

Parent Handbook

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care

• **Administration:**

160 Tacoma Street
Worcester, MA 01605
Phone: (508) 852-3792
Fax: (508) 853-1520

• **Preschool Program**

160 Tacoma Street
Worcester, MA 01605
(508) 852-3792 Ext. 103
Caring for Children:
2.9 Years to 5 Years

• **School Age**

117 Constitution Avenue
Worcester, MA 01605
(508) 852-3792 Ext. 101 or 112
Caring for Children:
5 Years to 13 Years

• **Home Based Child Care**

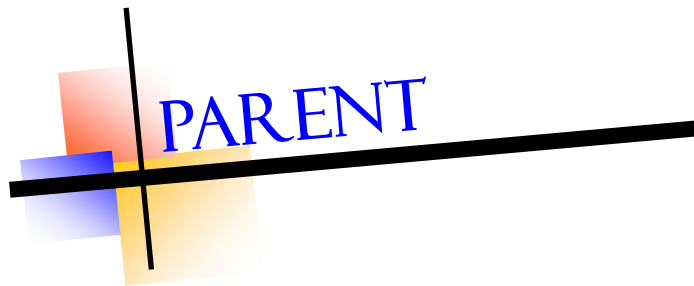
160 Tacoma Street
Worcester, MA 01605
(508) 852-3792 Ext. 107
Caring for Children:
4 Weeks to 12 Years



FY 2026

Effective July 1, 2025

Por favor hágase traducir



Purpose of Parent Handbook

In This Handbook

The staff of Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc. is proud that we will be providing child care services to you and your child. In order to help start this partnership, we have put a great deal of information in this handbook. We hope that you will use this as a resource to answer your questions and encourage you to call us if you can't find an answer or have additional questions.

Topic	Page
Purpose of Parent Handbook and In This Handbook	2
History and Services	3-4
General Policies	5
WCEC, Inc. Organization and Organizational Chart	6-7
Confidentiality	8
Admissions Procedure, Funding Sources and Fees	9-10
Hours and Holiday Closures	11
Arrival, Pick-Up and Attendance	12
Inclement Weather	13
Transportation	14-15
Parent Involvement	16-18
Child Guidance Policy	19-26
Referrals	27-28
Abuse and Neglect Policy	29
Education	30-31
Nutrition	32
Required Medical Forms	33
Procedures for Placing Infants in Cribs for Sleep	34
Illness	35
Contagious Diseases	36
AIDS Policy	37
Plan for Administration of Medication	38-39
Emergency Care	40-42
Ending Child Care	43
Community Resources and Parent Rights	44-46
Signature of Receipt	47



In 1971, concerned residents of Great Brook Valley, working with Worcester Housing Authority, established Great Brook Valley Child Care Services in answer to a need for after school programs. The agency has since added infant/toddler child care, preschools, and expanded home based child care. In addition, the agency also offers support services to teenage parents finishing high school. In 1987, the agency's name was changed to Worcester Comprehensive Child Care Services, Inc., (WCCCS) to reflect the numerous programs being offered to children and families at sites throughout Worcester.

History

WCEC, Inc. provides quality child care and support services to families throughout the Worcester area as detailed below:

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc.'s administrative offices are located at our Great Brook Valley site.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM:

The School Age Program, located at our Great Brook Valley site, is an after school recreational program which emphasizes arts, crafts, athletics, music, science and a variety of educational games and activities. Tutoring in academic subjects and quiet areas for children doing homework are also provided. Most importantly, the School Age Program provides a safe place for older children, ages 5 to 13, to meet after school or when public schools are closed. The Program operates from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. during the school year, and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. during the summer and school vacations. Special trips to amusement parks, zoos, museums, and state parks are highlights of the summer program.

HOME BASED CHILD CARE:

The Home Based Child Care system consists of Home Based Child Care Providers who are licensed by the Department of Early Education & Care (DEEC) to provide safe, nurturing care to small groups of infants and young children in their homes. Each home is monitored regularly by WCEC, DEEC and a food sponsoring program. The children are fed according to the guidelines of the USDA and the Bureau of Nutrition. HBCC providers are trained in CPR, First Aid, and the development of individual curriculum for each child. They assure that each child is given individual attention daily, and encourage each child to develop their cognitive, language, social and motor skills at their own pace. The providers possess a knowledge of children's growth and development, and the ability to accept each child as a unique individual. The providers open their homes to children from 4 weeks old to 11 years old, and are supportive of each child as well as the whole family. On-going communication is an integral part of the relation between parent and provider. Each HBCC home is well equipped with supplies and materials that are age appropriate and multicultural, and are rotated on a regular basis. They have an extensive supply of books, puzzles, puppets, manipulative toys, and child-size furniture. The children are able to select the toys that they would like to use, are encouraged to share with others, and to pick up the toys when they are finished with them. Most of the HBCC staff and providers are bi-lingual, and all of the homes are located in the Greater Worcester area.

Services



Services
Continued

Parents are welcome to visit a HBCC home during the hours that their child is in care, and are encouraged to participate in planned field trips and other events. The program operates 5 days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. but may vary according to need and availability.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM:

The Preschool Program, for children from 2 years 9 months up to 5 years, is offered at the Great Brook Valley Center. All children grow and learn at their own pace. At the Center, teams of well-trained and experienced Early Childhood Educators will help your child to develop to his or her fullest potential. Children learn to master new skills while growing in confidence and independence. An enriched environment and carefully planned activities encourage each child's physical, emotional, cognitive and social development. Nutritious meals (breakfast and lunch) are provided, as well as snacks. The Center recognize the parents as the primary educator of the child. Parents are therefore encouraged to participate through parent/teacher conferences and classroom visits. A great deal of care is taken to communicate often, and to accomplish this we have a bilingual and multicultural staff.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM:

The School Age Program for children ages 5 to 13 years is offered for "out of school time" at our 117 Constitution building. At the Center, teams of well-trained and experienced Early Childhood Educators will help your child to develop to his or her fullest potential. Children learn to master new skills while growing in confidence and independence. An enriched environment and carefully planned activities encourage each child's physical, emotional, cognitive and social development. Nutritious meals (breakfast and lunch) are provided, as well as snacks. A great deal of care is taken to communicate often, and to accomplish this we have a bilingual and multicultural staff.



PARENT HANDBOOK



WCEC, Inc. shall not discriminate in providing services to children and their families or in the hiring of staff on the basis of race, religion, creed, gender, national origin, cultural heritage, age, sexual orientation/preference, disability, marital status, or political affiliation.

Non-Discrimination

“WCEC, Inc. provides nurturing and stimulating child care that is responsive to the entire family, by offering programs and opportunities to those most in need.”

When using the term “parent”, we refer to the parent or guardian of a child. We define the word “family” inclusively since we recognize that children come from many different family configurations. WCEC believes that parents, as well as children, are an important part of our program and that for most families quality child care has become a necessity.

We believe a child learns best in a stimulating environment. Each child is an individual with unique interests, likes and dislikes. He/she must have frequent opportunities for free choice and self expression.

Children are encouraged to participate in many play activities designed to develop their fine and gross motor, self-help, cognitive, emotional, and social skills. Many opportunities are provided for children to socialize with peers and adults.

As child care providers, we are professionals with a strong working knowledge of the developmental stages of children. We are here to work in partnership with each family as we provide care.



Mission Statement/Philosophy

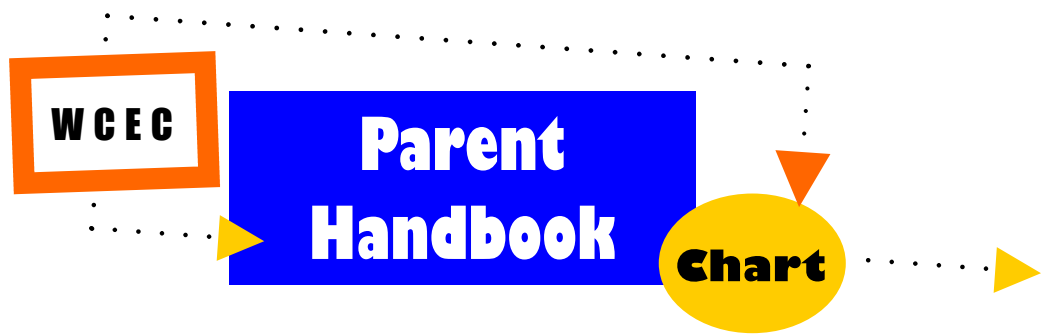
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- A strong, stable leader in the education and development of children and their families;
 - A critical resource that enriches the whole community by educating, nurturing and successfully developing those families most in need;
 - A model child care organization, that attracts substantial private investments of volunteer time and financial contributions and public policy support.
-



Vision Statement

**Our Work is Important
Because Your Child is Important!**





Board of Directors

WCEC, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The volunteer Board of Directors, which has overall responsibility for the direction of the agency, manages the business of the corporation. The Board meets bi-monthly from September to June.

The Board of Directors regularly receives and reviews monthly financial reports. An independent, annual audit is conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

General Staffing

All of the sites have a:

- ⇒ Program Director
- ⇒ Qualified Teachers
- ⇒ Teacher Assistants
- ⇒ Other Support Staff

Additional Staff

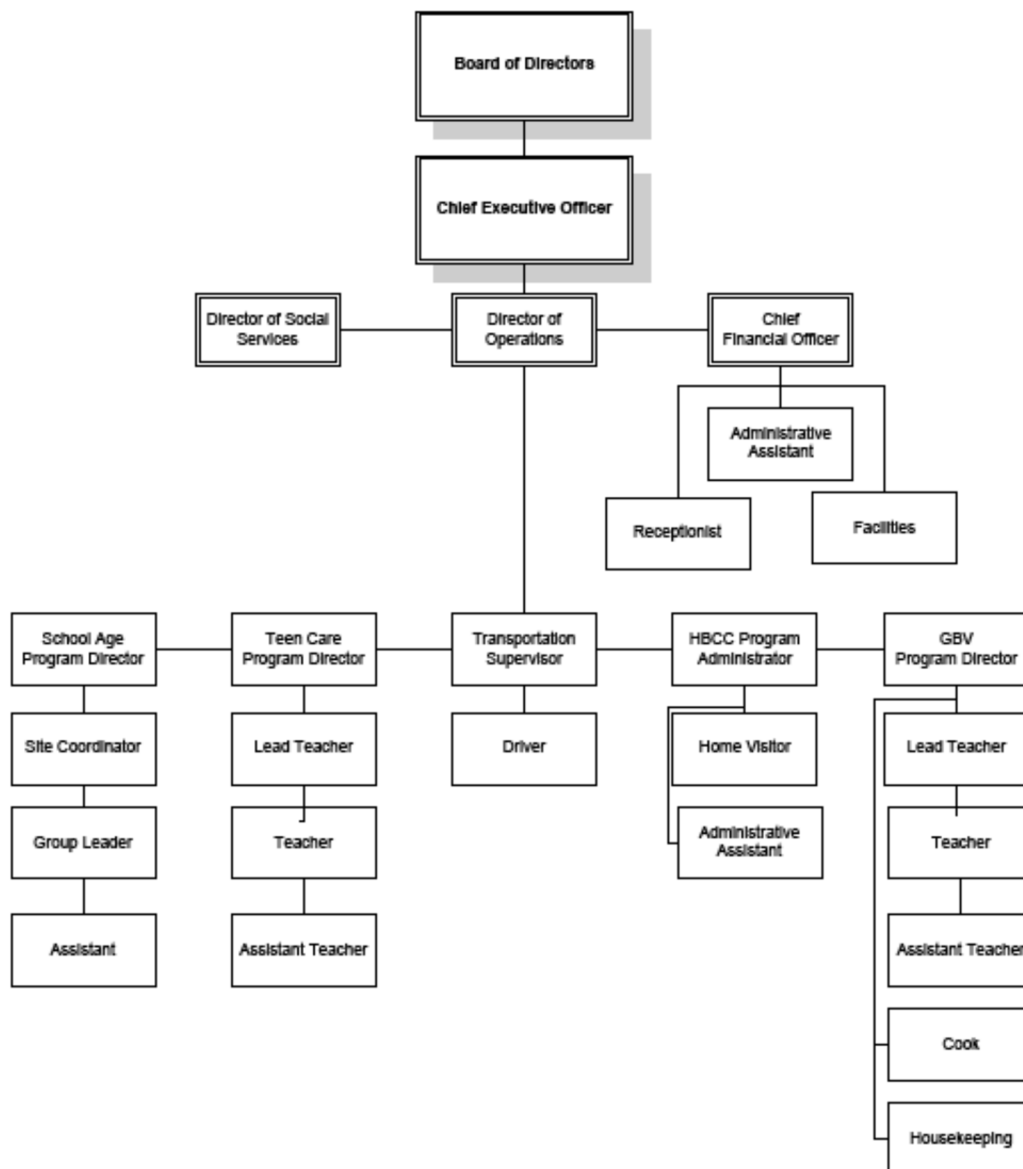
Billing and financial personnel will assist parents with information about child care fee payments. The Director of Social Services is available to offer support with issues such as parenting, housing, and additional information about services available from other agencies in Worcester. For specific information at each site, please contact the site.

Licensing Agent

WCEC, Inc. is licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC). Each program is re-licensed every two years. Home Based Child Care providers are re-licensed every three years. DEEC also conducts unannounced health and safety inspections. Parents may contact DEEC regarding the programs regulatory compliance history. Central Regional Office Contact info: DEEC, 324R Clark St., Worcester, MA 01606, Phone: (508) 798-5180, Fax: 508-798-5181, Website: www.mass.gov.

NAEYC

All of WCEC's Centers are accredited or in the process of becoming accredited with The National Association for the Education of Young Children.





Confidentiality

Confidentiality

WCEC, Inc. has a strict policy regarding confidentiality with respect to all families. All information regarding children and families is treated in a professional and confidential manner. Please direct any concerns or questions to appropriate teachers, the Program Director or the Coordinator of Social Services and they will schedule an appointment with you in a timely manner. It is also the parent's responsibility to abide by this policy regarding other children, families and staff.

Children's Records

Information contained in a child's record is privileged and confidential. The child's parents/guardians shall, upon request, have access to these records within two business days. Parents/guardians have the right to request an addition or deletion of information from their child's record. Parents have the right to request, in writing, a copy of their records. See: DEEC Regulation 7.05, Section 17-24.

Release of Information

WCEC, Inc. will not release any information to any person without your written permission. The only exception to this will be the exchange of information required by law to the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Early Education and Care.

Pictures and Public Relations

With your authorization, pictures, videos, website and internet uses of your child may be taken for classroom use, parent functions, training or for public relations publicity purposes. Children's names or pictures will not be printed in the material without your authorization.

Parent Handbook

All parents must fill out an application and visit the center or home based child care home. The Program Director will determine your eligibility and inform you of the documentation required.

If child care is available, you will meet with the director of the program. The enrollment paperwork and explanation of policies will take about one hour. All children are required to have a recent physical examination, immunization record, social security cards and a copy of his/her birth certificate on file. Proof of eligibility will be required for families receiving subsidized child care. The Home Based Child Care enrollment is completed in the Home Based Child Care home with the provider and Home Based Child Care supervisory staff.

If child care is not immediately available, your child's name will be placed on a waiting list.

WCEC, Inc. has a contract with the Department of Early Education and Care to provide Income Eligible (Basic Slots) and with the Department of Children & Families to provide Supportive Slots. A family is eligible for a Basic Slot if they meet the requirements of DEEC.

Eligibility for Supportive Slots requires the family to have an open case with DCF, and WCEC may provide transportation. (See Transportation Policy).

Vouchers are issued through Child Care Resources. Funding is also available through the Worcester Community Partnership and United Way.

- Child Care Resources (508) 856-7930 is the voucher management agency for Worcester County.

Application

DEEC Contract

DCF Slots

Vouchers

Parent Handbook

Private Care Daily Fee Schedule

Center-Based:	Preschool	\$57.23	
School Age:	Full Day	\$48.96	After School \$24.32
Family Child Care:	Under 2 Yrs.	\$75.25	2 Yrs. & Over \$65.62

WCEC's private rates coincide with EEC' posted reimbursable rates.

Private Enrollments

Families who enroll children privately will receive fee information upon request.

Reassessment

Each of the funding sources requires periodic reassessment of eligibility. Reassessment may include, but is not limited to, verification of income and documentation of service needs. Failure to comply will result in termination of services.

Fees

Some subsidized parent(s) pay a fee based on the DEEC sliding fee scale. Parent(s) paying fees will sign and receive a copy of the fee agreement. Payments are required for all holidays, sick days and vacation days.

Parents are required to pay an initial fee upon enrollment, and weekly fees are due on the Friday **before** the upcoming week. Failure to comply could result in termination of service. Although WCEC does not charge for field trips or special materials, donations are welcome.

Late Fee

Any child present at the program after the 5:30 p.m. closing time will be assessed a late fee. The parent will be assessed late charges beginning at 5:31 p.m. Upon arrival the parent will sign the Late Pick-Up Charge Form. The late fee must be paid at the Main office located at 160 Tacoma Street, Worcester, Massachusetts **before** the child returns to the program.

The late fee is \$20.00 per program for each 15 minute increment or fraction thereof.

Where/How to Pay Tuition Fees

For your convenience WCEC has implemented a system for autopay of tuition fees.



Parent Handbook

All programs are open Monday through Friday.

Program	Phone	Hours	Notes
Home Based Child Care	(508) 852-3792 Ext. 107	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. But may vary according to need and availability.	Year Round
Preschool	(508) 852-3792 Ext. 103	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Year Round
School Age	(508) 852-3792 Ext. 101	2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Year Round Summer and School Vacation Days

Hours of Operation



WCEC, Inc. is usually closed on the following legal holidays:

- ◆ New Year's Day
- ◆ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ◆ President's Day
- ◆ Patriot's Day
- ◆ Memorial Day
- ◆ Juneteenth Day
- ◆ Independence Day
- ◆ Labor Day
- ◆ Columbus Day
- ◆ Floater Holiday
- ◆ Thanksgiving Day
- ◆ Christmas Day

WCEC is closed 15 additional days per year. Including 5 Professional Development days and other closures during the 4th of July week, Thanksgiving Holiday and Christmas Public School Vacation.

Parents will receive annual calendars showing a list of said days for the current fiscal year.

The annual calendar is subject to revision.

Center Closures



Parent Handbook

Arrival

Children are encouraged to arrive at the child care center or HBCC home by 9:30 a.m. Arriving late is discouraged since it is disruptive to your child's routine and the other children as well.

Responsibility at Drop-Off & Pick-Up Times

Parents or authorized adults are responsible for bringing the child inside the center or HBCC home as well as picking the child up at the end of the day. The only exception is for children receiving WCEC, Inc. transportation services.

WCEC, Inc. maintains a sign-in and sign-out system to document your child's hours of care.

Late Pick-Up

If the child has not been picked up by the regular scheduled time and WCEC, Inc. has not been notified:

1. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the program when they are not going to pick up their child at the regularly scheduled time.
2. Staff will make every effort to contact the parent from the Authorized Emergency Release Form
3. If WCEC, Inc. staff are unable to contact the parent or a person from the Authorized Emergency Release Form, DCF may be contacted

Any child at the program after the closing time, 5:30 p.m., is subject to a late fee. Excessive late pick-up may result in termination of care for the child.

Emergency Pick-Up & Drop Off Authorization

If an adult arrives to pick up a child, and seems to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, staff may not release the child and may contact an Authorized Emergency Person. The police and/or Department of Children & Families will be contacted, if necessary. Staff will use their best judgment, and need your cooperation to ensure the safety of your child.

Children can only be released from their school or from the bus to an **authorized** person. (See Transportation Policy). An **authorized** person is:

1. Parent or Guardian
2. Person listed on the "Emergency Release Form"
3. In an emergency, the authorized parent/guardian may inform the staff (either in writing or verbally) of the name and identification of a substitute person(s) that they give over the age of 16 permission to pick up or drop off the child for a stated period of time. Verbal permission will be verified by the staff.

Absentee Policy

Please notify the Program Director if your child is going to be absent. Unexplained absences of three (3) or more consecutive days may result in termination of child care services.

Parent Handbook

In the event that a decision is made to close early for your child's health and safety, it is imperative that the agency has accurate and complete information on file. It is your responsibility to keep WCEC informed of any changes.

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc. will be open on all scheduled days unless the CEO directs otherwise.

All programs will be open at the scheduled time unless there is a radio announcement of a delayed opening or closure. The School-Age Program will be open on a full day schedule if the Worcester Public Schools are closed.

Inclement Weather Policy of Notification

If WCEC has early dismissal — the Program Directors will notify staff who will notify parents by telephone as early as possible.

There will be no transportation in the morning when the Worcester Public Schools have a delay. Transportation will be cancelled when the Worcester Public Schools are closed.

Please always follow the procedures above. Announcements will only be made on

Radio Stations:

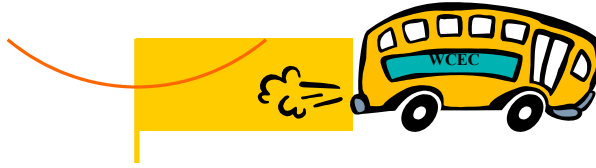
- **96.1 WSRS and 5.80 WTAG**

Website:

- **www.worcestercomprehensive.org**

Inclement Weather Days

TRANSPORTATION



Transportation's Inclement Weather Policy

How Are Children Transported?

Field Trip Checklist



In the event that the Worcester Public Schools are closed there will be no transportation. In the event that the Worcester Public Schools have any kind of delay there will be no morning transportation and **p.m. transportation only** will be provided.

Children are transported in various ways by parents/guardians, agency van, and Worcester Public School's transportation. On non-school days some school-age children walk to or from the center with parent permission. If an emergency arises children will be transported by parent/guardian, staff or ambulance when necessary. See Emergency Care section of handbook.

When planning for all field trips the DEEC "Field Trip Checklist" is completed and followed.

- ◆ Staff will follow the procedure listed below to assure that no child is left unattended.
- ◆ The classroom teacher will be responsible for signing in/out each child as they arrive and depart the center. Head counts will be taken prior to preparing to go out, another head count will be taken when they line up.
- ◆ Staff will compare head count with child's name on the attendance sheet.
- ◆ The teacher will check areas of each classroom before staff and children leave the center.
- ◆ While on a Walk – One (1) teacher will lead the group with children. A teacher's assistant will be in the middle with a group of children if available. The teacher will walk behind the group so he/she can observe any potential problems.
- ◆ Bus Field Trips – The teacher will always stay with the group. The teacher will take a head to name/face count once on the bus, he/she will share this count with the other staff so that everyone will know how many children are on the trip. Once off the bus the group will wait until the bus driver checks each seat to assure all children got off the bus.
- ◆ Contracted Field Trips – Once all children have left the bus, one staff returns to the empty bus to ascertain that there is no child left on the bus.
- ◆ The agency's bus driver will be responsible for checking the bus front to back to make sure all children got off the bus. All staff perform a head count and name to face count at the time of departure. When children return to the bus the same procedure will be followed.
- ◆ Return to the Bus – The teacher will do another head count. The bus driver will be responsible to check the bus front to back to make sure no child was left on the bus.
- ◆ Name tags will be design for all children (walkers) to wear when they leave the center. Name tags will name the center, center address and telephone number.

TRANSPORTATION

Continued . . .



- ◆ Children with Disabilities – Whenever possible, children with disabilities should be transported in the same vehicles used to transport other children enrolled in the program. Each agency must ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Each agency should specify in writing any special transportation arrangements for a child with a disability, and ensure that those arrangements are followed, including: Special pick-up and drop-off requirements, special seating requirements, special equipment needs, any special assistance that may be required and any special training for the driver and/or monitor.

The Program Director and the Director of Social Services determines the need for transportation in each individual case at the time of enrollment. Should transportation be provided, the Transportation Policy will be reviewed and receive the required signature for authorization and maintained in the child's file.

WCEC, Inc.'s vehicles meet all DMV regulation and evidence of insurance is available upon request. If a WCEC employee uses his/her own car to transport children, a permission form signed by the parent is required.

When transportation is cancelled for unforeseen reasons, parents/guardians will be contacted. It is their responsibility to pick up and transport their children. Under no circumstance is staff allowed to transport children during inclement weather.

All changes of times, pick up, and drop off must be made through the Transportation Coordinator with at least two days notice. WCEC, Inc. must be notified of all changes.

Only a serious emergency will warrant the change of pick-up or drop-off locations.

When a parent/guardian or authorized alternate is not at the home to receive the child, the driver will return the child to the child care program or WCEC office. Parents are then responsible to pick up their child **immediately**.

Field Trip Checklist (Continued)

Who Gets Transportation?

Vehicles

Change of Information

Release at End of Day

Parent Handbook



Input

With your support, involvement and suggestions, we can meet your child's need. Your attendance at parent nights, parent/staff conferences, and other events is essential. Parents are always encouraged to bring suggestions to their child's child care center or HBCC home. Centers have a Suggestion Box for anonymous input. Parent surveys are distributed semi-annually. Your input helps our agency to improve the quality of care and education for your child.

Parent Rights

At the time of admission and at least once a year, a copy of the DEEC Parental Rights and Responsibility will be issued to each family.

Parent Visits

As the parent of an enrolled child, you are encouraged to visit your child's classroom while he/she is in care at the center or home based child care home.

Communication

Communication between parents and staff member is an important part of effective child care. Therefore WCEC will make every effort to have any communication with the parent be conducted in the parent's native language, if resources are available. Currently WCEC has in-house staff who speak Spanish, and Portuguese.

During the enrollment process, the following information will be discussed:

- ◆ Educational Activities
- ◆ Behavior Management Practices
- ◆ Toileting Procedures
- ◆ Nutrition
- ◆ Individual Program Requirements
- ◆ Parent Rights and Responsibilities
- ◆ Center's Emergency Management Plan (Copy Given to Families)

Please take a few minutes each morning to talk with your child's teacher about:

- ◆ Your child's mood
- ◆ Any concerns you might have
- ◆ Anything unusual that happened prior to the child's arrival

Staff will keep the parents informed of the child's day. Written communication is a regular part of the programs, and verbal communication is an important part of all our child care services.

Child behavior/serious incidents will be documented and shared with parents. The incident will include date, time and a description of the incident.

Parent Handbook



Parents whose children are transported by bus are asked to keep in contact with staff by writing notes and through phone calls.

Please check your parent mailbox for: notices, payment receipts, supplies needed, etc. Newsletters and other information of interest to parents will be distributed from time to time.

1. If you have a concern or complaint, please talk with the teacher or HBCC provider.
2. If his/her response is unsatisfactory, contact the Program Director.
3. If solution remains unsolved, a meeting with the Director of Operations may be arranged.

Please make arrangements with the teachers prior to the day of a special event, so the teachers can schedule the event into the curriculum. For health and safety reasons, please check with your child's teacher for appropriate items to bring.

WCEC, Inc. strongly advises parents not to send their children to child care with jewelry. If you choose to send your child with jewelry, WCEC, Inc. takes no responsibility in keeping track of it or replacing pieces that are lost, stolen, broken, or misplaced.

Children need to come to child care dressed in a manner that is comfortable and appropriate to the weather. Many of the activities that your child will be involved with expose clothes to possible paint and dirt.

***Please do not send clothes with draw-strings. If you do, staff are instructed to remove or cut dangerous draw-strings.**

Communication (Continued)

Concerns/ Complaints

Celebration of Special Events

Jewelry

Clothing



Parent Handbook



Toilet Learning

When is a child ready? In order to assure that the process of toilet learning is a positive one, the child must be ready to participate willingly. Otherwise, toilet training can be a battle of wills and endless discipline and disappointments. The purpose is to help a child get control over his/her body functions. If a child is ready, the process of toilet learning can become a sign of great success and achievement for the child's own sense of growing up.

There are several landmarks for knowing when a child may be ready. The child must be able to work the bottom muscles at will. The child must be able to squeeze the sphincter (bottom) and stomach muscles at the same time. Usually this does not occur until around the second birthday. The child should be able to tell with words or consistent gestures that she or he needs the toilet. The child should be able to ask for help undressing or getting to the toilet. Starting before a child wants to learn about the toilet is a waste of time and may set up a lasting power struggle. The child has a natural desire to please those whom they love and trust. Children also love to imitate. A child will eventually become uncomfortable in diapers and may want to wear underwear instead.

The process of toilet learning usually is neither fast nor consistent. For some children, the process may take several years to complete. Commonly, children have accidents when they are: sick (especially with urine infections or diarrhea), tired, excited, very involved in play or stressed (e.g., birth of a baby, family illness). Children should not be punished for lapses in using the toilet. If you expect some backslide, you will be more apt to accept a child's behavior as normal and all right. Children need your understanding and patience when they are having difficulty in toileting. Your support should actually shorten the time for children to regain their toileting patterns.

Plan for Transitions

All educators will collaborate by sharing the child's record with parental permission with the new classroom educator. When a child becomes eligible to transition (aging up) to the next classroom within the program, a notification letter is sent to the parents. Children will be scheduled to visit the new classroom over a period of time to feel comfortable with the new setting before a permanent transition is made. Parents will also have an opportunity to visit and observe. When children are eligible to transition into another Worcester Comprehensive program with parental permission, the child's file is shared. When children are eligible to transition into another program outside of Worcester Comprehensive programs, with parental permission, pertinent information is shared.

Parent Handbook

The goals of the Behavior Management Policy for Children of WCEC, Inc. are to supervise, guide, encourage, and support each child to gain inner self-control. We encourage every child, within the classroom or home based, child care home, to respect themselves, the other children and adults in the environment.

- ◆ Each child is encouraged to understand fundamental concepts of self-respect, self-discipline and respect for other people.
- ◆ Each child is encouraged to understand how his/her behavior impacts on the functioning of the entire group.

Since children are at different developmental levels the following expectations are developmentally appropriate for each individual child.

- ◆ Infants and young toddlers have very little control over the things that they want or do.
- ◆ Older toddlers are beginning to explore their independence, learn how to control their behavior, how to share, and how to get along with others.
- ◆ Pre-schoolers often test limits and are learning the consequences of their behavior.
- ◆ School-age children often test limits and will learn the consequences of their actions and behaviors.

No child shall be subject to:

- ◆ Spanking or other corporal punishment;
- ◆ Cruel or severe punishment such as humiliation, verbal or physical abuse, neglect, or abusive treatment;
- ◆ Force feeding or denial of food;
- ◆ Disciplining for soiling, wetting, or not using the toilet; or forcing a child to remain in soiled clothing or forcing a child to remain on the toilet, or any other unusual or excessive practices for toileting;
- ◆ Any use of physical restraint;
- ◆ Excessive time out - no more than one minute per age of the child;
- ◆ Confining a child to a swing, high chair, crib, playpen or any other piece of equipment for an extended period of time in lieu of supervision;
- ◆ Depriving children of outdoor time as a consequence.

Goals

Age Appropriate Expectations

Inappropriate Responses

Parent Handbook

Setting a Positive Environment

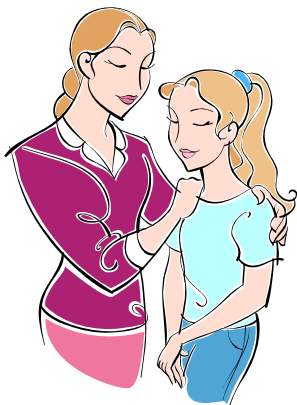
Goals to help children to:

- ◆ Be safe with themselves and with others;
- ◆ Feel good about themselves;
- ◆ Develop self-control and good coping skills;
- ◆ Appropriately express their feelings;
- ◆ Become more independent;
- ◆ Balance their needs and wants with those of others;
- ◆ Learn new problem-solving skills, including non-violent and other resources in caring, appropriate ways.

Positive Methods of Child Guidance

Positive methods of child guidance:

- ◆ A plan for appropriate behavior through the environment by arranging furniture and other materials to encourage active learning and independence;
- ◆ A plan for daily scheduling that prevents boredom, waiting, hurriedness, with time to relax and enjoy activities, as well as a daily routine with opportunities for children to select activities and move between them at their own pace, and gives children ample notice of transitions;
- ◆ Providing children with expectations that are clear, age-appropriate and applied in a consistent way;
- ◆ Allowing children to participate in the establishment of rules, policies and procedures where appropriate and feasible;
- ◆ Reinforcing positive behavior by recognizing children's positive actions;
- ◆ Modeling appropriate behavior by the adults say, expect and do;
- ◆ Redirecting children away from negative behavior action and toward positive activities by interrupting a child's negative behavior and steering the child toward an acceptable substitute activity;
- ◆ Teaching children new skills and encouraging them to discuss and resolve their conflicts on their own or with the adult's assistance, when necessary, rather than imposing an adult's solution on them. Encouraging children to express their feelings in words and to resolve problems peacefully;
- ◆ Ignoring simple inappropriate negative behavior that is unpleasant;
- ◆ Working in close partnership with parents to address children's difficulties at home and at the program. Developing shared and understanding to foster consistency between home and school;
- ◆ Observing and recording children's behaviors;



Parent Handbook

- ◆ Accessing specialized support if a child's behavior continues to be harmful to themselves or others. Referring the family, with written parental permission, for mental health counseling or other specialized services that can help address the child's behavior problems;
- ◆ Developing behavioral and safety plans for children that require them and ensuring that staff is aware of all safety plans;
- ◆ Train staff on what methods of appropriate interventions is allowed in the program.

Supports that are available to assist child guidance efforts:

- ◆ A TFK Clinician from Community Healthlink;
- ◆ Child Specific Observation/Consultation Consent Form;
- ◆ Staff receives training on positive child guidance and how to make appropriate referrals for evaluation of children's needs;
- ◆ Early Intervention;
- ◆ Worcester Public Schools.

When the child is engaged in a behavior that is a danger to himself/herself or others, the teacher will remove the child gently from the area. The teacher will explain to the child why the behavior was unacceptable, and help the child to regain self-control.

If removing the child is not a possibility, the child and teacher will quietly sit together away from the group and the teacher will explain the acceptable behavior to the child. This is meant to be a learning experience for the child.

Teachers seek alternative interventions to encourage the child's developing self-control for example:

- ◆ Play in a separate area, or
- ◆ Take a walking time away, or
- ◆ Hold the teacher's hand
- ◆ Offer alternative activity

If it becomes necessary, the child is asked to calm down, and to reflect on the behavior leading to a situation.

Positive Methods of Child Guidance (Continued)

Removing a Child

Reflecting Time

Parent Handbook

Referral for Severe Aggressive Behavior

If a child's action is of an extremely serious nature, it may be necessary for the teacher to refer the child to the Program Director. The Program Director and the Coordinator of Social Services will offer support for the child and parent as well as coordinate the supportive activities that may be needed.

Suspension

A child will be suspended from a program by the Program Director in certain situations, including the following circumstances:

- ◆ When the health or safety of the child and/or others cannot be assured
- ◆ Serious behaviors such as: excessive and unprovoked biting, hitting, kicking and object throwing
- ◆ Outbursts of anger and frequent temper tantrums
- ◆ Verbal abuse directed to other children and staff
- ◆ Persistent disregard for, or refusal to follow rules
- ◆ Intentional cruelty to others
- ◆ Possession of possible dangerous objects
- ◆ Violent behaviors or threatening violence to others
- ◆ Aggressive behaviors directed at the staff
- ◆ Running away from the group
- ◆ When the child's developmental needs are not being met

Parents will be notified in writing, by phone and in some cases must contact the Program Director before the child re-enters the program. A plan for the child's re-entry will be discussed with the parents and documented by the Program Director. Failure to work in partnership with WCEC may result in termination of child care service.

Termination

Child care services will be terminated only in extreme situations. WCEC, Inc. will make every reasonable effort to work with the child, the parents, and outside support services to eliminate endangering behavior.

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc.

Today's Date: ____/____/____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

WCEC, Inc. constantly works to create, promote and sustain an environment of mutual respect. We work hard to resolve conflicts and differences in a diplomatic manner. We cannot and **DO NOT** tolerate any physical or verbal abuse of other children, parents or staff. Occasionally, a child breaks the rules and fights or becomes physically or verbally abusive to the point that it is necessary to suspend a child to ensure the safety and well being of all of the children.

Your child, _____, has been suspended from the School Age Program for the following reason(s):

1. ☐ Before your child can return to the School Age Program we must meet to discuss the incident and develop a safe and effective plan for his/her return. I have reserved time to do this on:
____/____/____ at ____ a.m. / p.m.
2. ☐ Due to the seriousness of the situation for which your child was suspended, I have scheduled a meeting with you, the Program Director and the Director of Social Services on:
____/____/____ at ____ a.m. / p.m.
3. ☐ Your child has been suspended ____ times within _____, therefore, I have scheduled a meeting with you, the Program Director and the Director of Social Services on:
____/____/____ at ____ a.m. / p.m., to discuss our concerns and incident, and to develop a safe and effective plan for his/her return.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Program Director

By signing this form I acknowledge that I received a copy of this suspension letter.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

____/____/____
Date:

Cc: Child's File
Coordinator of Social Services
Program Director

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc.

Today's Date: ____/____/____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

WCEC, Inc. constantly works to create, promote and sustain an environment of mutual respect. We work hard to resolve conflicts and differences in a diplomatic manner. We cannot and do not tolerate any physical or verbal abuse of other children, parents or staff. Occasionally, a child breaks the rules and fights or becomes physically or verbally abusive to the point that it is necessary to suspend a child to ensure the safety and well being of all of the children.

Your child, _____, has been suspended from the _____
Program for the following reason(s):

☐ Your child may return to our program on: ____/____/____.

☐ Due to the seriousness of the situation for which your child was suspended, a meeting may be required before your child can return to the program. Please contact me so that we can develop a safe and effective plan for his/her return. I can be reached at: _____.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Program Director or Designee:

By signing this form I acknowledge that I received a copy of this suspension letter.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

____/____/____
Date:

Cc: Child's File
Coordinator of Social Services
Program Director

SUSPENSION OF CHILD (Follow-Up Meeting)

Child's Name: _____ Staff's Name: _____

Today's Date: _____ Incident Date: _____

Person's Present: _____

Statement of Problem:

Plan of Action:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Program Director or Designee Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Parent Handbook

Ending Child Care

WCEC, Inc. believes that establishing a partnership with parents in the care and education of children is essential. This PARTNERSHIP relationship is the key to the growth and well being of the children in our care. In almost every situation, consistent and sincere cooperation of child care staff and parent(s)/guardian(s) with a mutual plan of action on behalf of the child can avert untimely termination of child care.

If there are concerns about the appropriateness of a child's placement, the classroom teacher and/or Program Director will call the parent(s)/guardian(s) for a mutually convenient conference. At this time, the Program Director will describe the child's behavior within the group setting, as well as any issues the parent(s)/guardian(s) wishes to discuss. If concerns about the child's behavior continue, the Program Director will then call another conference with the parent(s)/guardian(s). At this time, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and child care staff will develop a written plan together that will outline the clear expectations of the child, staff and parent(s)/guardian(s). If the parent(s)/guardian(s) refuses to follow through with the recommendations, then the program reserves the right to terminate child care. The Program Director will also assess the ability of both the classroom and the program in maintaining the child's enrollment. If, at the end of a specified time period the concerns still exist, the Program Director may have to give a reasonable notice of termination to the parent(s)/guardian(s). If at any time, it is determined that a child's behavior is deemed so dangerous as to pose a true physical threat to him/herself or others the Program Director retains the right to immediately terminate the child from the program. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be given written documentation of the reasons for termination, and will have an opportunity to meet with the Program Director. A copy of the reasons for termination will be kept in the child's permanent record. During this time the Program Director will investigate, and discuss possibilities for a more appropriate child care placement as well as any additional services to which the child and family may be referred.

Other conditions for terminating child care services may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Failure to comply with agency policies as outlined in the Parent Handbook
2. Failure to provide appropriate health forms and emergency telephone contacts
3. Failure to renew voucher or other third party payments **(Two weeks before voucher end date is considered a two-week notice unless you confirm your appointment to renew.)**
4. Failure to meet the attendance policy and payment policy of the funding source
5. Failure to pay weekly tuition

Parent Handbook



WCEC, Inc. attempts to meet the needs of all children. The cooperation of parents is essential in order to provide child care. Please inform the staff if your child has any identified special needs. Written information may be requested from your child's physician or other professionals. Modifications will be made in the environment, staffing pattern, or scheduled activities as much as possible to accommodate your child.

Special Needs Plan:

WCEC, Inc. believes that every child develops naturally in his/her own way, and that, from time to time, each may need added supports and services. Children are assessed quarterly with Teaching Strategies Gold.

When a child enters the agency with an identified special need, WCEC, Inc. staff will work individually with that child and his/her family. Depending on the need(s), we develop plans with classroom teachers and therapists to ensure the maximum developmental benefit from our programs.

Through the Coordinator of Social Services, we make referrals to outside agencies, such as Department of Children & Families, Early Intervention, public schools, family therapies, etc., as needed. The Coordinator of Social Services works directly with Program Directors and classroom staff to help determine appropriate referrals. We encourage outside agencies to work on site with the children and look to promote models that are inclusive, integrative therapies.

Children with severe special needs are reviewed on a case by case basis to determine if we can provide the necessary services. We examine staffing patterns to determine if one-on-one assistance can be done. We will also explore outside revenue and support services to help us service each child.

Meeting Child's Needs



If your child is currently working with support professionals, it may be necessary and helpful for WCEC, Inc. to be able to speak with these providers.

In these circumstances you will be asked to sign a **consent form** allowing us to speak with these professionals.

Information Exchange

Parent Handbook



Program Concerns

When a staff member is concerned about a child's development, behavior or hygiene, she/he must complete a **Concern Sheet** and submit it to the Program Director.

If further action needs to be taken, parents may need to be notified.

Meeting with Parents

The Program Director and/or Coordinator of Social Services will discuss any concerns they may have about your child. During the meeting, staff will offer you an opportunity to share your concerns or explanations. Please share with them any concerns that you might also have. The staff may recommend a referral for additional services, a brief summary of the staff observations related to the referral and any efforts made to accommodate the child's needs will be provided to the parent.

Plan of Action

The **plan of action** will include the referral agency, contact person and telephone number, and a completed **Referral Form** or any other required paperwork and suggestions for you to try at home. The plan of action will also include timelines and a proposed date for a follow-up meeting. You will be encouraged to call or request services when applicable. Otherwise, the Program Director will contact the referral agency and inform you of all known appropriate services applicable to your child's need. A specialist may be contacted to observe your child and report the findings to you and the staff. We request that you follow through with the recommendations of the specialist for the benefit of your child.

Parental signature is required for referral services. WCEC, Inc. reserves the right to determine whether the program can meet the child's developmental needs.



Parent Handbook

In accordance to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 119, Section 51A, and in compliance with the Department of Early Education and Care's regulation 7.11(d), WCEC, Inc. will exercise all reasonable measures to protect children from abuse and neglect while enrolled in the program.

A 51A report will be filed when any of WCEC's employees or subcontracted person has **reasonable cause to believe** that a child enrolled in one of our programs is or has been subjected to abuse or neglect.

If a staff suspects abuse or neglect of a child:

1. He/she will discuss his/her concerns with the Program Director.
2. The Program Director will discuss the report with the Agency Social Worker, if available.
3. The Agency Social Worker or at his or her direction the Program Director at his or her discretion will attempt to reach the parent to discuss the situation and inform the parent of the impending 51A report.
4. The Social Worker or at his or her direction the Program Director will contact the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and file a verbal report followed by written report within 48 hours.
5. The Social Worker or at his or her direction the Program Director will inform the Executive Director.
6. The Program Director or Executive Director will conduct all Social Worker's steps in his or her absence.

While a child is enrolled in a WCEC, Inc. program, if institutional abuse or neglect is suspected or reported:

1. The Program Director will notify the Social Worker.
2. The Social Worker on his or her absence or direction, the Program Director will notify the Executive Director and file a 51A report on behalf of the child in question.
3. Upon submission of, or on becoming aware that an employee has been named as an alleged perpetrator on a 51A Report the Program Director will inform its respective program's Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC) licensor.
4. Any staff person named as an alleged perpetrator will be removed from direct care, and may not return to classroom duty until such time that DCF and DEEC give clearance to do so.
5. The Program Director or Executive Director will conduct all Social Worker's steps in his or her absence.

Goal

Reporting

Institutional Abuse or Neglect

PARENT HANDBOOK



Curriculum

Curriculum plans are developed to meet children's individual needs and interests. Activities are designed to be multicultural, open-ended, fun and developmentally appropriate. Curriculum for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children is designed on a weekly basis. Teachers and Home Based Child Care Providers then implement weekly lesson plans for each group. Quarterly progress reports are completed on infants, toddlers and preschool children. Progress reports are completed for School Age Program twice a year. Progress reports are followed up with a parent teacher conference.

The staff, children, parents, equipment and planning reflect the diversity of our agency and community.

Human Anatomy Education



Staff will help children develop clear, healthy gender identities and a positive self image by:

- ◆ Referring to all body parts by the real terms (penis, scrotum, breasts, vagina)
- ◆ Teaching children to take care of their bodies and not to allow others to hurt them
- ◆ Answering children's questions simply and honestly
- ◆ Contacting a parent when a child shows unusual interest in sexual issues

Each parent chooses to educate their child about sexual issues in their own way. We hope that you will:

- ◆ Discuss these issues with children at a young age
 - ◆ Use correct terms for body parts
 - ◆ Give them correct information at a level they can understand
 - ◆ Talk with your child honestly to help him or her to develop healthy and clear sexual attitudes
-

Environments

The child's environment and activities reflect our agency's philosophy and goals. Throughout all programs, children are provided age appropriate equipment and educational toys. The environment is stimulating and well equipped to foster the growth and development of all children.

PARENT HANDBOOK



Our programs encourage children to be actively involved with the learning process. **Children learn through play.** Alternating periods of quiet and active play are available. Play-time is designed to be non-gender biased.

Play

All age groups play outdoors daily, weather permitting. Children need to be dressed appropriately for the weather.

Outdoor Play

It is your responsibility to provide an extra set of clothing for your child in case of emergencies.

Children are asked not to bring toys from home into the center or Home Based Child Care home. Children have a greater difficulty sharing their own toys with other children. While it is difficult to set limits, please try a statement like: “I know you would like to bring the toy to school, but that is not O.K. I’ll hold the toy for you and bring it with me when I pick you up.”

Toys

Infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children will take age appropriate trips. WCEC, Inc. will provide car seats. A trip permission slip, stating the date, time, and destination must be signed by a parent for the child to participate in the field trip.

Trips

WCEC, Inc. provides field trips using its own school bus or by renting buses from local companies. If the bus does not stay on site during the field trip, a staff member will bring a second vehicle to be used in case of emergencies. If the rental bus breaks down during field trips, the bus company provides an alternate bus, which arrives at the breakdown location. Communication is done through the school bus telephone. In the case of the breakdown of the WCEC, Inc.’s vehicle, the bus driver communicates with the main office using a cellular telephone. Alternative transportation will be arranged.





Parent Handbook

Nutrition



All staff are trained on choking hazards and USDA Guidelines on nutrition annually.

WCEC, Inc. participates in The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a government program administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). State agencies or FNS regional offices oversee the program at the local level. In Massachusetts, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education administers the CACFP. The CACFP reimburses participating day care operators according to rates set by the USDA, for healthy meals and snacks served in Child and Adult Day Care facilities. Menu plans meet USDA Food Program requirements and are posted in all programs or are available in all home based child care homes.

Please do not send food into the child care center.

Please notify your teacher of any allergy your child may have to any food.

Breakfast

A sample of breakfast food served:

eggs, french toast, pancakes, hot or cold cereals, fruits or juices, toast, and 1% milk. WCEC uses whole grains only.

Lunch

A sample of lunches served:

hamburger, chicken, ham, fish, tuna, cheese, rice, beans, breads, vegetables, 1% milk, fruit. WCEC uses whole grains only.

Snacks

A sample of snacks served:

fresh fruit, crackers with cheese or sun butter, muffins, fresh vegetables and 1% milk.



Parent Handbook

Each child must have a complete medical exam:

- ◆ Prior to, or within one month of admission, and
- ◆ Annually

***Current medical examination and immunizations must be on file or your child will not be admitted to the program.**

A copy of your child's immunization records is required prior to enrollment.

Parents are responsible to obtain and keep immunizations current and updated for your child to remain in care.

If your child is the age indicated below, he/she should have received the following:

Age	Hep B	OPV	DTP	Hib	MMR	Varicella	Lead
2 Months	1	1	1	1			
4 Months	2	2	2	2			
6 Months		3	3	(3)			
9 Months							1*
12-15 Months	3		4	3 or 4	1		
19 Months						1	
4-6 Years		4	5		2		

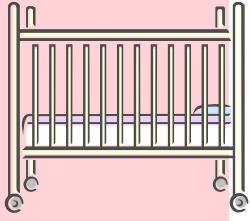
Any child born January 1, 1997 or after and who is 19 months of age or older are required to get the Varicella immunization.

***Parents are required to submit proof of a recent lead screening test each year beginning at 9 months of age.**

Medical Examination

Immunization Record





Parent Handbook

Procedures for Placing Infants in Cribs for Sleep

1. ALL INFANTS ARE PLACED IN CRIBS (manufactured as infant sleeping equipment that meets the standard of U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission) ON THEIR BACK.
2. Blankets comforters, pillows, stuffed animals, wedges, positioners, bumper pads or other soft padded materials or toys must not be placed in the crib with the baby. Sleepers and sleep sacks are good alternatives to blankets.
3. Bottles must never be propped and babies should not sleep sucking on a bottle of milk.
4. Home monitors or commercial devices marketed to reduce the risk of SIDS must not be relied upon for the supervision of sleeping babies.
5. Infants must be supervised at all times while asleep.
6. Children younger than six months of age at the time of enrollment **must be under direct visual supervision at all times**, including while napping, during the first six weeks they are in care.
7. Once placed on their back for sleep, infants may be allowed to assume a comfortable position when they can easily turn themselves from the back to front position.
8. Infants under 12 months in age must be placed on their backs for sleeping, unless the child's health care professional orders otherwise, in writing.
9. When a parent asks that their infant be placed to sleep on their stomach, a doctor's note stating that an infant may be allowed to sleep on their stomach must be provided by the parent and posted above the infant's crib.

Parent Handbook

A child cannot attend the program if any of the following symptoms appear:

a. Fever:

Under 2 Months

100.4 notify the parent, parent choice to pick up

101 child needs to be sent home

Over 2 Months

101 notify the parent, parent choice to pick up

102 child needs to be sent home

b. Vomiting:

More than the usual “spitting up”

c. Diarrhea:

More than two

d. Unable to Participate in Activities of the Group:

If your child is:

◆ Unable to participate in the activities of the group even though his/her temperature is less than 102 degrees

◆ Unable to participate in outdoor activities

e. Contagious Condition or Disease:

See page 36.

If these symptoms occur, or your child becomes ill during the day:

1. Program will contact the parent to pick up the child, or
2. A person on the *Authorized Emergency Release Form* will be asked to pick up the child.
3. In some cases a *Wellness Verification Form* will be required to be filled out before returning.

Child Cannot Attend

Notices of some contagious diseases will be sent home with a child who has been exposed.

Notices



Parent Handbook

Contagious Condition or Disease

If your child has a contagious condition or disease, you will need a *Wellness Verification Form* completed by the health care provider identifying the disease and date the child is able to return to child care.

Below is a partial listing of contagious conditions or diseases:

1. **Conjunctivitis** (pink eye) - an eye infection where the white of the eye is red with burning or itching. There may also be thick yellow or white drainage from the eye. A prescription from your doctor may be needed for it to go away. If your child has conjunctivitis, he/she can return with prescribed medication, or a note from the health care provider.
2. **Impetigo** - this starts with a very small blister on the skin that contains yellowish fluid or white pus and is usually surrounded by reddened skin. The blister is easily broken and leaves a raw spot. It is likely to start in a moist spot such as the edge of the diaper, in the groin, armpit or around the mouth. The sores should be kept lightly covered until they have dried up. A child can return with a note from the health care provider.
3. **Giardia** - a microscopic parasite that can affect the upper part of the intestines and is passed in stools. It must be diagnosed by stool tests by the health care provider. A child can return after a health care professional provides documentation of two consecutive negative stool samples.
4. **Strep Throat** - if your child has strep, he/she can return after receiving prescribed medication with no fever.
5. **Pediculosis** (head lice) and **Scabies** (body lice) - your child may return to child care after receiving treatment, and removing all nits from the hair. To prevent reinfection, your home environment also needs treatment.
6. For other contagious diseases such as: **measles, mumps, chicken pox, roseola, ringworm, pinworms**, etc. - you will need a note from your health care provider before your child can return to care.

Please report any contagious diseases or conditions within your household to the program staff. This information will help us observe all children to prevent the condition from spreading.

A Home Based Child Care home may be closed if the provider or a family member has any of the above diagnosed contagious conditions. Children will be cared for by a substitute provider.

Parent Handbook

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc. will practice Universal Health Care precautions.

Before enrolling any child, the parent/guardian, program director, and agency social worker will discuss the appropriateness of the child for the setting. The continued attendance of any child will consider the child's social, psychological and developmental status, current health status, including degree of immune functions and stamina, and the ability of the program to provide appropriate care.

Direct care staff will be informed of individual children who might be HIV infected, when special care is required on a need to know basis and then only with written parental consent.

Notifying parents of other children and the caregivers about an HIV infected child is prohibited by law and could be cause for disciplinary action and/or dismissal.

The medical reports of all children are considered confidential information. No information will be shared without parental consent.

The direct care staff of Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc. are responsible to observe the general health of all children daily and to report any deviation from the norm to their supervisor.

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc. will follow the Department of Public Health's Policies regarding diseases spread through blood contact as described in A Guide for Child Care Providers in Massachusetts: Health and Safety in Child Care. A copy is on file and is available upon request.

AIDS Policy

Parent Handbook



Plan for Administration of Medication

Prescription Medication:

- a. Prescription medication must be brought to school in its original container and include the child's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, the number of times per and the number of days the medication is to be administered. This prescription label will be accepted as the written authorization of the physician.
- b. The Center will not administer any medication contrary to the directions on the label unless so authorized by written order of the child's physician.
- c. The parent must fill out the Authorization For Medication Form before the medication can be administered.
- d. Staff that administer medications receive "Medication Administering Training" annually through DEEC.

Non-Prescription Medication:

- a. Non-prescription medication will be given only with written consent of the child's physician. The Center will accept a signed statement from the physician listing the medication(s), the dosage and criteria for its administration. This statement will be valid for one year from the date that it was signed.
- b. Along with the written consent of the physician, the Center will also need written parental authorization. The parent must fill out the Authorization For Medication Form, which allows the Center to administer the non-prescription medication in accordance with the written order of the physician. The statement will be valid for one year from the date it was signed.
- c. The Center will make every attempt to contact the parent prior to be child receiving the non-prescription medication unless the child needs medication urgently or when contacting the parent will delay appropriate care unreasonably.

Topical Ointments and Sprays:

- a. Topical ointments and sprays such as petroleum jelly, sunscreen, and bug spray, etc. will be administered to the child with written parental permission. The signed statement from the parent will be valid for one year and include a list of topical non-prescription medication.
- b. When topical ointments and sprays are applied to wounds, rashes, or broken skin, the Center will follow its written procedure for non-prescription medication which includes the written order of the physician, which is valid for a year, and the Authorization For Medication Form signed by the parent.

Parent Handbook

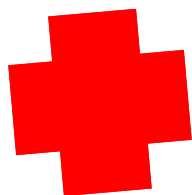


All Medications:

1. The first dosage must be administered by the parent at home in case of an allergic reaction.
2. All medications must be given to the teacher directly by the parent.
3. All medications will be stored in the kitchen, out of the reach of children (in the right upper cabinet or on the refrigerator door shelf if refrigeration is necessary). All medications that are considered controlled substances must be locked and kept out of reach of children.
4. The Lead Teacher will be responsible for the administration of medication. In his/her absence, the teacher will be responsible.
5. The Center will maintain a written record of the administration of any medication (excluding topical ointments and sprays applied to normal skin) which will include the child's name, the time and date of each administration, the dosage, and the name of the staff person administering the medication. This completed record will become part of the child's file.
6. All unused medication will be returned to the parent.

*Plan for
Administration of
Medication
(Continued)*





Parent Handbook



Injuries or Medical Emergencies

Accident reports will be completed by your child's teacher/home based child care provider with information on:

- ◆ Time
- ◆ Place
- ◆ How the accident occurred
- ◆ Where your child was injured and
- ◆ Any first aid treatment administered

A copy of the report will be given to the parent for signature and the original will be placed in the child's file.

First Aid Training

All WCEC, Inc. staff who work directly with children are trained in First Aid, CPR and Universal Precautions.

Safety

Staff practice monthly evacuation procedures with children. Staff also receive information about procedures during emergency situations. Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are periodically checked. Emergency phone numbers and evacuation plans are posted in each program.

Emergency Care

In the event of a medical emergency that requires transporting the child, WCEC, Inc. will first try to notify the parent so that he/she can transport the child. If you cannot be reached, an authorized emergency person will be contacted. However, if the situation warrants, a WCEC, Inc. staff person will accompany your child to seek medical treatment, and we will call you or a person on your *Emergency Medical Authorization Form* to meet the staff person and your child at the medical facility.

Your signed *Emergency Medical Authorization Form* allows us the following:

1. If you cannot be reached to come to the hospital, the person on your emergency list will make medical decisions in your absence and will be responsible for your child until you arrive.
2. If no one on your emergency list can be reached, a WCEC, Inc. staff person will assume this responsibility.

Emergency consent forms will be kept by the primary care provider as well as at WCEC, Inc.'s offices.

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc.
Parent Forms
Emergency Medical Authorization

Parents:

We will make every effort to reach you when your child becomes ill or injured. If we cannot reach you, we will contact an **Authorized Emergency Adult**. If we can not contact an Authorized Emergency Adult, we may need permission to receive medical help for your child.

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical information that WCEC, Inc. Should be Aware of:

Your Child's Doctor: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Referring Doctor's Hospital: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Please Give Permission to Each Numbered Item Below:

1. I give my permission for WCEC staff to get medical information about my child from the doctor listed above.
☐ Yes
2. I give my permission for WCEC staff to give first aid and CPR to my child.
☐ Yes
3. I give WCEC permission to transport my child in an emergency.
☐ Yes
4. I give my permission for WCEC staff to transport my child to the hospital listed above or to the nearest hospital in case of emergency.
☐ Yes
5. I give my permission for WCEC to transport my child by ambulance if needed.
☐ Yes
6. When I am not available, I give my permission to the hospital or doctor to give my child emergency treatment due to an illness or injury with permission from an Authorized Emergency Adult, or WCEC staff.
☐ Yes

Attach Health/Medical
Insurance Card Here

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Attach Physical Form to Back

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care, Inc.
Parent Forms
Authorized Emergency Adults

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

***My child can only be picked up from WCEC child care by the following persons:
These individuals may authorize emergency medical care until I am available.***

1. Name: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

☐ Pick Up Child ☐ Authorize Emergency Medical Care in my Absence

2. Name: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

☐ Pick Up Child ☐ Authorize Emergency Medical Care in my Absence

3. Name: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

☐ Pick Up Child ☐ Authorize Emergency Medical Care in my Absence

4. Name: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

☐ Pick Up Child ☐ Authorize Emergency Medical Care in my Absence

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date

Address, City, Zip

Home Phone Number _____ Work Phone Number

Attach to Emergency Medical Authorization



Parent Handbook

We require **two weeks** notice when your child is leaving WCEC, Inc. Since your child is an integral part of our community, it is important for the children and teachers to have the opportunity to say “good-bye”.

Parent Termination of Child Care

WCEC, Inc. can terminate child care services under the following conditions:

1. WCEC, Inc. is unable to meet the child’s developmental needs. Two weeks notice will be given.
2. Financial eligibility (with 2 weeks notice):
 - a. Failure to pay weekly tuition
 - b. Failure to meet the attendance policy of the funding source
 - c. Failure to renew voucher or other third party payments. (Two weeks before voucher end date is considered a two week notice unless you confirm your appointment to renew.)
3. Health and safety of the child or other children or staff at WCEC, Inc. cannot be assured. (Two weeks notice may not be possible.)

Parents will be notified in writing of a termination and a meeting will be set to help find alternative services.

WCEC, Inc. Termination of Child Care

WCEC, Inc. constantly works to create, promote and sustain an environment of mutual respect for all our stakeholders and we work hard to resolve conflicts and differences in a diplomatic manner. We cannot and **DO NOT** tolerate any unlawful or disrespectful behavior (including but not limited to threats—verbal or otherwise, theft, and verbal and physical abuse) from any parent or child against any child or staff of WCEC. Such behaviors will result in immediate termination of services without a two week notice and the involvement of local law enforcement should the incident merit so.

Termination Due to Unacceptable Behavior

Parent Handbook

Technical Assistance for Parents

Community Mental Health Centers

- ◆ **Ellsworth Child & Family Counseling Center**
20 & 21 Cedar Street
(508) 753-5425
- ◆ **Great Brook Valley Health Center**
19 Tacoma Street
(508) 852-1805
- ◆ **Mass. Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)**
286 Lincoln Street
(508) 753-2967
- ◆ **Worcester Youth Guidance Center**
275 Belmont Street
(508) 791-3261

Special Education

- ◆ **Worcester Public Schools**
20 Irving Street
(508) 799-3056

Early Intervention Programs

- ◆ **MSPCC**
286 Lincoln Street
(508) 753-2967
- ◆ **Pernet Family Health Service**
237 Millbury Street
(508) 755-1228
- ◆ **UMass Medical Center**
55 North Lake Avenue
(508) 856-4202

Social Services

- ◆ **Department of Children & Families**
340 Main Street, Suite 525
(508) 929-2000
- ◆ **Youth Opportunities Upheld (YOU, Inc.)**
81 Plantation Street
(508) 849-5600

Subsidized Child Care

- ◆ **Child Care Resources**
799 W. Boylston St.
(508) 856-7930
- ◆ **Dept. Early Education & Care (DEEC)**
10 Austin Street
(508) 798-5180

Medical Services

- ◆ **Family Health Center**
26 Queen Street
(508) 860-7700
- ◆ **Great Brook Valley Health Center**
19 Tacoma Street
(508) 852-1805

Hearing Services

◆ **Memorial Rehab Group**
15 Belmont Street
(508) 792-8700

◆ **UMass**

Dental Services

- ◆ **Great Brook Valley Health Center**
19 Tacoma Street
(508) 852-1805
- ◆ **Quinsigamond Community College Dental Clinic**
670 W. Boylston Street
(508) 854-4306

Vision Services

- ◆ **Great Brook Valley Health Center**
19 Tacoma Street
(508) 852-1805

Information & Referral Services

- ◆ **Central Mass. Housing Alliance**
7-11 Bellevue Street
(508) 757-2150
- ◆ **Child Care Connection**
100 Grove Street, Suite 102
(508) 757-3880
- ◆ **First Call - United Way**
484 Main Street, Suite 300
(508) 755-1233
- ◆ **WIC Program**
19 Tacoma Street, 2nd. Floor
(508) 853-2904
- ◆ **Worcester Housing Authority**
40 Belmont Street
(508) 798-4500

Hotlines

- ◆ **Child at Risk - Department of Children & Families**
Hotline after 5:00 p.m.
1-800-792-5200
- ◆ **Day Break - Domestic Violence Hotline**
(508) 755-9030
- ◆ **Parents Helping Parents**
1-800-882-1250
- ◆ **Rape Crisis Center**
146 West Boylston Drive
(508) 799-5700
- ◆ **Teen Access Line**
Alliance for Young Families
1-800-645-3750

PARENT INFORMATION, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chapter 28, Section 10 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mandates to the Office for Children the legal responsibility of promulgating rules and regulations governing the operation of day care centers (including nursery schools).

The licensee (day care center owner) is required to inform all parents of specific information about their rights and responsibilities at the time of admission of their child to the center. Section 7.04 of 102 CMR 7.00, the regulations which govern day care centers, contains more information.

PARENT'S RIGHTS:

Right to Visit:

You have a right to make unannounced visits to your child's room while your child is present.

Parent Input:

The program must have a procedure for allowing your input in the development of center policy and procedure. The program must allow you to make suggestions, but it is up to the program to decide whether or not they will be implemented.

Conferences:

You have a right to request an individual conference with the program's staff. The licensee has the responsibility to make the staff available.

Meeting Prior to Admittance:

The licensee shall assure that the administrator or his designee meets with you prior to admitting your child to the center.

At the meeting, the licensee in addition to the information contained in this fact sheet, must provide you with:
(All of this information may be contained in the "Parent Handbook".)

- ◆ The center's written statements of purpose
- ◆ Types of services provided
- ◆ Referral policy
- ◆ Behavior management policy
- ◆ Termination and suspension policy
- ◆ The policy for identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect
- ◆ The transportation plan
- ◆ A copy of the health care policy (if you request it)
- ◆ Procedure for administration of medication
- ◆ Procedures for providing emergency health care and the illness exclusion policy
- ◆ A copy of the fee schedule

You should also be given the opportunity to visit the center's classrooms either at the time of the meeting or prior to the enrollment of your child.

Progress Reports:

At least every six (6) months, you should either meet with the center's staff to discuss your child's progress, or receive a written progress report of your child's activities and participation in the center. This report must become part of your child's center record. If your child is an infant or is a child with disabilities, you should receive a written progress report every three (3) months. Center staff must bring any special problems or significant developments, particularly if they regard infants, to your attention as soon as they arise.

Your Child's Records:

Information contained in your child's record is privileged and confidential. The center's staff may not distribute or release information in your child's record to anyone not directly related to implementing the program plan for your child without your written consent. You must be notified if your child's record is subpoenaed.

PARENT INFORMATION, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES Continued. . .

Access to the Record:

You should be able to have access to your child's records. The center must provide access within two business days, unless they have your permission to take longer. You must be allowed to view your child's entire record, even if it is located in more than one location. The center must have procedures regarding access, duplication, and dissemination of children's records. They must maintain a written log which identifies anyone who has had access or has received any information out of the record. This log is available only to you and the people responsible for maintaining the center's records.

Amending the Record:

You have the right to add information, comments, on data, or any other relevant materials to your child's record; you also have the right to request deletion or amendments of any information contained in your child's record. Such request shall be made in accordance with the procedures described below:

1. If you are of the opinion that adding information is not sufficient to explain, clarify or correct objectionable material in your child's record, you have the right to have a conference with the licensee to make your objections known.
2. The licensee shall, within one (1) week after the conference, give you a decision in writing stating the reason or reasons for the decision. If his decision is in your favor, he shall immediately take steps as may be necessary to put the decision into effect.

Charge for Copies:

The licensee shall not charge an unreasonable fee for copies of any information contained in your child's record.

Transfer of the Record:

Upon your written request, when your child is no longer in care, the licensee can give you your child's record or transfer them to any other person that you identify. The center should ask you to sign a form verifying that you have received the record.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROGRAM:

Providing Information to the Office for Children:

The licensee must make available to the Office for Children any information required to be kept and maintained under these regulations and any other information reasonably related to the requirements of these regulations. This includes information in your child's records. Authorized employees of the office are not to remove identifying case materials from the center premises and are required to maintain the confidentiality of individual records.

Reporting Abuse or Neglect:

All center staff are mandated reporters. They are required by law to report suspected abuse and neglect to either the Department of Children and Families or to the licensee's program administrator. The licensee must have written policies and procedures for reporting and must provide the written policy to you upon enrollment.

Notification of Injury:

The licensee must notify you immediately of any injury which requires emergency care. They must also notify you in writing, within 24 hours, if any first aid is administered to your child.

Availability of Regulations:

The center must have a copy of CMR 102 7.00, Standards for the Licensure or Approval of Group Day Care and School Age Child Care Programs, on the premises, available to any person upon request. If you have questions about any of the regulations, ask your center to show them to you.

PRESCHOOL/SCHOOL AGE CLOSURES

JULY

2025

JUNE

2026

JULY 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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AUGUST 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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31						

SEPTEMBER 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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OCTOBER 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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NOVEMBER 2025						
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DECEMBER 2025						
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JANUARY 2026						
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FEBRUARY 2026						
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MARCH 2026						
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APRIL 2026						
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MAY 2026						
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JUNE 2026						
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CLOSURES

SUMMER/WINTER BREAKS
Tuesday, July 1, 2025
Wednesday, July 2, 2025
Thursday, July 3, 2025
Friday, November 28, 2025
Friday, December 26, 2025
Monday, December 29, 2025
Tuesday, December 30, 2025
Wednesday, December 31, 2025
Friday, January 2, 2026
Tuesday, June 30, 2026

STATE HOLIDAYS	
Friday, July 4, 2025	Independence Day
Monday, September 1, 2025	Labor Day
Monday, October 13, 2025	Columbus Day
Wednesday, November 26, 2025	Floating Holiday
Thursday, November 27, 2025	Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, December 25, 2025	Christmas Day
Thursday, January 1, 2026	New Year's Day
Monday, January 19, 2026	Martin Luther King Day
Monday, February 16, 2026	Presidents' Day
Monday, April 20, 2026	Patriot's Day
Monday, May 25, 2026	Memorial Day
Friday, June 19, 2026	Juneteenth day

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Friday, October 10, 2025
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Friday, March 6, 2026
Friday, April 3, 2026
Monday, June 29, 2026



160 Tacoma Street Worcester, MA 01605
Phone: 508.852.3792 Fax: 508.853.1520
www.worcestercomprehensive.org

HBCC PROVIDER CLOSURES

(YELLOW = PROVIDER OPEN with NO TRANSPORTATION)

JULY

2025

JUNE

2026

JULY 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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SEPTEMBER 2025						
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OCTOBER 2025						
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NOVEMBER 2025						
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JANUARY 2026						
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FEBRUARY 2026						
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MARCH 2026						
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APRIL 2026						
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MAY 2026						
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JUNE 2026						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

CLOSURES

OPEN NO TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, July 1, 2025
Wednesday, July 2, 2025
Thursday, July 3, 2025
Friday, November 28, 2025
Friday, December 26, 2025
Monday, December 29, 2025
Tuesday, December 30, 2025
Wednesday, December 31, 2025
Friday, January 2, 2026
Tuesday, June 30, 2026

STATE HOLIDAYS

Friday, July 4, 2025 Independence Day
Monday, September 1, 2025 Labor Day
Monday, October 13, 2025 Columbus Day
Wednesday, November 26, 2025 Floating Holiday
Thursday, November 27, 2025 Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, December 25, 2025 Christmas Day
Thursday, January 1, 2026 New Year's Day
Monday, January 19, 2026 Martin Luther King Day
Monday, February 16, 2026 Presidents' Day
Monday, April 20, 2026 Patriot's Day
Monday, May 25, 2026 Memorial Day
Friday, June 19, 2026 Juneteenth day

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Friday, October 10, 2025
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Friday, March 6, 2026
Friday, April 3, 2026
Monday, June 29, 2026

Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care Parent Handbook “Signature of Receipt”

I have received a copy of the **Parent Handbook**, and I agree to comply with the policies contained in this document and any revisions provided to me.

Topics
Purpose of Parent Handbook and In This Handbook
History and Services
General Policies
WCEC, Inc. Organization and Organizational Chart
Confidentiality
Admissions Procedure, Funding Sources and Fees
Hours and Holiday Closures
Arrival, Pick-Up and Attendance
Inclement Weather
Transportation
Parent Involvement
Center’s Emergency Management Plan
Child Guidance Policy
Referrals
Abuse and Neglect Policy
Education
Nutrition
Required Medical Forms
Procedures for Placing Infants in Cribs for Sleep
Illness
Contagious Diseases
AIDS Policy
Plan for Administration of Medication
Emergency Care
Ending Child Care
Community Resources and Parent Rights
Signature of Receipt

Parent’s Signature:

Date:

Administrator/Staff Signature:

Date: