



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Child Care Application

Name of Child : _____
(Last) (First) (Nickname)

Sex: M ____ F ____ Due/Birth Date: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (City/State) (Zip)

Parent 1:

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Employer: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent 2:

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Employer: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

A Non-Refundable Registration Fee of \$50.00 per family must accompany this application.

I am applying for my child's admission to The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center for the following care:

____ Infant ____ Toddler (18-36mos.) ____ 3-Year-Old ____ 4-Year-Old
____ Full Time ____ Two Days (Tu/Th) ____ Three Days (M/W/F) ____ Four Days (____M____T____W____TH____F)

Ideal start date/time frame: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center
Authorization for Medical Treatment

Name of Child _____
Birth Date: _____ Age: _____
Identify Allergies and/or Special Conditions: _____

I being one of the parents (legal guardians) of the above mentioned child do hereby appoint:

David M. Cole
Executive Director of the Gingerbread House
3020 Court Street
Syracuse, NY 13208

OR

Any other Gingerbread House staff member (as needed) to call the Emergency Authorities to seek medical attention for the above mentioned child.

This document shall be presented to a physician or appropriate hospital representative at such time an unexpected medical care, surgical care, or hospitalization may be required.

This document shall be in effect and continue in effect for as long as the above mentioned child remains in attendance at The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center.

Medical/Hospitalization Insurance Company _____
Emergency Hospital preferred _____
ID. or Contract/Group Number _____
Family Physician _____ Phone# _____

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

State of New York
County of Onondaga

On this _____ day of _____, 20_____
before me personally came _____
to me known to be the individual described in and who executed
The foregoing instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same

(Notary Public)

THIS FORM MUST BE NOTARIZED

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
CHILD IN CARE MEDICAL STATEMENT

To Be Completed By Licensed Physician, Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner

Name of Child:	Date of Birth: / /	Date of Examination: / /
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Immunizations required for entry into day care

Medical Exemption The physical condition of the named child is such that one or more of the immunizations would endanger life or health. Attach certification specifying the exempt immunization(s).

☐ Yes ☐ No

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DPT) Diphtheria and Tetanus and acellular Pertussis (DTaP)	1 st Date / /	2 nd Date / /	3 rd Date / /	4 th Date / /	5 th Date / /
Polio (IPV or OPV)	1 st Date / /	2 nd Date / /	3 rd Date / /	4 th Date / /	
Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)	1 st Date / /	2 nd Date / /	3 rd Date / /	4 th Date OR 1 st Date (if given on or after 15 months of age) / /	
Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV) for those born on or after 1/1/08)	1 st Date / /	2 nd Date / /	3 rd Date / /	4 th Date / /	
Hepatitis B	1 st Date / /	2 nd Date / /	3 rd Date / /		
Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)	1 st Date / /	2 nd Date / /			
Varicella (also known as Chicken Pox)	1 st Date / /	2 nd Date / /			

Other Immunizations may include the recommended vaccines of Rotavirus, Influenza and Hepatitis A

Type of Immunization:	Date: / /	Type of Immunization:	Date: / /
Type of Immunization:	Date: / /	Type of Immunization:	Date: / /
Type of Immunization:	Date: / /	Type of Immunization:	Date: / /

Tests

Tuberculin Test Date: / / Mantoux Results: ☐ Positive ☐ Negative mm			
TB Tests are at the physician's discretion. Acceptable tests include Mantoux or other federally approved test. If positive, or if x-ray ordered, attach physician's statement documenting treatment and follow-up.			
Lead Screening Date: / /			
Attach lead level statement			
Lead Screening (Include All Dates and Results)			
1 year / /	Result: _____	mcg/dL	☐ Venous ☐ Capillary
2 years / /	Result: _____	mcg/dL	☐ Venous ☐ Capillary
Most recent date of lead screening (if different from above):			
/ /	Result: _____	mcg/dL	☐ Venous ☐ Capillary
Per NYS law, a blood lead test is required at 1 and 2 years of age and whenever risk of lead poisoning is likely.			
If the child has not been tested for lead, the day care provider may not exclude the child from child day care, but must give the parent information on lead poisoning and prevention, and refer the parent to their health care provider or the county health department for a lead blood screening test.			

(Continued on reverse side)

CHILD IN CARE MEDICAL STATEMENT *(continued)***Health Specifics****Comments**

Are there allergies? (Specify)	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Is medication regularly taken? (Specify drug and condition)	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Is a special diet required? (Specify diet and condition)	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Are there any hearing, visual or dental conditions requiring special attention?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Are there any medical or developmental conditions requiring special attention?	☐ Yes ☐ No	

Summary of Physical Exam

Include special recommendations to child day care providers

On the basis of my findings as indicated above and on my knowledge of the named child, I find that: he/she is free from contagious and communicable disease and is able to participate in child day care.

☐ Yes ☐ No

_____ Signature of Examiner	_____ Address
_____ Please Print Name	_____ City, State, Zip
_____ Title	() - / / Phone Date



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Lead Poisoning Test

Child's Name: _____
(Last) (First)

New regulations adopted by the New York State Department of Health on December 22, 1993, request that children enrolling in a licensed preschool or child care facility after April 1, 1993 show evidence that the child has been screened for lead poisoning.

A lead test or information regarding lead testing can be obtained at the Onondaga County Health Department or by calling the Lead Poisoning Control Program at (315)435-3271. A lead screening certificate or the form below should be returned to The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center Health Care Office before your child attends The Center. (Infants under one year of age are not required to obtain a test until their first birthday.)

This is to certify that _____ had a
(Name of Child)

Lead Poisoning Test on _____.
(Date of Test)

(Physician Signature or Authorized Representative)

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
LOG OF MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

- Caregivers may use this form or an approved equivalent to document medications administered in the day care program.
- Documentation must be kept with the child's written medication consent form.
- Any doses of the medication listed below not given must be documented.

CHILD NAME:

MEDICATION:(including dose)

COMPLETE FOR ALL DOSES GIVEN				COMPLETE WHEN SIDE EFFECTS ARE NOTED		COMPLETE FOR 'AS NEEDED' MEDICATION ONLY	
Date Given (M/D/Y)	Dose	Time (AM or PM)	Administered by (full signature)	Any Noted Side Effects	Were parents notified of side effects?	For "as needed" medication – write the symptoms the child exhibited that necessitated the need for the medication	Were parents notified "as needed" medicine was given
		☐ AM ☐ PM			☐ Yes ☐ No		☐ Yes ☐ No
		☐ AM ☐ PM			☐ Yes ☐ No		☐ Yes ☐ No
		☐ AM ☐ PM			☐ Yes ☐ No		☐ Yes ☐ No
		☐ AM ☐ PM			☐ Yes ☐ No		☐ Yes ☐ No
		☐ AM ☐ PM			☐ Yes ☐ No		☐ Yes ☐ No
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		☐ AM ☐ PM			☐ Yes ☐ No		☐ Yes ☐ No
		☐ AM ☐ PM			☐ Yes ☐ No		☐ Yes ☐ No
		☐ AM ☐ PM			☐ Yes ☐ No		☐ Yes ☐ No

Permission to Administer Topical Over-the-Counter Medications

If your child must use a specific brand of any of the products listed, please indicate the brand name of the product next to each category. If any brand is acceptable, you may just check yes or no besides the product.

In all cases, parents/guardians should provide the product for their child's use.

☐ Yes	☐ No	Sunscreen
☐ Yes	☐ No	Diaper Cream
☐ Yes	☐ No	Lotion
☐ Yes	☐ No	Vaseline/Petroleum Jelly
☐ Yes	☐ No	Hand Sanitizer
☐ Yes	☐ No	Antibacterial Hand Wipes
☐ Yes	☐ No	Lip-balm (non-medicated)
☐ Yes	☐ No	First Aid Cream
☐ Yes	☐ No	Insect Repellent
☐ Yes	☐ No	Other: _____
☐ Yes	☐ No	Other: _____
☐ Yes	☐ No	Other: _____

I give permission to my child care provider to apply topical over-the-counter medications to my child, _____.

This permission will be in effect from _____ to _____.
(Form must be updated every 6 months.)

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

NYS Regulations require that at the time of administration, the day care provider must document the dosage and time that the medications are given to the child. All observable effects must be documented and shared with the parents.



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Basic Child Information

Name of Child: _____ DOB: _____

Health History:

Past Illnesses: Chicken Pox _____ Scarlet Fever _____ Mumps _____
Hepatitis _____ Diabetes _____ Measles _____
Other: _____

Does your child have frequent:

Colds _____ Stomach Aches _____ Tonsillitis _____
Ear Aches _____ High Fevers _____

Has your child had any serious accidents, surgeries or hospitalizations?

Has/does your child:

Been to a dentist _____ Had hearing tested _____
Had vision tested _____ Wear corrective shoes _____

Allergies (to food, medicines, or other):

Special Needs or Helpful Hints:

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Parent Contract

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center (hereafter referred to as The Center), 3020 Court Street, Syracuse, New York 13208, is a child care and preschool facility, sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Francis, and is a non-profit organization. The Center is licensed by the New York State Department of Social Services.

A. BASIC SERVICES: The Center will provide the following basic daycare/preschool services for:

(CHILDREN)

(BIRTH DATES)

(START DATES)

Whose Parent(s) or Guardian(s) are:

(PARENT/GUARDIAN NAMES)

(RELATIONSHIP)

1. The Center will assume responsibility for the child/children, once the parent(s)/guardian(s) have left The Center each morning. The Center shall retain responsibility until the parent(s), guardian(s), or other designated person(s) pick up the child/children.
2. The Center will not be responsible for any personal items that are lost or broken.
3. The Director will report to the Children's Protective Service, as required by the Office of Children and Family Services, cases of child abuse, sexual or otherwise, neglect, or endangerment of which they may become aware.

B. PAYMENT PROVISIONS:

In accordance with the statement of fees in the parent's handbook:

1. TUITION SHALL BE PAID THE FIRST DAY OF EACH WEEK OR MONTH THAT SERVICES ARE RENDERED. (Payments are due each Monday preceding service for daycare or the first day of each month for preschool.
2. If payments become delinquent and collection action is necessary, we agree to reimburse The Center for **any and all fees incurred**.

I/we have received a copy of The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center Parent Handbook, which describes the policies and procedures of the Childcare and Preschool Programs. I/we will become familiar with the Handbook. I/we hereby grant permission for our child/children to use all play equipment and to participate in all of the activities at The Center. I/we hereby grant permission for our child/children to be included in evaluations and have my/our child's / children's pictures taken by local newspapers/television stations who do information pieces on The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center, to be published, broadcast, or used on our website. My/our signature(s) below acknowledge(s) receipt and familiarity with the Parent Handbook and I/we agree to abide by the terms and conditions and policies and procedures set forth within the Parent Handbook.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Memorandum of Understanding Subsidized Childcare

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center (the “Center”) is not contracted with any agencies, organizations, or programs that provide assistance with childcare tuition (e.g. Department of Social Services and JOBS plus!). This does not mean that we will refuse to provide childcare services for your child(ren) if you are receiving assistance through such a program. It does mean that any tuition charges that are not reimbursed by one of these programs become the parent’s responsibility.

Please note that the County does not pay for any absences. This includes: sick days, vacation days and holidays that the Center is closed. You will be responsible for payment of any tuition for these days.

The Center is typically closed Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving and Black Friday, Christmas, New Years, President’s Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, and Fourth of July (days subject to change). ***Tuition owed for these days could be up to \$60 per day.***

Please acknowledge your understanding by initialing on the line next to each statement:

_____ I have received, read, and understand the Financial Policy of the Center.

_____ I understand that tuition is charged regardless of how many hours or days my child(ren) attend(s), and that I am responsible for those charges that are not reimbursed by the program I am enrolled in.

_____ I understand that my parent fee (if applicable) is due Monday of each week.

_____ I understand that my child(ren)’s attendance is submitted to DSS, JOBS plus!, etc., on a monthly basis, and that any tuition charges not subsidized by DSS, JOBS plus!, etc., are my responsibility.

_____ I understand that I will receive a detailed statement once a month informing me of any outstanding tuition charges, and that I am responsible for submitting payment within 10 days of the statement date to ensure my child(ren)’s care continues uninterrupted.

Child’s Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Receipt of Handbook

2025-2026 Handbook and Financial Policy Acknowledgment

I have read and understand the handbook and financial policy of the Center.

Parent Signature

Date

Print Name

Child(ren)'s Name(s):

***** Please complete and return to the Main Office *****



Dear Parent, Guardian or CACFP Participant,

This center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and provides healthy meals at no cost to all children and adults enrolled in the daycare center. By completing and returning the attached Income Eligibility Form, you will help your center receive money from CACFP for the meals that are served. If your household's income is equal to or less than the amounts indicated for your household size on the chart below, the center will receive a higher rate of funding for the meals served. The Income Eligibility Form needs to be completed every year. Your center and CACFP will keep all information private.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
(Effective July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2026)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	REDUCED-PRICE MEALS		
	YEAR	MONTH	WEEK
1	28,953	2,413	557
2	39,128	3,261	753
3	49,303	4,109	949
4	59,478	4,957	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	1,927
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER	+10,175	+848	+196

Sheila Zimmerman

The Gingerbread House

6/30/2025

SPONSOR/CENTER OFFICIAL

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

DATE

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Income Eligibility Form for Child Care Centers

See INSTRUCTIONS on reverse.

CHILD CARE CENTER NAME The Gingerbread House Preschool & Childcare Center

Print the name of the child(ren) enrolled in this child care center

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Complete SECTION A if anyone in your household

1. Participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
2. Receives Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
3. Participates in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) OR
4. Is a foster child

SECTION A

SNAP Case # _____

TANF # _____

FDPIR # _____

Names of Foster Children

An adult household member must sign the application before it can be approved. After reading the following statement and the statement on the back, sign below.

I certify that the above information is true. I understand that the center will get Federal funds based on the information I give.

Signature _____

Date _____

FOR THE CHILDCARE CENTER TO COMPLETE

CACFP Agreement # 2366

Total Number of Household Members _____
(INCLUDING FOSTER CHILDREN, IF APPLICABLE)

Total Household Income \$ _____

Free _____ Reduced _____ Paid _____

Date of Determination _____

Signature of
Center Staff _____

Complete SECTION B if no one in your household participates in SNAP, receives TANF, participates in FDPIR or if none of the children enrolled in the child care center is a foster child.

SECTION B

List all household members below. Include yourself and all adults and children NOT listed above, even if they do not receive income. Then list all income received **last month** in your household in the column to the right. Gross income includes: earnings from work, pensions, retirement, Social Security, child support, foster child's personal income and any other sources of income.

HOUSEHOLD MEMBER NAME	MONTHLY GROSS SALARY
1. _____	\$ _____
2. _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____
6. _____	\$ _____
7. _____	\$ _____

An adult household member must sign the application before it can be approved. After reading the following statement and the statement on the back, sign below.

I certify that the above information is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the center will receive Federal funds based on the information I give.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

LAST FOUR (4) DIGITS
OF SOCIAL SECURITY
NUMBER

--	--	--	--

Date _____

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Privacy Act Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this form. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve the participant for free or reduced-price meals. You must include the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the adult household member who signs the form. The Social Security Number is not required when you: apply on behalf of a foster child; provide a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number; or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the form does not have a Social Security Number. We will use your information to determine if the center is eligible for free or reduced-price meal reimbursement and for administration and enforcement of the Program.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING DOH-3688

Definition of Income

Income means income before deductions for income taxes, social security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, and bonds, etc. It includes the following: (1) monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions or fees; (2) net income from non-farm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security payments; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds, income from estates or trusts or net rental income; (6) unemployment compensation; (7) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veteran's payments; (8) private pensions or annuities; (9) alimony or child support payments; (10) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (11) net royalties; (12) military benefits received in cash, such as housing allowance except if you are in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative; and (13) any other cash income.

Definition of Household

Household means *family* as defined in 7 CRF 22.6.2. *Family* means a group of related or unrelated individuals who are not residents of an institution or boarding house, but who are living as one economic unit.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

Write in the name of the child care center in the space provided.

Print the name of each child in your household who attends this child care center.

Section A: If anyone in your household participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or participates in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), complete Section A only. Write down the SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number (do not use your ACS or DSS child care subsidy number). Then sign and date the form and return it to the day care center.

Foster children: If your household includes a foster child who is in child care, write in the names of the foster children.

Section B: Complete this section if you did not complete Section A. Write in your name and the names of all other adults and children living in the household, including unrelated people, even if they do not have any income. Do not include the children in child care who are listed at the top of the form.

Enter the amount of income each person received **last month**, before taxes or anything else was taken out. Refer to the Definition of Income and the Definition of Household, above. If any amount last month was more or less than the usual, write in that person's usual income.

The last four digits of the Social Security Number of the adult signing the certification is required. If you do not have a Social Security Number, write *none*. The form must be signed by an adult member of the household.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPONSORS AND CENTERS

The For The Childcare Center To Complete section is to be completed, signed and dated by sponsor or center staff. The sponsor/center representative must review the income eligibility form and ensure that it is completed as indicated in the instructions above. Then indicate the following:

The CACFP Agreement Number.

Total Number of Household Members – This item does not have to be completed if the parent completed Section A. Add those indicated in Section B (if completed) to the children enrolled in child care and the number of foster children, if applicable.

Total Household Income – This item does not need to be completed if the parent completed Section A. Indicate the total monthly income as calculated from Section B. If the parent chooses not to disclose income, the form must be categorized as *paid*.

Number of Free, Reduced or Paid – Compare the total household income and the total number of household members with the current year's Income Eligibility Guidelines (CACFP-3687) to determine if the household should be categorized as **Free, Reduced or Paid**. Use the appropriate column on the CACFP-3687 to categorize their income. For example, if the parent indicated biweekly income, multiply this amount by 26 to determine yearly income.

Incomplete forms (missing signatures, income information, last four digits of Social Security Number or SNAP, TANF or FDPIR numbers) are categorized in the paid category.

The income eligibility form is valid until the last day of the month one calendar year from the date it is signed by the household member. For example, a form signed on May 12, 2023 is valid until May 31, 2024.



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Nap Agreement

I _____ understand my child _____ will take a nap or try to rest on a cot or mat during our scheduled nap time in their classroom between 12:30pm to 3:00 pm. Teachers will arrange mats or cots on the floor in a manner making it suitable for proper supervision. I also understand that my child will not in any way be forced to sleep or woken up from their nap for any reason.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Video Surveillance Policy

To ensure the safety and security of all children, staff, parents and visitors, as well as the security of our childcare facility, **The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center** is equipped with a 24-hour Video Surveillance System. Security cameras are installed in all classrooms, hallways, the kitchen, playgrounds, the gym and the parking lots. The video surveillance system may conduct video surveillance of any portion of its premises at any time, with the only exception being private areas of restrooms and the staff lounge. Video/security cameras will be positioned in appropriate places within and around our preschool and childcare center facility, and will be used in order to help promote the safety and security of people and property.

Because we respect the vital and legally protected importance of the privacy of all children, parents and staff at The Gingerbread House, our Video Surveillance System is for **internal purposes only**. Only the Executive Director, Program Coordinators and NYS Licensed Officials are allowed to view our security cameras/video footage either in the Center's office or through remote access for legal purposes only (e.g., be they safety or security purposes). Any recorded footage, therefore, is expressly **not** subject to review by, or distribution to, anybody else not so allowed by this policy.

Security camera recordings are periodically deleted through the surveillance system. The Gingerbread House's Video Surveillance System has a contractually limited amount of video data storage. The retention period is seven days.

I understand The Gingerbread House is under 24-hour surveillance, that any recordings will be used for internal purposes only, and acknowledge and waive any objection to the foregoing.

Child's Name (Print): _____

Parent's Name (Print): _____

Parents Signature: _____

Date: _____

Policy Date: 11/21/2019



The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Items Needed for Childcare

Infant rooms:

- *Bottles*
- *Formula or breastmilk (unless using providers formula)*
- *Mini crib sheet (pack and play/portable crib size)*
- *Blanket (may only be used in crib when child is over 12 months old)*
- *2 sets of extra clothing*
- *Diapers*
- *2 packages of wipes per month*
- *Diaper cream*
- *Sippy cup– when needed*
- *Pacifier if needed*
- *Family photo*

Toddler rooms:

- *Crib sheet and blanket*
- *Diapers*
- *2 packages of wipes per month*
- *2 sets of extra clothing*
- *Diaper cream*
- *Sippy cup– if needed*
- *Summer: Sunscreen, swim suit, towel, water shoes*
- *Winter: Snow pants, hat, gloves, boots*
- *Family photo*

Preschool rooms:

- *Crib sheet and blanket*
- *2 sets of extra clothing*
- *Diapers/pull ups if needed*
- *2 packages of wipes per month if still in diapers/pull ups*
- *Summer: Sunscreen, swim suit, towel, water shoes*
- *Winter: Snow pants, hat, gloves, boots*
- *Family photo*

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center, Inc.



**Preschool and
Childcare Center**

3020 Court Street
Syracuse, NY 13208
(315) 471-4198

Parent Handbook

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The Gingerbread House: Past and Present

In 1982, Dorn Preschool was opened as a ministry of the Sisters of the Third Franciscan Order on Michaels Avenue in Syracuse. In 1985, Dorn Daycare Center was opened for the children of employees of St. Joseph's Hospital on the first floor of the former Franciscan Academy. In 1988, both the preschool and daycare were combined to form what is now known as The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center. In October of 2014 the Center moved into a newly renovated location on the St. Daniels property of 3020 Court Street.

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center is fully licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and is a member of the Onondaga County Child Care Council.

The Center provides many activities and experiences relevant for developing a child's individual skills and creativity. The program involves a variety of teacher directed activities designed to spark a child's interest in learning as well as further a child's spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth.

In addition, each age level is equipped with interest centers that facilitate learning. These centers are developmentally appropriate for each individual child and include art, science, block building, a sensory table, dramatic play area, books, a listening area and manipulatives.

Today, The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center still operates under the sponsorship of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities and is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Sisters. In their role as a sponsoring agency, the Order ensures that the Childcare Center operates within Catholic values and the special charism of St. Francis of Assisi. Members of this religious community continue to be involved as staff and members of the Board of Directors.

Our Mission

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center, a Catholic ministry, is sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Neumann Communities. The Center strives to recognize and accept each individual child as he/she fulfills and achieves his/her God-given potential from infancy through five years of age.

The Gingerbread House serves the city of Syracuse and the surrounding communities, and is committed to offering our parents and children a loving, nurturing Catholic environment. The Center encourages knowledge, wisdom, and understanding by providing a developmentally appropriate curriculum in early childhood education.

Application Process

When considering the Gingerbread House, we encourage parents or guardians and their child(ren) to visit the Center before submitting an application.

The following items are required as part of the Gingerbread House's application process:

- Completed Childcare Application form
- Non-refundable \$50.00 application fee per family

If a vacancy exists, the child will be placed in the appropriate aged room. In the event that no vacancy exists at the time of application, as openings become available, children on the waiting list will be permitted to register in the order of the date that the application was received.

You are required to complete an information packet prior to your child's start date.

Full time and part time care (at least 2 full days per week) is available in all rooms. Children attending 2 days per week come on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and children attending 3 days per week come on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Children attending 4 days per week may come any 4 scheduled days with the same day off each week.

Withdrawal

If it becomes necessary for a child to withdraw from the Center, we require a two week written notice. We ask for this courtesy in an effort for us to contact potential waiting list parents to advise them of upcoming openings.

Tuition

Tuition can be paid by check or money order (payable to The Gingerbread House) which should be dropped in the tuition box located by the main office. Cash is not accepted.

Tuition payments must be paid in a timely fashion. Each family is required to pay tuition in advance of services. All tuition payments are expected to be at the Center when you drop off on Monday or the first day of the week your child attends. All accounts need to be kept current. If an account becomes past due, the child may be removed from the Center. The child may be readmitted when the account is reconciled and space becomes available.

Hours of Operation

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center is open from 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday. In the event that these hours are changed for special circumstances, parents or guardians will be provided with as much advance notice as possible.

Holidays

The Center will be closed on the following days:

New Year’s Day	President’s Day (February)	Good Friday
Memorial Day Observance	Fourth of July (or Observance)	Labor Day
Columbus Day Observance	Thanksgiving Day & Friday	Christmas Eve
Christmas Day	Day after Christmas	New Year’s Eve

Holiday closings are subject to change at our discretion. In the event that an additional holiday closing is added, parents or guardians will be provided with as much advance notice as possible.

Snow Days/Emergency Closings

The Childcare Center will usually not close because of snow days. Under most circumstances, the Childcare Center will remain open unless the City of Syracuse has declared a state of emergency. Listen to local news channels for updates. An email would be sent to all families announcing closure due to weather.

The Gingerbread House rarely closes early. However, should circumstances warrant an emergency closing, the staff will contact the names listed on the child’s blue card so that arrangements can be made for the child to be picked up.

Professional Development

The staff at the Gingerbread House has a wide range of educational and experiential backgrounds. These may include outside experience working with children, childhood development accreditation, or a degree in early childhood education or a related field.

Upon hire, all staff submit completed documents required by local, state and federal regulations. In addition, all staff receive an extensive orientation before being assigned to a classroom. To ensure the on-going quality of services provided, and in compliance with NY state licensure regulations, The Gingerbread House provides each staff member with at least 30 hours of on-going staff development every 2 years. Staff development topics

include, but are not limited to, teaching strategies, child development, behavior management, infant and child CPR, procedures for mandated reports for child abuse and maltreatment, and health and safety issues.

As a result of this regulatory requirement and our organizational commitment to staff development, the Center will be closed on designated Staff Development days. On these days, parents or guardians whose children regularly attend are still required to pay their tuition costs for that day. Advance reminder notices will be posted in an effort to plan for back-up child care on those days.

Arrival and Departure Policies and Procedures

Late Arrival: Parents or guardians are asked to call the Gingerbread House by 9:00 AM if their child will be kept home for the day or arriving late. Legal ratios are set for each age level and rooms are staffed accordingly based on attendance at 9:00 AM.

Late Pick-Up: In an effort to be considerate to our staff and to release them on time, we ask that parents or guardians are prompt in picking up their children. A late fee will be assessed for every 15 minute increment a child remains at the Center after 5:30 PM. Your total assessed late fee is due before your child can return to the Center. If you are late picking up more than three times in a calendar year, your child may be removed from the program.

Staff will begin calling the phone numbers you have listed and any other emergency numbers you have given us, if you are not at the center by 5:45 PM. If we have exhausted that list of phone numbers, and have not reached anyone, we will call the police after 6:30 PM to see if there has been an accident or emergency.

Authorized Release of Children: Children will be released only to those people who have been listed on the blue card. If parents or guardians wish to add additional names to their list of authorized individuals, they should provide the Center with written confirmation. Persons must be at least 18 years of age and be prepared to provide photo ID upon request.

Parking Lot Guidelines

For the safety of the children and others, extreme caution needs to be exercised by everyone entering the Gingerbread House parking lot. Maximum speed in the parking lot is 5 mph.

Parent/Guardian Visitation and Conduct

Parents/guardians are welcome to stop and visit any time during normal hours of operation or for special events. For security purposes, please stop in the main office to sign-in before going to the classroom. Parents or guardians are also welcome to phone the Center to check on their children at any time. If a child appears to be

experiencing unusual separation anxiety issues, it may be in the child's best interest if parents avoid on-site visitations with their child and check via telephone.

Under no circumstances will inappropriate and/or disruptive behavior (profanity, threats, violence, discourtesy, etc.) be tolerated at any time on Gingerbread House premises. If such circumstances should arise, the Gingerbread House will assess the severity of the situation and reserves the right to ask said individuals to leave our center temporarily or permanently.

Custody

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center assumes that both parents or guardians have personal and physical custody. In cases where this is not the situation, parents or guardians need to present a copy of that portion of the divorce decree or separation agreement that outlines the custody of the children to the Director. A signed transcript of the custody section of court documents typed on an attorney's letterhead is required.

The Gingerbread House will afford parents or guardians rights to information about their child unless it receives a court document that prohibits this.

Confidentiality

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center respects the confidentiality of families. Disclosure of children's records or personal information regarding children and their families will require written consent of parents and/or guardians.

Parental/Staff Concerns

Parents or guardians should feel comfortable that their child is enrolled in a program that seeks to provide a safe learning environment. If parents have concerns that a child has been harmed or is unsafe, they should contact the Director immediately.

In accordance with NYS Social Services Law, all Gingerbread staff are mandated to report to the state "reasonable suspicion" of concerns of child abuse, physical and/or sexual abuse and/or neglect.

Fire Safety

Gingerbread House Childcare Center complies with regulations to conduct monthly fire evacuation drills of all students and staff.

Biting

Our program recognizes that biting is, unfortunately, not unexpected when children are participating in a group-care setting. We do not focus on punishment for biting, but on effective techniques that address the specific reason for biting. When biting occurs, our three main responses are:

1. To care for and help the child who was bitten
2. To help the child who bit learn other behavior
3. To work with the child who bit and develop a program so the biting will stop. This may include a transfer to a different classroom, sending the child home for a week or, if necessary, removing the child from the Center.

Illness

We will check a child's temperature if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- listlessness/sleeping
- extreme irritability
- watery/glassy eyes
- vomiting or diarrhea
- unusual or excessive crying
- skin is warm or hot to touch
- unable to participate in classroom activities

Any child who has a fever of 100.4°F or higher, has vomited once, has diarrhea twice, or is unable to participate in classroom activities will have to be picked up within a half hour of the time the parent is notified of sickness. If we cannot reach the parents or guardians, we will attempt to reach persons on the emergency contact list. The sick child is not permitted to return to the Center for at least one full day or 24 hours after symptoms have ceased without the use of medication.

If a child has had any of the aforementioned symptoms during the night, please do not bring them to the Center as they are probably contagious.

If a parent or guardian suspects their child is not well in the morning, please do not give them Tylenol and bring them to the Center. We try to take every precaution to cut down on the spread of disease in the Center and ask parents/guardians to do the same. Please make sure your child has recovered fully before being brought back to the Center.

If a strep culture is taken, they may not return to the Center until the results are known. If the results are negative, your child may return to the Center immediately. If positive, your child must be both fever free and on an antibiotic for 24 hours before they may return.

In case of communicable diseases, written communication from the physician must assure that the child may return to the group situation. This is for the health of the infected child as well as the health and welfare of all the children and staff.

Rashes can indicate a variety of health concerns. Due to the fact that rashes are associated with many contagious childhood illnesses, a parent or guardian may be contacted to pick up a child. Further assessment and a physician's release may be required for the child to return to class. Should the rash or skin condition require a topical cream in order to treat it, then it should also be applied for 24 hours before returning to the Center.

Lice – When a child has been checked and found to have dead/alive lice/eggs in their hair, the child must be taken home for at least a 24 hour period and treated with a prescribed treatment from a physician.

A child may return to school after 24 hours and must be checked again on the morning they return to ensure that the child is free and clear of all eggs/lice in their hair. If continued evidence of lice is found, the child must be taken home for another 24 hour period and treatment until no lice eggs are present.

Medications

Children will not be administered any medication (prescription or over the counter), variation in diet, or any other remedy or treatment, nor shall special medical procedures be carried out, without a written physician's order.

A blank ***Medication Consent Form*** is included in the registration packet and is available in the Main Office. Parents or guardians should take one of these forms with them to the physician's office should a child become ill and medication needs to be administered.

Allergy Plans

Incoming children with allergies are required to complete OCFS form 7006 "Individual Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Plans" and the "Individual Allergy and "Anaphylaxis Emergency Action Card" (yellow card).

Copies of Individual allergy plans and cards are kept in the Health Care Plan and the originals are kept in the children's files. A copy of the "yellow card" and allergy list is shared with classroom teachers.

Allergy plans must be reviewed and re-submitted yearly.

Cubbies/Clothing

Each child is assigned a cubby for his or her personal belongings.

Two complete sets of seasonally appropriate extra clothing should be kept in the child's cubby at all times. This should include a sweater or sweatshirt when applicable. It is important that all clothing be labeled on the inside with first and last name. For safety reasons, jewelry, watches or items hanging around the child's neck may not be worn when napping.

Appropriate footwear must be worn by the children in order to use the playground safely. Socks and sneakers must be worn. Smooth sole and open-toed sandals and "jelly" shoes may not be worn.

During the winter, children should have weather appropriate coat or jacket, snow pants, boots, mittens and a hat.

During the summer, children will enjoy the water sprinkler and water table. In order to participate in these activities, each child will need a bathing suit, bath size towel and water shoes. If parents or guardians would like their child to use sunscreen, they must provide the Center with the sunscreen (labeled) and written permission to apply it to the child.

The Gingerbread House is not responsible for any personal items that are lost, stolen and/or broken.

Naptime

During naptime, each child will need a crib-size sheet that will fit their cot and a blanket. Blankets and sheets must be taken home each Friday to be laundered. A stuffed animal may also be brought for naptime. The bottom bin of the cubby is for storing items used at naptime.

Nutrition

The Gingerbread House participates in the *USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)*. Monthly menus are reviewed and distributed to parents or guardians each month and are posted in each classroom. Annual income forms must be completed by all families in the program.

- **Breakfast** is served between 8:30 – 9:00.
- **Lunch** is served each day. Children will be encouraged to try new or different food, but will not be required to eat foods that they do not care for.
- **Snacks** are served each afternoon after naptime.

Dietary Concerns: It is imperative that parents or guardians provide written documentation from their child's physician regarding any dietary needs or food allergies. Meal Modification forms are available in the Main Office for your child's physician to complete.

Food Orders: Parents may order cupcakes made at the Gingerbread House as a peanut-free option for special occasion treats. Forms are available in the Main Office.

Special Gifts & Fundraising

A charitable gift to The Gingerbread House not only benefits the children involved but also benefits the donor through tax advantages available through charitable giving. Some employers may even match or contribute to charitable giving.

The Gingerbread House conducts fundraisers throughout the year for special projects that enhance our program. The participation of families in these fundraising projects is greatly appreciated.

Parent Resource Materials

The Gingerbread House has a wide variety of printed resources that deal with developmental issues. Parents or guardians are encouraged to request these resources from staff that would assist them in understanding developmental concerns. Other information is available through the Child Care Council of Onondaga County.

Photography/Media Consent

From time to time, your child(ren) may be photographed or recorded on video. These photos or videos may be used on the Gingerbread House website, in newsletters, or other publications. Occasionally video footage may appear on the local news. No personal information (such as a child's name) is released without parental consent. By signing the acknowledgement on Page 17 of this handbook you are giving The Gingerbread House permission to collect and use photos and/or videos as deemed appropriate. If you do not wish for photographs or videos to be collected and used, separate written notice must be given.

Therapist Services

Parents or guardians may arrange to have a therapist (e.g. physical, speech, etc.) come to the Center to provide services to their child. In these cases, parents or guardians must provide written authorization to The Gingerbread House to permit the therapist to deliver these services within the Center. All therapists authorized

to provide students with services on campus must sign in at the office upon arrival at the Center before rendering these services. The Gingerbread House recommends Children's Therapy Network.

Appendix A

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center

Childcare Financial Policy 2025-2026

Weekly Rates (effective 7/7/25):

	Full Week	4 Days	3 Days	2 Days	Extra Day
Infant	\$410	\$368	\$300	\$216	\$105
Toddler	\$378	\$330	\$273	\$200	\$100
3s/4s	\$365	\$320	\$263	\$195	\$95

Full-Time vs. Part-Time: Full-time children are registered Monday through Friday, 6:30 am – 5:30 pm. Parents may bring their child(ren) any or every day, part days or full days. Tuition is the full week rate regardless of attendance. Part-time children are registered for specific days during the week (e.g. Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday). Tuition is the rate set for the number of days your child is registered for (see chart above) regardless of attendance.

Payment Schedule – Full-time Children:

- Tuition is due weekly on Monday for the current week. Any other payment schedule must be approved by the Finance Office.
- Tuition is due regardless of your child's actual attendance.

Payment Schedule – Part-time Children:

- Tuition is due on the first day your child attends. For example, if your child attends every Tuesday and Thursday, then tuition is due on Tuesday of that week. Any other payment schedule must be approved by the Finance Office.
- Tuition is due based on the number of days originally signed up for. If your child attends any additional days during the week, the Finance Office will be notified by the Head Teacher, and you will be responsible for an extra day charge (due Monday of the following week). Extra Day charges are shown in the rate table.
- If your child misses a regularly scheduled day, you are still responsible for that day's tuition. If you would like to have your child "make up" his/her absence, it may be done at no additional cost if: (a) the added day is during the same week so that your child is still attending the same number of days that week, and (b) the Director approves the request, since there may not be space in your child's classroom on the "make up" day.

Discounts:

- There is a \$10/week discount for each additional child (per family) enrolled in the childcare program.

Receipts:

- Receipts are available on request. Please call or e-mail the Finance Office with your request, specifying the time frame of the receipt. If you provide an e-mail address, the receipt will be sent electronically. Otherwise, it will be printed and left in your child's cubby.

Notice:

- A two week notice is required for terminating care. You are responsible for tuition through your termination date or the end of the two weeks, whichever is later.

Accepted Methods of Payment:

- All tuition payments must be made through Brightwheel.

Notices from the Finance Office:

The Finance Office reviews all accounts daily, and immediately updates parent(s) on any account abnormalities. Common examples:

- *Missed Tuition Payment* – Forgot a check? It happens. When you get the note, please drop the tuition check in the Tuition Box ASAP.
- *Over/under payment* – Paid too much or too little last week? This lets you know how to adjust the next tuition payment.
- *Balance Due* – If two weeks have been missed in a row, you will find this reminder in your child's cubby, along with a request for payment in full, due immediately. If your account gets more than two weeks behind, your child may be asked not to return to Childcare until the balance is brought to zero.

Other Fees:

Bounced Check	\$ 15	first occurrence
	\$ 25	second and each additional occurrence

Please note that the Finance Office reserves the right to request tuition be paid only by Money Order if more than one check is returned NSF.

Late Pick-Up	\$ 15	5:31 – 5:45 p.m.
(per family)	\$ 25	5:46 – 6:00 p.m.
	\$ 50	6:01 – 6:15 p.m.
	\$ 75	6:16 – 6:30 p.m.

*Please note that after **three** late pick-ups, childcare may be terminated.*

Appendix B

The Gingerbread House Preschool and Childcare Center

Contact Information

Phone: (315) 471-4198

Fax: (315) 471-7825

Web: <http://www.thegingerbreadhouseofsyracuse.com>

Email Addresses:

Executive Director:	David M. Cole	dcole-director.gbh@verizon.net
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Assistant Director:	Jessica Riess	jriess.gbh@gmail.com
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Program Coordinator:	Christine Boysen	cboysen579@gmail.com
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Program Coordinator:	Kathleen Lillis	kathleen.lillis@yahoo.com
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Program Coordinator:	Jessica Hogan	hoganjessica374@gmail.com
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Finance Office:	Sheila Zimmerman	gingerbread.finance@gmail.com
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The Gingerbread House Preschool and Child Care Center

Receipt of Handbook

2025-2026 Handbook and Financial Policy Acknowledgment

I have read and understand the handbook and financial policy of the Center.

Parent Signature

Date

Print Name

Child(ren)'s Name(s):

***** Please complete and return to the Main Office *****