## BRIDGEPOINT EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

13277 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77079 832-883-1503 Kelly Smalley, Director

# 2025-2026 PARENT HANDBOOK & OPERATIONAL POLICIES



Updated: 11/20/2025

Dear Parent,

Thank you for entrusting us with your precious child. As you may have already gathered, we take our responsibility to care for children very seriously. A part of this responsibility is establishing and upholding practices and procedures that facilitate a safe and nurturing environment in which children can grow and learn.

As someone who will partner with us as parent or guardian, we ask that you read all the pages of this handbook, knowing that we intend to maintain and enforce the practices and procedures listed. Your signature on your online registration form indicates that you agree with and will follow the protocols established in this handbook.

Sincerely, Kelly Smalley, Director BridgePoint Early Learning Academy

## PARENT HANDBOOK & OPERATIONAL POLICIES



#### VISION AND PHILOSOPHY

BridgePoint Early Learning Academy is an extension of the Children's Ministry of BridgePoint Bible Church. The Academy provides a safe, nurturing, and focused learning environment for children, intentionally laying a firm foundation in social, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual development. Learning is driven by a recognition of each child's uniqueness, a Christ-centered curriculum, and by developing loving relationships with children and parents.

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

#### **AGE RANGE**

BELA students range from 6 months to 4 years old (at the beginning of the school year). Children are divided into classes based on the age range of children enrolled in the program and days registered.

#### Infants (6-17 months)

Our large, bright rooms are filled with developmentally appropriate toys. The children enjoy music, Bible stories, outdoor walks, theme-based activities, and opportunities to learn through play. The approximate student/teacher ratio in these classrooms is 8:2.

#### Toddlers (18-24 months)

Toddlers will learn through touch, sight, sound, and experiences. A Bible story and a simple craft that reinforces the lesson will be a part of the learning experience. The children enjoy daily outdoor playground time, lots of playtime with age-appropriate toys, and teacher interaction that is educationally focused. The approximate student/teacher ratio in the classroom is 10:2.

#### Two-Year-Olds

The two-year-olds will begin to learn in a more structured environment. The schedule for this class includes circle time, games, outdoor playground time, simple crafts, Bible stories, and story time all related to specific themes and teaching objectives. The activities reflect and encourage the older toddler's increased fine motor skills. Group participation and interaction are stressed in the story time, music, and playtime. The children enjoy holiday parties and birthday celebrations. The approximate student/ teacher ratio in these classes is 12:2.

#### Three-Year-Olds - Preschool Program

The curriculum for the three-year-old students centers on their eagerness to learn and their increased ability to listen and follow directions. Learning experiences are driven by objectives and become more detailed as the student's fine motor skills and cognitive abilities develop. The teachers begin to encourage responsibility with assigned helper jobs. Letters and numbers, rhymes, music, and story time are a few of the many educational aspects to the child's day. Bible stories and memory verses are taught weekly. Monthly themes are planned with fun dress-up days, rodeo day, wheels day, and a splash day at end of the school year. The approximate student/teacher ratio in these classes is 12:2. **Children must be potty trained to enter the class in September.** 

#### Four-Year-Olds – Pre-Kindergarten Program

The four-year-old class is intentionally designed to prepare children for kindergarten. Learning experiences will be structured and specific to kindergarten readiness skills. Children will learn phonics, number and letter recognition and application, and math concepts. Students will also be exposed to science through hands-on experiences. The Bible curriculum expands on the character of God, a Biblical timeline, prayer, and a special focus on Christmas and Easter. Memory verses and songs are reinforced daily. Monthly themes provide enrichment activities for the students. Responsibility in the classroom is taught by assigned jobs, individual centers and activities that require group participation. The approximate student/teacher ratio in these classrooms is 12:2 and 15:2 for larger classrooms. Children must be potty trained to enter the class in September.

#### CAMP PROGRAMS

BELA develops and determines camp programs from year to year depending on staff and facility availability.

#### ENROLLMENT PROCESS

BELA offers early enrollment for the upcoming school year for current families each January. Enrollment opens to new families in February.

To secure your child's spot in the program, all fees and forms must be completed by their due dates. Once fees are paid a link to the registration form will be emailed to the parent.

**2025-2026 School Year** begins September 2, 2025 and ends May 21, 2026. See calendar for holiday schedule.

INFANTS		TODDLERS, 2- \$ 3-YEAR-OLDS
6-18 Months BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2025		18-48 Months BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2025
Thurs – \$290/MONTH  Mon/Wed – \$500/MONTH		Mon/Wed OR Tues/Thurs – \$400/MONTH  Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs – \$700/MONTH
Mon/Wed/Thurs – \$660/MONTH		4-YEAR-OLDS
+ Extra Tuesdays* – \$100/MONTH  *Extra Tuesdays – add alternate Tuesdays (averaging 2 Tuesdays per		4 Years Old BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2025
month) from 9 am to 2 pm. See BELA calendar for exact dates.  Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs – \$825/MONTH (if available)		Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs – \$700/MONTH
AFTER CARE		
After Care Program  ALL AGES  M, Tu, W, Th	2:00 PM -	1 DAY/WEEK – \$85/MONTH 2 DAYS/WEEK – \$170/MONTH 3 DAYS/WEEK – \$240/MONTH 4 DAYS/WEEK – \$290/MONTH
MOMETOCITHED - EVEDV OTHER THEEDAY 9-43DM		

#### MOMS TOGETHER - EVERY OTHER TUESDAY, 9-12PM

**INFANTS to 4-YEAR-OLDS** 

Moms Together is a ministry of BridgePoint Bible Church that connects moms of littles, helping them find community & support.

Moms Together Full Day (12 - 2 PM with Moms Together) - \$315/YEAR

The regular program prices for children enrolled on Tuesdays will be discounted \$75/MONTH for infants or \$60/MONTH for older children if the child's mother is enrolled in and attending Moms Together.

**Please note:** The \$90 Moms Together registration fee is not included in these rates. Also, you must enroll in Moms Together and attend regularly to qualify for these options. If you are absent from a Moms Together meeting, but your child is in attendance, you will be charged a \$50 childcare fee per child.

Each child will also be charged a non-refundable registration fee of \$300 at the time of enrollment.

#### PAYMENT POLICIES

#### **PAYMENTS**

- The registration fee and last month's tuition are due upon registration.
- All tuition payments are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Parents are required to set up an online payment through Brightwheel. A late fee of \$25 will be charged on tuition not received by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- The entire month's tuition is required of all children in all classes, regardless of the number of days missed due to illness or other reasons.
- Any changes to your child's enrollment for the regular school year will result in a \$25 administrative charge each time you initiate a change.
- Any changes to your child's summer camp enrollment will result in a \$100 administrative charge each time you initiate a change.

#### WITHDRAWING

- Registering your child is a commitment to remain in the program from August through May.
- **Registration fees and last month's tuition are non-refundable.** The last month's tuition is refundable if notification of withdrawal is prior to July 1, 2025.
- Families that must withdraw their child(ren) from the program should submit a
  written request for withdrawal to the director (<u>ksmalley@bridgepointbible.org</u>)
  and/or assistant director (<u>sfoley@bridgepointbible.org</u>) at least 30 days in
  advance explaining the extenuating circumstances.
- Children withdrawn from the program must pay for the entire month's tuition regardless of the date of withdrawal. No prorated amounts will be refunded to students withdrawing prior to the end of the month.
- If your child is asked to withdraw because of a behavioral issue or noncompliance with the policy manual, no refunds will be given.
- Families that must withdraw their child(ren) from summer camp should submit a written request for withdrawal to the director at least 22 days prior to the first day of camp to receive a 50% refund. Refunds will not be given for withdrawals made within 21 days of the start of camp.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

- All required forms must be completed and on file in the office prior to each child attending classes.
- Children should be brought to school only on those days for which they are registered. There are no make-up days due to illness or other reasons.
- No child will be accepted on a drop-in basis.
- Please notify the director by email and your child's teacher through the Brightwheel app if your child will be absent from school on any given day or for an extended period.
- Late Pickup Fee: \$1 per minute will be charged to your account after 2:10 pm or 4:10 pm if using extended care.

#### HEALTH CARE POLICIES

#### HEALTH STATEMENT FORMS

Each child attending BELA must have an updated health statement form on file. Health statement forms are **valid for 12 months from the date of the last medical exam**, so the form should be completed after the child visits their doctor during the summer. If the form indicates a child's most recent medical exam was in May 2025 or earlier, the parent will be required to submit an updated form during the 2025-26 school year once the child has another medical exam.

#### IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN

All children in the care of BridgePoint Early Learning Academy must have the appropriate immunizations for their age as set forth by the Texas Department of State Health Services or written notarized documentation on the immunization form opposing immunizations. Parents must submit an updated copy of the child's immunization records each time they receive a vaccine. Parents of children with missing or overdue vaccinations have ten business days to submit an updated copy of their child's immunization record which reflects the child is current with the required immunizations for daycare. Failure to comply within ten business days will result in your child being excluded from BridgePoint Early Learning Academy until your child is current. A notarized immunization form must be on file if your child is on an alternate or delayed immunization schedule as the Texas Department of State Health Services does not recognize such schedules.

#### FOOD ALLERGY EMERGENCY PLANS

Parents must submit a food allergy emergency plan for each child with a known food allergy that has been diagnosed by a health-care professional. A food allergy emergency plan is an individualized plan prepared by the child's healthcare professional that includes: a list of each food the child is allergic to, possible symptoms if exposed to a food on the list, and the steps to take if the child has an allergic reaction. The form must be signed and dated by the child's health care professional and by the child's parent. An updated form must be submitted at the beginning of each school year and whenever a change to the plan is made by the healthcare professional.

#### CREAMS & SPRAYS

Parents must indicate on the registration form what ointments and sprays caregivers have permission to apply to the child. This form is kept on file for the caregiver's reference. Items included on the form are the following: Neosporin, bug spray, anti-itch cream, diaper rash cream, sunscreen, and lotion. Camp participants should have any needed sunscreen and bug repellant applied prior to being dropped off at camp.

#### WELLNESS POLICY FOR CHILDREN

- No sick child will be allowed to stay at school. If a child should get sick at school, the child's parents, or another responsible adult, so designated by the parent, will be contacted.
- Any child with a communicable disease will not be permitted back at school
  without a doctor's written approval. If your child develops a communicable
  disease, please inform the director so that other parents may be alerted.
- Any child suffering from diarrhea, vomiting, fever, or other illness may not return to school until the symptoms have been absent no less than 24 hours.
- Any child who has or develops an infrared temporal (forehead) temperature above 100 degrees that is accompanied by behavior changes or other signs of symptoms of illness will be excluded from attending and cannot return to school until fever free for 24 hours.

#### MEDICATION DISPERSAL

**Employees and volunteers will not administer any medication except in life-threatening situations** when there is not enough time for a parent or administrator to come to the room and give it. Only the director, assistant director, or person assuming the role of director will administer medications.

In a situation where a child has a non-communicable condition requiring medication, a Medication Authorization Form must be completed and signed by the parent.

At the time a parent drops off a child and his/her medication, clear directions must be written out by the parent outlining the symptoms present when medication is needed and how it is to be dispensed. **The form is to be given directly to the director or assistant director by the parent**, so the director can read the directions and ask for clarification if necessary. If the medication is difficult to administer, the director may inform the parent that the child will not be able to attend school on that day.

#### WELLNESS POLICY FOR WORKERS

All employees of BridgePoint Early Learning Academy must report when they have any communicable diseases and stay away from the children until they have been cleared by a doctor. Employees and volunteers should not be in the presence of children if they are sick with any of the following illnesses: Head colds and coughs, cold sores on lips for nursery workers, diarrhea and/or vomiting, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox or shingles, skin infections, pulmonary tuberculosis, and/or hepatitis.

#### HEALTHY HAND HYGIENE REHAVIOR

- Washing hand protocol is to wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- In between hand washing, older children may use alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands.
- Children will be assisted with handwashing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone. After assisting children, staff will also wash their hands.

#### COVERING COUGHS AND SNEEZES

- Covering coughs and sneezes and washing hands are especially important for infection control measures in childcare settings.
- Children and caregivers will be trained to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- If a tissue is not available, children and caregivers will be trained to cough or sneeze into an elbow, not into hands.

#### EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- All caregivers are trained to respond to emergency situations. Procedures and protocol are reviewed and practiced for the following types of situations: Fire emergency, major injuries, minor injuries, severe weather, and lock down.
- In the event of a medical emergency, parents will be notified immediately. For minor injuries, an incident report will be noted in Brightwheel, and parents will be informed at pick up. All injuries will be documented and kept on file.
- Fire drills are conducted monthly.
- In the case of severe weather, parents will be notified if it becomes necessary for children to be picked up immediately.
- When the school needs to evacuate the children from the premises, parents should meet at the nearby Fire Station #78, 15100 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079 (on Memorial near Eldridge) to pick up their children. 832-394-6700
- When possible, we will communicate the necessary details of any ongoing emergency response with parents via the brightwheel app.

#### OTHER POLICIES

#### CARPOOL SYSTEM

- Parents will be assigned a carpool drop-off area for their family.
- Two or three different locations will be used to create an efficient flow.
- Staggered times will be assigned allowing parents a window of time for drop off.
- Parents should remain in the car while dropping off children.
- Children should remain buckled into their car seats while waiting in line.
- Children will be received by a BELA staff member at the drop off location.
- The Brightwheel app will be used to record who dropped off and picked up the child
- BELA staff members will walk the children to their classrooms.

#### BABYSITTING POLICY

Employees of BELA may not babysit for children enrolled in the BELA program due to liabilities. Parents should not request babysitting services from BELA staff members.

#### FACILITY CARE & SAFETY

We are committed to maintaining a safe environment for the children we serve. Therefore, our operating procedure will be to maintain the following care of our facility:

- keep floors, counters, and children's bathrooms clean
- ensure that toilet paper, soap, and paper towels are in bathrooms
- place clean sheets in baby beds
- empty diaper pails daily
- put away and properly store all food items
- keep all toxic and cleaning supplies out of children's reach
- keep all trash picked up from facility
- always maintain child/caregiver ratio both indoors and outdoors
- remove, repair, or report broken equipment
- keep all electrical outlets covered
- ensure all indoor and outdoor equipment is maintained in good/safe condition
- keep all storage rooms locked
- keep all hazards removed
- always keep all doors and pathways clear, including during naptime
- ensure a staff member certified in First Aid/CPR is in each room during all hours of operation

#### **TOILET TRAINING**

The independence of a "potty trained" child is prerequisite for the 3- and 4-year-old classes. Independence means that the child must have the awareness to use the restroom without reminders, be able to manage clothing without help, and be able to clean themselves properly. Teachers in our 2-year-old classes work closely with parents who are committed to moving their child from diapers to underwear. When a child shows interest and readiness, we will happily assist and encourage full independence.

#### SEPARATION

Sometimes children and parents have difficulty separating. We find it helpful when the parent leaves the child with a reassuring staff member and calmly but promptly leaves. Generally, the child feels more comfortable within 5 minutes. We invite you to call the school at any time to check on your child.

#### TOYS

- Children will not be given non-washable toys that may be contaminated with infectious secretions.
- After each session in the infant rooms, all used toys will be washed and sanitized.
- When a child is seen putting an object into his/her mouth, this object will be cleaned with a disinfectant before being returned to the "clean toy" container or given to another child.
- All surfaces in the rooms will be sprayed after each session with disinfectant.
- Toys will be age appropriate and removed and replaced as needed.
- Children are not allowed to bring toys from home to school.

#### DRESS CODE

- Children should be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. All children
  will have outdoor time daily unless the weather does not permit. Please send
  warm jackets for cold weather and closed toed shoes.
- Little girls should wear shorts under dresses on all occasions.
- Clothing that is easy for young children to manipulate for toileting is essential.
- Costumes are not permitted except on special theme days initiated by BELA.

#### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthday celebrations will be kept simple and held at 1:30 pm or just before the 2:00 pm pick up time. Parents may send one mini cupcake or small cookie and a juice pack for children in the class. No balloons are allowed.

#### NAPTIME

- Each infant will be assigned a portable crib for their individual use each day.
- Crib sheets will be changed after each use.
- Two-, three- and four-year olds will bring a sleeping mat from home for naptime.
- Children will be permitted to bring one stuffed animal or lovie for use during naptime. It will be kept in the backpack at all other times during the day.

#### FOOD

- Children will bring their own bottles, snacks, and lunches from home, and the teacher will serve the food to the child according to the class schedule.
- Caregivers must wash their hands carefully before handling food and bottles.
- Children will not be allowed to walk around with bottles and/or food.

#### **Bottles**

- Bottles must be labeled with the child's name.
- Caregivers will hold a child when giving a bottle unless the child is old enough to hold his/her own bottle.

#### **Table Food**

- Please send food that does not need to be warmed.
- Child's hands must be washed before and after eating.
- Child must be seated at a table or secured in a highchair.
- Surfaces and floors will be cleaned and sanitized after meals are served.

#### **Nut-Free Policy**

To provide a safe learning environment for all people in our school, BELA is a nut-free school. Please do not send peanuts, tree nuts, or sesame seeds of any kind in your children's lunch or snacks. This includes peanut butter, hummus, and honey nut cheerios. Foods that may have been processed in facilities with nuts are okay to send. Thank you for accommodating this request for the safety of our students.

#### INFANT CARE REQUIREMENTS

#### CARE/ATTENTION

Individual attention will be given to each infant including playing, talking, cuddling, and holding. Caregivers will hold and comfort an infant who is upset. In addition, prompt attention should be given to physical needs, such as feeding and diapering. Infants must be taken on a daily walk outdoors as the weather permits.

#### **EQUIPMENT**

Cribs will have a firm, flat mattress that snugly fits the sides of the crib with sheets that fit snugly. Each crib will be labeled with the child's name, and infants must sleep in their assigned crib. Cribs will be sanitized before a different child uses it or when it is soiled. Baby walkers, doorway jumpers, accordion safety gates and toys that are not large enough to prevent swallowing or choking will not be used with infants.

#### FEEDING

Caregivers will hold infants through six months while feeding them. They will also hold any infants over six months who are unable to sit unassisted in a highchair or other seating equipment while feeding them. They will never prop up or support bottles with an object. The infant or the adult must hold the bottle. They will never allow an infant to walk around with or sleep with a bottle or training cup. For an infant who is not yet ready for table food, caregivers will obtain and follow written feeding instructions that are signed and dated by the infant's parent or guardian. The feeding instructions must be reviewed and updated with the parent every 30 days.

#### SLEEPING

Infants will not be allowed to sleep in a restrictive device. If an infant falls asleep in a restrictive device, the infant will be removed from the device and placed in a crib as soon as possible. Infants not yet able to turn over on their own will always be placed in a face-up sleeping position. Infants will not have their heads, faces or cribs covered by items such as blankets, linens, or clothing at any time. To swaddle an infant for sleep, the caregiver must have approval by the parent in writing on site.

#### COMMUNICATION

Caregivers will provide a daily report to the infant's parent(s) through the Brightwheel communication platform by the end of the day.

#### DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES & POLICIES

#### **POSITIVE GUIDANCE**

A very important part of the preschool experience is helping children learn how to get along in the world, enjoy being with other children, and follow the direction of an adult other than their parent. A caring and positive approach will be taken regarding behavior management and discipline. The teachers will focus on the positive behaviors of the children and reinforce those behaviors as often as possible. Our goal is to help the children develop self-control and responsibility for their actions.

#### TO PROVIDE POSITIVE GUIDANCE:

Teachers will give positive attention for good behavior and, when possible, ignore poor behavior. Specifically, teachers and assistants will:

- Encourage children to use their words when having a disagreement with another child and facilitate children in their attempts to settle their own disputes.
- Redirect behavior when this seems potentially effective and appropriate.
- Separate a child from the group (safe time) for a chance to regain self-control and to provide an opportunity to counsel a child about behaviors.
- Ensure children know the rules and teachers are consistent in enforcing the rules.
- Model appropriate behaviors for children.
- Implement structure and procedures that set healthy and consistent boundaries for children.

Disruptive behavior distracts from the full benefit of the preschool program and will result in consequences. The following behaviors are considered disruptive:

- Inflicts physical or emotional harm on other children, adults, or self.
- Disrespects people and materials provided in the program.
- Consistently disobeys the rules of the classroom.
- Verbally threatens other students and/or staff.
- Uses verbal or physical activity that diverts attention away from the group of children.

#### DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES FOR CHRONIC DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR:

- If a child is not responsive to the teacher's positive guidance, the child will be removed from the classroom.
- If a child has difficulty managing his/her behavior on a recurring basis, parents will be asked to meet with the child's teacher and/or Director.
- If the child's behavior continues to be inappropriate, consistently disruptive, and/or dangerous:
  - The adult who directly witnesses the behavior will communicate with the Director and/or Assistant Director to determine whether the situation warrants creating an incident report.
  - The incident report will be shared with and signed by the parents and then kept on file at BELA for future reference.

- o If this behavior occurs again within 30 days, parents will be asked to pick up the child immediately (within 30 minutes).
- o If this behavior occurs a third time within 30 days, parents will be asked to pick up the child immediately, and the child will not be allowed to attend school for the next two days they are scheduled to attend.

#### SCREENING & TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES

We love children and want to protect them from harm; therefore, BELA requires all employees to complete a screening and training process before working with children.

#### APPLICATION & SCREENING PROCESS

Employees are required to complete BELA's application & screening process, which requires all employees working with children to complete an application form, complete a face-to-face interview, and provide references to be checked.

BELA requires that all employees undergo a criminal background check and fingerprint screening. This background check is resubmitted every 5 years.

#### TRAINING

Teachers must complete pre-service training that includes learning developmental stages, age-appropriate activities, positive guidance, and discipline, fostering self-esteem, safety practices, and the prevention and control of spreading communicable diseases. Caregivers also earn 24 clock hours of professional development each year.

All employees are trained in the Operational Policies of the center and indicate by signature that they have read, understood, and will comply with them.

BridgePoint requires that employees and volunteers recognize and prevent abusive behavior of any kind and report any abuse to a supervisor. To equip employees with information necessary to recognize abuser characteristics and grooming behavior, BELA requires all employees complete sexual abuse awareness training online through Ministry Safe. This training is renewed every year.

All caregivers are kept current in CPR/Infant/First Aid certification.

#### **ABUSE POLICY**

BridgePoint has a "zero tolerance for abuse" policy in respect to its ministry programs and ministry activities. It is the responsibility of every staff and volunteer at BridgePoint to act in the best interest of all minors in every program. If staff or volunteers observe any inappropriate behaviors or suspected abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual), it is their responsibility to immediately report their observations to:

- Kelly Smalley, BELA Director
- Suzy Foley, Assistant BELA Director
- Mark Baker, BridgePoint Pastor

#### SAFETY POLICIES

#### SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The following safety protocols have been established for the protection of our children and staff.

- All entry doors remain locked after carpool ends. Access is granted by the
  receptionist with a magnet lock system. (Occasionally doors will be open for a
  short period of time while church events are scheduled on the premises.)
- A law enforcement officer is on site during operating hours Sunday-Thursday.
- Emergency drill practices are reviewed regularly.

#### CLASSROOM MONITORING PLAN

Monitoring of BELA staff will include regular (announced and unannounced) visits in each class to provide supervisors with the opportunity to observe employees' interactions with children and implementation of policies and procedures.

- The Director conducts unscheduled observations of each class on a weekly basis.
- The Director conducts periodic verbal performance evaluations with staff to provide and receive feedback on the implementation of practices and procedures.
- Every year, the Director, with the help of the BELA team, reviews the practices and procedures and makes changes as needed. Pursuant to these changes, the Director will make final adjustments to any practices and procedures so that they are in place and ready for any future training of all BELA workers in their area.

#### INTOXICANTS & TOBACCO USE

Employees and volunteers are prohibited from the use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol or any illegal drugs while in any BridgePoint facility or while working with or supervising children.

BridgePoint requires employees and volunteers to abstain from the use or possession of tobacco products in church facilities, while in the presence of children or their parents, or during BridgePoint activities or programs. BridgePoint is a tobacco-free facility.

#### FIREARMS & WEAPONRY

Firearms, fireworks, and weaponry (including pocketknives) are not allowed at any BridgePoint children's programs by children or adults.

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

BridgePoint Early Learning Academy is open on Mondays through Thursdays from 9 am to 4 pm. We are closed on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays and on other holidays as indicated on the school calendar.

If you are unable to contact the school by phone, please send an email. If you're unsure who to contact, you may direct your communication to the Assistant Director, Suzy Foley, at <a href="mailto:sfoley@bridgepointbible.org">sfoley@bridgepointbible.org</a>.

#### CHILD CARE LICENSING

Parents may review a copy of the Minimum Standards for Child Care Licensing at: <a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Care/Child Care Standards">http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Care/Child Care Standards</a> and Regulations/default.asp

And report concerns to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at: 1-800-252-5400 or <a href="https://www.txabusehotline.org">https://www.txabusehotline.org</a>

Local Childcare Licensing Offices: 5425 Polk St. Houston, TX 77023

(713) 767-2000

Houston, TX 77036 (713) 940-5200

9702 Bissonnet St., Ste. 2200W

A current copy of the center's Childcare License and most recent licensing inspection report may be found and reviewed on the public bulletin board.

### BELA PARENT HANDBOOK 2025-26 STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I have received and read a copy of BELA'S Parent Handbook and understand the importance of the material in the handbook. I agree to abide by these guidelines while my child/children are enrolled at BridgePoint Early Learning Academy.

I understand the handbook may be modified, and that any guideline may be amended, revised, or eliminated by BridgePoint Early Learning Academy and that I will be notified of these changes. I also understand that I may contact the BELA Director at any time about any concern associated with the handbook and any need for changes. I understand it is my responsibility to review new guidelines which may be created and distributed.

Acknowledgement and agreement of this handbook is documented online through the Brightwheel BELA Registration Form.