

2026-27 Parent Handbook



SHADOWBROOK

WeekDAY

SCHOOL





Welcome to Shadowbrook Weekday School!

We are so glad you're here! For over 40 years, Shadowbrook Weekday School has served as a ministry extension of Shadowbrook Church, and we are proud to be a pillar in our community for early childhood education. It is a joy to welcome your little one into this special preschool legacy, and we are truly honored to partner with you during these foundational years of your child's learning and development.

This year, we are excited to offer 16 classes for children ranging from 15 months old through Kindergarten. Our dedicated team of 40 incredible women are ready to nurture, teach, and support your child with love and care. At SWS, our mission is to help each child grow spiritually, academically, and socially in a safe, healthy, and Christ-centered environment.

We ask that you take time to read through this handbook carefully. In particular, please pay close attention to the Carpool and Health & Safety sections, which have been moved to the beginning to reflect their importance.

As always, our teachers will provide a developmentally appropriate learning experience through stories, music, crafts, hands-on activities, and both group and individual play. Children will also enjoy weekly specials including Art, PE, Music & Movement, and Chapel, along with daily outdoor play (weather permitting).

Open and consistent communication is key to a successful school year. In addition to this handbook, we use several tools to keep you informed. At Parent Orientation, you'll receive a calendar with all events and important dates for the year—please be sure to add these to your personal calendar. Additional notes may come home in your child's folder via their bookbag, so be sure to check it daily. You will also receive an invitation to join Brightwheel, our communication platform where teachers will share class newsletters, updates, and photos. And of course, our office staff is always available to assist with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year.

Thank you for choosing Shadowbrook Weekday School. We are grateful for your trust and excited to walk alongside your family this year. We can't wait to see what God will do as we work together to build a strong and joyful foundation for your child's future.

Warmly,

Jenny Baldwin

On behalf of the Shadowbrook Weekday School Staff

Carpool

Our goal is to create a safe environment for our students and our staff and to keep our carpool from becoming congested. Please help us by following our procedures:

- Everyone is required to use our carpool system both in the morning and in the afternoon. All students will use the same carpool line in the morning and afternoon. As we strive to keep our facility as clean as possible, walk-ins are not permitted. As in past years, we do believe utilizing the carpool system encourages our children to become independent and helps to ease their separation anxieties.
- As the carpool line begins to move and you approach the school, **refrain from cell phone use**. Our carpool line is a NO CELL PHONE ZONE. Follow all posted signs.
- Follow the correct pick-up route (map included for clarification). Enter the driveway of our nextdoor neighbor, **EWING**. Do NOT use Shadowbrook driveways during carpool.
- IN THE MORNING, use the inside lane that runs along the sidewalk. We do not utilize a separate sibling lane in the mornings.
- We strive to keep carpool moving quickly. In the morning, please have your child dressed and fed *before* they get into the carpool line. Assistant teachers begin collecting children from cars at 9:30 and our goal is to be finished with morning carpool by 9:45. At that time, the teachers go to their classrooms to begin their day. If you arrive after that time, park and walk your child to the door. After 9:45 am, there is only one person available to walk kids to class, so you may need to wait a few minutes if you arrive late.
- Most children adjust quickly to the preschool routine. Teachers make plans for activities and playtime beginning at 9:30. When a student is consistently late, they sometimes find it frustrating that they've missed out on something fun. Please help your little ones have a positive start to their day by arriving on time in the morning.
- IN THE AFTERNOON, if you are picking up a single child, use the inside lane (#s 200 – 599). If you are picking up students in our 1 Year Old Class, siblings, or children who regularly carpool, use the outside lane (100s, 600s and 900s).
- In the carpool lane, park your vehicle close to the car in front of you while leaving enough space to walk in between. It is not necessary to leave a whole car length.
- It is also important to leave space between the curb and your car so your child can step in and out safely and so teachers can walk alongside your car. **Do not park against the curb**.
- Do not pass the car in front of you while waiting in line. Please be patient. Keeping the carpool lane exiting in the same direction will keep everyone safe.
- DO NOT leave your child unattended on the sidewalk! Keep your child in the car until a teacher approaches the vehicle.
- You will be given a tag to attach to the top of your child's backpack. The tag will have your child's name and room number. It is very important that this tag is easily visible. In the beginning of the year, each time you drop off, help the teacher by telling her your child's name and room number.
- Teachers will hand sanitize each time they exit the building to escort a different child.
- Parents may NOT walk their child(ren) to the classroom in the morning. Children will be escorted into the building by Shadowbrook staff.
- Lead teachers will greet your child as they arrive in the classroom and assist them with their belongings. Once bags are unpacked, each child will wash their hands with soap and water before they begin their day.

- Every student will be assigned a carpool number and each family will receive two carpool tags. This tag hangs from your rearview mirror for the entire time you are on campus for carpool. This number tells our staff members which child (or children) to call. Do not take it down until your children are safely secured in your vehicle.
 - One-year-olds will receive a 100 series number.
 - Two-year-olds will receive a 200 series number.
 - Three-year-olds will receive a 300 series number.
 - Four-year-olds will receive a 400 series number.
 - Kindergarten will receive a 500 series number.
 - Siblings will only receive a 600 series number.
 - Unrelated children who carpool will receive a 900 series number.
- There will be NO walk-ins in the afternoon. If you need to check your child out early, contact your teacher in advance to let us know when to expect you and we will have your child ready and waiting for you. Park in the parking lot and ring the bell at the school's double glass doors. If you need to check your child out or pick up a sick child, **bring your drivers license to the door.** An ID check is required for all persons checking out a student, regardless if we already know you and recognize you. A staff member will bring your child out to you. **All early pick-ups must be checked out by 1:00 p.m. After 1:00 p.m., you must follow normal carpool procedures.**
- During afternoon carpool, as your child and a teacher approach the car, you must step out of your vehicle to assist your child into the car. Legally, every child is to travel in a car seat or a booster seat. Our expectation is that every student will be transported safely and legally. YOU must properly buckle the child into the car seat before moving the vehicle. Due to insurance policies, the staff and teachers are not allowed to buckle the child's seat belt or car seat.
- Your carpool form is a very important source of information for the school. Please complete the needed information carefully and legibly. Be sure to indicate on your form if there are people who should not pick up your child.
- If your child is to be picked up by anyone other than his regular carpool driver as indicated on his carpool form, we must have written permission from you. You may send a note with your child informing us of exceptions. It is your responsibility to inform the school about transportation changes. If you do not send in a note and an unauthorized person comes to pick up your child, your child will not be released to them until we have contacted you. They must have your numbered carpool tag or an ID to pick up your child.
- If you have an emergency and cannot get to school on time to pick up your child, call the office at 770-945-3549 to let us know. If someone else will be picking up your child, he/she must provide identification.
- Carpool is not the time for conferencing with your child's teacher. If you have any concerns, contact your teacher to schedule an appropriate time for a meeting. In the afternoon, we also ask that you wait to open backpacks, administer snacks or change clothes until you are out of the carpool line. Our goal is to clear the line as quickly as possible each day. Many of our teachers are moms who need to get home to get their own children off the school bus, so please help us by being on time in the afternoon.
- Late pick up: If you are not on campus and in line by 1:45 p.m. and the line is finished, a late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be charged to your Brightwheel account.
- **Please share this carpool information with anyone that will be picking up or dropping off your child this school year.**

CARPOOL MAP



General Health and Wellness

- Your child's safety is our top priority. We will take all measures necessary to ensure their well-being.
- If your child should become ill with a fever or a contagious disease (such as pink eye, strep throat, chicken pox, Fifth disease, COVID-19 or Hand Foot Mouth) or is discovered to have lice, please contact the office immediately. The infected child will not be named; however, we will email the other parents in the class to make them aware of the situation as soon as possible.
- We cannot be responsible for administering any medications to children, except for rescue inhalers and EpiPens.
- For the protection of everyone at school, please keep children at home if they have the flu or a fever of 99.9 degrees or over. Your child should be free from a fever, diarrhea and vomiting, a bad cough or cold for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- If your child is discovered to have head lice while at school, you will be contacted and asked to have your child picked up. The child should then be treated with either an over-the-counter treatment or taken to a lice removal specialist. Your little one should be lice-free before returning to school. Children will be re-examined by office staff upon their return.
- We will need to be advised if your child has any food or medical allergies. This is for the protection of your child.
- Due to migraines and those who suffer from asthma, we ask that you refrain from using colognes, perfumes, and/or scented lotions on your children as these can trigger migraines or asthma attacks.
- Before starting school, the children in our three-year-old classes must be completely potty trained. We do not have the facilities within our three-year-old classrooms to change diapers or Pull-ups. It becomes unsanitary for other children in the classroom when a child continues to have toileting accidents. Children are encouraged to handle all toileting needs for themselves. If a child needs assistance, it will be given in a teaching manner.
- We will take the necessary steps to make sure your child is cared for properly. If a serious injury occurs, you will be notified immediately. All our staff members have current certification in CPR and First Aid of infants and young children. Should your child receive a minor injury, such as a bump or skinned knee, you will be notified through an "Ouchy (Accident) Report." This report will tell you how, to the best of our knowledge, the accident occurred and what was done to treat it.
- We will conduct monthly drills for fire, tornado, and lockdown with your children on a routine basis from September through April.
- During an actual tornado warning we will not release any children.

Security and Safety Measures

Our school building remains securely locked throughout the entire school day. For added security, there is only one entrance and exit available for use during school hours. This controlled access helps us monitor who enters and exits the building. Additionally, all exterior doors of the church building remain locked at all times during our school week.

The interior doors connecting our school to the rest of the church building are also secured. Access to these areas is managed through magnetic locks that require badge clearance. This system ensures that only authorized individuals can enter these parts of the building, enhancing the overall safety of our school environment.

Our campus is equipped with security cameras that monitor both the exterior and interior of the building. These cameras are strategically placed to cover key areas, including the parking lot and all entry points. Our administration staff diligently monitors these security feeds throughout the school day. This constant vigilance allows us to quickly identify and address any suspicious activity, whether inside the building or in the surrounding areas.

Our school conducts safety drills throughout the school year, including lockdown drills. Our teachers handle lockdown drills with the utmost sensitivity, particularly considering the age and emotional well-being of our students. We understand that these drills can be unsettling, and we strive to conduct them in a manner that is appropriate for each age group. To minimize any potential distress, we do not delve into specific details about the reasons for conducting these drills with our students.

Our goal is to prepare students for emergencies while providing them with a sense of security. We believe that maintaining this balance helps our students feel safe and supported.

We believe these measures are crucial in maintaining a secure and safe learning environment for our students. If you have any questions or concerns about our security procedures, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Enrollment Policies

Shadowbrook Weekday School (SWS) follows the Gwinnett County guidelines for enrollment. Your child's age as of September 1st determines the class level in which he or she will be enrolled. At the time of enrollment, a completed registration form and a *non-refundable* registration fee are required for each child.

SWS is exempt from state licensure requirements by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). SWS is a private preschool and is not a state-licensed care facility; however, we still fall under the mandates of our state's DECAL program. Because of this, it is required that each child will attend no more than four hours per day, not to exceed twenty hours per week for our 2-year-old through Kindergarten students, and not to exceed eight hours per week for our 1-year-old students.

Tuition

Tuition is a monthly fee due by the 7th day of the month. Tuition must be paid even if a child is sick or in the event of an extended absence (i.e. family vacation – whether one week, one month or longer). If a family is on an extended vacation, tuition is still due by the 7th of each month that the child is absent to secure the child's place. If tuition is not paid as stated, the school reserves the right to fill the child's vacated spot. The school cannot refund any tuition due to sickness or extended absence. We do offer a sibling discount of 10% off the younger siblings' tuition.

All students will also be charged an annual Activity Fee of \$100.00. There is a \$100 Curriculum Fee for Pre-K and a \$125 Curriculum Fee for Kindergarten. Our tuition payments are divided evenly between nine installments that are drafted throughout the school year. The first tuition payment as well as the annual activity fee and curriculum fee (if applicable) will be charged on July 7. This payment confirms and guarantees your child's enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. The remaining tuition payments will be drafted on September 7, October 7, November 7, December 7, January 7, February 7, March 7, and April 7. If the 7th falls on a weekend, drafts will occur on the Friday before.

Shadowbrook Weekday School utilizes Brightwheel Billing for all tuition and fee payments. For the safety and convenience of our families and staff, we do not accept cash, checks, or payments made outside of the Brightwheel platform. All tuition and school-related fees must be paid through your Brightwheel account. Parents are responsible for ensuring that a valid payment method is on file in Brightwheel at all times. Payment methods can be added or updated by logging into your Brightwheel account and navigating to the Billing section. Brightwheel accepts payments through checking accounts (ACH) as well as debit and credit cards.

Please note that Brightwheel assesses the following processing fees:

- ACH/Checking Account Payments: 0.6% of the payment amount, with a maximum fee of \$2.00 per transaction
- Debit/Credit Card Payments: 2.95% of the payment amount

These processing fees are charged by Brightwheel and are the responsibility of the parent.

If a scheduled payment is declined or cannot be processed for any reason, a \$35 late fee will be assessed and invoiced to your Brightwheel account in addition to the outstanding tuition or fees. It is the parent's responsibility to promptly update payment information and remit payment. Students with accounts that are more than 30 days overdue will not be permitted to attend school until the account balance has been brought current. If you anticipate difficulty making a payment, please contact the Director as soon as possible to discuss your situation.

If you should withdraw your child at any time during the year, a thirty-day notice is required. Withdrawal notices must be submitted in writing through Brightwheel or via email to the Director at jenny@shadowbrookchurch.org. We do not refund paid tuition, registration, Activity, or Curriculum fees.

Tuition Rates for 2026-2027

5 Day Program Kindergarten.....\$425 Pre-K and 3-year old.....\$390	3 Day Program 2-year-old.....\$320
4 Day Program Pre-K, 3-year-old, 2-year-old.....\$390	2 Day Program 1-year-old.....\$285

Activity Fee: All students pay a \$100 annual fee which covers special activities, events and in-house entertainers. This one-time fee is due in mid-July before school begins. If a student enrolls after the school year begins, this fee is due at the time of registration.

Curriculum Fee: This fee covers curriculum, copies, materials and in-house field trips for Pre-K and Kindergarten. This one-time fee is due in mid-July before school begins. If a student enrolls after the school year begins, this fee is due at the time of registration.

The Curriculum Fee is as follows:

Pre-K.....\$100.00 per year
Kindergarten..... \$125.00 per year

Immunization

Prior to your child's first day of preschool, as required by the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR), you must provide us with a current Immunization Form (3231). Immunization forms are available at your doctor's office or the Health Department. This information must be on file. If your child's form expires during the school year, you will be notified by the office prior to the expiration date. All children must have a current 3231 Form on file. *Shadowbrook Weekday School does not accept religious exemptions.*

First & Last Day of School

School begins on Wednesday, September 2, for the following classes:

One-year-old - M/W class

Two-year-old – all classes

Young threes

Three-year-old – all classes

Pre-K – all classes

Kindergarten class

Their last day of school is Wednesday, May 19, 2027.

School begins on Thursday, September 3 for the following class:
One-year-old T/Th class
Their last day is Tuesday, May 18, 2027.

School Hours

- Our school day is from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm.
- We follow the Gwinnett County School Calendar for Early Release, holidays, and inclement weather. *In addition to those closures, SWS is also closed on Good Friday, March 26, 2027.* When Gwinnett has Early Release, our day ends at 11:30 am.
- During inclement weather, be sure to check your local news for school closings.
If Gwinnett County Schools are closed, we will be closed also. We will not make up snow days unless otherwise specified by the Director.
- If Gwinnett County Schools are *delayed*, we will be closed. Our teachers are parents with kids attending many different schools, some in surrounding counties who may have various delayed starting times at their school. This may keep our teachers from arriving at SWS on time.
- GCPS has built in Digital Days this year. SWS will have in-person, face-to-face instruction on those **scheduled** Digital Days. However, if GCPS calls for a Digital Day due to inclement weather, SWS would be closed.

Class Size

The Director reserves the right to adjust any class size during the school year. All Preschool classes will have two teachers - a Lead Teacher and an Assistant Teacher. Boy/Girl ratios will be maintained as evenly as our enrollment permits us. Our Kindergarten class is staffed at a ratio of one teacher for every nine students (1:9). Our goal for class sizes is as follows:

One-year-old	two days	8 - 9 children
Two-year-old	three or four days	10 -11 children
Three-year-old	four or five days	14 -15 children
Pre-K	four or five days	14-16 children
Kindergarten	five days	14-16 children

School Supplies

To help keep our costs down, we ask that each child bring the items from their School Supply List at the beginning of the year. Please see the list below. Feel free to bring your items to Parent Orientation, Meet & Greet or during the first week of school. If you would rather have someone do the shopping for you, simply text **SUPPLIES** to **770-343-5586**. This will give us permission to charge your Brightwheel account \$40, and your child's supplies will be purchased by our staff.

1 YEAR OLD CLASSES:

- 1 ream of WHITE CARD STOCK
- 3 containers of baby wipes
- 1 box of 3 oz Dixie bathroom cups
- 1 box Kleenex tissues
- 1 box of Band Aids 1 container of Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- 1 19 oz Lysol disinfectant spray
- 1 4 oz container of Play-Doh brand modeling compound
- 1 bottle unscented Purell hand sanitizer

2 YEAR OLD CLASSES:

- 1 ream of white copy paper
- 3 containers of baby wipes
- 1 bottle unscented Purell hand sanitizer
- 1 box Kleenex tissues
- 1 box SANDWICH size Ziploc bags
- 1 container of Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- 1 19 oz Lysol disinfectant spray
- 1 4 oz container of Play-Doh brand modeling compound

3 YEAR OLD CLASSES:

- 1 ream of white copy paper
- 2 containers of baby wipes
- 1 box GALLON size Ziploc bags
- 24 count box Crayola crayons
- 6 Elmer's brand glue sticks
- 1 box Kleenex tissues
- 1 container of Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- 1 19 oz Lysol disinfectant spray
- 1 4 oz container of Play-Doh brand modeling compound

PRE-K CLASSES:

- 1 ream of white copy paper
- 2 container of baby wipes
- 1 box Kleenex tissues
- Fiskars 5" Blunt Tip Scissors
- 24 count box Crayola crayons
- 6 Elmer's brand glue sticks
- 1 container of Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- 1 19 oz Lysol disinfectant spray
- 1 4 oz container of Play-Doh brand modeling compound

KINDERGARTEN:

- 1 ream of white CARD STOCK
- 1 box Kleenex tissues
- 2 boxes of 24 count Crayola crayons
- 6 Elmer's brand glue sticks
- Fiskars 5" Blunt Tip Scissors
- Plastic Pencil Box
- 12 count Ticonderoga Pencils
- 1 12 count box of EXPO Fine Tip Dry Erase Markers (black)
- 1 container of Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- 1 19 oz Lysol disinfectant spray
- 1 4 oz container of Play-Doh brand modeling compound

Additionally, plan to send the following items to school with your child:

- A full-size backpack (no roller-bags) – Though it may seem large, especially for the littlest learners, each child is required to have a FULL-SIZE backpack. This backpack holds their lunchbox, diapers (for 1s and 2s), a complete change of clothes, a leak-proof reusable water bottle, and a folder (which teachers will supply). Please do not send them to school with a tiny backpack or a tote bag. It's important for children to have their hands free - one hand to hold and the other to carry their in-house carpool number, and backpacks just work best. You will be issued a bag tag at Parent Orientation.
- A lunch box (labeled with your child's name) containing a lunch that does **not** need to be refrigerated or warmed up in a microwave. No juice boxes or juice bags please. Students will only be permitted to drink water at SWS unless we are having a class party. We would greatly appreciate you saving pizza Lunchables and Gogurt for at home snacking. They are *extremely* messy in the classroom, and the messes they make require teachers to spend extra time cleaning, which takes them away from teaching the fun activities they have planned.
- Reusable Water bottle – flip top straw – **labeled with your child's name**
- Appropriate clothing for outside play (i.e. sneakers, coat, hats, mittens, etc.)
- Extra diapers (ones and twos), labeled with child's name
- A complete change of clothes, including socks (all ages)

Do NOT bring:

- Toys/stuffed animals
- Any items other than the ones listed above unless specified by the teacher

Confidentiality

All student records will be kept confidential. Only Shadowbrook Weekday School staff will have access to these records. All conversations and conferences whether by phone, e-mail, written letter, or in person will be documented and held confidential. All matters concerning tuition, fees and/or other money related issues will also be kept confidential. Your trust and confidence are very important in our relationship. We hope you will feel at ease when discussing important matters with us.

Clothing

Please send your child to school dressed to play. Do not dress your child in something you don't wish to get dirty. We play outside and sometimes get messy in everyday learning. We do try to use smocks during art projects, but accidents happen. We do not want to ruin any special clothes. For safety reasons, we recommend your child wear sneakers to school every day. We run, jump, skip and hop, and those skills are even more difficult in open-toed sandals, flip-flops, clogs or cowboy boots. Please help us keep your kids safe with appropriate footwear. We will also be playing outside every day, weather permitting, so make sure your child is dressed accordingly. If your child does not bring a coat, and we think it is too cold outside for him without one, we will not let him go outside. He will have to sit at the front desk with a staff member and wait for the class to return. Be sure to LABEL all clothing with your child's name. This will help your teacher keep up with your child's belongings.

Nutritional Lunch

Parents are to provide a lunch on the days your child will be at school. Remember to label all lunch boxes. Lunches should be packed in unbreakable containers and ready to serve. We will not cook, warm, or refrigerate your child's lunch. Please pack nutritious lunches. One cookie or something sweet is fine, but please send in a protein and some fruits and veggies. We try to avoid the after-lunch sugar crash, and your help would be appreciated. We will encourage but will not force your child to eat. Please note that due to allergies your child's teacher may send home a note requesting certain foods not be sent in your child's lunch. We ask you to respect this request while packing lunch for your child.

Birthday Celebrations

Parents may send in cookies, donut holes, mini cupcakes, or popsicles for their child's birthday. Children with summer birthdays will celebrate before the end of the school year. Birthday celebrations occur at the end of the school day prior to afternoon carpool. Parents may attend if they would like to help serve the cookies or treats. ***Please do not bring in or send pizza, sheet cake, large cupcakes, cookie cake, ice cream, goodie bags, hats or balloons.*** If you would like to invite the class to a party off-site, we are happy to distribute invitations, but excessive birthday celebrations in the classroom are not acceptable.

Class Rosters

This year, parents will be invited to complete a Google Form to help us create an electronic class roster. This roster will be shared with Room Parents and families to help coordinate playdates and birthday invitations. We are also still happy to place paper birthday invitations in student folders upon request.

Class Parties

We will have two parties that will be coordinated by class Room Moms - Christmas and End of Year. All parents are encouraged to help facilitate and attend these celebrations!

Parent Volunteers

Parent involvement in our preschool is welcomed and encouraged! Your teacher will keep you informed as to the specific needs in her classroom and any opportunity that may arise for help from parents.

Substitute Opportunities

Teachers will not be able to work if they are exhibiting any symptoms of illness or if they need to stay home with a sick child. Because of this, we will need to have a large pool of substitute teachers available. We are asking parents that might be willing to step in to help sub to sign up at parent orientation. Substitutes will attend an information meeting and undergo a background check before they are allowed in the classrooms. Parents who choose to sub will receive a \$60 tuition credit toward their next month's tuition for each day that they substitute in a class. Parents will never work in a class that their child attends. This is a great way to pay down your tuition while helping to fill a great need.

Newsletters and Calendars

A school calendar will be given to each family at Parent Orientation. Every special event and activity for the school year is listed. Reminders or unforeseen changes will be communicated through your child's teacher. Please check your child's folder and book bag daily.

You will also receive a class newsletter through Brightwheel from your child's teacher each week. Please take the time to read the newsletters. They will contain information about the week's activities and upcoming units, special activities, birthdays, photos and any other necessary information.

Field Trips

Pre-K and Kindergarten will have in-house field trips throughout the school year. Shadowbrook Church does not own a bus so we cannot travel off-campus. Information on in-house activities will be sent home prior to each field trip. When necessary, a permission form may be required to be signed and returned before your child is allowed to participate.

Curriculum

We use a variety of formal curricula that we build on each year to achieve our educational goals. At Shadowbrook Weekday School, we use the Zoo-phonics® program as part of our early literacy instruction in both preschool and kindergarten. Zoo-phonics® is a fun, multi-sensory approach to teaching phonemic awareness, letter recognition, and early reading skills. Each letter of the alphabet is paired with an animal character, a body movement, and a sound, which helps children connect letters with their corresponding sounds in an engaging and memorable way. By incorporating visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning, Zoo-phonics® supports a wide range of learning styles and helps children develop strong foundational skills in reading and language. Our goal is to make learning to read exciting and accessible for every child!

Students are introduced to pre-writing and writing skills through the Get Set for School and Handwriting Without Tears programs. These developmentally appropriate resources use engaging, hands-on activities to help children build fine motor skills, proper pencil grip, and correct letter formation.

Science and Social Studies concepts are explored through Scholastic Readers, which provide age-appropriate, real-world content to spark curiosity and support early comprehension and vocabulary development.

Our younger students are introduced to age-appropriate math concepts through hands-on activities, games, and manipulatives. They explore foundational skills such as counting, recognizing shapes, understanding one-to-one correspondence, and even early addition and subtraction in fun and engaging ways that encourage active learning. In Kindergarten, students use the Mindful Math curriculum, a hands-on, developmentally appropriate curriculum that helps children build a strong foundation in number sense, problem-solving, and mathematical thinking through play, exploration, and real-world experiences. Lessons encourage children to think critically, communicate their ideas, and develop confidence in math while fostering a positive attitude toward learning.

Our program is designed to be developmentally and individually oriented. Your child will learn through a variety of hands-on activities and learning experiences. They will also learn through nature discoveries, science experiments, dramatic play, music, books, crafts, blocks, puzzles, and other manipulatives. Social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth is considered in all that we do.

Circle Time may include calendar, weather, and sharing information about units of study, Bible stories, games, books, music, dramatic play or Show and Tell.

Through all that we do, we emphasize basic Biblical truths as guidelines for spiritual growth. We want your child to come to the basic understanding that Jesus loves them unconditionally and that His love and sacrifice allow them to have a relationship with our heavenly Father.

Weekly Specials

Each week, students will participate in a variety of enriching Specials designed to support their development and spark creativity. These classes are part of our regular schedule unless special events or other priorities arise:

- **Chapel:** Once a week, children attend Chapel in the Loft. Chapel includes Bible stories, memory verses, and worship songs that help nurture a foundation of faith and encourage spiritual growth.
- **Art:** Students enjoy a weekly 25-minute Art class, separate from classroom crafts. Using a wide range of materials and tools, they'll explore their creativity and develop fine motor skills while creating beautiful, one-of-a-kind works of art.
- **Music & Movement:** In this 25-minute class, children are introduced to various musical styles and concepts. They'll play rhythm instruments, sing songs, learn simple music theory, and move their bodies through activities like dance and rhythmic gymnastics.
- **PE (Physical Education):** Each week, children participate in PE for approximately 25 minutes. Through games, obstacle courses, and guided exercises, they develop gross motor skills, coordination, and teamwork in a fun and active setting.
- **Library:** Our four-year-old and Kindergarten classes enjoy weekly, teacher-led visits to the library. Students may check out one book to take home and share with their families. Books must be returned before another can be borrowed. If a book is lost or damaged, please contact the front office to arrange for replacement.

Conferences

Progress Reports will be completed for all children, with the exception of the one-year-old class. Face-to-face parent/teacher conferences for our Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be held in the spring. Conferences for the two-year-olds and three-year-olds will only be conducted at the request of a parent or a teacher; however, evaluations will be completed for the two and three-year-old class and will be sent home for review in the spring. For the Pre-K and Kindergarten families, your child's teacher will contact you to set up a conference time. The conferences are designed to provide you with a detailed evaluation of your child's progress. If you have a special concern, you may ask for a conference at any time so both you and your child's teacher can work together to help your child succeed.

Managing Behavior

Our goal is to use discipline as a means of guiding children rather than punishing them and to offer a nurturing, learning environment for each child. If behavior problems arise, the teacher will handle the situation as positively as possible. Directions will be given in positive statements, i.e. "use walking feet" instead of "no running"; or "we keep our hands to ourselves" instead of "do not hit." Our initial response to behavior that needs to be corrected is redirection. If redirection does not work, "time away" is used to give the child time to be away from a problem that has arisen. After an age-appropriate time, the child and the teacher will talk about what has happened and the child will re-enter the playing and learning activities. The Director may be asked to intervene if the child continues to exhibit the same inappropriate behavior. If the behavior continues, the Director will call the parents to discuss the situation or to request a conference time. At NO time will physical punishment ever be used.

Biting and Hitting Policy

Our program recognizes that biting and hitting can occur in a preschool setting, particularly as young children are learning appropriate ways to communicate their needs, emotions, and frustrations. While we understand

these behaviors often occur as part of a child's development, we also recognize how upsetting it can be for the children and families involved.

At Shadowbrook Weekday School, the safety and well-being of every child is our highest priority. Our goal is not simply to punish these behaviors, but to understand why they are occurring and to teach children more appropriate ways to express themselves. Most incidents of biting and hitting are not indicative of a serious behavior problem but are often related to developmental stages, communication challenges, frustration, fatigue, teething, or difficulty managing strong emotions.

The names of children involved in any incident will be kept strictly confidential. This helps protect the privacy of all children and allows teachers to focus their time and energy on helping children develop more appropriate behaviors.

Our teachers express strong disapproval of biting and hitting and work diligently to keep children safe while teaching positive social and emotional skills.

Child Who Was Bitten or Hit

- Immediate attention is given to the child.
- If appropriate, ice may be applied to the injured area.
- Any wound will be cleaned with soap and water.
- The teacher will comfort the child and help them use appropriate words such as, "No," "Stop," or "That hurts."
- The child's parent will be notified of the incident, regardless of whether an injury is visible.
- At the end of the day, the parent will be asked to sign an Ouchy Report documenting the incident.

Child Who Bit or Hit

- The teacher will immediately intervene and clearly communicate that the behavior is not acceptable using simple phrases such as:
 - "No biting. Teeth hurt."
 - "No hitting. Hitting hurts."
 - "We do not hurt our friends."
- The teacher will help the child identify and express their feelings using appropriate words and will model alternative behaviors.
- If biting is related to teething, the child may be redirected to a teething toy or cold washcloth.
- The child's parent will be notified of the incident.
- At the end of the day, the parent will be asked to sign a Communication/Incident Report documenting the incident.

Teachers and administrators will work together to identify patterns, triggers, and strategies to help prevent future incidents. If repeated biting or hitting continues despite intervention and consistent support, a conference may be scheduled with the child's parents to develop a behavior support plan.

If these behaviors continue after reasonable interventions and strategies have been implemented, Shadowbrook Weekday School reserves the right to suspend a child from the program. If the behavior persists after returning from suspension, it may become necessary to discontinue the child's enrollment in order to ensure the safety and well-being of all students.

Expulsion from Program

There may be a time when it becomes necessary for us to ask a child to leave our program. Please know before this takes place, we will have exhausted every possible means of resolving the difficulties that led us to this point. The safety and well-being of all the children at Shadowbrook Weekday School is our most important concern. The individual rights of one child will not take precedence over this. Some situations which may result in this decision are:

- When one child makes it unsafe for himself or any other child to be at school.
- When one child is too much of a disruption to the learning going on in the classroom.
- When parents and staff members cannot resolve a situation concerning a child or any other school matter.

Damaged School Property

If a child intentionally damages school property, the parent may be held financially responsible.

Custody Related Issues

Parents must notify the school of any custody situations involving their child/children. All children will be released to either parent unless otherwise stated in writing by the custodial parent/guardian or by a court-issued statement. If a custodial change occurs during the school year, please inform the front office immediately.

Child Development

Shadowbrook Weekday School welcomes all children. Our teachers use inclusive practices to help students of differing abilities to succeed in class and they strive to give equal attention to each child. Once enrolled, students are expected to adhere to the classroom behavior guidelines/expectations and be able to handle the structure of the classroom. To protect the learning environment for all students in the class, our teachers are unable to devote one-on-one assistance to a child who may require continual redirection. We realize that some learning disabilities or behavioral, social, physical, or emotional challenges may develop over time and not become evident until a certain age. If a child is unable to adjust to the classroom environment and is requiring one-on-one attention, we may refer parents to seek support through private early intervention services or from Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS). This support may be facilitated at your home, in the classroom at Shadowbrook, or (if the child qualifies for placement) within a GCPS classroom.

If it is determined at any time by the director, together with the classroom teachers, that Shadowbrook Weekday School is not the best fit, the student will be withdrawn, and a prorated tuition amount will be refunded at the discretion of the director. Registration fees are non-refundable.



Parent Handbook Acknowledgement

The parent handbook describes important information about Shadowbrook Weekday School. By signing below, I acknowledge that I did receive a digital copy of the handbook for my review. I also understand that the handbook is posted on shadowbrookweekday.org under the CURRICULUM TAB on the Parent Info page for later reference. I understand that I should consult the office staff regarding any questions not answered in the handbook. I understand that it is my responsibility to read and comply with the policies contained within and any revisions made to it.

The information and policies described in the handbook are subject to change, and I acknowledge that revisions to the handbook may occur. All such changes will be communicated through official notices, and I understand the revised information may supersede, modify, or eliminate existing policies. Only the Shadowbrook Weekday School Board has the authority to adopt any revisions to the policies in this handbook.

I will review the contents of the
Shadowbrook Weekday School Parent
Handbook.

Parent Signature

Date

Teacher's name: _____

Child's name: _____