

PARENT HANDBOOK



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Introduction

Welcome to After The Bell Inc. This parent handbook was developed to provide parents with an understanding of how the center operates. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to speak to any of the After The Bell Inc. employees.

After The Bell Inc. is dedicated to providing high quality childcare for children between the ages of 4-12 years. The team is led by the Program Owner.

Philosophy

After The Bell Inc. believes that all children deserved to be cared for, respected and are entitled to a safe and healthy environment.

After The Bell Inc. also believes in open communication with parents and community partners to create a better place for children.

Positive activities and interactions between the staff and children will encourage and educate the children about responsibility, honesty, fairness, compassion, and respect.

Mission Statement

Building key assets in children today so that they turn into healthy and happy adults of tomorrow.

Goals and Objectives

- To provide a safe and accepting environment for all children
- To recognize each child as an individual
- To provide care to any child regardless of sex, religion, or race
- To demonstrate appropriate behaviours
- To present fun and interesting activities for children
- To develop positive relationships with children, parents or guardians, and community partners
- To offer children nutritionally balanced options

How After The Bell Inc. Operates

Typical after school care daily schedule (Ages 4-12 years)

Time of Day	Activity
7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.	Free time
7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Clean-up and get ready for school
8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.	Walk or bus to school
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Wash hands and afternoon snack
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Planned activities or homework
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Free time and clean-up

Non-School Days

After The Bell Inc. provides care on non-school days. The staff will plan workshops, field trips, or arrange to have special guests visit the center on these days.

Summer Program

An all-day program is offered during the summer months. An additional charge of \$100 per month will apply to off-set the costs of staff, field trips, and transportation.

Closure Dates

After The Bell Inc. is closed on the following statutory holidays:

New Year's Day	Canada Day	Remembrance Day
Good Friday	Labour Day	Christmas Day
Victoria Day	Thanksgiving Day	Boxing Day

Please note the center is closed in lieu for any statutory holidays that fall on a weekend.

The Program Owner will decide on all other closure dates.

Arrival, Departure, and Release of Children

Center hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during regular school months and 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. during the summer months.

The Family Information Agreement Form has a list of personnel authorized to remove your child from the center. The staff are not permitted to release your child into the custody of any person who is not on this list. This policy is for the protection of your children.

Parents who permit their child to walk home alone from school must provide the staff with written consent. After The Bell Inc. does not allow any child to walk home alone from the center under any circumstances.

Attendance Records

The employees at After The Bell Inc. record the times each child is in attendance to the nearest 5 minutes. In addition, each staff has a list that is updated as children come and go to ensure that all children are accounted for at all times.

Snacks

Every day the children are provided with a nutritious afternoon snack which consists of two of the four food groups identified by Health Canada and includes at least 1 serving of fruit or vegetables. The two week rotational menu is posted on the parent information board. Staff will provide a relaxing and enjoyable snack environment to ensure smooth play to meal transitions. Staff will encourage children to eat when they are hungry and stop when they are full by being aware of the children's hunger cues. No child will be forced to eat.

After The Bell Inc. only purchases and accepts donations of food or beverages from an establishment permitted by Department of Agriculture.

Lunches brought from home must be healthy and contain food from the four food groups.

Cubbies

All children are given a personal cubby and hook to place their belongings. Please ensure you go through your child's cubby every Friday to keep it clean and organized.

Clothing

All children must have a pair of indoor and outdoor shoes for safety reasons. Keeping an additional set of clothes on premises is also recommended.

Fire Drills and Emergency Evacuations

Every month an unannounced fire drill is conducted to prepare children for emergency evacuations. The children are guided to the nearest emergency exits and follow the planned procedures.

In the rare event that evacuation of the premises takes place our three relocation sites are as follows:

- **Cole Harbour:** Joseph Giles Elementary
- **Cole Harbour:** Cole Harbour Place
- **Cole Harbour:** Cole Harbour High School

Parents or guardians will be contacted as soon as possible in the event of relocation.

Transportation Policy

Children within walking distance to the center will be escorted to and from school. All other children will be transported in a 15 passenger van by a fully qualified transport provider.

Unexpected Absenteeism

It is imperative that the staff are notified when children will be absent from the center. If your child does not show up after school we will contact you immediately. Failure to contact the center three times may result in immediate termination of care.

Medication Policy

All staff are trained in First Aid Certification and may administer or supervise the self-administration of medication. In order for the staff to legally administer medication to your child, you must have the medication in its original container and have a medication form filled out. We only administer medication that is prescribed by a doctor.

The medication form must include specific directions such as time to be given, dosage to be given and the parent's signature. Parents must update this form a minimum of once per month for ongoing medications.

Illness Policy

If your child becomes ill, you will have to find alternate childcare. This policy aims to reduce the spread of illness to other children and staff.

Alternate childcare arrangements must be made if your child has or experiences any of the following:

- temperature over 38° celsius
- vomiting or diarrhea
- lethargy
- an undiagnosed rash or discoloration of the eyes
- persistent pain
- is not well enough to attend school
- a communicable disease

Breastfeeding Policy

After The Bell Inc welcomes all mothers to comfortably breastfeed their children in our facility.

Child Behaviour Guidance Policy

Children are encouraged to make appropriate choices while at After The Bell Inc. Please read and sign the Child Behaviour Guidance Policy Form included in the registration package. In addition to this policy all staff are trained on After The Bell Inc.'s child guidance policy and annual reviews occur with each staff member.

Staff Responsibilities

After The Bell Inc employees must behave in a manner that does not harm any child who is attending After The Bell Inc, and in particular, must not do or permit any of the following:

- Corporal Punishment (striking a child directly or with any physical object; shaking; shoving; spanking; or any other form of aggressive physical contact)
- Requiring a child to repeat physical movements
- Using harsh, humiliating, belittling, or degrading responses in verbal, emotional, physical, or any other form.
- Confining or isolating a child.
- Depriving a child of basic needs, including food, shelter, clothing, or bedding.

Fees, Subsidies & Withdrawal

All fees are due and payable by cheque to After The Bell Inc. on the first day of each month and a late charge or \$1/day applies. We accept personal cheques, cash, and money orders. A \$100 deposit is required at the time of your child's registration that will count towards your first months' fees.

Parents will be notified one month in advance of fee increases.

Parents must provide one month's written notice if terminating care. After The Bell Inc. reserves the right to collect fees owing for the month.

Subsidy

After The Bell Inc. has no influence in determining your eligibility for subsidy. Should you need this financial assistance, you will have to apply to the Provincial authorities. Please speak to the Program Owner for the appropriate application forms.

Documents for Parental Review

A parent information board is found in the main lobby of our center which includes the list of documents that are to be posted for all parents to review as per the Nova Scotia Day Care Act & Regulations. They include, but are not limited to, a copy of The Day Care Act & Regulations, Parent Handbook, License to Operate, most recent inspection report, behaviour policy, snack menu, program plan and routine, current members of the parent committee, most recent parent meeting minutes, and notification of funding provided by the Minister.

Registration Process

All parents who wish to register their child must complete a Registration Package.

Feedback

Please direct any questions, comments or concerns to the Program Staff. If your feedback is not adequately addressed, please contact the Program Owner by phone (404-5437) or e-mail (mandy.fahie@bellaliant.net)

Parent / Guardian Resources

Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Services – Head Office

NS Department of Community Services
Nelson Place
5675 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J
1H1

Mailing Address
NS Department of Community Services
P. O. Box 696
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T7

Children's Aid Society of Halifax

6009 Quinpool Road
4th Floor
Willow Tree Tower
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5J7
Phone: (902) 425-5420
Fax: 422-9424

Halifax Regional School Board

90 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, CANADA
B2Y 4S8
Tel: (902) 464-2000
Website: <http://www.hrsb.ns.ca/>

Nova Scotia Child Safety and Injury Prevention Program

IWK Grace Health Center
5850 University Ave, PO Box 3070
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3G9
Telephone: (902) 420-6492
Fax: (902) 420-6774
Email: bbruce@iwkgrace.ns.ca