

Family Handbook

Center-Based and Home-Based Programs





Welcome to Next Door

Dear Families,

You are your child's first and most influential teacher.

We are honored that you have chosen Next Door to provide your child's early learning and care needs. We are committed to providing your child and family the best care, quality education, and social service programming to meet the individual needs of your family. At Next Door, we believe that it takes everyone – parents, teachers, staff, and children – to build a successful learning community.

We encourage all parents to become active participants in their child's educational experience. We look forward to seeing you in the classrooms and at socializations, parent committee meetings, and family engagement events.

This handbook provides important details about your rights and responsibilities, and our agency's policies/procedures. Please take time to carefully read through the contents of this handbook. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 414.562.2929 for assistance.

Welcome to Next Door!

Heather Mehring Grams

Heather Mehring Grams
President

William H. Hill III

William Hill
Deputy Director of Early Childhood Education

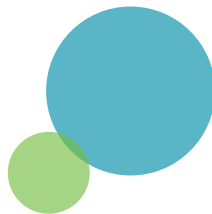


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Family Responsibilities

Next Door recognizes that as a parent or guardian, you are the most important partner in your child's education. Your involvement is essential to your child's educational success. As a parent or guardian, you are responsible for:

- Ensure your words and actions create a safe and supportive environment for all children, families and staff at all times.
- Ensuring your child attends school regularly and arrives on time.
- Providing reasons for absences and tardiness to your child's teacher or Family Advocate.
- Informing the school of changes in your address or telephone number.
- Ensuring the school has current emergency contact information.
- Ensuring that your child has all required well child/well baby check-ups and immunizations within the required time frames.
- Attending parent conferences, participating in parent committee meetings, home visits, and activities at the school.
- Knowing the discipline guidelines as stated in this handbook, the behavior expectations of your child's classroom, and discussing them with your child's assigned teachers.
- Completing weekly in-kind and document using Learning Genie, collaborating with your child's teacher/parent educator to complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, and establishing individual curriculum plan goals (ICP) for your child.
- Partnering with your Parent Educator/Family Advocate to establish and make progress toward your Family Partnership Agreement Goals (FPA).
- Communicating your child's needs and family's needs, and sharing concerns in a professional manner.
- You are welcome to take pictures of your child at Next Door. We ask that you do not take personal pictures of other children in the classroom.
- Conducting yourself in a respectful manner, modeling appropriate behaviors for your child. This includes refraining from cursing, swearing or using threatening language or physical behaviors towards children, families, and staff. If your behavior creates an unsafe environment, an incident report will be created and the staff will follow Next Door's Inappropriate Behavior Policy and Procedure. A staff member will reach out to you to determine next steps which may include a team meeting involving the parent or family member up to the individual involved no longer being able to be on Next Door Property. If you are involved in an incident please utilize the Parent Grievance form, connect with staff and/or be open to communication to help us achieve a resolution.

Next Door is a drug and alcohol free campus. Parents and/or family members who appear under the influence of drugs or alcohol may be addressed by a staff member and assessed for drop off and pickup of a child. Substance use concerns will be addressed with a parent and if there is a safety concern may result in staff following Next Door's Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting.

Next Door's Mission Statement

Next Door supports the intellectual, physical and emotional development of children by partnering with their families for success in school and the community.

Next Door's Vision

Next Door's vision is to position neighborhood children and families for long-term success.

School Readiness Goals

Next Door's priority is to ensure your child achieves the necessary school readiness skills to be successful in elementary school. We have identified five school readiness goals as outlined below:

- Children will establish positive relationships and self-regulation skills to manage behaviors and engage in learning experiences.
- Children will learn and begin to use math concepts during daily routines and experiences.
- Children will demonstrate verbal, written, and comprehension skills to communicate with others.
- Children will demonstrate curiosity, persistence, and creativity skills to gather information and to solve problems.
- Children will use fine and gross motor skills to practice safe behaviors and perform self-help skills.

Next Door's Core Programs

Next Door operates center-based and home-based educational programming delivering comprehensive services for your child and your family. We hope that you take advantage of additional services that are available to your family. Such services include:

- Books for Kids
- Fatherhood and Motherhood networking groups

We partner with a variety of other community organizations to address health, dental, and social emotional concerns. Some of our key community partners are: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, and Lutheran Social Services.

Center-based Program

Next Door provides center-based program options for children six weeks through four years within our 29th Street and Capitol Drive locations.

Our facilities are licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Our programs are governed by the Office of Head Start Performance Standards, State licensing regulations, and Milwaukee Public Schools Charter School requirements. Next Door is also accredited through the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs. Our licensing information is located on the primary parent bulletin board in the reception area of our facilities. A copy of DCF 251 Licensing Rules for Group Child Care Centers, a copy of the Head Start Performance Standards, and a copy of Next Door policies and procedures are located in our Family Resource Rooms at each site. You can also ask to view a copy of these documents at the receptionist desk.

Home-based Program

Next Door provides home visitation services for prenatal moms and children from birth to age four. These services are provided using a Head Start and Early Head Start Home-based Program model. Families participating in home visitation services receive weekly 90-minute home visits. During the visits, Parent Educators collaborate with families to implement developmental learning experiences, assist the parent with social service needs through community resources, and provide parenting education. Head Start families receive 32 home visits and Early Head Start families receive 46 home visits.

In addition to the weekly home visits, parents and children are invited to participate in group socializations each month. Socializations will typically occur at Next Door's Capitol Drive campus. On occasion, some socializations may be family field trips in the community.

Prenatal Services

Next Door's Early Head Start Prenatal program provides services throughout a pregnancy including all three trimesters, labor and delivery, postpartum adjustment, and transition to other supportive services. Services are enhanced through case management and Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC). We have an on-staff Infant Massage Instructor and a partnership with a Doula service.

Next Door's Early Head Start prenatal services meet the needs of the mothers by:

- Focusing on prenatal health of women and their babies in order to have healthier pregnancies, healthy infant deliveries, and positive postpartum birth experiences.
- Preventing and reducing intentional and unintentional injuries to newborns.
- Encouraging a safe sleep environment.

Locations

Next Door - 29th Street Campus
2545 N. 29th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210
414.562.2929

Next Door - Capitol Drive Campus
5310 W. Capitol Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53216
414.562.2929

Building and Program Hours

All Next Door sites are open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Your child's arrival and departure times may vary from site to site depending on the selected program option. Please speak to your teacher or family advocate for your child's classroom hours. Next Door has an open door policy. We encourage parents to visit the program and be involved in their child's classroom. To maintain a safe, secure environment for children and staff, all guests and parents are asked to check in at the receptionist desk.

Parking

Next Door - 29th Street Campus

Parking is available for parents at the 29th Street site in the parking lot which is located across from Children's Hospital Pediatric Clinic. Parents are prohibited from parking in the horseshoe driveway in front of the main entrance. Alternative parking access may be granted following Next Door's Policy and Procedures. Violators will be ticketed and could risk being towed by the City of Milwaukee. These parking restrictions are in place for the safety of all participants entering and exiting during the school day. Security staff is available as needed for staff and participants. If there is a concern, please inform the receptionist in the main lobby. Please make sure you are holding your child's hand when crossing the street and avoid walking between parked cars.

Next Door - Capitol Drive Campus

Parking is available for parents on the parking lot closest to the main entrance. The parking lot is accessed from 53rd Street. We ask that your speed is a slow creep and may require stopping for people and other vehicles. Please watch for other moving vehicles and be sure to hold your child's hand while walking through the lot. Avoid parking along the fence. This is a designated walk way for pedestrians.

All children must be supervised while walking into both school buildings. We ask that you hold your child's hand, if possible and that you refrain from taking phone calls until you leave the building, to better focus on your child's safety. We ask this as a safety measure. Children may not be left alone in vehicles without an adult. Children left alone in vehicles will be reported to the Site Director and police.

Anti-Idling

Idling refers to running a vehicle's engine when the vehicle is not in motion. Idling for more than a few seconds wastes fuel, contributes to air pollution, and can negatively impact our health. To ensure the well-being of our children and community, we require that all vehicles must be turned off when parked on center grounds. This includes drop-off and pick-up times or while loading vehicles. As a general rule, if you anticipate waiting for more than ten seconds, we ask that you turn off your engine. We understand there may be exceptions for extreme weather conditions or for vehicles with special equipment requiring the engine to run. Please speak with a staff member if you believe you need an exception. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to making Next Door a healthier, greener place for everyone.

Admission

Next Door admits children 0-4 using the Head Start Program Standards. These standards outline how we ensure that children and families who either income eligible or eligible by program standards are awarded criteria points and selected based upon need.

Social Media

Our social media presence is designed to keep families informed of Next Door updates, share educational resources, and celebrate the achievements and milestones of our children and staff. We currently operate social media channels on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. We only share photos and videos of children whose parents or guardians provide written consent in our enrollment packet. We never identify a child by name unless parents or guardians provide explicit permission. We encourage families to engage in social media with us in a positive and respectful manner. Inappropriate, offensive, or harmful comments will be removed, and repeat offenders may be blocked. If you have a concern, please speak directly with a Next Door staff member about it rather than posting comments publicly. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us create a positive and supportive online community for Next Door.





Attendance

Attendance and punctuality play an important role in the success of your child. Regular attendance supports your child's learning by ensuring that your child has every opportunity to be exposed to each learning activity. Our school's goal is for all children to have an attendance rate of 90% or better. Attendance is monitored per federal performance standards. Chronic absenteeism or tardiness in early childhood also establishes poor behavior for later school attendance in elementary school.

Your child's overall attendance, including tardiness, will be monitored and becomes part of your child's record and reported daily to the Milwaukee Public School system which will remain in your child's educational record. Next Door reports attendance including drop off and pick up times to MPS. Milwaukee Public Schools calculates your child's attendance by the time spent in the classroom. Chronic absenteeism and/or tardiness with picking up and dropping off will result in a meeting with your child's Family Advocate Specialist and a member of administration. If we are unable to reach your family, we will contact your emergency contacts to ensure your child is safe. Lack of contact for a period of 14 days or chronic absences without an attendance plan, may result in your child's seat considered vacant. If you are experiencing a barrier to getting your child to school and on time, please speak with your family advocate for support.

Next Door is adopting the **R.E.A.L.** toolkit to support positive attendance during the school year. This is how you can support your child!

See the orientation folder for more information!

The R.E.A.L initiative was developed by Attendance Works.

Center-based Programs

If a student must be absent, please inform the staff of the reason for the absence by calling your child's classroom or Family Advocate. The contact information for your child's school is in this handbook. In accordance with Child Care licensing, if we do not receive a call, we will be contacting you regarding your child's absence. If a student is absent for (2) two consecutive days without an excuse or has sporadic attendance, your Family Advocate Specialist will conduct a home visit.

Home-based Programs

Your Parent Educator will work with you to schedule weekly 90-minute visits at your convenience. If for some reason, you are unable to keep your weekly home visit appointment, please cancel the appointment with your Parent Educator. Your Parent Educator will work with you to reschedule the visit. Two or more consecutive missed visits will result in a conversation to see if this program option meets your needs.

Program Withdrawal

Next Door only withdraws a child after a parent's direct verbal or written confirmation to withdraw or after fourteen days of no contact from the family AND the Next Door staff have made necessary efforts to reconnect with the family to support the child returning to our program.

Arrival/Departure

It is recommended that your child arrives to his/her classroom by 8:30 am. All parents are required to sign in at the front desk (during off peak hours) and always in their child's classroom daily. Please sign with a full signature and indicate exact time of pick-up and/or drop-off. Per State of Wisconsin Licensing requirements, only persons listed as emergency contacts will be allowed to remove a child from the classroom. Persons picking up children must be at least 13 years of age, and must also be listed as an emergency contact in your enrollment packet. Until we get to know parents, guardians, and emergency contacts by face, staff will ask to see a photo ID prior to releasing a child (including Driver's License, State ID, or school ID). In a situation where a minor that has been named as an emergency contact does not have a photo ID, Next Door will take a photo of the minor to keep on file.

When dropping off or picking up your child, we ask that your child remains with you. Children are not allowed to be unsupervised by an adult in our facilities.

For the safety of children, if a parent or person authorized to pick up a child appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of pick-up, the Management Team will have a conversation with the individual and request that alternate pick-up arrangements be made. If the person under the influence is one of the emergency contacts, we will call the parent or guardian. Next Door will not allow children to go home with a person who is under the influence.

Late Pick Up

Children must be picked up according to the agreed upon schedule. If you are running late, contact your child's teacher or Family Advocate. Late pick-ups will be monitored. **A late pick up is defined as 15 minutes past your scheduled pick-up time. Families with chronic late pick up will be required to meet with their family advocate and supervisor to address the issue.**

Closing/Cancellations

All families participating in our program will receive a school year calendar and monthly program calendars indicating dates our school will be closed. If the program will not be in session due to inclement weather or other unforeseen reasons, the Fox 6 news station will announce specifically that Next Door is closed. We will also send out an announcement on our Learning Genie APP. In the event that Milwaukee Public School (MPS) is closed due to inclement weather, Next Door will also close for student attendance.

As always, our primary concern is the health and safety of your child. For this reason, at any time we cannot operate safely the center will be closed. Parents/caregivers will be called and asked to come and pick up their children as soon as possible. If you have questions or concerns about an emergency situation, you will be able to call 414.562.2929 to get the most current information.

Emergency Preparedness

Next Door has an Emergency Preparedness Manual at each site and is available for parent review at the front desk. If an evacuation is needed for a longer period of time, the sites below are alternative evacuation sites.

29th Street Site:

Clarke Street School, 2816 W. Clarke St., Milwaukee WI, 53210 Secondary Alternative: Fitzsimmons Boys and Girls Club, 3400 W. North Ave., Milwaukee WI, 53210

Capitol Site:

Early Head Start Child Care Partnership classrooms: Citi Trends, 4061 N. 54th St., Milwaukee, WI 53216 All other classrooms: Dr. Benjamin Carson Academy of Science, 4920 W. Capitol Dr., 53216



Emergency Information Policy

If you move or change your phone number during the school year, it is very important that you provide your Family Advocate or teacher and give that person your new address, email and/or phone number. If there are changes in your emergency contact's information, you should also contact your Family Advocate Specialist or your child's teacher. It is critical that we are able to contact you in case of illness, emergency with your child, or emergency on-site that requires evacuation.

Holidays

In respect of the cultural and religious diversity of our families, Next Door does not celebrate specific religious holidays.

Shared Custody

Our staff will not engage in any disputes between family members regarding custody of a child in our program. Parents will not be excluded from visiting with their children in the programs and we cannot refuse to allow pick up or drop off by a parent without original, legally binding documentation from Milwaukee County Family Court that specifically names you and the person or persons who must be excluded from contact. We will make a copy of this documentation and the information will be kept in our confidential files. Information will be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis.

Concealed Carry Policy

To prevent violence and to maintain a safe work environment, Next Door prohibits all firearms or other weapons of any type, concealed or unconcealed, on Next Door properties.

Smoke Free Environment

All Next Door campuses are smoke free. This means that we do not allow smoking on the premises (including in the parking lot), on field trips, or in the presence of children.

Children's Rights

All children have the right to be safe. Next Door wants to ensure children are in safe environments and are around adults that will do no harm to them. We believe every child has the right to be protected from the following actions by any adults in the program or in the home, including staff, parents, and visitors:

- Corporal punishment including hitting, spanking, swatting, beating, shaking, pinching, and other measures intended to induce physical pain or fear, or threats regarding or the actual withdrawal of food, rest, use of the bathroom or play.
- Discipline of children for toilet accidents.
- Withholding food.
- Abusive or profane language, any form of public or private humiliation including threats of physical punishment and any form of emotional abuse including shaming, rejecting, frightening or isolating a child.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

All staff employed by Next Door are trained on their responsibilities as mandated reporters of possible child abuse and neglect of all children they officially contact. Staff must comply with the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) rules for reporting when they have reasonable cause to suspect that child abuse or neglect is occurring.

Health Services

Head Start/Early Head Start guidelines require health-related screenings and immunizations to be sure all children are healthy and ready to learn. Screenings include height, weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing, lead and hemoglobin, as well as a dental exam. Next Door staff will work with you to ensure all guidelines are met.

Physical exams are required annually for Head Start children (both center-based and home-based). Early Head Start (center-based and home-based) children are required to have a physical (well baby check) at the following ages: 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, 24 months, 30 months, and 36 months. Immunization requirements are the same as Wisconsin Childcare/School requirements. We follow the Wisconsin Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Chart (EPSDT). Health advocate specialists and parent educators will assist you to find a medical and dental home (doctor and dentist) if you do not have one.

In order for screenings to be performed by Next Door, we require your consent. Prior to a member of our health team performing a health screening, you will be informed of the screening and the reason for the screening. Results of the screenings will also be shared with you.

Please notify us immediately if your child has allergies, asthma and/or other health conditions.

Sick Child Policy

Center-based Program

Teachers will assess each child's health status for signs and symptoms of illness or injury when the child arrives and throughout the day. If needed, a child's temperature shall be taken. If your child becomes ill, your child's teacher or health advocate specialist will contact you. Next Door follows the guidelines outlined in DCF 251 Licensing Regulations for Group Child Care for excluding children due to communicable disease or illness. Next Door is not licensed to provide for the care of mildly ill children.

If your child is too sick to be at school, we will call you and ask that you pick him/her up within an hour of the phone call. While we are waiting for you, your child may be isolated to avoid spreading an illness that may be contagious. If your child needs a doctor's note to return to the center, you will be notified when he/she is picked up.

If your child has a communicable disease or is too sick to participate in the classroom activities, we ask that you keep your child home and notify the school. Covid-19 guidance states that if a child is positive, they can return after five days. If they are exposed in the classroom, the parent will be notified, but quarantine is not required.

Home-based Program

Please notify your Parent Educator prior to your scheduled home visit if you or your child is sick in an effort to re-schedule when you or your child is better able to participate.

Reasons for exclusion or non-participation:



Accidents or Incidents

If your child receives a serious injury while at Next Door, you will be notified by your child's teacher immediately by phone. For minor injuries, such as a minor scrape, your child's teacher will notify you at pick up. All injuries will be documented on an Incident Report. A copy of the incident report will be provided to you.

All children requiring medical attention above and beyond basic first aid (cleaning with soap and water and providing an ice pack) will be transported to Children's Hospital via ambulance. You will be notified immediately regarding the situation. A familiar staff person will ride with your child to the hospital and will wait with your child until you arrive.

Medication Policy

We occasionally have children that need medication administered while they are at school. If the medication is prescribed for a child once or twice a day, it is preferable that the medication be given at home.

A medication authorization form must be completed and signed by the parent. A new signed medication authorization form must be submitted before the medication is started with each new medication or for changes in medication orders.

Over-the-counter medications required for short-term use (e.g. pain medication for several days) require a prescription medication authorization form signed by the parents and the child's medical provider or a Next Door health staff.

Medication must be in its original container. The medicine must be brought to school by an adult. Please do not leave medication in your child's book bag or diaper bag.

We cannot force your child to take medication. We will notify you if your child refuses/rejects their medication or if there is medication incident.

Developmental and Behavioral Screenings

Next Door is required to conduct a developmental and a behavioral screening within 45 days of enrollment for children in both Center-based and Home-based programs. We utilize the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3) as the developmental screening tool and the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social Emotional (ASQ SE) screening tool for the behavioral screening.

Special Needs

Next Door is committed to serving children with disabilities and their families. All children and families who participate in the program are treated with respect and dignity, regardless of special need or disability. If your child is already receiving special education services, please inform your Family Advocate Specialist, Parent Educator, or your child's teacher. We will request a copy of your Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). If you have a concern regarding your child's development, you can request additional information from your child's teacher or the family support team.

If your child needs additional assistance, we will work with you to access professional resources including the Mental Health Consultant or Special Educational Services. Next Door strives to meet the individual education needs of every child including those children who enter Early Head Start with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) through the Birth to Three program. Our aim is to meet the needs of all of our children through individualization and full inclusion.



Family Engagement

Becoming involved in your child's education will benefit your child, their behavior, and you! Next Door offers a variety of family engagement opportunities throughout the school year including family literacy nights, agency events like the annual Read With Children, and site events, such as Black History, Week of the Young Child activities and end of the school year events.

Parent Orientation

Prior to your child's first day of attendance or participation in a Next Door program, you will be provided an orientation and an opportunity to visit the program with your child and family.

Home Visits

Center-based Program

Two home visits will be scheduled during the school year. Home visits provide great opportunities to make connections between the home and school settings. They offer a chance for parents and staff to get to know one another, for staff to give individualized attention to family strengths, interests, and goals, and for parents to learn about their child's progress. We encourage all parents to be involved in the home visits. For families that are co-parenting, we will offer separate home visits.

Home-based Program

For children in home-based program options, Parent Educators (PE) will provide weekly 90-minute home-visits. These home visits are meant to support any needs the family may have and to assist the parent in completing activities to support the child's development.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences provide an opportunity to discuss each child's developmental accomplishments and growth opportunities. You will receive at least two Parent Teacher Conferences each school year. For families that are co-parenting, we encourage a joint conference. If preferred, we will schedule two separate conferences. We highly encourage your attendance so you can sit down and review your child's work with the teachers.



Volunteer

Next Door's primary source of funding comes directly from the federal government through Head Start and Early Head Start. The government provides 80% of the funds necessary to operate our program. The other 20% must be raised by Next Door through private contributions or in-kind donations of time, space, or materials used in the program that would otherwise be purchased. A dollar amount is assigned to all volunteer hours whether in classrooms, at the site, or at home. We encourage all parents to get involved in the program.

Center-based Program

Parents will receive Wednesday Folders with activities to do with your child that support what the child is learning through the weekly classroom curriculum, as well as activities that are individualized to support your child's individual curriculum plan goals (ICP). There will also be opportunities for you to volunteer in the classroom or program. You can contact your Family Advocate Specialist or your child's teacher to find out more information regarding volunteer opportunities. Weekly activities will be sent through the Learning Genie App also.

Home-based Program

Families will receive activities to complete with their child through our online platform Learning Genie. Weekly home activities for you to complete with your child will be sent via Learning Genie by your Parent Educator that support the skills and goals identified by you and your Parent Educator aligned with our curriculum Growing Great Kids. You must register for free and download the Learning Genie App to complete the activities.

Program Governance

Parents are encouraged to be involved in making decisions for their school and program option through their involvement in Parent Committee and Policy Council meetings. Policy Council and Parent Committee meetings occur monthly. Interested parents are elected to the Policy Council. Policy Council members collaborate with program staff to make decisions on program policies and procedures, monitor program goals, and to improve services provided to children and families.

All parents of enrolled children are automatically members of the Parent Committee. Parent Committee meetings are held monthly. The purpose of the meeting is to give parents an opportunity to assist in the development of activities that address your interests and needs. Important program updates will also be discussed. All family members are encouraged to attend. Each site has a Parent Committee. Home-based Programs also have Parent Committees.

Family Services

Each family is assigned a Family Advocate Specialist (FAS). Families are supported by their FAS as the family meets goals and as they nurture the development of their children. The primary focus of family support is to support your relationship with your child, to encourage you to take an active role in your child's health, well-being, and early learning, and to assist the family in accomplishing family and child goals. The Family Support team provides individualized attention and are prepared to:

1. Assist families in developing a Family Partnership Agreement (FPA).
2. Identify family strengths and establishing goals.
3. Find community resources.
4. Respond to the needs of your family.

Confidentiality

Next Door collects a lot of information on your child and family. The information is used to assist us in meeting your family's individual needs. Your child and family's information is kept confidential and is only shared with those directly involved with you and your child. If you would like to see your child/family records, please see your Family Advocate Specialist. Next Door will not share information regarding your family outside the agency without a written release.

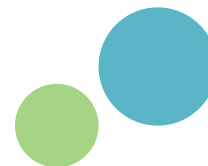
Other Important Information

Curriculum & Assessments

Next Door uses a variety of curricula and assessment tools to plan individualized learning experiences to foster and monitor your child's development. We selected curriculum that is culturally relevant, and that supports children gaining the skills outlined in the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF). The primary curricula used in our Center-based Program options are: The Creative Curriculum Preschool System, Creative Curriculum for Infant, Toddlers and Twos. We also incorporate Second Step social emotional curriculum in our Head Start classrooms. Our primary assessment system is Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG).

Our PreK4 program also has supplemental curriculum in Bridges Math, Handwriting without Tears, and Calm Classroom for social emotional development. Both 3 and 4 year olds have mini lessons in Heggerty Literacy curriculum. PreK4 year old students are assessed three times a year using school readiness screeners (math, writing and literacy) according to expectations of our MPS Charter. In addition, our children in our center based program receive art and music classes weekly or biweekly and cover world music from the Royal Conservatory of Music curriculum and cultural responsive art curriculum.

Our home-based program utilizes the Growing Great Kids (GGK) curriculum and the Desired Results for Children & Families (DRDP) to assess children three times during the school year.



Multimedia Screen Time Policy

It is important for children, especially young children to have a well-balanced schedule consisting of enrichment activities throughout the day. As multimedia (TV, computers, tablets, phones) accessibility and use continues to increase among young children, Next Door limits use of children's electronic devices to no more than 30 minutes per week.

Outdoor Activities

It is important for children, especially young children to have an opportunity to develop their large muscle skills through active play. Classrooms will be provided scheduled times to take children outside to play, as well as opportunities to use the indoor area. Parents will need to dress their children appropriately for all children will be going out daily, weather permitting. Wisconsin Childcare License (DCF 251) requires all children go outside unless there is inclement weather. Inclement weather is defined as stormy or severe weather such as the following:

- Heavy Rain
- Temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit
- Wind chills of 0 degrees Fahrenheit or below for children age 2 or above,
- Wind chills of 20 degrees Fahrenheit or below for children under age 2.
- A doctor's excuse must be provided, if parent is requesting that their child not go outside.

Dress for Play

Please have your child dressed to learn and play for school and home visits. Due to messy play with materials such as paint and water, as well as possible spills from food, your child's clothing may need to be changed during the course of the day. Please send a full change of clothing (shirts, pants, underwear and socks) to be kept in your child's personal cubby at all times. Clothing should be clearly labeled with your child's name. We will remind you to check the clothes periodically to adjust for seasonal and size changes.

Nap/Rest Periods

After a busy morning of play and learning, all children require a rest period. After lunch, children in full-day/school day programming will be provided a quiet time. The length of the rest period will depend on the age of your child and the grade level.

After 30 minutes, if children are not sleeping they may get up and do quiet activities until their classmates wake up. Soft, soothing music may be played and teachers may help children fall asleep by sitting near them or rubbing their back.

Your child will have their own cot/mat which is labeled and cleaned weekly with a cleaning solution. Sheets and blankets are sanitized and laundered at least once a week, or as needed. Children under age one are provided a crib.

Infant & Toddler parents should see your child's classroom for nap schedules.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Policy

To reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), we will always place children under 12 months on their backs to sleep. If your child requires an alternate sleep position, you must provide us with written permission from your child's health care provider.

Nutrition

Children are provided breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. Children in after-school programming after 4:30 pm will receive an additional snack. Menus are posted for parents on the parent bulletin board in your child's classroom. If you would like a menu to be sent home, please make the request with your child's teacher.

If your child has special dietary needs, please notify your child's teacher or your Family Advocate. Food substitutions will be provided. Each classroom keeps a Food Allergy list in the classroom. Food items may ONLY be brought into Next Door as part of a celebration for a child's birthday. **Outside food may not be brought into Next Door at any other time.** (see Birthdays on page 18 for more details).

Next Door is a Nut Safe Facility. All food brought into Next Door as part of a celebration for a child's birthday or provided by Next Door inside the classrooms will be free of peanuts/nuts.

Home Based

Next Door's Home-based Programs provides meals during socializations. Please notify your Parent Educator if you or your child has a special diet.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

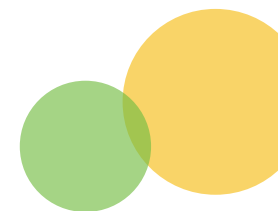
In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Infant Meals

Next Door is a Breastfeeding Friendly Program. We encourage moms to use our onsite lactation rooms at our Capitol Drive and 29th Street campuses to nurse your child. You can also provide breast milk to support your child's nutrition at school.

Next Door provides two infant formulas (Similac Advance and Similac Total Comfort), jarred infant foods (meat, vegetable and fruit) and Iron-Fortified Infant Cereals. In the Center-based Program option, once your child transitions to table food, the meals are then prepared through our on-site food service.

Infant Toddler Supplies

As part of the Center-based Early Head Start program option, Next Door supplies diapers and wipes. Parents are asked to bring extra clothes in case of accidents. We do not use cloth diapers.

Toilet Training

When age appropriate, your child's classroom team will collaborate with you to toilet train your child. State licensing prohibits staff to toilet train toddlers younger than age 18 months.

Birthdays

Next Door understands that birthdays are a special occasion for your child and family. Parents may wish to celebrate their child's birthday by bringing in a treat for their child's classroom. Any food items brought for birthday celebrations must be store bought and pre-packaged. No homemade treats will be accepted. Next Door prefers the treats to be healthy or non-food items. Prior to bringing in treats, please consult with your child's teacher regarding classroom food allergies and the class size. Enough treats should be provided to feed each enrolled child and teacher in the classroom.

Encouraged Foods for Birthday Celebrations

Cheese crackers	Dips (ranch, cheese, veggie)
Fresh whole fruit	Yogurt cups and sticks
Pretzels	Graham crackers
Goldfish crackers	Vanilla wafers
Animal crackers	Whole grain muffins (must not contain nuts)
Tortilla chips and salsa	Whole grain cookies (must not contain nuts)
Cheese (cubes, slices, string cheese)	Bagels and low fat cream cheese
Fresh vegetables (baby carrots, carrot sticks, celery sticks, bell pepper strips, pickles)	Frozen yogurt
	100% fruit juice

Encouraged Non-Food Items for Birthday Celebrations

Stickers, Pencils, Activity Books

For items not on this list, you are encouraged to speak with a staff member for more information or approval.



Field Trips

Children will be provided opportunities to have experiences in the community that supplement experiences in the classrooms. We encourage parents to volunteer as chaperones on field trips. This will give you an opportunity to interact with your child and share the experience of the field trip together. Next Door pays entrance fees for all chaperones attending field trips. Your child's teacher will notify you of the date, time, and destination of all trips in advance. You will be asked to complete a permission slip. If you are interested in chaperoning, there will be space on the permission slip for you to indicate your interest.

Children in Center-based Early Head Start do not go on field trips. We provide in-house field trips for these children.

Home based programs will occasionally provide family field trip experiences. Parents must attend these events with their child.

Pets

Next Door classrooms are permitted to keep pets in the classroom. In the event a pet is part of the classroom environment, staff ensures the pet has appropriate vaccinations, children practice proper hand washing, the pets are not kept in the food prep or eating space, no children are allergic or fearful of the pet, and all licensing and performance standards are followed. Reptiles, amphibians, turtles, ferrets, poisonous animals, birds, exotic and wild animals are not accessible to children or allowed as a classroom pet.

You will be notified in writing in advance if your child's classroom has a pet and or if your child will engage with animals as part of the curriculum.



S.T.A.R. Values and Behavioral Expectations

Our Families Can Be a S.T.A.R. at Next Door!

By fostering these values in every member of the Next Door family – students, parents, teachers and staff – we set a foundation for success that goes much deeper than academics. When children learn the power of respect, the value of owning their own behaviors, and the importance of thinking through challenges – all within a safe and loving environment – every child becomes a STAR.

Be Safe

1. Always sign in your child according to your assigned center's policies.
2. Keep your children with you at all times.
3. Hold your child's hand when crossing the street and walking through the parking lot.
4. Keep your phone numbers and the phone numbers of Emergency Contacts up to date with your child's teacher and Family Advocate Specialist.
5. Dress your children for the weather.

Be Thoughtful

1. Park only in designated areas.
2. Volunteer in the program when you can.
3. Turn in Weekly Take Home Activities and In-kind Sheets.
4. Communicate important information regularly to teachers and Family Advocate Specialist.
5. Call the center if your child will be absent or you will be picking up late.

Be Accountable

1. Follow your child's schedule.
2. Have your child to school on time.
3. Keep all required paperwork, forms and health requirements up to date.

Be Respectful

1. Refrain from using your cell phone during drop off and pick up.
2. Use appropriate language and tone of voice in hallways and classrooms.
3. Remain professional in your interactions with staff and children.
4. Wear appropriate attire when picking up and dropping off children.

Child Guidance

Children will be taught STAR behavioral expectations to ensure a positive learning environment. Teachers will redirect children, use Active Supervision strategies, such as, positioning themselves so they can observe play, anticipating potential behaviors, and giving children choices. When these strategies do not work, staff may ask children to walk-away from an experience. Corporal punishment is prohibited, along with forcing naps, withholding meals, or any strategies that are derogatory or humiliating.

When children consistently display behaviors that impede the safety of themselves or others, and/or their behavior negatively impacts their ability or other's ability to learn, your child and family will receive a referral for behavior. Once a Perceived Needs Referral is in place, the parent is required to collaborate with the Positive Behavior Support Team. The Positive Behavior Support Team (PBST) at Next Door is available for students who may need extra support with their social emotional development in the classroom setting.



Child Care Subsidy & Tuition

In order for your child to be eligible for services in Next Door's Full Day/Full Year program option, or to receive Before & After School Services, your family must meet the following requirements:

Eligibility

You must be in an approved activity to receive Child Care Authorization (CCA). An approved activity includes working, in training, or attending school. You must receive and maintain child care subsidy through Wisconsin's child care subsidy system.

Maintaining Eligibility

You are required to keep your Family Advocate informed of any changes in employment, schedule, or subsidy authorization, before, or as soon as, they occur.

Next Door will provide you with reminders when your authorization will expire to support you in avoiding lapses in authorizations.

It is your responsibility to renew and stay current with child care subsidy. **CCA expirations are established by the Milwaukee Early Care Administration (MECA).** Failure to renew the subsidy in a timely manner will result in a suspension of extended day services and/or before and after school services for your child until such subsidy is in place again. If your child is in a full day, full year program option, your child's schedule will be reduced and/or your child will be moved to a program option that does not require child care subsidy when a space becomes available. This could be a half-day classroom or the home-based option.

After enrollment, if my family is determined to be ineligible for subsidy, I understand that my family will:

1. Be offered a slot in our part day programming home-based program option (EHS/HS), or a school day option.
2. Be asked to contribute 15-20 hours per week of in-kind based on volunteering on site up to a two-week period. If your CCA is not updated within the two-week period, your child will be transitioned to another program option listed above.
3. Be asked to make weekly tuition payments, based on a sliding fee scale if you want to maintain your current hours of service.
 - a. Tuition payments are based on a Sliding Fee Scale for Next Door Full Day/Full Year programs.
 - o Tuition is paid the week before services are provided. It is applied to care for the upcoming week.
 - o If your child misses school for any reason, your bill will not be reduced.
 - o If your family fails to pay, the future status of your child's enrollment may be affected.

I understand that if my authorization has changed, I will need to complete a new authorization agreement form with my FAS.

Private Pay Tuition

In order to be approved as a private pay parent, you must be a current parent of Next Door, have lost your child care subsidy and no longer eligible to receive child care subsidy. Tuition is charged for parents in a full day, full year program option or before and after school care without a subsidy. Tuition is based on a sliding fee scale and requires a signed Tuition Agreement. The scale takes into consideration the following:

- Number of children in the program
- Age of children
- Household income

Parents can choose to pay weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, and pay by check, cash, or money order. The money order or check should be made payable to "Next Door." There will be a \$35.00 fee for any check returned as Insufficient Funds, NSF. A receipt will be provided to you after each payment.

Tuition is paid prior to services being rendered. If you agree to pay bi-weekly, that means you are paying two weeks tuition up front before services are provided for those weeks. You will receive a weekly tuition billing statement that will be placed in your child's cubby on Friday. The statement will reflect charges and payments made as well as my current balance due.

You will receive an annual statement of tuition paid for tax purposes by January 31st of the following year.

If school is closed for two weeks, you will be billed half of the monthly tuition amount. If your child misses any school for reasons such as illness, vacation, etc., your tuition will not be reduced.

Past Due Accounts

1. If you fail to pay tuition when due, you will be expected to arrange a payment plan.
2. If you fail to arrange a payment plan, the future status of your child's enrollment may be affected.
3. You will receive a notice temporarily suspending services until a payment plan is made.
4. If you do not make contact with program staff within ten (10) working days to make a payment plan, your child may be withdrawn from the program.

Maintaining Private Pay

You are required to keep your FAS informed of any changes in employment or schedule before, or as soon as, they occur. If your status changes, your FAS will ask that you reapply for child care subsidy.

After enrollment, if you no longer want to pay privately, your family will:

- Be offered a slot in our 8:00 am - 3:00 pm program or review other local programs included Next Door's Home Base program to support your family's needs.
- If no space is available in another program option, your child will remain on a 8:00 am - 3:00 pm schedule until a space becomes available, CCA is renewed, or tuition is paid.

Electronic Benefits Transfer Card (EBT)

The State of Wisconsin now requires parents to pay the provider for childcare services rendered using the EBT Card. The EBT Card will be used to activate payments on a monthly basis for childcare services. Payments can be processed by phone, computer, or Point of Service (POS) Machine. For your convenience, Next Door has computers and telephones in the Parent Room. Point of Service Machines are also available at each Next Door location. Instructions for processing child care payments are posted in the Parent Rooms and near the POS machines. A current EBT Agreement must be completed at the time of enrollment and will be updated when there are changes to your family's authorization.

Payment Due Dates

Next Door's full day, full year program for Child Care Subsidy is a prepay program and tuition is required prior to services being rendered. **Payments for child care services are due monthly on the first Monday of each month.** Reminders regarding payment due dates will be sent via Wednesday Folders, school messenger text and/or phone message.

Late Payment

Late payments are not acceptable. In the event payments are not made within five days following the due date and sufficient proof of updated authorizations in process is not provided, full day/full year services will be terminated and your child's schedule will be reduced to reflect only Head Start and/or Early Head Start service hours. Your child may be required to move to another classroom to accommodate the reduced services.

EBT Policies:

Your My WI Child Care EBT payment is due by the 1st Monday of each month. This payment is effective for the entire month.
If your child care authorization expires, you will be responsible for obtaining a new authorization within 30 days or your child may be transferred to a different program option.
There are no refunds from tuition or EBT payment transactions. Once a payment is made it is effective for the full month.
Changes to authorization will result in a new EBT agreement.
Next Door's Center-based Program is based on enrollment and fees are due regardless of whether your child attends.
Next Door requires a four-week notice to terminate services. Notices to terminate services shall be provided in writing. Monthly payments are due regardless of termination date within a given month of service. There are no refunds for early terminations.

Grievance

Next Door's goal is to partner with you to ensure your child and family are reaching their optimal potential. We understand that your child is your most prized possession, and we are thankful you have entrusted the staff at Next Door as your partner to prepare your child for school. Your input is always welcome.

Next Door will ensure parents have a way to report and resolve concerns and incidents. An electronic process for reporting concerns and incidents will be available to ensure timely communication and proper follow-up.

1. If a parent/family member expresses a concern to a staff member, the staff member should attempt to resolve the issue.
2. If the staff member is unable to resolve the issue, the concern should be communicated to their direct supervisor. The concern should be brought up the chain of command at the site, until it is resolved.
3. If a concern is still not resolved, the Vice President of Programs will be notified.
4. If the concern reaches the Vice President of Programs, the concern will be documented via the electronic parent incident reporting process.
5. The parent/family member will fill out the electronic Parent Incident Report form online at www.NextDoorMKE.org
6. The form will be forwarded to the Vice President of Programs, who will respond in no more than five working days.
7. If the parent/family member is not satisfied with the response of the Vice President of Programs, the complaint may be forwarded to the President, who will respond within five working days.
8. The President's decision on the resolution of the issue will be final.

Procedure-Serious Concerns/Incidents

If a parent or family member witnesses or is involved in any of the following incidents, the parent should immediately report the incident via the electronic parent incident reporting process, or notify a staff member to assist in completing the electronic report:

1. A child being left unattended or out of sight and sound of the assigned primary caregiver.
2. Suspected child abuse or neglect by an employee or volunteer.
3. Suspected sexual abuse of a child by another child.
4. Inappropriate child discipline by an employee or volunteer.
5. Any incident involving law enforcement.
6. Incidents of an employee that causes or threatens to cause physical or serious emotional harm to an individual.
7. Inappropriate staff, parent, or volunteer conduct.

The incident report will be forwarded to the Director of Compliance, Director of HR and Vice President of Programs and an investigation will be conducted. The Vice President of Programs will report incidents to the proper authorities or regulatory agencies as required.

The link to the electronic parent grievance form is located on our website at Next Door Milwaukee | Parent Resources (NextDoorMKE.org) or click to QR code.



Next Door Staff Roster

Program Leadership

Staff Name	Office Location	Phone Number	Email
Donna Morris Director of Family Engagement and Enrollment	29th Street	414.562.2929 x2530	dmorris@NextDoorMKE.org
Director of Educational Services	Capitol Drive	414.562.2929	
Patrice Knox Director of Home-based Programs	Capitol Drive	414.562.2929 x2541	pknox@NextDoorMKE.org
Tomeeka Jones Director of Student Services	29th Street	414.562.2929 x2539	tjones@NextDoorMKE.org
Jenna Heinen Site Director	29th Street	414.562.2929 x2528	jheinen@NextDoorMKE.org
Latrease Whitley Site Director	Capitol Drive	414.562.2929 x2612	lwhitley@NextDoorMKE.org
Val More Family Support Supervisor	29th Street	414.562.2929 x2521	vmoore@NextDoorMKE.org
Antanetta Binns Family Support Supervisor	Capitol Drive	414.562.2929 x2638	abinns@NextDoorMKE.org
Lucretia Dillon Human Resource Director	29th Street	414.562.2929 x2515	ldillon@NextDoorMKE.org
Dorian Gaddis Parent Educator Supervisor	Capitol Drive	414.562.2929 x2550	dgaddis@NextDoorMKE.org
Linda Vang Parent Educator Supervisor	Capitol Drive	414.562.2929 x2594	lvang@NextDoorMKE.org

Support Services

Staff Name	Program/Service	Contact Information
Marie Parker Nutrition Manager	Nutrition	414.562.2929 x2547 mparker@NextDoorMKE.org
Mental Health Supervisor	Mental Health	414.562.2929
Books for Kids Program Manager	Library	414.562.2929
Health Services Supervisor	Health Services	414.562.2929





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