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|  | þÿ  PARENT HANDBOOK  School-Age Program School Year 2017 - 2018  Peterson AFB Colorado  719-556-7220 |  |
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|  | 2  Dear Parents/Sponsors,  Welcome to the Peterson AFB School Age Program. We are glad your family has become a part of our family. We are committed to offering the best care possible for your child. Our well-trained and caring staff work hard to provide a safe and healthy environment for your child to make choices, develop friendships, and expand his/her knowledge.  The program is open to dependent youth of the Peterson Air Force Base Complex personnel, grades K-6 (5-12 years old) as well as those in other areas as space allows.  Your youth will be introduced to the Air Force Five Core Values of:  Character and Leadership, The Arts, Education and Career Development,  Health and Life Skills, and Informal Youth Sports, Fitness and Recreation.  Your family is highly encouraged to join in our activities and you are welcome to  join us at any time for a meal, field trip or be a guest speaker on a hobby or your  career.  This booklet has been developed to help acquaint you with our guidelines and policies. Please review it thoroughly to become informed and knowledgeable about our program. We look forward to a rewarding time together at Peterson Air Force Base.  We are here to support your family and the mission you serve.    Respectfully,  School Age Program Coordinator  R.P. Lee Youth Center |  |
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|  | 3  **YOUTH DIRECTOR**  719-556-7220  **ASSISTANT YOUTH DIRECTOR**  Vacant  **SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAM COORDINATOR**  719-556-5236  **SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAM LEAD**  719-556-7220  **TRAINING AND CURRICULUM SPECIALIST**  719-556-7220  **YOUTH CENTER PHONE NUMBER**  719-556-7220  **LOCATION**  100 Selfridge St., Bldg. 1555  Peterson AFB, Colorado 80914  **Hours of Operation** 6:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday – Friday  Closed on Federal Holidays    **DOD CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE**  1-877-790-1197  **FAMILY ADVOCACY**  719-556-8943 |  |
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|  | 4  **About Our Program**  Welcome to the Peterson AFB School Age Program. Our program is accredited through the Council on Accreditation (COA). COA standards provide children and staff with a quality program that is committed to providing each child with a unique growing and learning experience. The standards focus on six elements of quality: human relationships; indoor environment; outdoor environment; activities; safety, health, and nutrition; and administration.  **MISSION STATEMENT**  To assist DoD military and civilian personnel in balancing the competing demands of the accomplishment of the DoD mission and family life by managing and delivering a system of quality, available and affordable programs and services for eligible children and youth from birth to 18 years of age  The mission statement for the Airman & Family Services Flight is to provide holistic services across the life skills to increase the mission readiness and quality of life to our military community.  **Philosophy**  In our program we provide safe, enriching, supervised environments for children and youth during out of school time. Individual interests, experiences, abilities and needs guide the programming. Children have the right to be heard, listen to and influence decisions. We promote experiences and opportunities that enhance rather than duplicate the school day. Our programs maintain an atmosphere that encourages flexibility and allows for freedom of choice within appropriate guidelines. We strive to reinforce family values and emphasize the uniqueness of each child by promoting positive attitudes and validating self-worth.  **Program Goals**  Our goal is to enhance and reinforce life skills, support academic progress and promote individual growth and development. We accomplish this by offering children opportunities to develop.  **Social**   * A sense of community (within our program and outside our base gates) * A sense of ownership and responsibility within our School-Age program * Altruism (living and acting in the interest of others without personal gain) * An acceptance of diversity   **Emotional**   * An enhanced sense of self-esteem * Assertiveness skills (appropriate expression rather than acting aggressively) * A trusting relationship with an adult confidante / role model * A sense of expertise – a chance to *shine!*   **Educational / Intellectual**   * An understanding of academic principles and life skills through *fun* hands-on experiences and field trips. * Study skills through homework assistance (space, materials, adult help) * Knowledge of personal safety skills * An appreciation of the arts |  |
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|  | 5  **Physical**   * Fitness and health, the ability to rest and relax * A sense of “personal best” (comparison of *their* present to past performance versus comparison with other children) * A knowledge of healthy food choices and cooking activities   **Rooms/Activities Provided for Exploration, Learning And Fun!**  The Peterson AFB School-Age program is dedicated to providing daily opportunities for life and leisure skill building! We have specialized activities in each of our rooms that are based on our children’s interests and needs. Staff are cognizant of the importance of child-driven curriculum, remaining focused on identifying what our children are interested in and bringing those interests to fruition through special activities and projects. Curriculum based on 4-H Colorado State Extension and the Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA) curriculum provide a foundation of character and leadership development, self-discovery and healthy life styles.  ***Studio A***  Studio A is classroom that offers children/youth opportunities to develop and enhance the social skills that support positive peer interaction and citizenship. ***Studio A*** is one of our smaller classrooms, which makes it ideal for small groups of children/youth to work together and learn together with positive guidance and reinforcement from caring staff that are always close by. 4-H Clubs will take place in this room to provide academic and personal development.  ***Area 51***  If you are looking for a place to ask questions, explore nature, or get involved in the latest STEM activity, ***Area 51*** is the place for you. CYP personnel provide children of all ages with opportunities to encourage thinking, reasoning, questioning, and experimentation in a manner that supports continued academic success. 4-H STEM programming enhances questioning minds with robotics, engineering, hands-on expediential learning.  ***Young at Art***  ***Young at Art*** is the place to be to gain an appreciation of art, writing, and creativity, all in ways that reflect creative expression and cultural diversity. Children/youth in ***Young at Art*** will be provided with stimulating activities such as painting, drawing, collage, modeling clay, as well as opportunities to perform in talent shows, poetry slams, and creative ways to express themselves. BGCA “Smart Girls” program curriculum encourages self-expression and individuality.  ***Powerhouse***  Every day, indoors or outdoors all school-age children/youth are offered a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity. The ***Powerhouse*** classroom is designed to provide developmentally appropriate activities that involve developing and enhancing fine and gross motor skills. Boys & Girls Club “Triple Play” activities encourage healthy life styles.  ***Blue Print***  Creating, engineering, science, and citizenship is what youth will find in ***Blue Print.*** CYP Personnel in ***Blue Print*** provide a variety of opportunities for children/youth to learn about health and safety practices, good nutrition, consumer and environmental science, building, community service, and citizenship. ***Blue Print*** also offers the 4-H Club to youth age 8 and older. BGCA “Passage to Manhood” will meet in Blue Print in the fall to help young men develop a greater appreciation for their individuality and self-expression. |  |
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|  | 6  **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**  Our program has an “open door” policy, meaning that parents and visitors are always welcome. Parents are invited to come into our program to have snack or lunch with their child. Parents and guests are welcome to share a hobby, talent, or job-related expertise with both children and staff. Parents are also encouraged to chaperone program field trips.  Upon enrollment, the School-Age Coordinator (or other administrative staff member) will conduct an initial orientation to the program. Families are kept informed about happenings in our program through verbal exchanges, notes, newsletters, and displays.  Communication between staff and parents is critical to the success of our program. In addition to the daily informal exchanges between staff and parents, parents may request formal conferences at any time throughout the year.  There are several ways that parents can get involved in our program. They may choose to be a member on our **Quality Improvement Team**. In addition, they may attend the Child and Youth Programs **Parent Advisory Board** meetings. This meeting is comprised of parents from all of our programs (the Child Development Center, the Family Child Care Program and the School-Age Program). The board discusses issues, concerns and upcoming events. All parents are encouraged to attend!  **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**  School-Age children will have multiple opportunities throughout the year to attend outings and field trips in order to experience our community on and off the base. Children will have an opportunity to join base or local groups and teams and are encouraged to take part in community projects and community service opportunities through 4-H and the Boys & Girls Club.  **COMMUNITY RESOURCES**  Parent bulletin boards and newsletters contain information about community events and resources and CYP personnel will be happy to refer families to base and local agencies for information and assistance as requested. Parents are also encouraged to share any resources to help us enrich our program.  **Family/School-Age Resources**  **Peterson AFB Exceptional Family Member Program**  <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Peterson-AFB-EFMP/161242797249671?ref=hl>  **The Resource Exchange** <http://www.tre.org/>  **Military Child Education Coalition**: [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org/) Focusing on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition.  **Tri West**: <https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/> [**Military & Family Life Consultants**](http://www.21fss.com/images/pdf/mflc.pdf) **(MFLC)**  Military & Family Life Consultants are licensed clinical counselors assigned to Peterson AFB to work with families, individuals, couples, and children to provide non-medical problem identification counseling services. Non-medical counseling services include anger management, conflict resolution, parenting, relationship issues, homesickness, assignment stress and decision-making skills.  Appointments for children and youth can be made by calling 719-651-7851 or 719-651-0736.  **Peterson Air Force Base Family Readiness**  Provides military members and their families with the tools, resources and activities essential for a successful military assignment, including  Phone: **719-556-6141**  **Handbook for Parents of School-Age Children**  <http://www.21fss.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2016-2017-Parent-Handbook-ReducedSizePDF.pdf>  **ENROLLMENT POLICIES AND COST**  **Eligibility.** Patrons eligible to use the school age programs are based on the following priority system:   1. Current employees of the Peterson Child Development Program or Youth Program. 2. Single military or DoD civilian (including NAF employees) and dual military or DoD civilian parents assigned to or living on Peterson AFB or Cheyenne Mountain AFS; this includes a family comprised of a military parent and a DoD civilian parent. 3. Active duty military or DoD civilian with civilian employed spouse assigned to or living on Peterson AFB or Cheyenne Mountain AFS. 4. Single military or DoD civilian and dual military or DoD civilian assigned to an installation other than Peterson AFB or Cheyenne Mountain AFS. 5. Active duty military or DoD civilian with civilian employed spouse assigned to an installation other than Peterson AFB or Cheyenne Mountain AFS. |  |
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|  | **ENROLLMENT POLICIES & FEES 7**  **Eligibility**. Patrons eligible to use the school age programs are based on the following priority system:  1) Current employees of the Peterson Child Development Program or Youth Program.  2) Single military or DoD civilian (including NAF employees) and dual military or DoD civilian parents assigned to or living on Peterson AFB or Cheyenne Mountain AFS; this includes a family comprised of a military parent and a DoD civilian parent.  3) Active duty military or DoD civilian with civilian employed spouse assigned to or living on Peterson AFB or Cheyenne Mountain AFS.  4) Single military or DoD civilian and dual military or DoD civilian assigned to an installation other than Peterson AFB or Cheyenne Mountain AFS.  5) Active duty military or DoD civilian with civilian employed spouse assigned to an installation other than Peterson AFB or Cheyenne Mountain AFS.  6) Active duty military or DoD civilian with non-employed spouse.  7) All other eligible applicants. DoD contractors applying for care must provide proof of employment on Peterson AFB or Cheyenne Mountain AFS.7  **Registration/Enrollment Requirements**  Parents **must** complete and return **ALL** enrollment forms before the child/youth is in care, to include authorizing permission for field trips, medical treatment and photographs. Parents must provide a  copy of the child/youth's current immunization as part of enrollment and prior to participation. Documentation of immunizations **must** be recorded in the child/youth’s file. ***A current flu shot is a required immunization to attend the program.***  **When you enroll your child into the School Age Program, all paperwork has to be completed before your child will be allowed to enter the School Age Program.**  **There are NO exceptions.**  **Fees and Payments.** The Military Child Care Act of 1996 requires the Department of Defense to prescribe uniform fees for child care based on total family income. The fee guidelines are established once per year. Parents enrolling their child/children in contract care are required to bring a copy of the sponsor’s Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) and a copy of the spouse’s pay stub to verify total family income. An Application for Department of Defense Fees, DD Form 2652, will be required to determine which fee category will be charged. All income is required to be included, whether taxable or not, that is used to claim earned income credit when filing federal income tax. Military family income includes Base Pay, Basic Allowance for Subsistence and BAH. For military families BAH-II Married with Dependents Rate chart is used to calculate BAH. In dual military families, the BAH of the junior member should not be counted in the total family income. Recent guidance from the DoD Office of Children and Youth states that the following temporary pays related to deployment shall not be included when calculating Total Family Income (TFI): family separation allowance, hardship duty pay, and imminent danger pay.   1. **Changing Programs within School Age.** A two (2) week written notice must be given if you choose to change your child from the enrolled program on the contract. The change will be effective on a Monday. This entails going from Before/After to After Only or Before Only, and vice versa. 2. **Withdrawing your child from care.** A two (2) week notice must be given in writing to management staff prior to removing your child from the program. If there is no notification in writing, a two (2) week fee will be charged. Withdrawal notices are available from our front desk personnel. |  |
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|  | 8   1. **Weekly fees.** Weekly fees are due at the close of business on Monday the week of care. In the event that the Youth Center is closed on a Monday, families will have until the close of business on Tuesday to pay for care. In accordance with Air Force policy, all patrons are required to provide credit card information to include the type, number, expiration date, and name appearing on the card on file with the program. In the event that any amount due under this agreement is not paid by 5 p.m. on Monday, the School-Age Program will charge the customer’s credit card for the amount due. If the credit card is declined, parents will receive notification the same day and will be expected to make payment the following business day. If payment is not received by close of business the following day, a late fee of $10.00 per day will be assessed. The late fee is $10.00 per child and $10.00 per day and becomes cumulative until the total amount is paid. Families whose fees become delinquent by over two weeks will be refused service until all fees are brought up-to-date and paid in full. Patrons will not receive reductions for federal holidays or vacations. You will receive a thirty-day written notice prior to the effective date of any fee changes.   **d. Subsidies.** The School-Age Program is subsidized by appropriated funds and USDA Adult and Child Food Service Program reimbursements. Additional information on State subsidy programs is available in the Parent Resource area at the front entrance.  **e. Tax ID.** The tax ID number to submit for childcare tax credit is 84-061-7273.  **POLICY FOR SIGNING IN AND RELEASING CHILDREN FROM THE PROGRAM**  Parents or their designee noted on AF Form 1181 are required to physically escort children/youth into and out of the building. Parents must sign children in and out on AF Form 1930 located in the School-Age hallway. Children age 9 and older may sign themselves in & out of the school-age program, ONLY when parents signed a permission form to authorize this. Children will ONLY be released to parents, guardians, siblings or other children 14 years of age or older or designees noted on the AF Form 1181. **If someone other than yourself will be picking up your child, you must add that person’s name to the child’s file before they are allowed to pick the child up.** If staff are not familiar with the individual that is signing in or out, they are required to check identification and verify it on the AF Form 1181. If a child does not return from school on the bus, we will begin searching for the whereabouts of the child. **Please call the youth center if your child will be absent from the program on a particular day.** This helps us to know not to expect your child and to know that he/she is safe.  **PRIVACY POLICY**  Confidentiality is our commitment to you and your youth. We will not discuss any personal information with other families, administrative staff, departments or persons outside the program. If a family situation arises, please let the School Age Coordinator, School Age Lead, Trainer or Youth Director know how we can support your family. Our knowledge of changes in your lives will assist us to provide greater care and support to your youth. The MFLAC (Military Family Life Counselors) counselors at our program need your approval to speak with your child about personal issues. The front desk provides a list to the MFLAC Counselors who they may/may not speak with at the SAC Program.  In the event of child abuse, CYP staff are “mandated reporters,” which means we must report abuse to the Family Advocacy Organization (FAO). It is up to FAO to determine if abuse has occurred, not the CYP staff. We would not contact you about such a concern, FAO would determine the validity of such a reportable incident. |  |
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|  | 9  **STAFF: CHILD RATIOS, GROUP SIZES AND SUPERVISION**  In our program, we maintain a **1:12 ratio** (one staff member *directly involved in the supervision of the children* for every 12 children present). However, the number of children an individual staff member directly supervises at any given time may vary depending on the age of the children and the type  of activity in which they are engaged. Volunteers and youth under age 18 are not included in the staff: child ratio. The size of the group in which individual children participate does not exceed 24 during the majority of the day. Ratios and group sizes must be smaller when children are learning a new or difficult skill or the activity is high risk (ex. swimming) or involves potentially dangerous equipment  (ex. cooking – knives, hot stove). During high-risk activities, staff are reminded to position themselves within close proximity of the activity. Staff are mindful of traffic safety when taking children on walking field trips. A senior staff member will accompany all field trips off base. Additional adults are present on field trips that require an increased level of supervision, including: any area with water, amusement parks, etc. In case of emergency (staff illness/absence), there is adequate staff coverage. The facility is supervised by at least a GS-5 (or NAF equivalent) staff member at all times. Closed circuit television is also used to ensure the safety of children and staff.  **LOCATOR BOARD POLICY**  According to the Council on Accreditation (COA) and Air Force Standards, we must have a system in place to ensure our staffs know the whereabouts of children at all times.  In the main hallway of the School Age Program you will find the Child Locator Board. Each child will have a magnetic card with their name on it. The child/youth chooses what room they want to go to, if there is a space available, youth can move their card to the room of their choice.  This procedure will be consistent with all areas of choice to include the outdoor play area. During bathroom breaks, youth will notify the room staff member who will give them a bathroom pass. At the end of the day, it is the youth’s responsibility to return card their card back to their homeroom space that is to the left of the choice board.  In order to keep the youth safe, we need full support from youth, family and staff. Freedom to move independently throughout the program requires responsibility on the party of the youth; therefore, children will be held accountable for the appropriate/inappropriate use of the system.  **Please take a moment to review the locator board policy with your child.**  CYP staff will assist youth with learning the system and guide them through the process on how to use the locator board. Please assist your child with the following policy:   1. Remind your youth to move/return name place holders 2. Return cards to their homeroom spot when leaving for home at the end of the day. 3. Assist youth to be responsible for their name cards and not misplace the cards.   **ATTENDANCE POLICY**  The locator board assists the staff with the accountability of youth. Our AFI requires parents  to call by 9 a.m. on full days of care, if their youth will not be attending the program. **Please call the front**  **desk if your youth will not be attending the program on school days.** Documentation of your  call, in a binder at the front desk, helps us to ensure changes are communicated to the staff prior to loading  buses or picking up youth from school. ***There is not a refund for absences to your weekly fees.*** |  |
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|  | 10  **GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE**  Guidance training is offered to staff as part of Orientation and annually thereafter. At the time of initial employment, they sign a guidance policy that outlines appropriate and inappropriate methods of guiding children’s behavior. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in a reprimand or dismissal. The school-age staff are to respect the dignity of children in all of their dealings with them. The children are expected to respect each other and the staff. Guidance and group management at the program will be positive in nature and emphasize supporting self-esteem and self-control. The staff are never authorized to use physical punishment or verbal threats to achieve a behavior. Physical contact should be limited unless it is necessary to restrain a child from harming himself or another.  The program strives to model for children the proper way to interact with their peers and adults. Physical or negative methods of discipline are prohibited. Policies are designed to help children develop self-control, self-esteem and respect for the rights of others. Techniques used to provide positive guidance include talking with the child, redirection, proximity or using the child’s name, and conflict resolution skills. School-age program assistants must model effective “win-win” problem solving methods to help children solve conflicts and find solutions that allow everyone involved to get some of what they want In correcting a child’s behavior, staff explain to the child what he or she should be doing rather than focusing on the unwanted behavior. The staff also explain the reasons for the rules the children are asked to follow.  The School Age Coordinator will arrange a conference with the parents of the child, the Training & Curriculum Specialist and the child’s primary caregiver (if available). A plan of improvement will be implemented and a date for re-evaluation will be determined. The Behavior Improvement period will consist of either one or two weeks depending on the severity of the behavior. If the child has two incidents within this period, he/she will be suspended for one week (5 business days). At the end of the specified improvement period a re-evaluation will be conducted. If improvement has been observed, the child may remain in the program. Upon the child’s return from suspension, he/she will be placed on a two week probationary status. If inappropriate behavior incidents by the child occur twice within this period, the child will be removed from the program permanently. As in the case of suspension, the staff will make every effort to assist the parents in obtaining alternate care arrangements. You will still be responsible for any fees accrued.  **POLICY FOR ENROLLING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**  Children with special needs are welcome to participate in the school-age program. These children are defined as children with conditions that require special services beyond those usually necessary to promote a child’s growth and development. Included are children with speech impairments, developmental delays, physical handicaps, and medical problems (including chronic health conditions such as allergies and asthma) that require additional supervision. A child with special needs will be admitted with the written concurrence of the base medical advisor. A written plan of care will be developed jointly by medical professionals, special education advisors, parents, and youth center staff and will be followed for each child designated as having special needs. If necessary, staff/child ratios, the environment and activities will be adapted to meet the special needs of the child. Staff training will be provided to ensure the best possible environment for the child. |  |
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|  | 11  **HEALTH RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES**  Staff ensure that all children are screened at time of entry for signs of illness including communicable diseases. **We cannot admit children who are ill. When a child becomes ill, we ensure the child’s immediate medical needs are taken care of. Staff will notify a facility manager who will notify the parent immediately to discuss the child’s condition. We do not permit children to remain in the program when their illness will endanger the health of other children or they do not feel well enough to participate in the program activities.** Some conditions that require immediate professional medical attention are convulsions, unconsciousness, marked difficulty in breathing and ingestion of any potentially toxic substance. 911 will be called and a facility manager notified. Less serious symptoms will be evaluated through the flight Exclusion and Re-admission policy. You can obtain a copy of this policy from the Training and Curriculum Specialist. If children are exposed to a communicable disease, the parents  will be notified.  **We reserve the right not to admit a child suspected of having a communicable disease.** It is  important to everyone’s health that children who are genuinely ill do not have the chance to spread the illness. **Parents have the responsibility to notify us of their child’s illness or communicable disease.** Please see the current health policy regarding guidelines for exclusion and re-admittance.  Staff are trained to meet the individual needs of children who have chronic (long term) health problems such as diabetes, epilepsy, allergies and asthma. A list of children’s allergies and medical conditions are kept confidential and are located with the administrative staff and Training and Curriculum Specialist. The program medical advisor approves the enrollment of all children with chronic medical concerns.  **ACCIDENT/EMERGENCIES REPORTING AND POLICIES**  **AF Form 1187 is the form used to inform you of accidents/injuries that may have occurred to your child while in our care.** The Manager On Duty or SAC Coordinator will notify the parent through a phone call or email.  **In case of an accident requiring professional medical assistance, the supervisor in charge will contact 911. You will be notified immediately. In the event that you cannot be reached, the emergency contact on the AF Form 1181 will be contacted.**  **For your child’s safety, he/she must wear close-toed shoes at all times while attending our program.**  **MEDICATIONS**  **All medications, including over the counter, must be given to the front desk staff, Coordinator or Training & Curriculum Specialist by the parent or guardian and will be placed in a container or refrigerator in an area that is not accessible to the children.** Qualified staff who have been trained by base medical staff will administer medication as long as a parent or guardian has completed AF Form 1055, Medication Administration, documenting the name of the medication and when/how it is to be administered.  Emergency “as needed” medications, for asthma or allergies, (inhalers, nebulizers, and Epi Pen) are accepted and used on an emergency basis per physician’s orders. Parents must initial the medication administration form (AF 1055) annually to re-authorize administration of medications, including emergency asthma medications and Epi Pens. **Only current prescription medications labeled with the child’s name, name of medication, dosage strength and dosage schedule will be administered. Medication will never be administered after expiration date, nor to any person other than the one named on the label. Due to possible reactions, staff does not administer the first dose of medication.** Parents are responsible to furnish all supplies necessary to administer the medication. **Parents must submit any and all changes to medical instructions in writing, signed by a health care professional.**  **FOOD SERVICE**  **All meals served meet the current USDA guidelines. We believe that good nutrition is a basic right of every child. Our nutrition policies reflect our commitment to ensuring that your child’s nutritional needs will be met in a positive, nurturing manner with respect for individual needs and preferences.**  **We like to survey the parents and children enrolled in our program to find out what foods (from a list of nutritious options) they would like to see included in our menus. We provide nutritious meals and snacks that are low in fat, sugar, and salt.**  **All meals are served Home Style. This means that foods are placed in serving dishes on the tables in the classrooms and children serve themselves. Children may need to be reminded to take only what they think they can eat and encouraged to try the different items offered. In most instances, they are allowed to get seconds. Staff is encouraged to sit with children during meals and snacks, socialize and model healthy eating habits. Children are not allowed to bring food/beverages from home.** |  |
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|  | 12  **Please do not leave vehicles running in the parking lot.** Also, **DO NOT** leave young children alone in your vehicle even if it is turned off.  **For your child’s safety, he/she must wear close-toed shoes at all times while attending our program.**  **TRANSPORTING CHILDREN/FIELDTRIP GUIDELINES**  We offer fieldtrips that provide opportunities for children to experience the culture of the community in which they live. Our policy is to give as much advanced notice as possible and to obtain written permission from the parents. The following guidelines are adhere to by the staff:   * Staff who transport children will be subjected to a driving record check. The results must be favorable. Drivers must also have a valid operator’s license on file at the program. * Drivers shall not have used alcohol within 8 hours prior to transporting children. * Two adults must accompany any group transported off base. * Staff must ensure that the vehicle is safe by completing the Operator’s Inspection Guide and Trouble Report. * Staff make sure that the vehicle is clean and free from obstruction on the floors and seats. * The vehicle must have a complete first aid kit. * The trip leader/supervisor will take along any medications that the children will need to use while on the trip. * Before leaving, staff obtain a copy of your travel route from the Coordinator. * Staff **are not** authorized to make impromptu changes in the field trip plans. * Upon arriving at the location and returning to the youth center, staff will check the vehicle to make sure that all children are off the vehicle. Head counts must be taken at the center, after loading the bus/van, and again when you load up to come back. Children should not be responsible for head counts or 1930’s. * Children must be supervised during boarding and exiting all vehicles. Adults and children must utilize seat belts (when available). * There MUST be a counselor leading a group from the front and the rear at all times. * Children are NOT permitted to run ahead of or lag behind a group. * A cellular phone must be taken on any trip off base. This ensures that staff are able to reach the program in the event of an emergency. * Staff ensure that they have drinks, snacks, and/or lunches (if needed). * Staff have a “bag of tricks” (simple games or activities in case you have to wait). * Children should never use a public restroom alone…ever! * Copies of an Air Force Form 1181 for each child must be taken on every field trip to ensure transportation and emergency medical treatment authorization. * There shall be no smoking in the vehicles used by the facility at any time. * Counselors are not allowed to sleep on the bus/van. * Staff are “NOT” to leave their assigned group at any time unless it is their official break or lunch. |  |
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**COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES**

Communication between staff and parents is critical to the success of our program. Upon enrollment, parents will have an initial orientation to the School Age Care Program. Staff members help to keep families informed about happenings in our program through verbal notification, notes, newsletters, and displays. All information regarding youth and their families is confidential and will not be discussed with anyone not directly involved in the program.

Every parent/guardian is invited to be a member of our **Parent Advisory Board (PAB)**. Please ask the SAC Coordinator for additional information about meetings. “**Quality Improvement Meetings**” are also held to improve the quality and environment of the School Age Program. We hope you will join these activities.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES/PLANS**

The SAC Program will practice Emergency Procedure Plans to ensure youth know what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency. The drills the CDC and SAC will practice may include, but are not limited to: monthly fire drills, Tornado drills, Natural Disaster/Severe Weather drills, Active Shooter drills, and Shelter-In-Place drills. Primary and Secondary Evacuation routes are posted by the doors and on the Parent Information board in each SAC room.

The Security Force Squadron personnel come to the center with their canines at random times to complete a sweep of the facility due to the fact that the CDC and SAC is a mission critical area.

**BASE CLOSURES/INCLEMENT WEATHER PLANS**

When the Installation Commander authorizes delayed reporting, the School Age Care Program will offer care for children of mission essential personnel only, beginning at 6:30 a.m. Mission essential personnel must provide a letter from their Commander designating them as such to allow us to monitor which children will be using the SAC at 6:30 a.m. on these days. Parents who are designated as non-mission essential may bring their children to the SAC at the time designated by the Wing Commander. This allows the SAC to reduce the number of staff required, thus assisting the staff in arriving to work safely. Care for all other families will be offered at 9:20 am. When the Installation Commander authorizes an early release for weather or any other reason, all parents must ensure their child are picked up from the SAC accordingly. If necessary, parents may be called to pick up their children to protect the safety of everyone involved. Please sign up for notification through Peterson Air Force Base.

**CHILD ABUSE AND REPORTING**

If you ever suspect child abuse or child neglect in your DoD Youth Program, report it to your installation Family Advocacy Program at 719-556-8943. The SAC staff are trained annually and are “mandated reporters” of abuse or neglect. Mandated reporters are required to report signs of abuse, but it is not their determination if abuse has occurred. The Family Advocacy Representative would determine if the reportable incident was signs of abuse. You would not be called if signs of abuse were found by the CYP staff, the Family Advocacy Representative would contact you or conduct the investigation.

**DOD CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE**

1-877-790-1197

**FAMILY ADVOCACY**

719-556-8943

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**INTERNET USAGE AND APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE**

All Peterson School Age Care Program computers and connections to the internet must be used in support of the program’s philosophy of providing safe and enriching activities. Use is a privilege and not a right. Electronic communications including, but not limited to, electronic mail (email) and downloaded material, including files deleted from a user’s account but not erased, may be monitored or read by program staff and manager. Youth will receive training by the staff/coordinator on what is appropriate and how to execute safety while using the internet. An additional firewall protection program is installed on all computers to avoid accidental access to inappropriate websites or downloads. Cyber bullying discussions will be held with youth 8-12 years old using the Boys and Girls Club of America curriculum.

**CELL PHONE USAGE**

Cell phones, Smart phones or any individual communication device are not allowed at the SAC Program. Personal I-pads, laptops, and tablets are not allowed due to the possibility of damage, loss and the inability for the staff to monitor these devices.

**FOOD SERVICE**

The SAC Program provides nutritionally balanced meals and snacks. Menus have been approved by a registered dietitian and are posted outside the kitchen door. Menu changes may occur occasionally and are noted on the monthly menu. No outside food or beverages will be allowed in the SAC Program. All families must prepare a USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program Application annually.

**ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TOBACCO USAGE POLICIES**

It is never too early to teach children ways to stay healthy. Peterson School Age Care Program helps educate our youth about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs and other addictive habits using a health education-based curriculum. The U.S. Department of Education suggests that in grades K-3, prevention efforts should discuss good health practices; differences among foods, poisons, medicines and drugs; personal responsibility for one’s actions; develop critical thinking skills and rules regarding drug usage. For grades 4-6, the Department of Education recommends teaching about how to identify different drugs; the effects of drugs; what addiction is; why some substances are dangerous; and peer, media, family, and community influences on substance abuse.

The Annual “Red Ribbon Week” speakers and curriculum is implemented with an emphasis on drug prevention and awareness. The Boys & Girls Club Triple Play Program provides a comprehensive health and wellness program developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to improve the overall health of Club member’s ages 6-18 years old.

Per AFI 34-144, 6.12.1. Smoking, consuming alcohol, using tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) and/or using illegal/illicit drugs (including marijuana) are strictly prohibited in the sight or presence of children/youth participating in any CYP program or sponsored activity. **Smoking is not permitted by staff or parents on the premise of the SAC Program. Smoking is not allowed on field trips or at special events.**

**CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION MONITORING (CCTV)**

Per AFI 34-144 item 13.8, CCTV systems are a requirement for use in all SAC programs. The new CCTV cameras will record activity in the rooms and this notification is to inform the parents/guardians that their youth may be subject to closed circuit video monitoring and recording as part of their participation/enrollment in the program. The current system will be upgraded to provide this service and you will be notified when the recordings begin in the SAC Program.

***WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT AND SERVE YOUR YOUTH AND FAMILIES!***