



Exceptional care for the
Stars of our future!

Sparta Area Schools Before/After Care Program Care for children in grades K - 5



Applevew Elementary School

240 E. Spartan Drive

Sparta, MI 49345

616-887-1449

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PURPOSEFUL VISION

The Sparta Before and After School care (also known as BAC) is a state licensed; self-supporting program that provides supervised care for your children in grades K-5 before and after school. Housed at Applevew Elementary School, the program offers children a safe, comfortable environment where they can learn, build appropriate social skills and relax. The highly qualified child care staff provides an array of activities: field trips, crafts, creative play, supervised games, and unstructured play time as well as homework assistance and an after-school snack. Parents are welcome to visit the program at any time.

The program not only provides students with supervision, but enhances their physical, intellectual, social and emotional development. We aim for the following:

- To provide children with safe, loving, relaxed care.
- To provide children with routine, yet time to explore and engage in creative play.
- To provide an environment that stimulates and challenges children intellectually.
- To develop respect for others and for self.
- To have no child in grades K-5 at home unsupervised.
- To develop a sense of responsibility.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

All application forms must be correctly completed before the child enters the program. Your child must be enrolled in one of our elementary schools. Forms to be completed and received at registration are as follows:

Registration Form

- Health Information
- Good Health Statement
- Parent notification of The Licensing Notebook
- Child Information Card (1) per child

LOCATION, DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

The Applevue Elementary Before and After School care, located at 240 E. Spartan Drive, during the school year operates from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A 2 day minimum schedule is required. The program also may operate in the summer to accommodate the busy schedules of our parents; however, it is dependent on the number of enrollees. In the summer, we are open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The program is closed Thanksgiving Break (Thursday and Friday), Christmas Eve and Day, New Year's Eve and Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. The program is open during Spring Break. Schedules may vary depending on what days the holidays happen to fall on.

Students from Ridgeview Elementary School are shuttled to and from Applevue Elementary by a public school bus, depending on what session or both, that they attend.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIMES

Parents/guardians must walk children into the Center when dropping them off, as well as walk in to pick up your child at the end of the day.

NO CHILD MAY BE DROPPED OFF BEFORE 6:30 A.M.

It is important to sign your child in and out of the Center.

A child will not be released to anyone other than a parent/guardian unless that person is listed on the emergency information card.

Any time your child will not be attending the program, due to an illness or anything else that prevents attendance on a scheduled day, please call 887-1449 and leave a message.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The staff working in the program will use positive methods of discipline which will encourage self control, self-direction, increased self esteem and cooperation. The staff will attempt to explain to the child why certain behaviors are inappropriate and will focus on the desired behavior rather than the negative behavior. Rules will be explained to all children. Please read and discuss the following rules and consequences with your child.

RULES

1. Respect the caregivers and peers
2. Follow staff directions
3. Keep your hands to yourself
4. Appropriate language and voice level
5. No running
6. Child will treat materials with care
7. Clean up your activity and snack area

CONSEQUENCES

WHEN THE CHILD CHOOSES NOT TO FOLLOW THE RULES:

- 1. Verbal and or written warning**
- 2. Separation from the activity/ alternate activity**
- 3. Child will be given time to reflect on their inappropriate behavior**
- 4. Time –out**
- 5. Conference with the director and parent**

*Severe misbehavior (fighting, threatening children or leaders or verbal abuse) may result in the child being immediately removed or suspended the following day.

*If inappropriate behaviors are repeated on regular basis, children may be dismissed and or suspended from the program.

The above approach is successful in dealing with discipline problems involving the majority of children. Every effort will be made to modify inappropriate behavior by using the procedures as well as through parent communication and involvement. In the event that these methods are not effective, the Director maintains the right to dismiss any child from the program who exhibits disruptive or inappropriate behavior that interferes with the quality and/or process of the program. Your support and cooperation will help us provide a safe and quality care for your child and all of the children.

TUITION RATES

A non-refundable deposit will be charged at registration time. This occurs on an annual basis. If your child attends both the summer and school year programs, the school year fee is waived.

At the time of registration, parents will commit their child to a regular weekly schedule. Parents will be charged tuition for those sessions whether or not the child attends. **Tuition is charged on the basis of enrollment, not attendance.**

The Center bills on a monthly basis and payment is expected by the 10th of each month. If additional days were added due to a change in schedule or snow days, they will be added to the next month's billing. After two weeks of non-payment, the child will be excluded from the program. After three months of non-payment, accounts will be filed with small claims court for collection. The child's place is being reserved and regardless of the reason for an absence, refunds or credits will not be given. Bills can be paid on Payschools or at White Early childhood center.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

We request a two-week notice before withdrawing from our program. If we feel the program is not meeting the needs of your child or if your child is not fitting into the group, we will contact the parents / guardians and try to work out the problem. If it is apparent that the situation has not improved after the conference and another trial period, we reserve the right to give the parents a two-week notice of termination of services.

LATE PICK-UP FEE

There is an additional \$1 charge for each minute after the 6:00 p.m. closing time. This \$1 charge will increase to \$2 after 6:15 p.m. If the child is not picked up by 6:30 p.m., the charge increases to \$5 per minute until the child is picked up.

VACATION POLICY

Students enrolled year round (September through August) may have one week of vacation credit during the summer months. This

vacation credit must be taken in a full week interval and prior notification to the billing office and BAC staff is required.

DELAYS & CANCELLATIONS

If school is delayed or cancelled, there will be care for the children that are scheduled to attend on those days. Please bring a lunch and a drink. Breakfast will be provided.

If school is cancelled anytime during the school day, we will be open for care and the full day rate will apply.

SNACK/MEALS

An afternoon snack and drink will be included in the cost of the program. Children are welcome to bring a snack from home if they so desire. On non-school days, snow days and during summer, breakfast (8:30am) and an afternoon snack (3:30pm) will be provided. However, children need to bring a lunch with a drink. Menus with foods available are posted and meet childcare licensing guidelines. If a meal is forgotten, the center will provide one if needed.

HEALTH RULES

Parents will be notified if their child is running a temperature of 100 degrees or more, and/or if their child is vomiting or has diarrhea. You will be expected to pick up your child as soon as possible.

When to keep your child home:

Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the past 24 hours

Fever of 101 degrees within the past 24 hours

Head lice: We have a “no-nit” policy. Children are checked upon returning to the center and are allowed back only when there are no nits present.

Strep throat, Scabies, Scarlet Fever, Conjunctivitis (“pink eye”), Meningitis and/or other communicable diseases: Ask your physician

for his/her recommendation – but not less than 24 hours after beginning medication for treatment.

Chicken Pox: after the sores have dried up (scabs are no longer oozing).

Colds, influenza and/or other viral infections: Ask your physician and/or use your best judgment. Consider the following: Is your child feeling up to attending? Will his/her being there present any danger of spreading infection to others? Will his/her being there cause his illness to get worse?

Blood/Bodily Fluids

We have special policies to follow when a child has been bleeding or has any bodily fluids on his/her clothing. ***Bodily fluids are vomit, diarrhea, and blood.* Michigan law requires that a child that has bodily fluids on his/her clothing cannot be exposed to other children. The home will be contacted for a change of clothes, if one is not already in their backpack.

All staff will receive Blood Borne Pathogens training within 6 months of being hired. Emergency rules and procedures as well as CPR and First Aid will be reviewed annually by all staff.

Handling injuries

Staff will wash all minor cuts with soap and water and apply band-aids, if needed. Ice pads will be applied to bumps and bruises. Parents will be notified at once of all serious accidents and injuries. Staff will begin an emergency plan of action, as necessary.

Children & Staff Hand Washing

The hands of children and staff shall be thoroughly washed prior to handling food and before eating, after toileting (diapering), after coughing into hands or blowing nose. Procedures for hand washing

shall be posted in food preparation areas and toilet rooms according to Child Care Center Licensing Rule R 400.5902c.

Our hand washing procedure is as follows:

Use soap and warm running water. Soap suspends easily to remove soil and microorganisms allowing them to be washed off.

Rub hands together for approximately 10 seconds to work up lather.

Scrub between fingers, knuckles, backs of hands, and nails.

Rinse hands under warm running water. Running water is necessary to carry away debris and dirt.

Use paper towels to thoroughly dry hands.

Discard paper towels. By using this method you can reduce the spread of germs and help stop the spread of germs and infectious diseases.

MEDICATIONS

All medications must be signed in on the medication permission form and must be in the original prescription bottle that has a pharmaceutical label providing the following information:

- Name
- Date
- Dosage
- Instructions for administering medication

Please be sure that your child is well enough to participate in all indoor/outdoor activities if they are attending the Center. We realize that all parents/guardians are very busy and it is difficult to make other arrangements or miss work due to a child's illness; however, the good health and well being of all the children are top priorities at the Center.

HEALTH CARE RESOURCES:

- SCHOOL NURSE
- KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
- FAMILY DOCTORS
- SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER OR COUNSELOR
- AMERICAN RED CROSS

WEBSITES THAT CAN ALSO BE HELPFUL:

www.michigan.gov/michild (information for parents and on immunization)

www.pandemicflu.gov (a pandemic flu checklist)

EXTRA DETAILS

- No child will be allowed attendance at Before and After care unless the normal registration procedure is followed. This includes children who are going to a classmate's house that evening.
- Please, do not let your child bring toys, sharp objects, candy or money to the program. Any items for classroom activities will be left in the child's bag.
- The children at Before and After school care routinely use the gym and outdoor playground area at Appleview Elementary. School-age child care center operating in a school building approved by the Michigan Department of Education shall be exempt from subrules (7),(8)and (9) of this rule, provided the licensee informs parents, in writing.
- The children and staff follow all the rules and guidelines of Sparta Area Schools and Appleview Elementary.

Culture competence plan

With the growing diversity within the students of our community, it is important we have a competence plan developed to help connect and interact with the families and students of different racial/ethnic or subgroup backgrounds. We are aware and respect that each student has their own cultural worldview, and will seek out the skills, knowledge and the tools to communicate with all families.

Mission

Train early childhood providers in cultural competence by:

- Improving cultural awareness
- Improving communication skills
- Learning the appropriate use of translators

Program/Practice

- Know the population served
- Find out what parents want
- Consider culture when staffing services
- Consider culture when framing important health messages

