Self-study document # Include the documentation showing that staff sign to indicate their support of the program’s philosophy and mission.

- Rating
- Standard met: Staff sign to indicate their support of the program’s philosophy and mission.
 - Standard not met: The self-study does not include documentation that staff sign to indicate their support of the program’s philosophy and mission.

2.2.6: Evaluation of New Employees: The director ensures a formal evaluation of new employees takes place no more than six months into the orientation period and at pre-determined periods thereafter.

Self-study document # Include the formal evaluation document used with new staff during training period. Explain when the evaluation takes place.

- Rating
- Standard met: A formal evaluation of new employees takes place no more than six months into the orientation period.
 - Standard not met: A formal evaluation of new employees does not take place within six months after the orientation period begins.
 - Standard not met: Staff members’ files are unavailable.

2.2.7: Evaluation of all Employees: The director ensures for each staff member an annual written evaluation is conducted that contributes to the staff member's professional development and is kept in the staff member's file.

Self-study document # Include a copy of the annual evaluation forms used for staff members. Explain both how the evaluation process contributes to professional development of staff and whether the evaluations are kept in staff members' files.

- Rating Standard met: Annual written staff evaluations are performed that contribute to staff professional development and are kept in staff members' files.
- Standard substantially met: The annual staff evaluations are performed, but documentation is not on file.
- Standard not met: The evaluations are not performed, and the documentation is not on file.

2.2.8: Follow-up Evaluation of Staff: The director discusses the formal written evaluations with each staff person confidentially and recognizes strengths as well as those areas needing improvement. The areas needing improvement receive follow-up.

Self-study document # Explain when and how a formal evaluation meeting takes place and how the discussion of strengths as well as those areas needing improvement are documented and addressed after the evaluation.

- Rating Standard met: A written explanation of the formal evaluation process as described above is included in the self-study, and documentation that verifies its implementation is available.
- Standard substantially met: A written explanation of the formal evaluation process as described above is included in the self-study, but documentation that verifies its implementation is not available.
- Standard not met: There is insufficient evidence that formal evaluation meetings take place.

2.2.9: Staff Substitutes: The director has a current list of qualified/trained substitutes who may be called upon to maintain the integrity of the program.

Self-study document # Describe how the director seeks qualified substitutes who may be called upon to maintain the integrity of the program.

- Rating
- Standard met: A current and sufficient list of qualified substitutes is included in the self-study, and evidence is clear that the integrity of the program is maintained during teacher absences.
 - Standard substantially met: A plan to obtain substitutes is in place, but it does not include qualified substitutes.
 - Standard not met: A plan to obtain substitutes is not in place, and a list of qualified substitutes is not available.

2.2.10: Acting Director: The director designates a qualified person to assume leadership and responsibility of the early education program in the event of his/her absence.

Self-study document # Explain who assumes the responsibilities of the director in the director's absence, and include this person's qualifications.

- Rating
- Standard met: A qualified person is the designated leader in the absence of the director.
 - Standard not met: There is no specific person designated to assume the responsibilities of the director when the director is absent.

2.2.11: Developing Relationships: Staff treat colleagues, children and their families with equal *respect and consideration regardless of race, religions, family backgrounds, or cultures.*

- Standard met: The staff handbook and evaluation includes evidence that respectful relationships exists.
- Standard not met: The staff handbook provides no evidence that respectful relationships are a condition of successful employment.

A. Respectful relationships with children are developed *by smiling, touching, holding, and speaking to children at their eye level throughout the day, during routines such as arrival and departure and mealtimes as well as during teacher planned and child-initiated experiences.*

- Standard met: The staff handbook and evaluation includes evidence that respectful relationships with children are expected.

- Standard not met: The staff handbook provides no evidence that respectful relationships with children are a condition of successful employment.

B. Respectful relationships between colleagues encouraged and *reflect mutual trust, respect, and support for each other. Staff members seek out and acknowledge each others' ideas and opinions. Staff give positive recognition to each others' skills and accomplishments and provide appropriate support for each other in dealing with stress maintain confidences at all time.*

- Standard met: The staff handbook and evaluation includes evidence that respectful relationships with colleagues are expected as described.
- Standard not met: The staff handbook provides no evidence that respectful relationships with colleagues are a condition of successful employment.

2.2.12: Staff Meetings: The director builds strong relationships and communication between the staff and administration, and encourages team collaboration and spirit among the staff. *Regular staff meetings are held for staff to consult on program planning, to plan for implementing and attaining goals, to plan for individual children and family involvement, and to discuss program and working conditions.*

Self-study document # Explain how relationships and communication are encouraged throughout the staff. Provide a schedule of staff meetings for the past twelve months.

- Rating
- Standard met: Staff meetings take place a minimum of once a month, and they include relationship building and communication opportunities.
 - Standard not met: Staff meetings are not provided a minimum of once per month, and/or the staff meetings do not include relationship building and communication opportunities.

2.2.13: Program Evaluation with Staff: The director meets with the staff annually to evaluate the early education program and to discuss areas of strengths as well as areas needing improvement. The areas needing improvement are addressed after the meetings through a specific Program Improvement Plan.

Self-study document # Explain how an annual evaluation is provided and how input from staff regarding areas of strengths as well as areas needing improvement are addressed.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Rating | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard met: An annual evaluation is provided, and there is evidence that appropriate staff input is incorporated into the program. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard substantially met: Staff meet annually to discuss areas of improvement, but there is little evidence that change takes place as a result. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard not met: Annual program evaluations do not take place. |
| Rating | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard met: All informational sources established by the early education program, including its enrollment policy, mission, and statement of nondiscrimination. |

2.2.14: Personnel Files: The director maintains a confidential personnel file on each employee. The file should contain but not be limited to the following and/or contain information that civil authorities require:

- resume
- application
- copies of college or university transcripts
- copy of high school/GED diplomas (required)
- background screening and results
- fingerprints/clearance
- annual staff evaluations
- documentation of any grievances
- evidence of in-service training
- copy of contract/work agreement
- I-9 form
- health screening data (if required)

On-site observation The visiting team chair or his/her designee will review staff members' files for compliance in documenting the above items.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Rating | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard met: Staff members' files are complete. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard substantially met: Staff members' files are available but incomplete. |

2.2.15: Volunteers: Volunteers undergo orientation, background screening, fingerprinting, and training. They work under the supervision of qualified staff.

Self-study document # Submit an outline of volunteer files, orientation, and training for compliance.

- Rating
- Standard met: Orientation and training is provided to volunteers, their background screening and fingerprinting have resulted in clearance, and they are supervised by qualified staff.
 - Standard not met: One or more of the following are true: Orientation and training is not provided to volunteers, their background screening and fingerprinting have not resulted in clearance, and they are not supervised by qualified staff.
 - Standard not applicable: Volunteers are not used in the program.

2.3: INSTRUCTIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

2.3.1: Qualifications: Qualifications of all instructional and support staff meet or exceed the requirements of civil authorities.

Self-study document # Include a completed copy of the Personnel Qualification Form found in the appendix.

- Rating
- Standard met: A Personnel Qualification Form demonstrates that the qualifications of all staff meet or exceed the requirements of civil authorities.
 - Standard not met: A Personnel Qualification Form demonstrating that the qualifications of all staff meet or exceed the requirements of civil authorities is not included in the self-study.

2.3.2: Job Descriptions and Other Staff Policies: Clear and up-to-date written personnel policies have been developed by the program. These policies include but are not limited to job descriptions; wages and benefits; and resignation, termination, and grievance procedures.

Self-study document # Include a copy of the program's personnel policies.

- Rating
- Standard met: Clear and up-to-date written personnel policies including but not limited to job descriptions for each position; information pertaining to wages and benefits; and the resignation, termination, and grievance procedures are included in the self-study.
 - Standard not met: Clear and up-to-date written personnel policies including but not limited to job descriptions for each position; information pertaining to wages and benefits; and the resignation, termination,

- Have a degree (associate's or higher) outside of the early childhood field with three or more years of work experience in a non-accredited program and at least 30 contact hours of relevant training during that past three years
- Standard substantially met: A completed Personnel Qualifications Form demonstrates that all teachers have obtained a minimum of a state/nationally recognized competency credential, or a combination of college course work and at least one year of experience under qualified supervision and thus have obtained a competency credential.
 - Standard not met: A completed Personnel Qualifications Form demonstrates that not all teachers are credentialed.

2.4.2: Assistant Teachers:

Self-study document # Personnel Qualification Form for Assistant Teachers

Rating

- Exceptional compliance: A completed Personnel Qualifications Form demonstrates that assistant teachers have obtained a minimum of an associate's degree in early childhood education/child development or its equivalent from an accredited institution or have obtained a minimum of any associate's degree from an accredited institution with twelve credit hours in early childhood education/child development.
- Standard met: A completed Personnel Qualifications Form demonstrates that assistant teachers have obtained a minimum of a state/nationally recognized competency credential, two years of experience working in an early education program and a minimum of twelve clock hours of early childhood education/child development training.
- Standard substantially met: A completed Personnel Qualifications Form demonstrates that assistant teachers have obtained a minimum of a high school diploma and twelve clock hours of early childhood education/child development training or have at least two years of work experience in an early education program.

- Standard not met: A completed Personnel Qualifications Form demonstrates that not all assistant teachers have at least two years of documented work experience with young children or at least twelve hours of early childhood education/child development training.

2.4.3: Early Childhood Specialist: If an early childhood specialist is employed, the qualifications of the specialist are a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education/child development and at least three years of full-time teaching experience with young children and/or a graduate degree in early childhood education/child development.

Self-study document # Evidenced Based.

2.5: SUPPORT STAFF

2.5.1: Training and Experience: Support staff—such as secretaries, kitchen staff, substitutes, and aides—have training and/or experience to carry out their role in an early education program.

Self-study document #

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Rating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exemplary compliance: A completed Personnel Qualifications Form demonstrates that the support staff have obtained a credential and/or specialized training in their field. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard met: A completed Personnel Qualifications Form demonstrates that the support staff have obtained specialized training in their field and/or a minimum of two years of experience in their field. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard not met: A completed Personnel Qualifications Form demonstrates that not all support staff have specialized training in their field. |
|--------|---|

2.5.2: Continuing Education and Development Programs: The teaching staff obtains a minimum of thirty clock hours during the first year of employment especially as it relates to State requirements. In addition, a minimum of twenty four documented clock hours of continuing education or professional development of which twelve hours are provided by an outside source relating to: child growth and development in the areas of cognitive learning and social, emotional, and physical development; safety and health issues for young children; family and community relations; classroom and program management; and professional development which may include special needs. Training may also include related language development, discipline, and technology. Whenever possible, continuing education should be

validated by college credit and provided as a benefit of employment, part of tuition reimbursement program or financial assistance.

Self-study document # Submit evidence of continuing education opportunities for staff, including the above areas.

- Rating
- Exceptional compliance: All staff obtains thirty hours within the first year of employment and exceeds fifteen clock hours of continuing education provided by a source outside their early education program.
 - Standard met: All staff responsible for the care and education of the children in the program obtains thirty hours of training in the first year including the State required training and annually participates in a minimum of twenty-four clock hours of continuing education of which 12 clock-hours are provided by a source outside their early education program.
 - Standard substantially met: All staff meet State required training in the first year and 80 percent of the staff annually participates in a minimum of twelve clock-hours of continuing education provided by a source outside their early education program.
 - Standard not met: Not all staff meet State training requirements and less than 80 percent of the staff annually participates in a minimum of twelve clock hours of continuing education provided by a source outside their early education program.

2.6: CHILD-STAFF RATIOS

2.6.1: Primary Teacher/Caregiver: In order to help ensure the care, bonding, and nurturing of the individual child, each group of children has one primary teacher/caregiver.

Self-study document # Provide a list naming the primary teacher/caregiver assigned to each group of children.

- Rating
- Standard met: A list demonstrates that each group of children in the program has one primary teacher/caregiver.
 - Standard not met: A list demonstrates that each group of children does not have one primary teacher/caregiver.

2.6.2: Ratios

Section 2.6.2 Staff child ratios for each age group are as follows:

Age	Maximum Child: Staff Ratio	Maximum Group Size
Birth – 12 mos.	4:1	8
13 - 24 mos.	4:1	8
25 - 35 mos.	5:1	10
3-year-olds	9:1	18
4-year-olds	10:1	20
5-year-olds	12:1	24

When mixed age groups of infants and toddlers are in the same room, the child staff ratio is maintained according to the youngest child in the room. If the children in the mixed age group are older than toddlers, the child-staff ratio is maintained according to the average age of the children.

- Rating
- Standard met: The program has established and maintains the child-adult ratios and group sizes as described in the above chart.
 - Substantial compliance: The program has established and maintains the ratios and group sizes that are in compliance with requirements of civil authorities.
 - Standard not met: Ratios and group sizes are not in compliance with requirements of civil authorities.

2.6.3: Supervision of Children: The staff maintains a continuous, accurate account of the children in their care.

Self-study document # Describe methods used by staff to ensure children are accounted for at all times, such as during field trips and time on the playground or during transitions outside the classroom, which include trips to the restroom.

- Rating
- Standard met: A process is in place and is implemented to ensure children are accounted for at all times.
 - Standard not met: A process is not in place or is not implemented to ensure children are accounted for at all times.

2.6.4: Internal Communication Related to Supervision: Staff who are sharing the primary responsibility of a group of children communicate with one another to ensure smooth operation of the program.

survey will be provided to the early childhood program administration and staff with a summary included in the final evaluation report.

- Standard not met: The program did send out the survey or there were less than 25% response from the personnel.

TEACHER/CAREGIVER/STAFF ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Instructions: Your opinion about our early care and education program is important. Please complete this survey. Do **NOT** sign your name. Return it to the center sealed in the envelope provided. For questions 1-12, circle the number that corresponds with your level of agreement with the statements. (Number 1 indicates no agreement with the statement, and 5 indicates strong agreement.) You may add a brief comment about any statement. Upon completion of the ranked response items, answer the open-ended questions 13-17.

How many years/months have you worked at this early childhood education and care program?

Circle one: 1 to 12 months 1 to 3 years 3 to 6 years more than 6 years

Agreement

Low - - - - - High

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 1. The program administration keeps me informed of working policies, schedules, and procedures and any changes thereof in a timely manner. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 2. Staffing at this early care and education program is good and fair; there are no discriminatory problems. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 3. I feel accepted and respected by my coworkers. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 4. Staff are usually involved in the development and implementation of new programs. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 5. The governance, administration and program offered where I work is high quality. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 6. The administration assists me in developing professionally. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 7. Positive teamwork and collaboration among staff members is high. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 8. Reports from program governance and civil authorities containing information that affects my work/ |

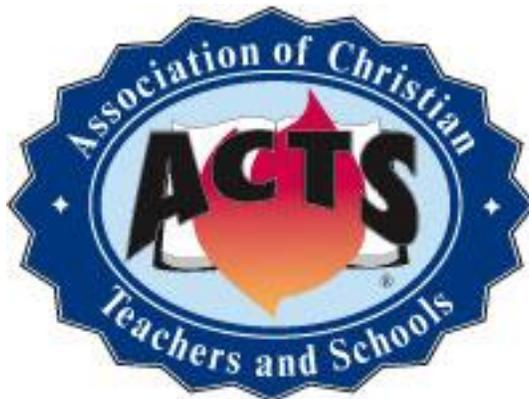
responsibilities are shared with me by my administration in a timely manner.

- 1 2 3 4 5 9. The administration models maintaining a healthy, safe and orderly environment.
- 1 2 3 4 5 10. The everyday working relationship among the personnel in my specific area (e.g. food service, classroom, front office) is amiable and professional.
- 1 2 3 4 5 11. The due process provided by the administration for seeking solutions is adequate.
- 1 2 3 4 5 12. I feel that my suggestions to the administration regarding curriculum, classroom management, programming, building parent and community relations are appreciated and taken into consideration.
13. Why did you choose to work at this early childhood program, and what do you like most about your work?
14. What do you consider to be the strengths of this early childhood program?
15. What areas of the early childhood program could be improved?
16. What suggestions would you offer the administration for improvement?
17. Additional comments:

SECTION III

CURRICULUM

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS
911 S. PARSONS AVE., SUITE G
BRANDON, FL 33511
<http://www.actsschools.org>

Section III

3.0: CURRICULUM

RATIONALE

Research on cognition and learning, child development, and the social and cultural context of learning has shown that young children are competent learners even at a young age. It is important to note, however, that the “pace of learning will depend on whether and to what extent the child’s inclinations to learn encounter and engage supporting environments” (Bowman, et al. 2001).

Federal-State partnerships in the delivery of quality early education programs are now being formed that impact all pre-kindergarten program. These educational reform initiatives have specifically targeted the need to align expectations of the early education program prior to children entering kindergarten and what is expected of them once they enter the elementary school years.

Initiatives are also being developed to evaluate the success of the early education program by how well the children are prepared to succeed once in the elementary school system.

Finally, initiatives to develop informational pieces to educate teachers, parents, childcare providers, and others are in place to provide ways to prepare children to be ready for school.

Voluntary guidelines are being developed to support early education programs in preparing young children in the areas of literacy, language, pre-reading skills, pre-mathematics, science, and early social studies.

The following standards were based on a review of State and Federal pre-kindergarten curricular guidelines.

STANDARDS

3.1: GENERAL PRACTICE OVERVIEW

3.1.1: Curriculum Guide: The curriculum used by an early education program consists of proven successful resources with a consistent scope and sequence for each age group. Written goals and objectives drawn from researched- based developmental benchmarks and scientifically based research is included and reviewed on an annual basis.

Self-study document # Include an overview of the program’s scope and sequence with supporting research citations for each age group. Discuss the familiarity of instructional staff with the written goals and objectives.

Rating Exemplary compliance: Teachers from each age group of children are familiar the research and development of

the scope and sequence. All staff are trained in the implementation of the guide.

- Standard met: The self-study contains a complete scope and sequence guide with credible research citations.
- Standard substantially met: A scope and sequence is provided. However, each age group is not addressed, or research citations have not been included.
- Standard not met: A scope and sequence as described in the standard has not been developed or is not available for review.

3.1.2: Lessons Plans: Instructional staff develop lesson plans for each class/age group that reflects the goals and objectives of the curriculum. Plans are developed through *consultation and shared ideas with other colleagues who communicate frequently to ensure smooth operations.*

Self-study document # Include a sample copy of lesson plans for each classroom/age group.

- Rating
- Exemplary compliance: All lesson plans reflect thorough knowledge of and application of the scope and sequence and of child development principles.
 - Standard met: Written lesson plans are in alignment with the goals and objectives of the scope and sequence for all age groups represented in the early education program.
 - Standard substantially met: Goals and objectives have been identified in the scope and sequence for each age group, but these goals and objectives are not incorporated into the lesson plans of all groups represented in the early education program.
 - Standard not met: Lesson plans for each classroom have not been included and/or a scope and sequence for each age group represented in the early education program.

3.2: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

3.2.1: Balanced Program--Indoor and Outdoor Play: The curriculum is designed to meet the physical needs of each child. The curriculum includes a balance of indoor and outdoor play opportunities to enable the children to develop gross-motor skills.

Self-study document # Include in the self-study a copy of the classroom schedule listing indoor and outdoor activities.

- Rating
- Standard met: The curriculum includes consistent daily practice of both indoor and outdoor activities.
 - Standard not met: The curriculum does not include consistent daily practice of both indoor and outdoor activities.

3.2.2: Motor Skills: The curriculum results in lesson plans that provide opportunities for children to develop fine- and gross-motor skills.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating for infants/toddlers

- Standard met: Fine- and gross-motor activities are provided which may include such activities as sitting, kicking, rolling, swinging, walking, climbing, jumping, sliding, reaching, grasping, dropping, retrieving, carrying, and stacking.
- Standard substantially met: Fine- and gross-motor skills activities are not provided, but toys encouraging the use of fine- and gross-motor skills are available and thus result in opportunities for development to happen spontaneously during the day.
- Standard not met: Opportunities for developing fine- and gross-motor skills are not provided and toys encouraging the use of fine- and gross-motor skills are limited. The classroom and/or staff do not encourage the children to participate in such activities.

Rating for preschoolers

- Standard met: Fine- and gross-motor activities are provided in the preschool classroom which may include such activities as jumping, running, climbing, swinging, sliding, balancing, riding, stacking, squeezing, lacing, tracing, sorting, pounding, connecting, and snapping.
- Standard substantially met: Opportunities for developing fine- and gross-motor skills are not provided, but toys, tools, and other materials encouraging the use of fine- and gross-motor skills are available and thus result in opportunities for development to happen spontaneously during the day.

- ❑ Standard not met: Opportunities for developing fine- and gross-motor skills are not provided, and toys, tools, and classroom materials encouraging such activities are limited. The classroom and/or staff do not encourage the children to participate in such activities.

3.3: SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL, AND EMOTION

The curriculum and environment provide opportunities to foster the spiritual/social/emotional development of children through respectful interactions with children by *frequently, making eye contact and using clear, correct language patterns, and affectionate, supportive words*. Staff-child interactions are an integral part of the social development of children's emotional development which is exemplified by *a supportive and comfortable environment where they can be relaxed, happy, and involved in play and other activities. Christian values and principles are prevalent across disciplines and are interwoven throughout each day's activities in an age-appropriate manner*.

Rating for infants/toddlers

- ❑ Standard met: The curriculum provides opportunities to foster the social/emotional development of children through activities in which the staff interact respectfully with infants/toddlers. Examples may include: listening and responding to needs, making eye contact, using each child's name in a positive manner, holding and singing to children, and encouraging children in such self-help skills as self-feeding, pulling up, walking, crawling, climbing, and sitting. *Staff frequently makes eye contact and use clear, correct language patterns, and affectionate, supportive words ensure a supportive and comfortable environment where children are relaxed, happy, and involved in play and other activities.*
- ❑ Standard not met: The curriculum lacks specific and intentional opportunities for the staff to foster the social/emotional development of children through activities in which the staff interact with infants/toddlers by listening and responding to needs, making eye contact, using each child's name in a positive manner, holding and singing to children, and encouraging children in such self-help skills as self-feeding, pulling up, walking, crawling, climbing, and sitting.

Rating for preschoolers

- ❑ Standard met: The curriculum provides opportunities to foster the social/emotional development of children including but not being limited to instruction and consistent daily practice of activities addressing the following: sharing, cooperating, helping, taking turns, problem solving, learning to transition from home to school, developing self-discipline, gaining confidence in performing age-appropriate tasks, and relating appropriately to adults and peers. *Staff frequently make eye contact and use clear, correct language patterns, and affectionate, supportive words ensure a supportive and comfortable environment where children are relaxed, happy, and involved in play and other activities.*
- ❑ Standard not met: The curriculum does not provide sufficient opportunities to foster the social/emotional development of children, in that (1) child-staff interaction is not an integral part of the social development of the child and (2) expectations of the children are not age appropriate and/or instructional techniques prohibit appropriate problem solving.

3.4: TEACHING STRATEGIES

3.4.1: Balanced Activities: The curricular practices provide for a balance of active and quiet activities including large-group (teacher-directed), small-group (teacher/child-interactive), and individual-choice (child-initiated) activities throughout the day. Bible stories are presented as truth and are taught in ways appropriate to the children's developmental levels.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating ❑ Standard met: Classroom observation reflects appropriate balance of active and quiet activities as described in the standard.

- ❑ Standard not met: The classroom observation does not reflect a balance of active and quiet activities as described in the standard.

3.4.2: Length of Group Times: The length of group times is appropriate for the age and development of the children in the class. In mixed-age groupings, accommodations and flexibility meet the needs of each age group included in the class.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating Standard met: The length of group times is appropriate for the age and development of the children in the class. In mixed-age groupings, accommodations and flexibility meet the needs of each age group included in the class.

 Standard not met: The length of group times is not appropriate for the age and development of the children in the class, and/or in mixed-age groupings, accommodations and flexibility do not meet the needs of each age group included in the class.

3.4.3: Use of Transition Activities: Staff uses transition activities to move the children from one activity to another throughout the day. Transitional tools may include songs, poems, or other signs that children recognize as signaling a change of activity.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating Standard met: Staff is observed using transition activities as suggested in the standard to move children from one activity to another throughout the day.

 Standard not met: Transition activities as suggested in the standard are lacking, causing children to have difficulty moving from one activity to another.

3.4.4: Materials and Equipment: Ample developmentally appropriate materials and equipment are provided to support the learning objectives of the program’s scope and sequence. Materials and equipment may include but are not limited to manipulatives, puzzles, building materials, musical instruments, creative art materials, sand and water tables, dolls, and other props that support the educational objectives. Worship songs, prayer, and Scripture verses are integrated into daily routines and activities.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating Standard met: Ample developmentally appropriate materials and equipment as suggested in the standard are provided to support the learning objectives of the program’s scope and sequence.

- Standard substantially met: The classrooms contain ample materials and equipment. However, children have limited access to those resources.
- Standard not met: Materials and equipment as well as child access to them are limited.

3.4.5: Small Group and Large Group Instruction: Ample opportunities for children to interact independently, in small groups and in large groups, are provided in order to help meet social/spiritual/emotional needs of children. Throughout words and actions, staff members serve as Christian role models.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: Ample opportunities for children to interact independently, in small groups and in large groups, are provided in order to help meet social/emotional needs of children.
 - Standard not met: Ample opportunities for children to interact independently, in small groups and in large groups, are not provided in order to help meet social/emotional needs of children.

3.4.6: Involving the Children: Instructional staff initiates interaction with children who are not engaged in order to stimulate and expand the involvement of these children in the classroom offerings.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: Instructional staff initiate interaction with children who are not engaged in order to stimulate and expand the involvement of these children in the classroom offerings.
 - Standard not met: Instructional staff do not initiate interaction with children who are not engaged in order to stimulate and expand the involvement of these children in classroom offerings.

3.4.7: Healthy Nutrition in Curriculum: Curricular plans include ensuring children learn about healthy nutrition through experience and instruction, as appropriate to the program.

On-site observation On-site observation of curricular plans verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: Children gain nutrition awareness through experience and instruction, as appropriate to the program.
 - Standard not met: Nutrition awareness is absent from or insufficient in the curricular plans.

3.4.8: Good Health Practices: Children are made aware of good health practices. Methods may include the use of related daily routines by teachers, teacher example, visits to health facilities or from health care professionals, and other curricular presentations appropriate to the program's curriculum.

Self-study document # Describe the methods used to make children aware of good health practices.

- Rating
- Standard met: Children are exposed to good health practices through activities as suggested in the standard.
 - Standard not met: Health practices are not addressed. Consequently, exposure to good practices is insufficient.

3.4.9: Disciplinary Policies and Practices: The program's discipline policy is clearly articulated in a written document. The policy employs interactive procedures such as redirection, reflective listening, adult role modeling, and positive reinforcement. Corporal punishment or demeaning practices are not used. Biblical principles are implemented for conflict resolution, guidance, and discipline.

Self-study document # Include a description of the written discipline policy and techniques, indicating that the above procedures are employed, and the policy clearly states that corporal punishment and demeaning practices are not utilized.

- Rating
- Standard met: The discipline policy is clearly articulated in a written document. The policy employs interactive procedures such as redirection, reflective listening, adult role modeling, and positive reinforcement. Corporal punishment and demeaning practices are not utilized.
 - Standard not met: One or more of the following are true: A clear written discipline policy is not articulated, corporal punishment and/or demeaning practices are utilized.

3.4.10: Forming Habits and Routines: Staff prepares the environment and plans the flow of the day in such a way that encourages children to become independent and to

accept personal responsibility with initiative. For example, routines are clearly established so that children know when to clean and organize the room, when to put on clothing for outside activities, and/or when to transition to different activities.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating Standard met: Staff prepare the environment and plan the flow of the day in such a way that encourages children to become independent and to accept personal responsibility with initiative in such ways as those suggested in the standard.
- Standard not met: Staff do not prepare the environment and plan the flow of the day in such a way that encourages children to become independent and to accept personal responsibility with initiative in such ways as those suggested in the standard.

3.4.11: Hand Washing and Cleanliness: Hand-washing techniques are appropriately taught as part of the curriculum. Specifically, hand-washing always precedes eating, and children regularly wash hands after bathroom use and outside activities.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating Standard met: Hand-washing techniques are appropriately taught as part of the curriculum. Specifically, hand-washing always precedes eating, and children regularly wash hands after bathroom use and outside activities.
- Standard substantially met: Hand-washing is encouraged but not monitored to ensure every child has participated.
- Standard not met: Hand-washing is not routinely followed and monitored.

3.4.12: Proper use of Media & Technology: Media (especially videos) are used on a limited basis, and are used particularly for the reinforcement of a teaching topic.

On-site observation On-site classroom observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating Standard met: Media (especially videos) are used on a limited basis and particularly for the reinforcement of a teaching topic.

- Standard not met: Media are used for entertainment and/or on a regular basis to occupy children during unstructured portions of the day.

3.4.13: Special Needs Children: The early care and education program is designed to be an inclusive environment and include children with identified disabilities, special learning and developmental needs. *Teachers of special needs children have developed individual program plans and access to a referral system. Children are professionally evaluated and their progress is reviewed through a team approach which includes parents, teachers, and specialist.*

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Rating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional compliance: Children with a variety of special needs are successfully included in the program. Teachers of special needs children have developed individual program plans and access to a referral system. Children are professionally evaluated and their progress is reviewed through a team approach which includes parents, teachers, and specialist. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard met: Children with special needs are included in the program. Teachers of special needs children have developed individual program plans and access to a referral system. Children are professionally evaluated and their progress is reviewed through a team approach which includes parents, teachers, and specialist. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard not met: The program is not designed to accommodate special needs children. <input type="checkbox"/> Policies regarding the enrollment and termination of children’s enrollment protect children’s rights as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. |
|--------|--|

3.4.14: Enrollment and Termination of Special Needs Children: Policies regarding the enrollment and termination of children protect children’s rights as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Standard met: The center has a written policy addressing the enrollment of children with special needs which is based on the Americans with Disabilities Act regarding young children.
- Standard not met: The program has no policy in place.

3.5: LANGUAGE & LITERACY—CORE KNOWLEDGE

The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the whole child including social, emotional, physical, intellectual, spiritual, and the development of character incorporating Christian principles into each subject area where possible. This includes but is not limited to the multiple intelligences, learning styles, and learning preferences of each child.

RATIONALE

Children begin developing language and literacy at birth. As young children express their feelings, ask questions, and share imaginative stories, they are communicating what they know about their world. Between the ages of three and five children are becoming more aware of print in their environment, however, oral language continues to be their primary means of communicating (Preschool Planning Guide 1998).

STANDARDS

3.5.1: Appropriate Language Experience: Receptive and expressive language experiences appropriate to the development of children are provided throughout the day. Children in the preschool classes are provided with increased exposure to print and active experiences that support the development of listening and speaking concepts and skills.

On-site observation

On-site observation of the classroom confirms the of receptive and expressive language experience for children.

Rating for infants/toddlers

- Standard met: Receptive and expressive language experiences are provided throughout the day through interactive language and eye contact by children with pictures, books, and objects through positive play experiences.
- Standard not met: Receptive and expressive language experiences are not provided throughout the day through interactive language and eye contact by children with pictures, books, and objects through positive play experiences.

Rating for preschoolers

- Standard met: Opportunities for using receptive and expressive language are provided throughout the day in a variety of ways, which may include writing, scribbling, copying, drawing, using puppets, singing, repeating fingerplays, answering open-ended questions, playing, participating in show-and-tell, and writing stories.

- ❑ Standard not met: Opportunities for using receptive and expressive language are limited to responding to teacher-directed activities. Children are provided with few opportunities to experience writing, scribbling, copying, drawing, using puppets, singing, repeating fingerplays, answering open-ended questions, playing, participating in show-and-tell, and writing stories.

3.5.2: Print-Rich Environment: Teachers provide daily interactions with labels, signs, and/or other forms of print, and read aloud to the children. They provide exposure to the sounds and names of the letters of the alphabet.

On-site observation On-site observation of the classroom confirms the use of a print rich environment for children

- Rating
- ❑ Standard met: The preschool classroom is a print-rich environment that may include books, pictures, labeled materials and equipment, and opportunities for name recognition.
 - ❑ Standard not met: The preschool classroom is lacking a print-rich environment. There are limited opportunities for children to experience, books, pictures, labeled materials and equipment, and few opportunities for name recognition.

3.5.3: Vocabulary and Comprehensive Development: The instructional staff consciously works to help children develop vocabulary and comprehension. They verbally interact with the children to guide them in the acquisition of new and expanded vocabulary, in anticipating outcomes, and in comprehension of what they have heard. This may include (1) “What if?” type questions to help children anticipate outcomes, (2) recall of a story, and (3) other verbal interactions that help the children understand sequence (building memory), interaction between characters, etc.

On-site observation On-site observation of lesson plans confirm that the instructional staff intentionally plans for building vocabulary and comprehensive skills for the use of analytical questions with the children.

- Rating
- ❑ Standard met: The instructional staff use the above-listed approaches to help children develop vocabulary and comprehension.
 - ❑ Standard not met: The instructional staff do not use the above-listed approaches to help children develop vocabulary and comprehension.

building, and comparing. “As they proceed through the daily routine, children experience a variety of ‘math moments.’” (Preschool Planning Guide 1998).

STANDARDS

3.6.1: Mathematical Activities: The instructional staff plan activities that expose children daily to math activities such as sorting and classifying concrete objects; recognizing and identify likenesses and differences; recognizing first, middle, and last; using opposite concepts such as long and short, in and out, up and down, over and under, and top and bottom; and using concepts of quantity, such as more than and less than.

On-site observation On-site observation of lesson plans verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating Standard met: The instructional staff plan activities that expose children daily to math activities as described in the standard.

Standard not met: The instructional staff do not plan activities that expose children daily to math activities as described in the standard.

3.6.2: Mathematical Concepts: The instructional staff plan ample opportunities for children to be exposed to basic math concepts such as numbers and numeration through counting; placing objects in one-to-one correspondence; grouping objects by color, shape, or other characteristics; patterning; and recognizing numbers in their environment.

On-site observation On-site observation of lesson plans verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating Standard met: The instructional staff plan ample opportunities for children to be exposed to early math concepts such as numbers and numeration through the methods described in standard.

Standard not met: The instructional staff does not plan ample opportunities for children to be exposed to early math concepts such as numbers and numeration through the methods described in standard.

3.7: SCIENCE—CORE KNOWLEDGE

RATIONALE

Preschool children learn about the natural world, including the physical properties of things around them, as they interact with objects, people, and other living things. Children whose

early lives are rich in sensory experiences and accompanying verbal labels tend to have greater facility for building up the more complex labels and patterns required for thought and problem solving in later life

STANDARDS

3.7.1: Sensory-Rich Environment: The preschool classroom is a sensory-rich environment, and it includes numerous objects and organisms with which the students can interact. Opportunities are provided throughout the day for children to use their senses for observing and learning about objects, events, and organisms. Instructional staff help children to perform simple investigations and to describe their observations.

On-site observation

On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating for preschoolers

- Standard met: The preschool classroom is a sensory-rich environment, and it includes numerous objects and organisms with which the students can interact. Opportunities are provided throughout the day for children to use their senses for observing and learning about objects, events, and organisms. Instructional staff help children to perform simple investigations and to describe their observations.

- Standard not met: One or more of the following are true: The preschool classroom is not a sensory-rich environment; it does not include numerous objects and organisms with which the students can interact; opportunities are not provided throughout the day for children to use their senses for observing and learning about objects, events, and organisms; and instructional staff do not help children to perform simple investigations and to describe their observations.

3.8: SOCIAL STUDIES—CORE KNOWLEDGE

RATIONALE

Preschool children develop an awareness of self as a growing individual. They learn about their own needs, interests, and abilities. They begin to learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others, including their peers, their family members, and their community.

STANDARDS

3.8.1: Advancement of Social Skills: Instructional staff promotes the advancement of social skills and positive dispositions by offering numerous opportunities for children to learn about themselves and others.

On-site observation On-site observation of lesson plans verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating for preschoolers

- Standard met: Instructional staff promote the advancement of social skills and positive dispositions by offering numerous opportunities for children to learn about themselves and others.
- Standard not met: Instructional staff do not promote the advancement of social skills and positive dispositions by offering numerous opportunities for children to learn about themselves and others.

3.8.2: Promotion of Communication and Interaction: Instructional staff foster positive communication and interaction as preschoolers actively engage in a variety of such learning experiences as taking turns, playing simple small-group games, and performing daily routines.

On-site Observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating for preschoolers

- Standard met: Instructional staff foster positive communication and interaction as preschoolers actively engage in a variety of such learning experiences as those described in the standard.
- Standard not met: Instructional staff does not foster positive communication and interaction as preschoolers actively engage in a variety of such learning experiences as those described in the standard.

3.8.3: Cultural and Racial Awareness: Instructional staff provide opportunities and activities that expose children to cultural diversity.

On-site observation On-site observation of lesson plans verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating

- Standard met: Instructional staff provide opportunities and activities that expose children to cultural diversity.

- Standard not met: Instructional staff provide few or no opportunities and/or activities that expose children to cultural diversity.

3.9: FINE ARTS—CORE KNOWLEDGE

3.9.1: Musical Experiences: The curriculum daily provides age-appropriate opportunities to expose children in each age group to a variety of musical experiences—including child-initiated ones—such as singing, listening, rhythmic movements, and playing rhythm instruments.

On-site observation On-site observation of lesson plans verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: The curriculum daily provides age-appropriate opportunities to expose children in each age group to a variety of musical experiences as described in the standard.
 - Standard not met: The curriculum does not daily provide age-appropriate opportunities to expose children in each age group to a variety of musical experiences as described in the standard.

3.9.2: Creative Arts Experiences: The curriculum daily provides opportunities to expose children in each age group to a variety of age-appropriate creative arts experiences—including child-initiated ones—such as painting, gluing items together to create art, cutting for design purposes, combining mediums, molding with clay, and creating one’s own stories, plays, and other dramatic activities.

On-site observation On-site observation of lesson plans verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: The curriculum daily provides opportunities to expose children in each age group to a variety of age-appropriate creative arts experiences as described in the standard.
 - Standard not met: The curriculum does not daily provide opportunities to expose children in each age group to a variety of age-appropriate creative arts experiences.

3.10: PROGRAM AND CHILD ASSESSMENT

3.10.1: Curriculum Involvement and Training: Instructional staff is trained in the use and deliverance of the curriculum. Opportunities for instructional staff to share their suggestions and ideas regarding the curriculum are provided annually.

Self-study document # Provide a description of curriculum training and the procedure used to allow instructional staff to provide input regarding the curriculum.

- Rating
- Standard met: Instructional staff is trained in the use and presentation of the curriculum, and opportunities for instructional staff to share their input regarding the curriculum are provided annually.
 - Standard substantially met: Instructional staff is trained in the use and presentation of the curriculum. However, opportunities for the staff to share their input regarding the curriculum are not provided annually.
 - Standard not met: Instructional staff is not trained in the use and presentation of the curriculum, and opportunities for instructional staff to share their input regarding the curriculum is not provided annually.

3.10.2: Continuous Student Assessment: Ongoing assessment of children’s progress takes place and is used to plan activities for individual children and for groups of children. Children’s progress is reported with supporting documentation, and the assessment methods are consistent with the program’s philosophy and methodology.

Self-study document # Describe the assessment of children’s progress, including how often it takes place, whether it contains supporting documentation, how it affects individual and group activities, and whether the methods used are consistent with the program’s philosophy and methodology.

- Rating
- Standard met: Ongoing assessment of children’s progress takes place, is used to plan activities for individual children and groups of children, is reported with supporting documentation, and is consistent with the program’s philosophy and methodology.
 - Standard substantially met: Ongoing assessment of children’s progress takes place, but one or more of the following are true: The assessment is not used to plan activities for individual children and groups of children, it is not reported with supporting documentation, and it is not consistent with the program’s philosophy and methodology.
 - Standard not met: Ongoing assessment of children’s progress does not take place.

3.10.3: Variety of Assessment Techniques: The program recognizes that instructional improvement, as evidenced by the progress of children, requires the use of multiple tools for assessment. Such assessment should include such tools of evidence as the following:

- Samples of children’s concrete learning explorations (writing and art projects) and sketches of constructions with blocks or sand
- Photographs, audio recordings, and videos of children engaged in play while alone and while in groups in a variety of situations and of children otherwise engaged in interactions with others
- Written observations such as time and event samplings of children’s interactions, individual and group activities, and language while alone and in groups
- A checklist of developmental levels and behaviors, on which to mark children’s progress and increasing capacities across time
- Observations that address all areas of children’s development—that is, the seven intelligences, not just cognitive development
- Results of screenings and formal assessments
- Individual portfolios that contain a wide array of these records and other documentation and that aid teachers in using flexibility to adapt lesson plans
- Written assessment tools shared with parents

Self-study document # Provide evidence of assessing children by using more than one tool. Discuss how the use of multiple tools has led to instructional improvement and thus to progress of children.

Rating Standard met: Instructional staff use a variety of such assessment tools as those described in the standard, and

assessment has led to instructional improvement and thus to the progress of the children.

- Standard substantially met: Instructional staff use a variety of such assessment tools as those described in the standard, but assessment has not led to instructional improvement or to the progress of the children.
- Standard not met: Instructional staff do not assess the progress of children.

3.10.4: Training for Assessment; The director ensures instructional staff either are qualified to observe children and record these observations or have aid from personnel trained in methods of observing children and recording these observations. Results of observations are used for curriculum planning after identification of each child's stage of development, and parent/guardian conferences.

Self-study document # Provide documentation that instructional staff either are qualified to observe children and record these observations or have aid from personnel trained in methods of observing children and recording these observations. Describe how observations are used for curriculum planning, identification of each child's stage of development, and parent/guardian conferences.

- Rating
- Exemplary compliance: (1) A specific person is identified and trained to assist instructional staff in observing children and documenting these observations, (2) instructional staff are using observation effectively for teaching individual children, and (3) these observations are discussed in parent/guardian conferences.
 - Standard met: (1) Instructional staff are qualified to observe children and record these observations or have aid from personnel trained in methods of observing children and recording these observations, (2) instructional staff are using observation effectively for teaching individual children, and (3) these observations are discussed in parent/guardian conferences.
 - Standard substantially met: Instructional staff observe children and record these observations but are not qualified to do so and do not have aid from personnel trained in methods of observing children and recording these observations. However, these observations are used to teach individual children.

- Standard not met: Observation of children and the curriculum are not correlated.

3.10.5: Age Appropriate Assessment Tools: An age-appropriate, research-based assessment tool is used to identify the developmental levels and growth of children.

Self-study document # Describe the procedure of assessment, including the methods used and the determination of levels and growth of children.

- Rating
- Exemplary compliance: Several age-appropriate, research-based assessment tools are used to identify the developmental levels and growth of children.
 - Standard met: An age-appropriate, research based assessment tool is used to identify the developmental levels and growth of children.
 - Standard not met: An age-appropriate, research based assessment tool is not used to identify the developmental levels and growth of children.

3.10.6: Observations of Child Development: Observations of children by staff address all areas of children’s development, including but not limited to multiple intelligences, learning styles, and learning preferences and character development.

Self-study document # Describe the staff’s child observations that focus on all areas of children’s development, including but not limited to multiple intelligences, various learning styles, and learning preferences.

- Rating
- Standard met: Staff use child observations that focus on all areas of children’s development, including but not limited to multiple intelligences, learning styles, and learning preferences.
 - Standard substantially met: Staff use child observations that focus on at least one of the following: multiple intelligences, learning styles, and learning preferences.
 - Standard not met: Staff use child observations that do not address any of the following: multiple intelligences, learning styles, and learning preferences.

3.10.7: Teaching Toward Individual needs: Observations of children by staff address the various learning styles, multiple intelligences, and learning preferences.

Staff then use these observations to incorporate classroom activities that address the individual needs, strengths, and preferences of the children in their care.

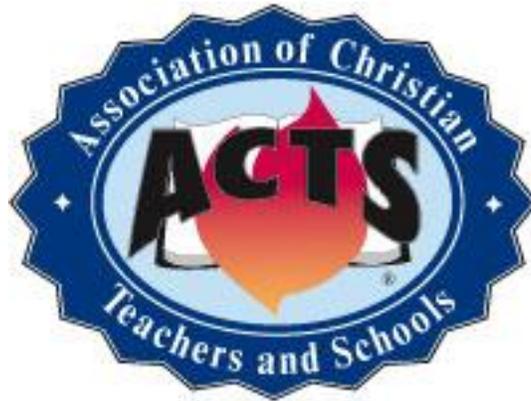
Self-study document # Provide lesson plans that include activities that (1) address the individual needs, strengths, and preferences of the children and (2) result from the application of classroom observations of multiple intelligences, learning styles, and learning preferences.

- Rating
- Standard met: Classroom activities that address the individual needs, strengths, and preferences of the children include those resulting from the application of classroom observations of multiple intelligences, learning styles, and learning preferences.
 - Standard substantially met: Classroom activities include those resulting from the application of classroom observations of at least one of the following: multiple intelligences, learning styles, and learning preferences.
 - Standard not met: Classroom activities do not include those resulting from the application of classroom observations of at least one of the following: multiple intelligences, learning styles, and learning preferences.

SECTION IV

NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICES

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS
911 S. PARSONS AVE., SUITE G
BRANDON, FL 33511
<http://www.actsschools.org>

Section IV

4.0: NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICES

RATIONALE

One of the basic responsibilities of every parent and caregiver is to provide nourishing food that is clean, safe, and developmentally appropriate for children (Caring for Our Children 2002).

Early food and eating experiences are the foundation for the formation of attitudes about food and eating behavior and consequently of food habits. Sound food habits build on eating and enjoying a variety of healthful foods. Including culturally acceptable family foods is a dietary goal for feeding infants and young children.

Current research documents that a balanced diet combined with regular and routine age-appropriate physical activity can reduce the risks of chronic diseases later in life that are related to diet (U.S. Dept of Agriculture 2000).

STANDARDS

4.1: FOOD PREPARATION

4.1.1: Response to Civil Authorities' Standards: If food is prepared on the premises, the program must be in compliance with the requirements of civil authorities for food storage, preparation, and service. Food may be prepared at an approved facility and transported to the program in approved containers and at approved temperatures.

Self-study document # Describe where, how, and by whom food is prepared and served to the children.

Rating Standard met: The program meets all requirements governing the storage, preparation, and serving of food on the premises.

Standard not met: The program does not meet all requirements governing the storage, preparation, and serving of food on the premises.

4.1.2: Nutritional Guidelines: The meals and/or snacks provided for the children meet the nutritional guidelines regarding food groups and quantities that are age appropriate for the children, as suggested by the Child Care Food Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Self-study document # Include two months of menus showing the appropriate food groups and quantities offered to each age group participating in the program.

- Rating Standard met: The program meets all requirements governing the nutritional guidelines regarding food groups and quantities offered to children in the program.
- Standard not met: The program does not meet all requirements governing the nutritional guidelines regarding food groups and quantities offered to children in the program.
- Standard not applicable: Parents/guardians provide all meals and snacks for children on an individual basis.

4.1.3: Sanitary Conditions: Kitchen equipment is monitored by civil authorities, where applicable, to ensure healthy and sanitary conditions.

Self-study document # Describe how the kitchen equipment is monitored to ensure healthy and sanitary conditions and how often this monitoring is performed. Include any food service inspection reports if applicable.

- Rating Standard met: Kitchen equipment is monitored for healthy and sanitary conditions on a regular schedule, and inspection reports are included.
- Standard not met: Kitchen equipment is not monitored for healthy and sanitary conditions.
- Standard not applicable: Kitchen facilities are not used by the program.

4.2: PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

4.2.1: Availability of Menus: Parents/guardians have access to written menus that meet all nutritional guidelines established by civil authorities. Written menus of all snacks and meals provided by the program are also posted in such a way that they are easily seen by parents/guardians. At least two food groups are included for each snack (programs are encouraged to ensure one of these items is a protein source), and four food groups are included for each meal.

Self-study document # Include two months of snack/meal menus, which are provided to parents/guardians.

- Rating Standard met: Parents/guardians are given-information

regarding children's menus that are offered by the program, including at least two food groups for each snack and four food groups for each meal.

- Standard substantially met: Snacks and/or meals include the appropriate number of food groups, but parents/guardians are not provided with a menu.
- Standard not met: Snacks and/or meals do not include the appropriate number of food groups.

4.2.2: Suggestions for Food from Home: Suggestions for food choices that meet nutritional requirements are made available to the parents/guardians who send meals and/or snacks with their own children. Parents/guardians are encouraged to include at least two food groups, including one protein source, for each snack and four food groups for each meal.

Self-study document # Include copies of suggestions given to parents/guardians who send meals and/or snacks to children.

- Rating
- Standard met: Suggestions for nutritional choices are given to parents/guardians who send meals and/or snacks to children, and the suggestions include an appropriate number of food group items.
 - Standard not met: Parents/guardians do not receive appropriate suggestions and information regarding the meals and snacks they send to the children in their care.

4.2.3: Food Storage: Food brought from home is stored appropriately.

Self-study document # Describe what foods may be brought from home, how they are stored, and whether they are refrigerated when appropriate.

- Rating
- Standard met: Food items are appropriately stored when brought from home.
 - Standard not met: Food items may be brought from home but are not monitored for refrigeration needs, and/or refrigeration is not available for perishable foods.
 - Standard not applicable: Food items are not brought from home.

4.3: SOCIAL INTERACTION

4.3.1: Standards for Mealtime: Mealtime is to be cultivated as a pleasant social time. Staff members sit with children and encourage healthy social interaction, appropriate table manners, and good eating habits.

Self-study document # Include a description of snack/mealtimes for the children while they are under the supervision of the adults in the program.

- Rating Standard met: Children engage in pleasant social interaction while eating. Staff sit with the children, role modeling appropriate table manners and good eating habits.
- Standard substantially met: Children engage in pleasant social interaction while eating. Staff encourage appropriate table manners and good eating habits but do not sit with the children.
- Standard not met: Staff do not interact with the children during snack/mealtimes.

4.3.2: Size of Furniture: Tables and chairs used for snack/mealtimes are appropriate for the sizes of the children.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating Standard met: Observations are made that children are provided size-appropriate furniture during snack/mealtimes that allows their feet to touch the floor.
- Standard not met: Tables and chairs are not appropriate for the sizes of the children using them for snack/meal times.

4.3.3: Children's Responsibilities: The children are encouraged to serve themselves and assist with cleanup, within age-appropriate levels of ability.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating Standard met: Staff are observed providing opportunities for children to set the table, serve themselves, and assist with cleanup at an age-appropriate level.

- Standard substantially met: Staff provide one or two of the following opportunities for children: setting the table, serving themselves, or assisting with cleanup at an age-appropriate level.
- Standard not met: Staff do not allow children to set the table, serve themselves, or assist with cleanup.

4.4: FOOD FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

4.4.1: Feeding Infants: Infants are held when bottle-fed and not placed with bottles into cribs at any time.

Self-study document # Provide a copy of staff procedures for feeding infants.

- Rating
- Standard met: Infants are held when bottle fed and are not placed with bottles into cribs at any time.
 - Standard not met: Staff allow infants to be placed with bottles into cribs.
 - Standard not applicable: Infants are not enrolled in the program.

4.4.2: Recording of Food Intake and Times: Feeding times and amount of food consumed are recorded and made available to parents/guardians of infants and toddlers on a daily basis.

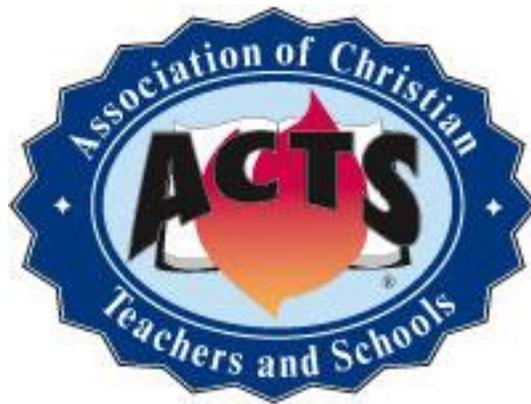
Self-study document # Include a copy of the program's form for documentation of feeding information. Discuss how parents/guardians are provided with this information.

- Rating
- Standard met: Staff record amounts of food/formula consumed by infants and toddlers and make the information available to parents/guardians daily.
 - Standard not met: Staff do not record feeding times for infants and toddlers.

SECTION V

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS
911 S. PARSONS AVE., SUITE G
BRANDON, FL 33511
<http://www.actsschools.org>

Section V

5.0: PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RATIONALE

Programs should provide equipment, materials, and space to facilitate the children's success in learning, by encouraging teachers to effectively organize the classroom and playground environments in a way that not only promotes the achievement of each child's educational goals but also increases the number of opportunities for achieving these goals during both child- and teacher-initiated activities (Bowman, et al. 2001).

STANDARDS

5.1: LIGHTING AND VENTILATION

The physical environment of the program provides sufficient lighting, good ventilation, and a comfortable temperature.

On-site observation		On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: The program provides sufficient lighting, good ventilation, and a comfortable temperature for the children.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: The program does not maintain sufficient lighting, good ventilation, or a comfortable temperature for the children; and/or maintenance is needed.

5.2: CLASSROOMS

5.2.1: Suitable for Class Size: Classrooms are suitable for the age and activities of the children in the program. Floor space meets or exceeds a minimum of thirty-five square feet of usable space per child.

Self-study document #		Provide a diagram of the early education facility and note on the diagram the square footage of all classrooms and children's play spaces.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: The program meets all local and state space requirements governing children's classrooms and indoor play spaces.

- Standard not met: The program does not meet the minimum space requirements governing children’s classrooms and/or play spaces.

5.2.2: Classroom Maintenance: Classrooms are clean and well maintained.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: The classrooms are clean and in good repair and well maintained.
 - Standard substantially met: The classrooms show signs of needing some attention. For example, the walls are in need of fresh paint, the carpets are dirty and show obvious wear and tear, the furniture is in need of repair, and/or other such conditions exist.
 - Standard not met: The classrooms show numerous signs of neglect and/or are in disrepair.

5.2.3: Classroom Arrangement of Furnishings: The physical environment of the classroom is arranged not only to stimulate learning by accommodating large and small groups of children but also to encourage exploration and experimentation. The following are examples:

Infants have a protected space for crawling and playing away from more mobile babies. Mirrors, pull-up bars, and/or other interactive items are placed on the walls at babies’ eye level.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: Infants have a protected space for crawling and playing. Interactive items are at babies’ eye level.
 - Standard substantially met: Infants have a protective place for crawling and playing, or interactive items are at babies’ eye level. However, both conditions do not exist.
 - Standard not met: Infants do not have a protective place for crawling and playing, nor are there interactive items available for babies at their eye level.
 - Standard not applicable: Infants are not enrolled in the program.

5.2.4: Age Appropriate Furniture and Equipment: The environment designed for toddlers and two-year-olds facilitates optimal age-appropriate learning experiences. Shelving and storage units provide an organized flow to the room and thereby invite children to interact with materials and equipment.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating Exemplary compliance: The environment is designed for toddlers and two-year-olds, and it facilitates numerous optimal age-appropriate learning experiences. The organization of the classroom invites the children’s focused and purposeful interaction with a wide variety of materials and equipment.
- Standard met: The environment is designed for toddlers and two-year-olds, and it facilitates optimal age-appropriate learning experiences. Shelving and storage units provide an organized flow to the room and thereby invite the children to interact with sufficient materials and equipment.
- Standard substantially met: Sufficient equipment is available, but the design of the room limits the opportunities for optimal age-appropriate learning experiences. Shelving and storage units provide an organized flow to the room and thereby invite the children to interact with materials.
- Standard not met: Inadequate equipment is available to support learning experiences. The design of the room does not allow for optimal age-appropriate learning experiences. The arrangement of the shelving and storage units does not provide an organized flow to the room and thus does not invite the children to interact with materials.

5.2.5: Children's Personal Storage Space: Children are provided with individual spaces, such as cubbies, in which they can store their work and personal belongings.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating Standard met: Children are provided with individual storage spaces.

- Standard not met: Children are not provided with individual storage spaces.

5.2.6: Appropriate Classroom Flooring: The physical environment includes not only appropriate furnishings, such as tables and chairs, that allow children’s feet to touch the floor but also appropriate room flooring and soft areas that are comforting to children.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: Children are provided with such furnishings as age-appropriate tables and chairs as well as soft areas that are comforting to children.
 - Standard not met: Either children are not provided with age-appropriate tables and chairs, or they are not provided with soft areas that are comforting to children.

5.2.7: Drinking Water: Drinking water is adequately provided to the children as regulated by civil authorities.

Self-study document # Describe the location of drinking water in relation to the children in the program.

- Rating
- Exemplary compliance: Drinking fountains are accessible to children in each classroom, and drinking water is available to the children on the playground.
 - Standard met: Drinking water is accessible to children indoors and on the playground.
 - Standard not met: Drinking water is not accessible to children indoors and/or on the playground.

5.3: RESTROOM FACILITIES

5.3.1: Accessible & Appropriate Sinks and Toilets: Sinks and toilets are readily accessible to children. The number of sinks and toilets (child-sized ones are recommended) must be in compliance with civil authorities and adequate for the number of children in attendance.

Self-study document # Describe the number and location of sinks and toilets in relation to the number of children in the program.

- Rating
- Exemplary compliance: A minimum of one sink and one flush toilet is available for ten or fewer toddlers and

preschoolers as recommended by the National Health and Safety Performance Standards.

- Standard met: Child-sized toilets are being used, restrooms are easily accessible to the children, and the facilities are in compliance with the regulations of civil authorities.
- Standard substantially met: The number of sinks and/or toilets is adequate for the number of children enrolled in the program, but adult-sized toilets are being used for toddlers and preschool-age children, are accessible to the children, and have secured platforms or steps to ensure child safety.
- Standard not met: Children’s restrooms are accessible, but the number of sinks and/or toilets is inadequate for the number of children enrolled in the program.

5.3.2: Location and Adequacy of Lavatories; Sinks are located in the area near the toilets, with soap and paper towels accessible to the children.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: Sinks are located near toilets, and soap and paper towels are accessible to the children.
 - Standard substantially met: Sinks are located near toilets. However, children are not able to access soap and paper towels without assistance.
 - Standard not met: Sinks are not located near toilets.

5.4: DIAPERING OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS

The diapering area is in good repair and is sanitized after each use, and soiled diapers are stored in a sealed container. Gloves as well as running water and soap for hand washing are accessible and utilized by the staff during diapering.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: The diapering area contains gloves, running water, and soap, which are utilized by the staff during diapering; is in good repair; and is sanitized after each use. Soiled diapers are stored in a sealed container.

- Standard not met: At least one of the following is true: The diapering area is not sanitized after each use; diapers are not stored in a sealed container; and gloves, running water, and soap for hand washing are not accessible and utilized by the staff during diapering.
- Standard not applicable: Infants and toddlers in diapers are not enrolled in the program.

5.5: STAFF SPACE

5.5.1: Director's Office: The facilities include appropriate office space for the director of the program.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

- Rating
- Standard met: The director has an office that is of sufficient size and location to effectively administrate the early education program.
 - Standard substantially met: Space is designated for the director's use. However, it is not of sufficient size or location for effective administration of the program, including meeting with parents or staff.
 - Standard not met: An office is not provided for the director or one is included inside a classroom.

5.5.2; Staff Meeting Room: The facilities include an appropriate area for staff meetings and breaks.

Self-study document # Describe the location of staff meetings and of the area designated for staff breaks, and address the sufficiency of this space.

- Rating
- Standard met: An area is provided for staff meetings, and an area for staff breaks is provided.
 - Standard not met: No area is provided for staff meetings and/or for staff breaks.

5.5.3: Storage Space: The facilities provide suitable storage space.

Self-study document # Describe the areas designated for storage and include how adequate and accessible the provided storage and shelving are.

- Rating
- Standard met: A sufficient amount of storage and shelving is available for the program's use.
 - Standard not met: There is an insufficient amount of storage and shelving available for the program's use.

5.6: OUTDOOR FACILITIES

5.6.1: Adequate Outdoor Space: To accommodate the children's various play activities, the outdoor physical environment includes seventy-five square feet per child on the playground at any given time.

Self-study document # Provide a diagram of the outdoor play area and include the square footage, the maximum number of children playing there at any given time, and the quotient resulting from dividing the square footage by the maximum number of children.

- Rating
- Standard met: The outdoor play area meets the minimum standard of that established by local and state authorities or seventy-five square feet per child playing on the playground at any given time.
 - Standard not met: The outdoor play area does not meet the minimum standard of seventy-five square feet per child playing on the playground at any given time.

5.6.2: Playground Equipment: Playground equipment is varied and sufficient for the number of children on the playground at the same time. The playground is designed and equipped to provide optimal learning experiences for children.

Self-study document # On the diagram of the outdoor play area, include what type of playground equipment is provided for children and where it is located. Describe how the playground's design and equipment allow for optimal learning experiences for children.

- Rating
- Standard met: Such items as climbing apparatus, swings, slides, riding toys, equipment for sand and water play, an outside easel, and a playhouse are provided for children's use in the outdoor play area. The playground is designed and equipped to provide optimal learning experiences for children.
 - Standard not met: The outdoor equipment is varied but not sufficient for the number of children present, or it is sufficient for the number of children but not varied in terms of type of equipment. The playground is not

5.6.6: Inspections and Repairs: Through routine inspections and resulting timely repairs, the outdoor play area is well maintained to prevent children from being injured by broken equipment, sharp edges, and rusty parts.

Self-study document # Describe the procedure used to maintain safe equipment on the playground, and note how concerns are reported, logged, and addressed.

- Rating
- Standard met: The outdoor play area and equipment are routinely inspected for maintenance needs, and procedures are in place for reporting concerns and for timely repair.
 - Standard not met: A procedure is in place for reporting concerns, but concerns are not consistently addressed to ensure the safety of the children.

5.6.7: Substitute and Adequate Space Indoors for Large Group Play: When inclement weather prevents children from playing outdoors, alternative activities are planned to ensure large-motor exercise and to foster large-motor development.

Self-study document # Describe what alternative activities are provided to children in the program when inclement weather prevents outdoor play.

- Rating
- Exemplary compliance: During inclement weather, children have the opportunity to participate in large-motor activities in an indoor play area, other than their regular classroom, with varied equipment and appropriate floor cushioning.
 - Standard met: Children have the opportunity to participate in large-motor activities during inclement weather.
 - Standard not met: No alternative large-motor activities are provided for the children during inclement weather.

5.6.8: Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds: There is a process in place that ensures proper maintenance of the buildings, grounds, and equipment.

Self-study document # Describe the process that ensures proper maintenance of buildings, grounds, and equipment.

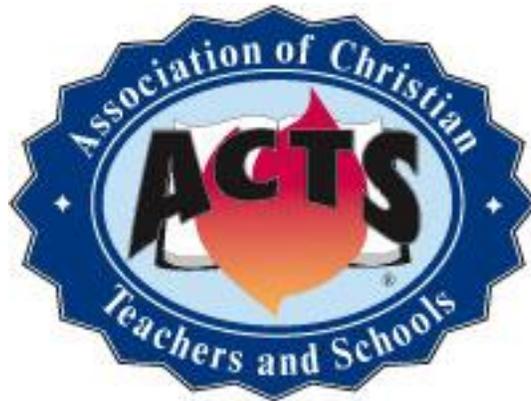
- Rating
- Standard met: A written description of the maintenance process for the facility confirms a safe and healthy environment for the children and is included in the self-study.

- ❑ Standard substantially met: There is a maintenance process, but the process is not followed.
- ❑ Standard not met: The maintenance of the facility is insufficient and may be unsafe and/or unhealthy.

SECTION VI

HEALTH AND SAFETY

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS
911 S. PARSONS AVE., SUITE G
BRANDON, FL 33511
<http://www.actsschools.org>

Section VI

6.0: HEALTH AND SAFETY

RATIONALE

The early education program has a responsibility for the health, safety, and general welfare of each child in attendance. The staff should have continuing and required training in emergency first aid and in special medical needs in order to be alert and prepared for emergencies. Staff members need to be safety conscious with a view toward prevention (Caring for Our Children 2002).

STANDARDS

6.1 DOCUMENTATION OF INSPECTIONS

The program is inspected by city/state agencies as applicable for licensing or exemption under state or federal law (i.e., fire department, health department, food services, etc.). Inspection documentations are on file. If the program is exempt from licensing, voluntary inspection has been sought, and recommendations for improvement have been followed.

Self-study document #		Provide a copy of the program's license to operate where applicable.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: For licensing/compliance purposes, documentation of inspections is on file for each required area (e.g., fire marshal's report).
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: The program provides inadequate documentation of compliance with any areas in which it is required to be inspected.

6.2 CHILDREN'S HEALTH RECORDS

Up-to-date, complete, and confidential health records for each child enrolled in the program are maintained in a safe and secure area and are available to authorized personnel. These files may include such information as the child's life history, developmental milestones, screening or assessment results, typical behaviors, and interests. Children in attendance are in compliance with the requirements of civil authorities regarding immunizations, physical examinations, and communicable diseases.

Self-study document #		Include copies of any documents kept in a child's file regarding the health and immunization of children as required by civil authorities.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: All children have a file documenting that their health records and immunizations are up to date.

- Standard not met: Children’s files indicate that children whose health records and immunizations are not up to date are attending the program.

6.3 EMERGENCY, HEALTH, AND SECURITY INFORMATION

Current emergency information is maintained for each child enrolled in the program, including expected attendance, parent/guardian contact information, people authorized to take the child off the premises, allergies, and other important health information.

On-site observation	On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.
Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Standard met: Children’s files include all the current emergency information described above. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard not met: Children’s files do not contain all the current emergency information described above.

6.4 POLICIES REGARDING ILLNESSES

A written policy regarding the attendance of children who are ill, have been diagnosed with a contagious disease, or have been found to have a communicable condition has been developed and made available to parents/guardians. An isolation area is made available for ill or contagious children while they wait for someone to take them home.

Self-study document #	Provide a copy of the ill-child policy given to parents/guardians. Describe how children are cared for when they are ill and waiting to be taken home.
Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Standard met: Parents/guardians are provided with a policy that includes when ill children are removed and are permitted to return to the program. An isolation area is made available for ill or contagious children while they wait to be taken home. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard not met: A policy regarding ill children has not been provided to parents/guardians, and/or an isolation area for ill or contagious children is not provided.

6.5 SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS OF CHILDREN

Staff are alerted to special health conditions of children and are equipped, when applicable, to handle such concerns.

Self-study document #		Describe how staff are equipped to handle children who have special medical conditions (e.g., asthma or severe allergies).
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: Information about the special health conditions of children is provided in detail to the staff. When applicable, training is provided on such topics as medicines and the handling of equipment.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: Little or no information is provided to the staff regarding the special health conditions of children. Appropriate training has not been provided on topics such as medicine and the handling of equipment.

6.6 ADMINISTERING AND STORING OF MEDICINES

A written policy that complies with the requirements of civil authorities for administering and storing medications has been developed and made available to the parents/guardians of the children in the program.

Self-study document #		Provide a copy of the policy pertaining to administering and storing medications on the program's premises and a copy of the information made available to parents/guardians pertaining to medication.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: Included in the self-study are a copy of an appropriate policy pertaining to administering and storing medications on the program's premises and a copy of the information made available to parents/guardians pertaining to medication.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: A copy of an appropriate policy pertaining to administering and storing medications on the program's premises is not included in the self-study, and/or a copy of the information made available to parents/guardians pertaining to medication is not included in the self-study.

6.7 MEDICAL LOG

A detailed medical log is maintained that includes a record of all medications given to children, the time the medication was given, and the person administering the medication.

Self-study document #		Provide a copy of the program's medical log for the past two months.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: The medical log as described above is complete.

- Standard not met: The medical log as described above is incomplete.

6.8 BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

The program has developed policies and procedures to protect the staff and children from blood-borne pathogens by developing a blood-borne exposure control plan and by providing annual in-service to the staff regarding protective procedures. As a result, the staff use “universal precautions” when encountering children’s body fluids.

Self-study document #	Describe the program’s blood-borne exposure control plan, the education of the staff regarding blood-borne pathogens, and the use of universal precautions.
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|--------|--|
| Rating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Standard met: A blood-borne exposure control plan is in place, and annual training is provided to the staff regarding blood-borne pathogens and the use of universal precautions. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard substantially met: The staff are encouraged to use universal precautions when handling body fluids. However, a blood-borne exposure control plan is not in place, and/or annual training is not provided to the staff regarding blood-borne pathogens and the use of universal precautions. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard not met: Policies and procedures that include universal precautions are not followed. |
|--------|--|

6.9 CLEANLINESS REQUIREMENTS

Children and adults wash their hands after toileting, before eating or handling food, and as otherwise necessary to prevent the spread of disease.

Self-study document #	Describe the program’s hand-washing policy and how the policy is implemented throughout the facilities.
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- | | |
|--------|--|
| Rating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Standard met: A hand-washing policy is in place, and it includes not only training for the children and staff but also monitoring for compliance. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard not met: An official hand-washing policy that includes monitoring is not in place. |
|--------|--|

6.10: WASHING OF INFANT AND TODDLER BEDDING

Infant and toddler bedding is washed at a minimum of twice per week and more often when soiled, and it is used by only one child between washings. Bedding used by preschoolers is washed a minimum of once per week and more often when soiled, and it is used by only one child between washings.

Self-study document #		Describe when and how laundry is provided for the program.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: Soiled bedding and other items are laundered and used as suggested above.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: Bedding is used by more than one child between washings and/or is not washed as suggested above.

6.11 :HEALTH SCREENINGS

The program makes visual, auditory, speech, language development, physical development, cognitive development, and other health screening assessments when available to the children, having the consent of their parent or guardian, in the program at least annually.

Self-study document #		Describe how the program makes visual, auditory, speech, and other health and developmental screenings available to the children at least annually.
Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard met: The program makes developmental and health screening as described above available to the children at least annually.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard not met: The program does not make developmental and health screening as described above available to the children at least annually.

6.12: SAFETY

6.12.1: Supervision of Arrivals and Departures: Safe arrival and departure procedures have been developed that ensure all children in the program are accounted for throughout the day and released only to authorized adults. Children are supervised by sight at all times, and transition of children from one teacher to another or from one area to another is accounted for to ensure the supervision and whereabouts of children at all times.

Self-study document #		Describe how the program ensures children are accounted for throughout the day and released only to authorized adults and how the administration ensures children are supervised by sight at all times.
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- Rating
- Standard met: Procedures are in place that ensure children are accounted for throughout the day, released only to authorized adults, and supervised by sight at all times.
 - Standard not met: Procedures are not in place that ensure children are accounted for throughout the day, released only to authorized adults, and supervised by sight at all times.

6.12.2: Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect: The staff is trained to recognize signs of child abuse and neglect. They know the laws and procedures for reporting to the appropriate agency. All communications with authorities are documented and placed in a confidential file.

Self-study document # Describe how staff are trained to recognize signs of child abuse/child neglect, how such abuse and neglect are reported, and how the information is kept confidential. Include a copy of any requirements of civil authorities.

- Rating
- Standard met: Staff are trained in recognizing signs of child abuse/child neglect, and a reporting process to the appropriate agency is in place. All communications regarding reports are kept in a confidential file.
 - Standard not met: One or more of the following are true: Staff are not trained in recognizing signs of child abuse/child neglect, there is not an official process in place for reporting such abuse and neglect to the appropriate agency, and reports are not kept in a confidential file.

6.12.3: Policies and Procedures to Eliminate Child Abuse: Exemplary abuse prevention is practiced throughout the early education program. For example, a minimum of two teachers are assigned to a group of children. Viewing windows allow for visual access into the classrooms, bathroom doors are left open, and random walk-throughs are practiced throughout the day.

Self-study document # Describe how the program maintains exceptional abuse prevention compliance.

- Rating
- Exemplary compliance

6.12.4: Providing Extra Clothing for Children: Parents/guardians are encouraged to provide a change of clothing for their children to keep on the program's premises in the case of an accident. The program maintains a supply of generic clothing in

varying sizes to ensure children are provided with a change of clothing in case of an emergency.

Self-study document # Describe how the program maintains emergency clothing needs.

- Rating
- Standard met: An extra set of clothing is brought from the home of children and stored appropriately on the premises for children to use in the case of an emergency. Additional clothing in a variety of sizes is maintained on the program's premises and is generic in style.
 - Standard substantially met: A system is in place but is not working to ensure clothing is always available to children when needed (e.g., clothes taken home but not replaced).
 - Standard not met: A change of clothing is not maintained for children.

6.12.5: First Aid Certified Personnel: At least one staff member with first aid certification—and infant/child CPR certification will be present on the premises at all times. (It is recommended that all staff have basic first aid and CPR training.)

Self-study document # Explain how the program ensures a staff member qualified in first aid certification—and infant/child CPR when applicable—is on site at all times.

- Rating
- Standard met: A minimum of one staff person with current first aid certification—and infant/child CPR certification when applicable—is on site at all times.
 - Standard not met: The program site is without a staff member with current first aid certification—and infant/child CPR certification when applicable—at some point during the day.

6.12.6: First Aid Supplies: The program maintains adequate first aid supplies and a universal precaution kit that are conveniently available to the classrooms but not to the children. The program maintains a detailed medical log regarding the use of these items.

Self-study document # Describe how first aid supplies and a universal precaution kit are made available to staff members, where these items are located, and how a detailed medical log is maintained regarding the use of these items.

- Rating
- Standard met: First aid supplies (as defined by civil authorities) and a universal precaution kit are conveniently available to staff and are located in areas accessible only to adults. A detailed medical log is maintained regarding the use of these items.
 - Standard not met: First aid supplies and/or a universal precaution kit is not conveniently available to the classrooms, and/or a detailed medical log is not maintained regarding the use of the items.

6.12.7: Written Record of Accidents and Illnesses: A written notice of accidents and/or illnesses is kept on file, and a copy is given to the parents/guardians of the children in the program.

Self-study document # Provide a copy of the program's accident/illness form. Describe the process that staff follow when notifying a parent/guardian of an illness or accident.

- Rating
- Standard met: A system is in place to contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of an ill or injured child. An accident/illness form is completed and filed, and a copy is given to the parent(s)/guardian(s).
 - Standard not met: No system is in place to contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of an ill or injured child, and/or accident/illness forms are not completed, filed, and given to the parent(s)/guardian(s).

6.12.8: Emergency Preparedness Plans: The program has a general disaster plan and/or an Emergency Crisis Manual that includes evacuation procedures and inside actions in the event of a disaster or crisis (e.g., snowstorm, tornado, lightning, flooding, fire, bomb threat, violence, and hostage situation). The plan includes directions for disasters common to the geographic area. Staff members are familiar with routes and procedures, which are posted in each classroom, and staff regularly practice drills with the children. Such plan should be reviewed periodically by the local law enforcement, emergency personnel, and conform to that recommended by the Office of Homeland Security.

Self-study document # Provide a copy of the policies and procedures relating to emergency drills and evacuations and of the records of drills and evacuations for the past twelve months. Include a copy of any requirements of civil authorities.

- Rating
- Standard met: Disaster drills are held at least monthly, their occurrence is recorded, and the reports are filed.

Escape routes and procedures are posted in each classroom.

- Standard substantially met: Escape routes and procedures are posted in classrooms. However, disaster drills are not held at least monthly.
- Standard not met: Disaster drills are held less than monthly, and escape routes and procedures are not posted in each classroom.

6.12.9: Fire Extinguishers and Detectors: Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are provided and checked as mandated by the local fire marshal, and staff is trained in the use of fire extinguishers.

Self-study document # Describe the location of fire extinguishers and smoke detectors, their maintenance, and the training of staff regarding the use of fire extinguishers.

- Rating
- Standard met: Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are located in areas as regulated by civil authorities. Staff are trained in the use of fire extinguishers.
 - Standard not met: Fire extinguishers or smoke detectors are not in use in the facilities as mandated by civil authorities, or the staff are not trained in the use of fire extinguishers.

6.12.10: Emergency Phone Numbers: Emergency phone numbers or 911 is posted by readily accessible telephones that have 911 access in order to allow for quick reference in contacting the fire department, police department, poison center, and rescue squad.

Self-study document # Describe the location of all telephones with 911 access.

- Rating
- Standard met: Readily accessible telephones with 911 access have emergency numbers clearly posted and quickly accessible in the case of an emergency.
 - Standard not met: One or more of the following are true: Telephones with 911 access are not readily accessible, they do not have emergency numbers clearly posted, and the numbers are not quickly accessible in the case of an emergency.

6.12.11: Notifying Parents/Guardians in Emergencies: A plan is in place to contact parents/guardians in case of an emergency closing, and the parents/guardians have been made aware of the plan.

Self-study document # Provide a copy of the information given to parents/guardians regarding the program’s emergency closure policy.

- Rating
- Standard met: A policy is in place for notifying parents/guardians in the case of an emergency closing, and the parents/guardians have been made aware of the policy.
 - Standard not met: A policy is not sufficiently in place for notifying parents/guardians of an emergency closing.

6.12.12: Proper Chemical Labeling and Storage: All chemicals, medicines, and other “dangerous if swallowed” materials are stored in their original containers. All potentially dangerous products are stored in a locked area. An MSD (Material Safety Data) sheet is strategically placed near harmful chemicals.

Self-study document # Describe the location where potentially “dangerous if swallowed” materials are kept. Address whether all chemicals, medicines, and other “dangerous if swallowed” materials are stored in their original containers and whether an MSD (Material Safety Data) sheet is strategically placed near harmful chemicals.

- Rating
- Standard met: All chemicals, medicines, and other “dangerous if swallowed” materials are stored in their original containers, all potentially dangerous products are stored in a locked area, and an MSD sheet is strategically placed near harmful chemicals.
 - Standard not met: One or more of the following are true: Chemicals, medicines, and other “dangerous if swallowed” materials are stored in containers other than their original containers, potentially dangerous products are not stored in a locked area, and an MSD sheet is not strategically placed near harmful chemicals.

6.12.13: Vehicle Inspection, Permits, and Qualified Drivers: Current documentation is available on all vehicle safety inspections and driver qualifications, verifying that all requirements of civil authorities and all specific vehicle transportation requirements are being met.

Self-study document # Provide documentation on all program vehicles and their drivers, verifying that all requirements of civil authorities and all specific vehicle transportation requirements are being met.

- Rating
- Standard met: With regard to vehicle safety inspections and driver qualifications, all requirements of civil authorities and all specific vehicle transportation requirements are being met.
 - Standard not met: With regard to vehicle safety inspections and driver qualifications, not all requirements of civil authorities and not all specific vehicle transportation requirements are being met.
 - Standard not applicable: Children are not transported by the program.

6.12.14: Vehicles with Restraining Devices and Emergency Equipment: Vehicles are equipped with age-appropriate restraint devices and a first aid kit, and appropriate safety precautions are taken when children are being transported.

Self-study document # Provide documentation that all program vehicles are equipped with age-appropriate restraint devices along with a first aid kit and that appropriate safety precautions are taken when children are being transported.

- Rating
- Standard met: All program vehicles are equipped with age-appropriate restraint devices along with a first aid kit, and appropriate safety precautions are taken when children are being transported.
 - Standard not met: Not all program vehicles are equipped with age-appropriate restraint devices along with a first aid kit, and/or appropriate safety precautions are not taken when children are being transported.
 - Standard not applicable: Children are not transported by the program for any reason.

6.12.15: Field Trip Policies and Procedures: The program has written field trip policies and procedures that ensure the supervision of all children at all times and thus promote the safety of the children. These are shared with parents/guardians and implemented by the program. The policies and procedures must include that permission is attained from parents/guardians and that roll checks are logged before, regularly during, and upon return to the program's facilities.

Self-study document # Include a copy of the policies and procedures regarding all aspects of field trip protocol, including supervision, transportation, and parent/guardian approval.

- Rating
- Standard met: The program has written field trip policies and procedures that ensure the supervision of all children at all times and thus promote the safety of the children. These are shared with parents/guardians and implemented by the program, and they include the elements described above.
 - Standard not met: One or more of the following are true: The program does not have written field trip policies and procedures that ensure the supervision of all children at all times and thus promote the safety of the children, these are not shared with parents/guardians and implemented by the program, and they do not include the elements described above.

6.12.16: Cleanliness of Facilities: The facilities are cleaned on a daily basis, including sanitizing the bathrooms and removing trash. The facilities are free of mold and offensive odors.

Self-study document # Describe the arrangements for maintaining clean facilities.

- Rating
- Standard met: Facilities are thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis, and they are free of mold and offensive odors.
 - Standard not met: Facilities are not thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis, and/or they are not free of mold and offensive odors.

6.12.17: Sanitizing Toys and Equipment: The program has an established plan of sanitizing toys and equipment regularly (infants: daily, toddlers: semiweekly, preschoolers: weekly—with all three groups of toys and equipment receiving more frequent sanitization as needed to maintain a healthy environment for the children).

Self-study document # Describe the procedures and schedule for sanitizing toys and equipment as described above.

- Rating
- Standard met: The procedures and schedule are documented as described above.
 - Standard not met: The procedures and schedule are not documented as described above.

6.12.18: Hot Water Conditions: Hot water heaters are set for 110°F or less if the heated water is accessible to children.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

Rating Standard met: Hot water heaters are set for 110°F or less if the heated water is accessible to children.

 Standard not met: Hot water heaters are set higher than 110°F, and the heated water is accessible to children.

6.12.19: Safe Electrical Outlets: Electrical outlets in the wall are covered to prevent children from being shocked by electricity.

On-site observation On-site observation verifies whether the standard has been met.

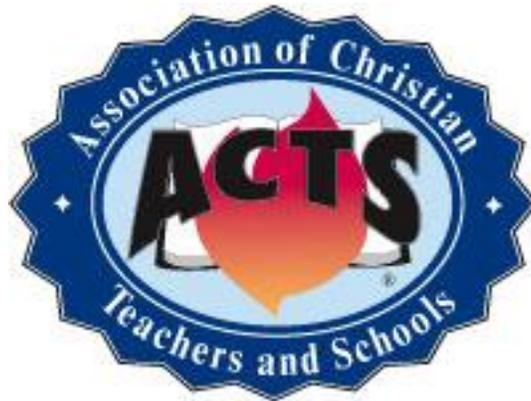
Rating Standard met: Outlets within the reach of children are covered.

 Standard not met: Some or all the outlets within the reach of children are not covered.

SECTION VII

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS
911 S. PARSONS AVE., SUITE G
BRANDON, FL 33511
<http://www.actsschools.org>

Section VII

7.0:FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

RATIONALE

Parents are a child’s first teacher, and the early education program respects the critical role parents play in supporting the growth and development of their child. Partnerships with parents are a part of a quality early education program. A rapport is built between staff and parents, which supports communication between the home and the early education program.

STANDARDS

7.1 PUBLIC RELATIONS

All informational sources established by the program accurately describe the early education program, including its enrollment policy, mission, and statement of nondiscrimination and satisfied consumer protection requirements as established by state, Federal law or Administrative Rule.

Self-study document # Provide evidence and/or a description of all informational sources that accurately portray the program accurately portray the early education program—including its enrollment policy, mission, and statement of nondiscrimination—and are available for review.

- Standard substantially met: Informational sources established by the program are available but do not address the program’s enrollment policy, mission, or statement of nondiscrimination; and/or the information is not current.
- Standard not met: Informational sources established by the program are not available.

7.2: PARENT OR GUARDIAN HANDBOOK

7.2.1: Contents and Communication: Parents/guardians of the children in the program receive a parent/guardian handbook that includes but is not limited to (1) the philosophy statement regarding the care and education of young children attending the program, including what discipline techniques will be used; (2) policies regarding holidays, illnesses, hours of operation, fees, refunds, enrollment, and termination procedures; and (3) an explanation of the program’s day-to-day functioning. Parents/guardians sign a statement acknowledging that they understand and support the program’s policies as outlined in the parent/guardian handbook.

Self-study document # Include a copy of the parent/guardian handbook and the form that parents/guardians sign to acknowledge that they understand and support the policies.

- Rating
- Standard met: The parent/guardian handbook includes and satisfactorily explains the above-mentioned items, and parents/guardians are expected to sign an acknowledgment of support.
 - Standard substantially met: The parent/guardian handbook includes the above-mentioned items. However, additional information needs to be included in the handbook regarding these items, and/or parents/guardians are not expected to sign an acknowledgment of support.
 - Standard not met: The parent/guardian handbook does not include the above-mentioned items.

7.2.2: Visitation Rights: The program has an open-door policy regarding visits by parents/guardians on the program’s premises, including in their child’s classroom. Policies concerning parent/guardian involvement (e.g., visiting, observing, and volunteering) are in place to ensure the partnership between home and program is maintained.

Self-study document # Include a copy of the information given to parents/guardians with regard to parent/guardian involvement policies.

- Rating
- Standard met: Parents/guardians are welcome on the premises, including in their child’s classroom, and a policy regarding parent/guardian involvement is included in the parent/guardian handbook.
 - Standard substantially met: Parents/guardians of the children are welcome with hesitation in the classrooms and elsewhere on the premises.
 - Standard not met: Parents/guardians of the children are not welcome in the classrooms and/or elsewhere on the premises.

7.3: COMMUNICATION

7.3.1: Communication with Parents or Guardians: Administrators and staff communicate with the parents/guardians in a variety of ways on a regular basis—

daily and weekly by verbal communication or posted information and monthly by newsletter and/or classroom calendar of events, or through evolving electronic means.

Self-study document # Include a copy of communications provided to parents/guardians from the administration and from classroom staff.

- Rating
- Standard met: Administrators and staff communicate with the parents/guardians in a variety of ways on a regular basis—daily and weekly by verbal communication or posted information and monthly by newsletter and/or classroom calendar of events.
 - Standard substantially met: Either administrators or staff—but not both—communicate with the parents/guardians in a variety of ways on a regular basis—daily and weekly by verbal communication or posted information and monthly by newsletter and/or classroom calendar of events.
 - Standard not met: Administrators and staff do not communicate with the parents/guardians in a variety of ways on a regular basis—daily and weekly by verbal communication or posted information and monthly by newsletter and/or classroom calendar of events.

7.3.2: General Conferences about their Children: Conferences with each child’s parent(s)/guardian are offered at least twice per year—and at other times as needed—to discuss the child’s developmental progress, personal care, and education. Conference schedules accommodate working parents/guardians.

Self-study document # Describe how parent/guardian conferences are held and what staff are expected to discuss at such meetings.

- Rating
- Standard met: Parent/guardian conferences are held a minimum of twice per year; they address the child’s developmental progress, personal care, and education; and a variety of appointment times are made available to accommodate working parents/guardians.
 - Standard substantially met: Parent/guardian conferences are held a minimum of twice per year. However, parents/guardians must attend during program hours.
 - Standard not met: Semiannual parent/guardian conferences are not scheduled.

7.3.3: Conferences Regarding the Child's Development Progress:

Parents/guardians of the children in the program receive communication regarding their children's developmental progress at least twice per year. During parent/guardian conferences, summaries of the results of child observation forms used during scheduled observations of the child are shared with parents/guardians, and parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in the goal-setting process for the child.

Self-study document # Describe how, when, and by whom children are observed and how information is recorded and appropriately shared with parents/guardians. Explain the process used for setting parent/guardian-teacher goals for children.

Rating Standard met: Children are observed by qualified personnel who record the information and appropriately share it with parents/guardians at least twice per year. Observations are used by parents/guardians and teachers to set goals for children.

Standard substantially met: Children are observed by staff who are not qualified but who do record the information. However, recorded observations are used by parents/guardians and staff to set goals for the children.

Standard not met: Staff do not officially observe and/or record observations, and/or observations are not used for parent/guardian-teacher goal setting.

7.3.4: Reporting of Significant Changes in Behavior: Significant changes in a child's pattern of behavior and/or physical condition are reported to the parent(s)/guardian(s), documented, and placed in the child's file.

Self-study document # Include information given to the staff not only about documenting significant changes in a child's pattern of behavior and/or physical condition but also about informing parents/guardians of these changes.

Rating Standard met: A policy is in place requiring the staff not only to document any significant changes in a child's pattern of behavior and/or physical condition but also to inform parents/guardians regarding these changes.

Standard not met: Either (1) a policy is not in place requiring the staff to document any significant changes in a child's pattern of behavior and/or physical

condition and to inform parents/guardians regarding these changes or (2) a policy is in place but is not adhered to by the staff.

7.4; PARENT OR GUARDIAN EDUCATION

7.4.1: Parent Training Programs: The program director plans and implements regularly scheduled parent/guardian programs that support parents/guardians in their parenting role and reinforce the mission of the program. These programs take place at least quarterly.

Self-study document # Include documentation of programs provided during the past twelve months.

- Rating Standard met: Programs supporting parents/guardians in their parenting role and reinforcing the mission of the program are offered quarterly to the parents/guardians of children attending the program.
- Standard substantially met: Programs supporting parents/guardians in their parenting role and reinforcing the mission of the program are offered less than quarterly to the parents/guardians of children attending the program.
- Standard not met: Programs that support parents/guardians in their parenting role and reinforce the mission of the program are not offered to the parents/guardians of children attending the program.

7.4.2: Referral to Community Resources: The director is familiar with community services and resources regarding children with specific needs and provides this information to parents/guardians. The director and staff work collaboratively with community agencies in providing information as needed.

Self-study document # Include a list of community resources available to the director. Describe how this information is provided to parents/guardians and how the director and staff work collaboratively with community agencies in providing information as needed.

- Rating Standard met: The director is familiar with community services and resources regarding children with specific needs and provides this information to parents/guardians. In addition, the director and staff work collaboratively with community agencies in providing information as needed.

- Standard not met: Either the director is not familiar with community services and resources regarding children with specific needs, or the director and staff do not work collaboratively with community agencies in providing information as needed.

7.4.3: Parent Survey

All parents/legal guardians of children enrolled in the early care and education program are given the opportunity to complete a survey in which they're asked to evaluate the quality of the program. A survey form is sent along with a letter that explains the purpose of the survey as an integral part of the program and solicits full participation. The letter also instructs the parents/guardian to return the completed survey sealed in an enclosed, pre-stamped and addressed envelope. The sealed surveys are opened and processed by a designated validator the day of the site visit and responses of the Survey will be provided to the early childhood program administration and staff with a summary included in the final evaluation report.

Self-study document # Parent Assessment Survey and response plans.

- Rating
- Exceptional compliance: A letter and survey are sent to all parents/guardians on a yearly basis and the results processed by the board chair or designee on the years between the scheduled on-site evaluation. Board Chair met with the director and staff to examine survey results and draft a response plan. A copy of each is included with this self-study document.
 - Standard met: The letter and survey were sent to all parents/ guardians as part of this evaluation for accreditation process as described in the standard 7.4.5. The sealed surveys will be opened and processed by a designated validator the day of the site visit and responses of the survey will be provided to the early childhood program administration and staff with a summary included in the final evaluation report.
 - Standard not met: The program did send out the survey or there were less than 25% response from the parent/guardian population.

PARENT ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Instructions: Your opinion about the quality of the early care and education program is important. Please complete this parent survey. Do **NOT** sign your name. Return it to the early childhood program facility sealed in the envelope provided. For questions 1–12, rate your early childhood program by circling the number that

corresponds with your level of agreement with the statements about the early childhood program. (Number 1 indicates no agreement with the statement, and 5 indicates strong agreement.) You may add a brief comment about any statement. Upon completion of the ranked response items, answer the open-ended questions 13–16.

How many year/months have you had a child / children enrolled in this early childhood program? _____

Please indicate in which group(s) you have a child/children:

A. infant B. toddler C. three-year-old D. four-year-old E. five-year-old

Agreement
Low ----- High

- | | | |
|-----------|-----|--|
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 1. | I am informed of the early childhood education and care programs and policies. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 2. | Communication and reports concerning my child’s development and progress are regular and adequate. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 3. | The director and teachers have informed me of a variety of resources available to my child and I. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 4. | The children, teachers, caregivers and staff have a good working relationship. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 5. | Accommodations for children with special needs are made in this early childhood education and care facility and program. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 6. | My child receives adequate help from the teachers and staff. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 7. | I feel welcome at this early childhood program facility. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 8. | I am respected and feel that the teachers and staff respect my child and family. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 9. | Children and staff are provided a safe and orderly environment for living and learning. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 10. | I believe that the teachers are effective in fostering appropriate development and growth for my child. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 11. | Teachers / caregivers hold high expectations for learning, growth and development. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 12. | The educational program and care offered at this early childhood program is of high quality. |

13. Why have you chosen this early childhood program for your child(ren) to attend?

14. What do you consider to be the strengths of the early childhood program?

15. What areas of the early childhood program could be improved / what suggestions would you offer for improvement?

16. Additional concerns or comments:

7.5: Stakeholders Survey

All early care and education program stakeholders are given the opportunity to complete a survey in which they're asked to evaluate the quality of program administration. A survey form is sent along with a letter that explains the purpose of the survey as an integral part of the program and solicits full participation. The letter also instructs the stakeholders to return the completed survey sealed in an enclosed, pre-stamped and addressed envelope. The sealed surveys are opened and processed by a designated validator the day of the site visit. Responses from the Survey will be provided to the early childhood program administration and governance with a summary included in the final evaluation report.

Self-study document # Stakeholder Assessment Survey and response plans.

Rating

- Exceptional compliance: A letter and survey are sent to all stakeholders on a yearly basis and the results processed by a designee on the years between the scheduled on-site evaluation. The administration

examined survey results and drafted response plans. A copy of each is included with this self-study document.

- Standard met: The letter and survey were sent to all stakeholders as part of this evaluation for accreditation process as described in the standard. The sealed surveys will be opened and processed by a designated validator the day of the site visit and responses of the survey will be provided to the administration with a summary included in the final evaluation report.
- Standard not met: The program did send out the survey or there were less than 25% response from the stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Instructions: Your opinion about the quality of the early care and education program administration is important. Please complete this survey. Do **NOT** sign your name. Return it to the early childhood program facility sealed in the envelope provided. For questions 1–10, rate your responses by circling the number that corresponds with your level of agreement with the statements. (Number 1 indicates no agreement with the statement, and 5 indicate strong agreement.) You may add a brief comment about any statement. Upon completion of the ranked response items, answer the open-ended questions 11–13.

How many years have you been a stakeholder of this early childhood education and care program? _____

Agreement
Low ----- High

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 1. Adequate information on the program’s governance, policies and practices is available to stakeholders. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 2. Communication and reports from the program’s administration to its stakeholders are regular and adequate. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 3. The director and staff display resourcefulness and positive community relations. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 4. The administration facilitates a good working relationship among all program personnel. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 5. The administration makes itself available and responds to stakeholders in a timely fashion. |

- | | | |
|-----------|-----|--|
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 6. | I feel that stakeholders are respected by the administration. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 7. | The administration maintains a consistently safe, healthy and orderly environment for children and adults. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 8. | The educational program and care offered at this early childhood program is of high quality. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 9. | This early care and education program administration maintains and follows its claimed mission, vision, and purpose. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 10. | Stakeholders have adequate opportunity to give input to the administration and governance. |

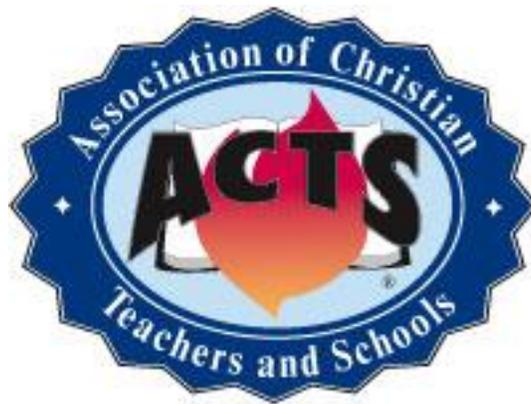
11. What do you consider to be the strengths of the early childhood program governance and administration?

12. What areas of the early childhood program could be improved / what suggestions would you offer for improvement?

13. Additional concerns or comments:

APPENDIX

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS
911 S. PARSONS AVE., SUITE G
BRANDON, FL 33511
<http://www.actsschools.org>

Child:Staff Ratio Form

Room # or Group Name			
Age(s) of Children in Group			
Highest # of Children Enrolled in the Class or Group			
# of Teachers			
# of Assistants			
# of Teacher Aides			
Teacher's Hours			
Assistant's Hours			
Aide's Hours			

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Staff Members

Staff member (first name only)			
Job Title			
Years of work experience with young children			
Employment date			
Years of high school completed			
Years of college completed			
Degree's awarded			
Number of early education credits acquired			
ECE Credential/Certificate			
A.A. degree in ECE/CD			
B.A./B.S. degree in ECE/CD			
Graduate work in ECE/CD			
Master's degree in ECE/CD			
Doctorate degree in ECE/CD			

GLOSSARY

Background checks - The process of checking for history of criminal charges of potential child care providers before they are allowed to care for children.

Body fluids - Urine, feces, saliva, blood, nasal discharge, eye discharge, and injury or tissue discharge.

Bottle propping - Bottle-feeding an infant by propping the bottle near the infant's mouth and leaving the infant alone rather than holding the bottle by hand.

Caregiver – The person responsible for the care and education of the children in an early education program.

Center - A facility that provides care and education for any number of children in a nonresidential setting and is open on a regular basis (for example, it is not a drop-in facility).

Child abuse - For the purposes of this set of standards, its definition is considered to be that contained in the laws of the state in which the standards will be applied. While these differ somewhat, most of them contain basic elements as follows:

Emotional abuse - Acts that damage a child in psychological ways, but do not fall into other categories of abuse. Most states require for prosecution that psychological damage be very definite and clearly diagnosed by a psychologist or psychiatrist; this category of abuse is rarely reported and even more rarely a cause of protective action.

Neglect - Neglect is divided into two categories: general neglect and severe neglect.

General neglect - Failure to provide the common necessities, including food, shelter, a safe environment, education, and health care, but without resultant or likely harm to the child.

Severe neglect - Neglect that results or is likely to result in harm to the child.

Physical abuse - An intentional (non accidental) act affecting a child that produces tangible physical harm.

Sexual abuse - Any sexual act performed with a child by an adult or by another child who exerts control over the victim. (Many state laws provide considerable detail about the specific acts that constitute sexual abuse.)

Child :Staff ratio - The maximum number of children permitted per teacher/caregiver.

Compliance - The act of carrying out a recommendation, policy, or procedure.

Corporal punishment - Pain or suffering inflicted on the body (such as spanking).

Credential – A competency based award granted to early educators based on formal and informal education, experience working with young children, and observations of competency within the classroom.

Disinfect - To eliminate virtually all germs from inanimate surfaces through the use of chemicals (e.g., products registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as "disinfectants") or physical agents (e.g., heat). In the child care environment, a 1:64 dilution of domestic bleach made by mixing a solution of 1/4 cup household liquid chlorine bleach with 1 gallon of tap water and prepared fresh daily is an effective method to remove germs from environmental surfaces and other inanimate objects that have been contaminated with body fluids (see Body fluids), provided that the surfaces have first been cleaned of organic material before applying bleach and at least 2 minutes of contact time with the surface occurs. (Since complete elimination of all germs may not be achieved using the 1:64 dilution of domestic bleach solution, technically, the process is called sanitizing, not disinfecting. The term sanitize is used in these standards most often, but disinfect may appear in other or earlier publications when addressing sanitation in child care.)

Early Education – the care and education of young children between the ages of birth through five-years of age prior to entering formal kindergarten programs whether in part-time part-day programs traditionally called "preschool" or full-day week-day programs traditionally called "childcare".

Evaluation - Impressions and recommendations formed after a careful appraisal and study.

Facility - A legal definition. The buildings, the grounds, the equipment, and the people involved in providing child care of any type.

Fever - An elevation of body temperature the body temperature can normally be as high as 99.3' oral, 100' rectal or 98.0 axillary. A fever exists when the body temperature is higher than these numbers. The amount of temperature elevation varies at different body sites, and the height of the fever does not indicate a more or less severe illness. The method chosen to take a child's temperature depends on the need for accuracy, available equipment, the skill of the person taking the temperature, and the ability of the child to assist in the procedure. Oral temperatures should not be taken on children younger than 4 years. Rectal temperatures should be taken only by persons with specific health training in performing this procedure. Axillary temperatures are only accurate in young infants. Electronic devices for measuring temperature in the ear canal give temperature results similar to rectal temperature, but these devices require specific training and are not widely available in child care settings.

Gross-motor skills - Large movements involving the arms, legs, feet, or the entire body (such as crawling, running, and jumping).

Group size - The number of children assigned to a caregiver or team of caregivers occupying an individual classroom or well-defined space within a larger room. See also Child:Staff Ratio.

Health plan - A written document that describes emergency health and safety procedures, general health policies and procedures, and policies covering the management of mild illness, injury prevention, and occupational health and safety.

Immunizations - Vaccines that are given to children and adults to help them develop protection (antibodies) against specific infections. Vaccines may contain an inactivated or killed agent or a weakened live organism. Childhood immunizations include protection against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b. Adults need to be protected against measles.

Infant - A child between the time of birth and the age of ambulation (usually between the ages from birth to 18 months).

Instructional Staff – teachers/caregivers responsible for the early education instruction provided to young children within a program

Medications - Any substance that is intended to diagnose, cure, treat, or prevent disease or is intended to affect the structure or function of the body of humans or other animals.

Parent - The child's natural or adoptive mother or father, guardian, or other legally responsible person.

Pediatric first aid - Emergency care and treatment of an injured child before definite medical and surgical management can be secured. Pediatric first aid includes rescue breathing and first aid for choking.

Phonemic awareness - The ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words. An example of how beginning readers show us they have phonemic awareness is combining or blending the separate sounds of a word to say the word ("/c/ /a/ /t/ - cat.")

Preschooler - A child between the age of toilet learning/training and the age of entry into a regular school; usually aged 3 to 5 years and related to overall development.

Sanitize - To remove filth or soil and small amounts of certain bacteria. For an inanimate surface to be considered sanitary, the surface must be clean and the number of germs must be reduced to such a level that disease transmission by that surface is unlikely. This procedure is less rigorous than disinfection and is applicable to a wide variety of routine housekeeping procedures involving, for example, bedding, bathrooms, kitchen countertops, floors, and walls. To clean, detergent or abrasive cleaners may be used but an additional sanitizer solution must be applied to sanitize. A number of EPA-registered "detergent-disinfectant" products are also appropriate for sanitizing. Directions on product labels should be followed closely.

Scope and Sequence – A curriculum plan or guide in which a range of instructional objectives, skills, etc., is organized according to the consecutive levels in which they are expected to be taught.

Staff - Used here to indicate all personnel employed at the facility, including both caregivers and personnel who do not provide direct care to the children (such as cooks, drivers, and housekeeping personnel).

Substitute staff - Caregivers (often without prior training or experience) hired for one day or for an extended period of time, who work under direct supervision of a trained, licensed/certified permanent caregiver.

Teacher – The person responsible for the planning and implementation of the classroom early education program.

Toddler - A child between the age of ambulation and the age of toilet learning/training, usually one aged 13 to 35 months.

Universal precautions - apply to blood, other body fluids containing blood, semen, and vaginal secretions, but not to feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, saliva and vomitus unless they contain visible blood or are likely to contain blood. Universal precautions include avoiding injuries caused by sharp instruments or devices and the use of protective barriers such as gloves, gowns, aprons, masks, or protective eyewear, which can reduce the risk of exposure of the worker's skin or mucous membranes that could come in contact with materials that may contain blood-borne pathogens while the worker is providing first aid or care.

Volunteer - In general, a volunteer is a regular member of the staff who is not paid and is not counted in the child:staff ratio. If the volunteer is counted in the child:staff ratio, he/she must be 16 years or older and preferably work 10 hours per week or more in the facility.

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ACTS

Gold Seal Infant and Early Childhood Education Accreditation Standards

1.0	PHILOSOPHY, GOVERNANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION.....	21
1.1	Mission, Vision, and Philosophy.....	21
1.1.1	Mission and Vision Statement.....	21
1.1.2	Philosophy of Education Statement.....	21
1.2	Corporate Structure.....	22
1.2.1	Bylaws.....	22
1.2.2	Governance Entity.....	23
1.2.3	Bylaws Authority.....	23
1.2.4	Governing Policies and Procedures.....	24
1.2.5	Governance Role and Responsibilities.....	24
1.2.6	Minutes of Meetings.....	25
1.3	Governance Evaluation and Compliance Responsibilities.....	25
1.3.1	Evaluation of Director.....	25
1.3.2	Response to Civil Authorities' Requirements.....	25
1.3.3	Evaluation of Program.....	26
1.4	Fiscal Responsibilities.....	26
1.4.1	Financial Stability and Integrity.....	26
1.4.2	Governance Responsibility for Fiscal Matters.....	27
1.4.3	Financial Records.....	27
1.4.4	Insurance.....	28
1.4.5	Staff Salaries and Benefits.....	28
1.5	Admissions.....	29
1.6	Children's Information and Conduct.....	29
1.6.1	Records.....	29
1.6.2	Discipline.....	30
2.0	PERSONNEL.....	32
2.1	Staff Hiring Practices and Benefits.....	32
2.1.1	Employee Handbook.....	32
2.1.2	Nondiscrimination Policy.....	33
2.1.3	Culturally and Racially Appropriate Staff.....	33
2.1.4	Background Screening.....	33
2.1.5	Staff Orientation.....	34
2.2	Director.....	35

2.2.1	Qualifications.....	35
2.2.2	General Responsibilities.....	36
2.2.3	Experience.....	37
2.2.4	Continuing Education and Development.....	37
2.2.5	Hiring Staff.....	38
2.2.6	Evaluation of New Employees.....	38
2.2.7	Evaluation of all Employees.....	39
2.2.8	Follow-up Evaluation of Staff.....	39
2.2.9	Staff Substitutes.....	39
2.2.10	Acting Director.....	40
2.2.11	Developing Relationships.....	40
2.2.12	Staff Meetings.....	41
2.2.13	Program Evaluation with Staff.....	41
2.2.14	Personnel Files.....	42
2.2.15	Volunteers.....	42
2.3	Instructional and Support Staff Qualifications.....	43
2.3.1	Qualifications.....	43
2.3.2	Job Descriptions and Other Staff Policies.....	43
2.3.3	Communication of Personnel Policies.....	44
2.4	Instructional Staff.....	44
2.4.1	Teachers.....	44
2.4.2	Assistant Teachers.....	45
2.4.3	Early Childhood Specialist.....	46
2.5	Support Staff.....	46
2.5.1	Training and Experience.....	46
2.5.2	Continuing Education and Development Programs.....	46
2.6	Child-Staff Ratios.....	47
2.6.1	Primary Teacher/Caregiver.....	47
2.6.2	Ratios.....	48
2.6.3	Supervision of Children.....	48
2.6.4	Internal Communication Related to Supervision.....	48
2.7	Internal Relations.....	49
2.7.1	Teacher/Caregiver/Staff Survey.....	49
3.0	CURRICULUM.....	53
3.1	General Practice Overview.....	53
3.1.1	Curriculum Guide.....	53
3.1.2	Lesson Plans.....	54
3.2	Physical Development.....	54
3.2.1	Balanced Program—Indoor and Outdoor Play.....	54
3.2.2	Motor Skills.....	55

3.3	Spiritual, Social, and Emotional Development.....	56
3.4	Teaching Strategies.....	57
3.4.1	Balanced Activities.....	57
3.4.2	Length of Group Times.....	57
3.4.3	Use of Transition Activities.....	58
3.4.4	Materials and Equipment.....	58
3.4.5	Small Group and Large Group Instruction.....	59
3.4.6	Involving the Children.....	59
3.4.7	Healthy nutrition in Curriculum.....	59
3.4.8	Good Health Practices.....	60
3.4.9	Disciplinary Policies and Practices.....	60
3.4.10	Forming Habits and Routines.....	60
3.4.11	Hand Washing and Cleanliness.....	61
3.4.12	Proper use of Media and Technology.....	61
3.4.13	Special Needs Children.....	62
3.4.14	Enrollment and Termination of Special Needs Children.....	62
3.5	Language and Literacy—Core Knowledge.....	62
3.5.1	Appropriate Language Experiences.....	62
3.5.2	Print-Rich Environment.....	64
3.5.3	Vocabulary and Comprehension Development.....	64
3.5.4	Phonemic Awareness.....	65
3.5.5	Alphabet.....	65
3.6	Mathematical Awareness—Core Knowledge.....	65
3.6.1	Mathematical Activities.....	66
3.6.2	Mathematical Concepts.....	66
3.7	Science—Core Knowledge.....	66
3.7.1	Sensory-Rich Environment.....	66
3.8	Social Studies—Core Knowledge.....	67
3.8.1	Advancement of Social Skills.....	68
3.8.2	Promotion of Communication and Interaction.....	68
3.8.3	Cultural & Racial Awareness.....	68
3.9	Fine Arts—Core Knowledge.....	69
3.9.1	Musical Experiences.....	69
3.9.2	Creative Arts Experiences.....	69
3.10	Program and Child Assessment.....	69
3.10.1	Curriculum Involvement and Training.....	69
3.10.2	Continuous Student Assessment.....	70
3.10.3	Variety of Assessment Techniques.....	71
3.10.4	Training for Assessment.....	72
3.10.5	Age Appropriate Assessment Tools.....	73

3.10.6	Observations of Child Development.....	73
3.10.7	Teaching Toward Individual Needs.....	73
4.0	NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICES.....	76
4.1	Food Preparation.....	76
4.1.1	Response to Civil Authorities' Standards.....	76
4.1.2	Nutritional Guidelines.....	76
4.1.3	Sanitary Conditions.....	77
4.2	Parent/Guardian Information.....	77
4.2.1	Availability of Menus.....	77
4.2.2	Suggestions for Food from Home.....	78
4.2.3	Food Storage.....	78
4.3	Social Interaction.....	79
4.3.1	Standards for Mealtime.....	79
4.3.2	Size of Furniture.....	79
4.3.3	Children's Responsibilities.....	79
4.4	Food for Infants and Toddlers.....	80
4.4.1	Feeding Infants.....	880
4.4.2	Recording of Food Intake and Times.....	80
5.0	PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.....	82
5.1	Lighting and Ventilation.....	82
5.2	Classrooms.....	82
5.2.1	Suitable for Class Size.....	82
5.2.2	Classroom Maintenance.....	83
5.2.3	Classroom Arrangement of Furnishings.....	83
5.2.4	Age Appropriate Furniture and Equipment.....	84
5.2.5	Children's Personal Storage Space.....	84
5.2.6	Appropriate Classroom Flooring.....	85
5.2.7	Drinking Water.....	85
5.3	Restroom Facilities.....	85
5.3.1	Accessible and Appropriate Sinks and Toilets.....	85
5.3.2	Location and Adequacy of Lavatories.....	86
5.4	Diapering of Infants and Toddlers.....	86
5.5	Staff Space.....	87
5.5.1	Director's Office.....	87
5.5.2	Staff Meeting Room.....	87
5.5.3	Storage Space.....	87

5.6	Outdoor Areas.....	88
5.6.1	Adequate Outdoor Space.....	88
5.6.2	Playground Equipment.....	88
5.6.3	Playground Supervision.....	89
5.6.4	Playground Safety, Security and Protection.....	89
5.6.5	Playground Surfaces.....	89
5.6.6	Inspections and Repairs.....	90
5.6.7	Substitute and Adequate Space Indoors for Large Group Play....	90
5.6.8	Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds.....	90
6.0	HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	93
6.1	Documentation of Inspections.....	93
6.2	Children’s Health Records.....	93
6.3	Emergency, Health, and Security Information.....	94
6.4	Policies Regarding Illnesses.....	94
6.5	Special Health Needs of Children.....	94
6.6	Administering and Storing of Medicines.....	95
6.7	Medical Log.....	95
6.8	Blood-borne Pathogens.....	96
6.9	Cleanliness Requirements.....	96
6.10	Washing of Infant and Toddler Bedding.....	97
6.11	Health Screenings.....	97
6.12	Safety.....	97
6.12.1	Supervision of Arrivals and Departures.....	97
6.12.2	Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect.....	98
6.12.3	Policies and Procedures to Eliminate Child Abuse.....	98
6.12.4	Providing Extra Clothing for Children.....	98
6.12.5	First Aid Certified Personnel.....	99
6.12.6	First Aid Supplies.....	99
6.12.7	Written Record of Accidents and Illnesses.....	100
6.12.8	Emergency Preparedness Plans.....	100
6.12.9	Fire Extinguishers and Detectors.....	101
6.12.10	Emergency Phone Numbers	101
6.12.11	Notifying Parents/Guardians in Emergencies.....	101
6.12.12	Proper Chemical Labeling and Storage.....	102
6.12.13	Vehicle Inspection, Permits, and Qualified Drivers.....	102

6.12.14	Vehicles with Restraining Devices and Emergency Equipment..	103
6.12.15	Field Trip Policies and Procedures.....	103
6.12.16	Cleanliness of Facilities.....	104
6.12.17	Sanitizing Toys and Equipment.....	104
6.12.18	Hot Water Conditions.....	104
6.12.19	Safe Electrical Outlets.....	105
7.0	FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS.....	107
7.1	Public Relations.....	107
7.2	Parent or Guardian Handbook.....	107
7.2.1	Contents and Communication.....	107
7.2.2	Visitation Rights.....	108
7.3	Communication.....	108
7.3.1	Communication with Parents or Guardians.....	108
7.3.2	General Conferences about their Children.....	109
7.3.3	Conferences Regarding the Child’s Development Progress.....	110
7.3.4	Reporting of Significant Changes in Behavior.....	110
7.4	Parent or Guardian Education.....	111
7.4.1	Parent Training Programs.....	111
7.4.2	Referral to Community Resources.....	111
7.4.3	Parent Survey.....	112
7.5	Stakeholders Survey.....	114

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Association of Christian Teachers and Schools
911 S. Parsons Ave., Suite G
Brandon, FL 33511

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ

APPENDIX 2

General Council of the Assemblies of God
1445 N. Boonville Avenue
Springfield, MO 65803

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

These are nonnegotiable tenets of faith that all Assemblies of God churches adhere to. This list is derived from the official Statement of Fundamental Truths.

1. WE BELIEVE...The Scriptures are Inspired by God and declare His design and plan for mankind.
2. WE BELIEVE...There is only One True God—revealed in three persons...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity).
3. WE BELIEVE...In the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. As God's son Jesus was both human and divine.
4. WE BELIEVE...though originally good, Man Willingly Fell to Sin—ushering evil and death, both physical and spiritual, into the world.
5. WE BELIEVE...Every Person Can Have Restored Fellowship with God Through 'Salvation' (trusting Christ, through faith and repentance, to be our personal Savior). [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]
6. WE BELIEVE...and practice two ordinances—(1) Water Baptism by Immersion after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation, and (2) Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation.
7. WE BELIEVE...the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Special Experience Following Salvation that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times. [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]
8. WE BELIEVE... The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is 'Speaking in Tongues,' as experienced on the Day of Pentecost and referenced throughout Acts and the Epistles.
9. WE BELIEVE...Sanctification Initially Occurs at Salvation and is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separating from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christ like.
10. WE BELIEVE...The Church has a Mission to seek and save all who are lost in sin. We believe 'the Church' is the Body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His son Jesus Christ.
11. WE BELIEVE...A Divinely Called and Scripturally Ordained Leadership Ministry Serves the Church. The Bible teaches that each of us under leadership must commit ourselves to reach others for Christ, to worship Him with other believers, to build up or edify the body of believers—the Church and to meet human need with ministries of love and compassion.
12. WE BELIEVE...Divine Healing of the Sick is a Privilege for Christians Today and is provided for in Christ's atonement (His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins). [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]
13. WE BELIEVE...in The Blessed Hope—When Jesus Raptures His Church Prior to His Return to Earth (the second coming). At this future moment in time all believers who have died will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and Christians who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever. [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the AG]
14. WE BELIEVE...in The Millennial Reign of Christ when Jesus returns with His saints at His second coming and begins His benevolent rule over earth for 1,000 years. This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel and the establishment of universal peace.
15. WE BELIEVE...A Final Judgment Will Take Place for those who have rejected Christ. They will be judged for their sin and consigned to eternal punishment in a punishing lake of fire.
16. WE BELIEVE...and look forward to the perfect New Heavens and a New Earth that Christ is preparing for all people, of all time, who have accepted Him. We will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on Earth. 'And so shall we forever be with the Lord!'

APPENDIX 3

Calvary Chapel Education Association (CCEA)
3232 W. MacArthur Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92704

CALVARY CHAPEL DISTINCTIVES

Calvary Chapel Education Association is a fellowship of Calvary Chapel Ministries and individuals who support Christian Education through their belief in Jesus Christ and their adherence to the Calvary Chapel Distinctives.

- We believe that God calls us to His ministry. (Heb. 5:4)
- We believe that God has given each of us the responsibility of training up the youth of today. (Deut. 6:6-9)
- We believe that there is one head of the Church and our ministry, Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:22)
- We believe that without the power of the Holy Spirit in us we can do nothing to glorify God. (Acts 1:8 & Zach. 4:6)
- We believe that love is the greatest gift that the Spirit can give us and only through God's love and grace to us can we succeed. (Heb 13:9)
- We believe that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and that we are to study and follow them. (I Tim. 4:13)
- We believe that Jesus Christ is central to all that we do in our lives and ministry. (2 Cor. 4:5)
- We believe in the rapture of the Church who will again come in glory at Jesus' return. (Titus 2:13)
- We believe that this ministry was conceived by the Spirit of God and will only last if we follow Him and not our own desires (2 Cor. 3:5-6)
- We believe that without the love of God dwelling in us that we can do no good thing. (John 13:35)
- We believe that as followers of our Lord Jesus we should also strive to be the best that we can in the field of education and training. (2 Tim 2:15)
- We believe that God will bless this ministry if it is in His will and without His guidance and blessing it will cease to exist. (Heb. 11:6)