

## VESTAVIA DAY SCHOOL / PARENT COVENANT

A Covenant is traditionally a promise between two groups about how they will work together. It is not exactly policy, but instead is a practical, and spiritual document, in which two parties agree how to help each other. This Covenant reflects our desire for a smooth and clear working relationship that is helpful to everyone, especially the children in our program. It is signed by everyone who is partnering in giving care to a child.

### Day School

- We will work diligently to provide a class-specific curriculum designed to educate our children daily toward a level of intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual maturity. Our goal is that each student would be well prepared to transition from our program into local schools for Kindergarten.
- We will work daily to implement the curriculum and note how each child is responding and progressing.
- We will report to parents how each child is progressing and where additional home parenting assistance and/or discipline is needed to help their child progress in our curriculum and contribute to the overall health of their class.
- We will have one of the teachers of your child's age group welcome your child with a smile each day and talk with parents about any concerns coming up that day. At the end of the day, a teacher will communicate any concerns to parents and say goodbye with a smile.
- We will work together with you to set goals to help your child learn developmental and discipline skills that translate to both the school and home settings.
- If your child is or becomes sick, VDS will call you and let you know as soon as possible. We will monitor your child's well-being and work with you to address concerns.
- The teachers will communicate daily through your child's folder or daily sheet and will look for any communications that you send as well.
- We will seek to provide enjoyable and helpful activities for all students during school sessions and time spent at VDS before or after class.
- We will work diligently to provide a safe, clean environment for your child.

### Parent

- I recognize that all new children are given a 4 to 6-week transition period during which either the parent or the Day School may decide that the Day School is not the best fit for their child. If either party decides it is not a good fit, payment will only be expected for the duration of the transition period.
- I recognize that our home is the primary environment for teaching appropriate discipline and social skills needed by all children for the Day School to be successful.
- I recognize that Vestavia Day School was founded as a school for young children, supplemented by care before and after school sessions. VDS Teachers are educators and not simply child care providers. As such, the calendar and expectations are different from many child care facilities. For the most part, VDS follows the calendar and closing policies of the Vestavia School System, which means that Spring Break and Christmas Break are times when the Day School will be closed.

- I agree that I will bring my child to school on time unless there is an extreme emergency. When children arrive at different times, it disrupts the educational process for all of the children in the room.
- I agree to drop my child at class, and then leave. Though my child may display separation anxiety, I recognize that this is typical for most children and usually diminishes once the child's attention can move elsewhere.
- I realize it is my responsibility to have my child potty-trained before they enter a three-year-old class. I understand that if my child is not potty-trained, my child will be temporarily removed from that class and the Day School (unless space is available in a younger class for children who are not potty-trained).
- I realize VDS teachers will work with my child to help prepare him/her for independent pottying, but it is important that we as parents are primarily responsible for potty-training.
- I will share with teachers any health or behavioral issues from home or other settings that will impact their care plan, caregivers, or other children. (i.e. febrile seizures, sensory processing, ADHD, speech delays, major life transitions)
- I will check my child's folder or daily sheet and respond promptly to any notes or messages.
- I will enter important dates on my calendar from the school calendar within the first week of school.
- I recognize that children pass illnesses easily to each other and germs are inevitable in a group environment. However, VDS will enforce the sick policy for the protection of all children and care givers.
- I recognize that Vestavia Day School staff are not specialists for children who exhibit heightened learning or behavioral challenges. The Vestavia Hills School System does have specialists for children who need specialized care. In the best interest of my child and the classroom, I recognize that if my child's needs are beyond the skill level of the program, the teacher and school leadership will work with me to transition to a better environment for my child.
- I recognize that those who teach my child are educational professionals and I will treat them respectfully, acknowledging their years of experience in helping children in their development. I recognize that if the staff and I are unable to respectfully cooperate, my child may be removed from the program at the sole discretion of the Day School.