

## **Kinder Beginnings Early Care and Education – Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What is the total number of children that you care for?***

The State of Ohio allows up to 6 children (including my own under age six) as a Type B Home. If any children are scheduled to attend part-time, there may be more than six children enrolled, but there will not be more than 6 children present at any given time.

### ***What is the caregiver to child ratio?***

The ratio will never be higher than 1:6, meaning that there will always be at least one caregiver for up to six children.

### ***Do you have aides/helpers?***

I do not currently have any full-time aides or helpers. Two backup caregivers are trained to cover any short-term (less than 4 hour) appointments or emergencies, to avoid closures and prevent families from being inconvenienced by scheduling changes.

### ***What are your hours?***

Kinder Beginnings is in operation from 7:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. However, actual contracted hours of care may be different for each child. Non-traditional hours are provided on occasion, with prior approval.

### ***Do you care for children on a part-time basis?***

Yes, part-time care is available as long as a current opening allows for this schedule without placing more than six children in my care; however, preference is given for full-time attendance.

### ***What are your fees?***

Full-time enrollment is \$150 weekly. Weekly tuition rates are based on the arranged days and hours of care; if more hours are needed, the fee will be adjusted. All rates may be reviewed and increased on January 1st of each year; 30-day notice is given before rate increases take effect.

Payment is due on the Friday before each week of care. If payment is not presented by the scheduled Monday drop-off, care will not be provided until payment is made. For hourly or drop-in care, payment is due on the date of service.

Payment is accepted in the form of cash, check, or electronic payment through Playground which includes optional automated tuition payments.

### ***Why do I have to pre-pay?***

Prepayment is required for all scheduled care. It is necessary in order to purchase food and supplies based upon expected attendance.

***Why is childcare so expensive?***

These early years create important foundations for life. As an Early Childhood Professional, I provide personalized care and opportunities for children to explore, have fun, make friends, and learn in a safe, educational environment. There are costs incurred in maintaining that environment, in addition to the food and other supplies which are required. Please compare our rates with other local providers and centers, and keep in mind the importance of quality care and the individual attention that your little one will receive in a setting with a low ratio.

***Why does drop-in care cost more?***

Accommodating drop-in children can require significant changes to our planned day, as well as additional unexpected supplies.

***Do you currently have availability?***

Please contact us to find out if we can accommodate your family!

***Can I hold or reserve space?***

Once accepted for enrollment, the only way to ensure placement is timely payment of tuition. Alternatively, families may request to be placed on our waiting list at no cost.

***What is a typical day like?***

While we do follow a predictable routine, the schedule is flexible and may vary depending on the needs of the children. Meals and Rest Time remain at predictable times. We spend time outdoors every day, varying the amount of time with the seasons. We have time for free play and planned activities daily.

***Do you have pets?***

Near the playground, we have laying hens. Indoors, we have a large marine aquarium, and a friendly cat who is kept up to date on immunizations.

***Do you smoke/vape?***

No member of my household smokes or vapes, and tobacco products are not permitted on the premises.

***What is your vacation policy?***

Kinder Beginnings will be closed for 2 paid weeks per year for my vacation, and up to 3 paid professional training days per year in addition to holiday closures.

Notification of at least two weeks will be given prior to any closed days, with the exception of emergencies or sudden severe illness. Parent/Guardian(s) are responsible for finding back-up care during provider absences.

***What holidays are you closed?***

Kinder Beginnings will be closed for the following holidays with pay:

**New Year's Day - Memorial Day - Independence Day - Labor Day  
Thanksgiving - Day after Thanksgiving - Christmas Eve - Christmas**

*\*Note: If a holiday falls on Saturday, Kinder Beginnings will observe and close on the Friday before. If the holiday falls on Sunday, Kinder Beginnings will close on the Monday after.*

***What is your policy on accepting sick children?***

Children with mild cold-like symptoms (clear runny nose, slight cough, and no fever) will be accepted to attend. Children will not be allowed to attend if they exhibit symptoms such as:

- \*Unexplained Rash (other than mild diaper rash or known allergic reaction)
- \*Fever (100F or higher) within the past 24 hours
- \*Extreme cold and/or cough
- \*Vomiting within the past 24 hours
- \*Diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- \*Parasites, Lice or nits
- \*Discharge from eyes or ears
- \*Unusual drowsiness or lethargy
- \*Communicable diseases (chicken pox, roseola, conjunctivitis, mumps, measles, influenza, etc.)

If a child becomes ill, the family will be contacted immediately and should attempt to remove their child within 1 hour of being notified. If the family is not available, the emergency contact persons will then be notified. Once the child is excluded from care due to illness, they may not return for a full 24-hour period, unless accompanied by a doctor's note stating that the illness is not contagious.

*\*Note: Should I myself become unavailable due to illness, families will be notified as soon as possible. Payment is not required for days that Kinder Beginnings is closed due to illness.*

***How much notice is required for a child to leave your care?***

After the two-week trial period, care can be terminated by either party with two weeks written notice. Payment for those two weeks will be accepted in lieu of notice.

***Do you provide meals?***

A nutritious breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack are provided daily. Tuition is inclusive; there are no extra fees for these meals and snacks. More information can be found here:

<https://www.kinderbeginnings.com/meals>

***What is naptime like?***

Each child under age 6 is provided with their own sleeping area and items to rest. Infants have their own playard with a fitted mattress and sheet. Older children have a cot with a sheet, pillow, and blanket.

More information about our routine and arrangements can be found here:

<https://www.kinderbeginnings.com/rest>

***What are our options for communication?***

Although conversations happen during drop off and pick up times, those transitions can sometimes be hectic. Enrolled families are welcome to contact me via Playground, text message, phone call, or email at any time during business hours. Families often keep in touch outside of business hours as well, sharing successes and any questions regarding the children. Conferences are scheduled for matters needing discussion, and may also be requested periodically simply to check in as a parent-provider team.

Some of the papers that your child brings home may not look like much of anything. It is not WHAT we do, but rather HOW we do it that matters. What we are practicing is fine motor control, expression, following directions, decision making, colors, textures... these are all crucial skills needed for writing, creative/critical thinking and language. We paint with brushes, sponges, our fingers, our feet, stamps, foam, glitter, etc. We learn colors, textures, and emotions through our hands-on projects. As a parent I encourage you proudly display their work, and then toss it as new ones are brought home, packing away special ones as keepsakes.

Each child has a daily report through Playground, to keep families informed of each child's day, their individual progress, and our upcoming plans. Children crave interaction with their parents, but are sometimes unable to remember or explain parts of their day - these can be good conversation starters!

For further information, please read our current [Policies Handbook](#). Feel free to contact me with any other questions.