Philosophy and Goals of the Program

The Callier Child Development Program provides a warm, accepting environment, rich in learning activities and experiences. Teachers value each child as unique and facilitate growth toward independence, self-esteem and concern for others.

A developmental approach allows teachers to program for needs, abilities, interests and personal learning pace and style. On-going assessment of each child’s growth and development is an essential tool in planning curriculum. The program is designed to encourage curiosity, exploration and discovery. Children develop positive attitudes about themselves as they learn daily routines, master new skills, expand interests, and participate in planning, decision-making, and problem-solving. Opportunities are constructed to foster creativity, to stimulate exploration of a wide variety of media and materials, and to encourage communication of ideas and feelings as the children work and play together. Physical development is supported by the promotion of good health habits and regular routines in eating, rest, exercise, and elimination.

Callier believes that family is the child’s primary environment and is committed to supporting and strengthening the parent/child relationship. The school is dedicated to creating an atmosphere in which children may become competent, productive, caring, happy individuals. Children are supported in acquiring a love of learning and in integrating knowledge and skills that will be the foundation for positive future educational experiences. A partnership with parents, based on mutual respect and shared focus on optimum outcomes for children, helps program staff implement these goals.

Ensuring continuity of care is central to the Callier philosophy. To achieve this goal, Callier teaching teams function in two distinct “loops”. The infant-toddler loop serves children 1 day - 23 months of age by September 1; (children must be 6 weeks of age before attending.) Students take part in this loop for a maximum of two years, depending on age at enrollment. The preschool loop serves children 24 – 48 months of age by September 1. Students participate in this loop for a maximum of 3 years, depending on age at enrollment. Callier Kindergarten teachers do not loop, providing a bridge experience for students before they leave Callier for other schools.
The loop system builds a sense of community, as children and teachers stay together, moving as a group each year to the next classroom. Looping facilitates the development of long term, trusting relationships that benefit everyone involved – children, families and teachers.

The program includes cooperative programming with the Dallas Regional Day School for the Deaf. Students with hearing loss are integrated into some preschool classes; deaf education staff are part of those teaching teams. Shared resources allow enriched experiences for all children and adults involved. This programming strengthens the communication skills of all participants. In some classes students will have the opportunity to learn sign language. Working and playing together encourages children to appreciate individual differences and value the worth of all members of the community.

The program is located on the campus of the UTD/Callier Center for Communication Disorders. Infant, toddler, and 2-year old classes are housed in CD Building, a self-contained space designed specifically for this purpose, located at the east end of the campus. Classes for three’s through kindergarten are accessed through the main entrance to the Callier Center. Access is restricted to authorized staff and parents. The program utilizes large, open classrooms, a cafeteria, two large indoor-play areas and six age-appropriate outdoor playgrounds. All classrooms provide observation windows.

The Callier Child Development Program is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Information on licensing regulations (Minimum Standard Rules for Licensed Child-Care Centers) may be obtained on-line at http://www.tdprs.state.tx.us/ChildCare. (Licensing reports and inspections are available for review in the office.) Contact numbers: local licensing office, 214-951-7902; hotline for reporting concerns of abuse and neglect, 1-800-252-5400. The program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Information about accreditation criteria may be found at www.naeyc.org. Core curriculum used in the Callier Child Development Program is High/Scope. Information is available on-line from the High/Scope website at www.highscope.org.
Policies and Procedures

If changes in policies and procedures are made, parents will be informed in writing. Questions about policies and procedures should be brought to Gayle Wilson, Associate Director, who is the administrator responsible for program operation; to Arlene Graham, Infant-Toddler Program Coordinator; or to Karen Clark, Director. Concerns may also be addressed to Michael Serber at UT Southwestern.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES
(Not applicable to Deaf Education students. Students enrolled through the Dallas Independent School District Regional Day School Program for the Deaf follow procedures for enrollment through the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Admission Review and Dismissal (ARD).)

Enrollment is available only to families affiliated with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, with limited openings for families affiliated with UT Dallas, based on priorities for eligibility determined by the university through the Child Care Advisory Team and the Governance Council. Priority consideration is also given to siblings of enrolled students. The Callier Child Development Program does not discriminate in enrollment on the basis of race, color, national origin, or religious beliefs.

Applications: Applications for tuition slots are available on-line at www.callier.utdallas.edu/preschool.html and may be submitted at any time. Waiting lists are maintained for existing slots. Each year, enrollment for new slots opening in August occurs the preceding April.

Classes: The children are divided based on age as of September 1. For easy reference, classes are given color names, maintained through out the six year enrollment cycle.

Enrollment Requirements: At the time enrollment is offered, a non-refundable enrollment fee and signed Enrollment Acceptance form must be received. A security deposit of one month’s tuition is required. Before a child can attend, all fees and tuition due must be paid, enrollment forms must be completed, and a signed enrollment agreement must be on file. Affiliation with UT Southwestern or UT Dallas must be maintained through the start of attendance. Parents are encouraged to provide all information that might aid the program in preparing appropriately for the child’s entrance into school.
Enrollment forms include:

- *Student Enrollment Information*
- *Emergency Contact and Release Authorization*
  Children will be released only to persons designated on this form. Please keep information current so that parents or designated emergency contact persons may be contacted when needed.
- *Medical Information Form/ Immunization Record (must be signed by pediatrician)* Please update as immunizations are received or children’s health/medical needs change. Participation in ImmTrac (the statewide immunization registry) is encouraged.

**NOTE:** Immunization requirements may be found on-line at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/docs/school/childcare_reqsENG.pdf

- *Authorization for Emergency Medical Care (2) (must be notarized)*
  For your convenience, there is a Notary Public in our office.
- *Media Release Form*
- *Permission for Outdoor Activity*
- *Enrollment Agreement*
- *School Lunch Request Form*

Enrollment forms must be reviewed, updated and signed **annually**.

For 2-year olds through kindergarten, a *Field Trip Permission Form* is also required. Field trips are scheduled throughout the year and your child may not participate unless this form is completed. Callier provides a school bus and driver to transport children on field trips. The back of the permission form includes a release, which must be signed and on file before a child is allowed to ride on the bus.

**Withdrawal:** Written notice must be received 30 days prior to the withdrawal of your child from the program. This policy applies from the time the Enrollment Acceptance is signed, and is not dependent upon attendance. Failure to give appropriate notice could result in tuition charges for a non-attended month whether before or after the attendance start date.

The security deposit will be applied to the last 30 days of tuition.

The UT Southwestern-UTD Callier Child Development Program does not maintain third-party liability insurance. Employees are provided liability coverage under Chapters 101 and 104 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Tuition: (Tuition rates are reviewed annually by the Childcare Advisory Team and approved by the Governance Council. Rates are posted on-line at www.callier.utdallas.edu/preschool.html.) Tuition is payable the first of each month, beginning with the first month of enrollment. Tuition is pro-rated for enrollment or withdrawal in mid-month. Tuition is not affected by student absence, including long term absence, for any reason, or by number of school days in a month. Tuition covers full day care (7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.); no part-time or “drop-in” arrangements are available. When two or more siblings are attending, a 10% discount is applied to the oldest child’s tuition.

Monthly tuition is due in advance on the first of each month, payable to UTD/Callier. Accounts not paid by the 16th of the month will be considered delinquent, and a late payment fee of $30.00 will be charged. Failure to pay tuition will result in dismissal. Automatic payment by credit card may be arranged through the Callier Business Office; a form is available for this purpose. Checks may be deposited in the collection boxes located in CD Building reception desk and in the main building on the floor in the front entrance foyer. Tuition may also be paid at the Callier Center clinic window between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or by mail. Child Development Program staff will not handle payments.

Other fees:
- Enrollment fee ($100) required upon acceptance. (Non-refundable.)

- Security deposit (one month’s tuition) required upon acceptance. Applied to last 30 days of attendance when written notice received at least 30 days before withdrawal. (Non-refundable for withdrawal prior to start date.)

- Personal Care Supply fee ($25) due with first month’s tuition; charged annually with August tuition. Helps defray expense of items including nap sheets, laundry detergent, tooth-brushing supplies, sun lotion, and hats.
• Field trip fees (2’s – Kinder):
  o Transportation Fee ($50) billed annually in September. (Non-refundable; pro-rated for mid-year enrollment.)
  o Field Trip Activity Fee for specific costs, such as admission, billed by semester. Activity Fees are paid to the Callier Parents’ Association (CPA).

• A Late Pick-Up fee is charged when a child is not picked up by 6:30 p.m. For the first three incidents, the charge will be $10 for any part of the first ten minutes past closing that a child remains in care. Additional late time will be billed at $1/minute plus a staffing charge of $12.50/half-hour for any part of the half-hour. Upon a fourth incident, the charge will become $2/minute from 6:31 p.m. Chronic late pick-up may result in dismissal.

• Kindergarten –
  o Reservation fee ($175) Due the spring semester of the 4-year old (pre-kindergarten) school year. Non-refundable, applied to kindergarten supply fee.
  o Supply fee ($175.00); billed September of kindergarten year.

Lunches: All tuition students receive breakfast and afternoon snack when in attendance at the times those meals are offered. Parents have the option to purchase school lunches. Lunch costs are billed with tuition monthly at a cost of $1.50/day. Lunch payments may be deposited in the same collection boxes as tuition payments; payment by credit card may also be arranged.

A School Lunch Request form is available from the office or on-line at www.callier.utdallas.edu/preschool.html. Changes in lunch options must be requested in writing one week in advance. Lunch orders/charges for children who regularly eat school lunch may be suspended upon completion of a form submitted by the preceding Friday.

Callier participates in the National School Lunch program; applications for free or reduced lunch, based on financial need, are available from the office. More information may be found on the USDA website at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/ “In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202/720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and Employer.”
**SCHEDULE OF OPERATION**

**Arrival:** School opens at 7:30 a.m. Monday – Friday. Classrooms are not open to children until this time. Parents who arrive before 7:30 a.m. are invited to wait in the Callier Clinic lobby (in the main building) where a play area is available.

**Parking:**
Drop-off and pick-up parking for parents is available in the West Campus Drive parking lot along the curb adjacent to the playgrounds. Parents may also park for up to 10 minutes along the curb in front of the main entrance or in parking spots marked Visitor. Parents are asked NOT to park in UTD or UT Southwestern permit-only spaces; violators will be ticketed.

**Sign In:** Parents must sign children in and out each day. Time clocks are located in the foyer of CD Building and by the preschool office in the main building. Each parent and person authorized to pick up children will be issued an individual ID code which is used as an electronic signature to sign children in and out of care. This procedure is a licensing requirement and parents may be asked to withdraw children from enrollment if they consistently fail to comply.

**Badges:** To provide optimum security, all parents and other persons authorized to deliver and pick up children from the program are asked to wear badge identification while on campus. Activated badges are required to access buildings and classrooms. Parents with UT Southwestern badges are given access through activation of those badges. Parents not affiliated with UT Southwestern may be issued Callier photo I.D. badges. Families may receive up to two Callier ID badges at no charge; there is a cost of $10 for each additional badge. Lost or missing badges are a security risk and should be promptly reported to the school office to be deactivated.

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<th>Photos for Callier badges are taken at the following times and locations:</th>
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Completed badges available for pick up by the following Monday.

Badges are assigned to individuals and should not be loaned to other people. To maintain a secure environment, please do not use your badge to open the door for someone or allow someone without a badge to follow you through an entrance. Persons needing assistance should be directed to the office or security guard.
**Pick Up:** When children have not been picked up by 6:40 p.m., the office attempts to contact a parent or authorized person to pick up the child. Parents who arrive after 6:30 p.m. are given a late slip to sign, verifying the time of pick up. Late slips are reviewed and charges are submitted to the Callier Business Office for billing. Chronic late pick up can be grounds for termination of enrollment. (For more information, see “Financial Information/ Other Fees.”) Preschool buildings and play areas are closed at 6:00 p.m.; parents arriving after 6:00 p.m. may pick up children in the front lunchroom. Children in CD Building are brought to the foyer at 6:20 p.m. Parent badges do not operate doors after 6:30 p.m. Parents are asked not to remain in CD Building after closing at 6:30 p.m. When picking up your child in the afternoon, please remember that, without staff supervision, classrooms and playground areas may not be used. Waiting areas are available in the main building in the Callier clinic lobby and in the downstairs dining area. When using those areas, please supervise children for their safety and as a courtesy to others.

**Class Schedules:** Parents will be given a class schedule. Schedules may be modified when necessary to accommodate special circumstances related to weather, field trips, etc. Sample schedule:

- 7:30-8:30: Arrival/Quiet Play
- 8:30-8:45: Breakfast
- 8:45-9:15: Small Group activities
- 9:15-10:00: Outdoor Learning
- 10:00-11:30: Work Time (Learning Centers)
- 11:30-12:00: Circle Time (Music and Movement)
- 12:00-12:30: Lunch
- 12:30-1:00: Outdoor Play
- 1:00-3:00: Nap
- 3:00-3:30: Snack
- 3:30-6:30: Outdoor Activities/Afternoon Centers

**Holiday Closings:**
The Callier Child Development Program is open twelve months of the year, with closings occurring for the holidays listed below. Specific dates for the current school year holidays are available in the enrollment packet and posted on the parent bulletin boards. A school calendar including field trips, special events, and Parent Association activities is distributed at the beginning of each semester.

- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Holiday
- Winter Break
- M.L. King, Jr. Holiday
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Teacher Preparation Day
CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES
Children should be dressed in comfortable clothing, suitable to both the weather and active play. Jumpsuits and overalls are difficult to get up and down when the children need to use the bathroom. Elasticized waistbands may be easier for them to manipulate. Each child should have a bag with complete change of clothing; please mark each item with the child's name. Infants, toddlers, and two-year olds being toilet trained may need more than one change of clothing. Check daily for soiled clothes. If a change of clothes has been used, be sure to replace it the next day.

Parents are asked to provide disposable diapers and wipes for children wearing diapers. These will be for individual use and you will be notified by the teacher when replacements are needed.

As soon as children can walk, they should wear shoes that support running and playing. Flip-flops are never appropriate for school. Rubber-soled shoes (e.g. tennis shoes) are best for active play.

Your child will be going outside each day unless the weather interferes. (Indoor play will be scheduled when the temperature or wind chill is below 32 degrees, when temperature or heat index is above 100 degrees, on Red or Purple air-quality alert days, or if it is raining. Primary resource used: http://www.weatherunderground.com/US/TX/Dallas.html) Please be sure to send appropriate outdoor clothing for the season, marking each item clearly with your child's name.

Hats: Children are required to wear hats when playing outside. Callier students are issued school hats, but these inexpensive cotton hats, which come in only 2 sizes and shrink with washing, may not provide optimum protection. Parents are encouraged to provide a hat for school use that ensures full coverage from sun exposure as recommended by the American Academy of Dermatology. (A good protective hat should shield as much of the face and neck as possible, with a wide all-around brim or front-brim with legionnaire-style flap over the neck. Hats made of material with a UPF of 30+ are most effective.)
**Sunscreen and Insect Repellant:** You may sign a permission form authorizing sunscreen to be used on your child at school. For students in the preschool loop, sunscreen will be provided by the school; parents of infants and toddlers send sunscreen to be used. The container should be clearly labeled with child’s name. It is recommended that, for children older than 6 months, sunscreens be SPF 15 or higher, and protect against UVA and UVB rays; PABA-free options such as titanium dioxide are best for sensitive skin.

Permission may also be given for application of insect repellant at school. All insect repellant must be provided by parent. A repellant that contains 10-30% of DEET is considered effective and safe for child use. All containers must be clearly labeled with the child’s name. The school is allowed to provide only one application of insect repellant daily; this is done after afternoon nap, before afternoon outdoor play.

**Nap Items:** The school provides each child with a crib, cot, or rest mat for individual use. Each child is given a fitted sheet permanently marked with the child’s name. Sheets are washed weekly or more frequently as needed. Toddlers and older children may also bring a small (crib size) blanket; blankets will be sent home weekly, or as needed, to be laundered and returned. Children are allowed to nap with one stuffed animal if that helps them to rest. Nap toys should be labeled with the child’s name and should be small enough to fit into their locker’s storage bin. Please do not send toys other than stuffed animals for nap use. (Please note that children under eight months of age may not have blankets, quilts, or soft toys in their cribs.)

**Toys:** Parents are asked not to routinely send children to school with toys and personal items from home. If younger children have transitional items (“security blankets”, “lovis”, etc.) that may help them adjust to change or separation, these may be used at school. Because these special items are particularly important to children, they should be clearly identified with the child’s name. In order to give children some opportunity to share favorite toys at school, classes may schedule “sharing days” when teachers may set aside time for this purpose. All possessions should be clearly marked with the child's name. Please don’t send fragile, expensive items; or toys with numerous parts.
SAFETY AND HEALTH

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services regulations for licensed child-care centers require all parents to be informed that, under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1000 feet of a child-care center is a gang-free zone, where criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to harsher penalty.

This program has practices in place to exclude the use of unsafe children’s products, including regular review of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission recall list. Parents are encouraged to use this resource, available on-line at www.cpsc.gov.

Emergency Response Plans:
Keeping your children safe is one of our highest priorities. The program has procedures for responding to a range of emergencies. Regular drills are conducted to prepare children and staff to react quickly and appropriately. In the event of a weather emergency, groups gather for shelter in designated locations in each building; the children learn the “duck-and-cover” position. In response to fire, the buildings are evacuated; staff and children go to the perimeter fences to wait for instructions. A map of shelter-on-site locations and building evacuation routes is posted in each room.

If evacuation of the center should be required, parents will be contacted as soon as possible. It is important that you update the school office if there are changes in your contact information. A general announcement with all available information will be placed on the office phones in English and Spanish; those numbers are 214-905-3094 and 214-905-3099. For parents at UT Southwestern, information will also be generated by group e-mail.

The designated site for Callier Center relocation is Grauwyler Recreation Center (7780 Harry Hines Boulevard; 214-670-6302), although in the event of an actual emergency, the final decision on relocation will be determined by emergency response agencies.
**Injuries:**
When a child is injured, staff members with training in First Aid make an assessment regarding appropriate action. Minor injuries, requiring basic first aid, are cleaned, bandaged, and have ice applied if needed. Parents are notified of any injury which involves a blow to the head.

If it is determined that an injury is non-urgent but may require the attention of a physician, parents are contacted and asked to come immediately take the child to receive medical care. When the injury requires emergency attention, a 911 call requesting paramedics is placed; while waiting for medical services, first aid treatment is administered, and the child’s parents and personal physician are contacted.

An injury report form is completed for any injury observed or treated. The form is signed by the parent at pick up. Parents take the white copy and a yellow copy is given to the school office to be kept on file.

In case of serious injury, the first priority is getting medical attention for the child. 911 will be called immediately. Every effort will be made to contact the parent, or if a parent cannot be reached, another person authorized on the child’s enrollment form. A school staff member will accompany the paramedics to Children’s Medical Center and stay with the child until parents arrive.

**Illness and Emergency:** The school should be notified as soon as possible if a child will be absent. Children who have signs of illness (e.g. diarrhea, rash), or who have had a fever (100+) within the last 24 hours, or who have vomited or had diarrhea within the last 12 hours, cannot attend school.

- The school must be notified if a child contracts a communicable disease. Return to school after such an illness will be according to the standards of the Health Department or with the signed permission of a physician.
- If a child becomes ill or injured, the parent will be notified for instructions regarding needed treatment and/or to pick up the child.
- A Sick Child form must be signed at the time a child is picked up.
- It is necessary that at least two CURRENT phone numbers be on file where parents may be reached during the day. A current phone number for the child's physician is also required. No treatment can be sought unless the parent has signed the appropriate treatment form.
**Medication:** The administration of PRESCRIBED medication by school personnel is a service offered by the school. It is intended to facilitate the return to school of children recuperating from minor illnesses, such as upper respiratory infections, etc. If a child is seriously ill or if the failure to receive medication could result in critical health problems, the school may refuse responsibility of administering medication to any individual child. The school is essentially a well-child education program. Teachers and staff have the primary responsibility of group care and education.

1. A completed school medicine form with parent signature must accompany medicine. If medicine must be given for longer than two weeks, the child's physician must sign a form. (If an equivalent document has been signed, it must be attached to a school form and the information properly recorded.) All information, including dates, must be included. If such information is not provided, the medication cannot be administered.

2. **Only prescription medication will be given.** Prescriptions must be for the child and must be current. The medicine must be in the prescription container, clearly labeled. Over-the-counter medications will not be given.

Please check in all medicine at the office. Medicine is typically given before lunch and after nap (11:30 a.m. and at 3:30 p.m.). Asking the pharmacist to divide medication into two containers allows you the convenience of leaving one at school.

**Allergies:** It is important to inform the school of any known allergies your child may have and to provide the office with instruction in identifying symptoms and responding as recommended by your child’s physician. Parents are asked to sign permission for allergy information to be posted as needed to alert staff. If needed, a supply of medication and the appropriate signed medication form should be kept at school for emergency use.

**Pets:** Your child’s classroom/building may include animals. All pets are inspected annually by a veterinarian. Children are NOT allowed to handle reptiles or birds in accordance with licensing regulations, but they may pet rabbits or gerbils; appropriate hand-washing practices are used. If your child is allergic to any of these, please be sure that the school is informed.
**Water Play:**
Water tables and other related activities are indispensable elements in the early childhood classroom. Precautions are taken to ensure healthy practices: water tables/toys are cleaned and sanitized after each use; children are not allowed to drink the water; children with sores on their hands are not permitted to participate in communal water play; and fresh potable water is used for all water activities. Wading pools are not used. A signed Outdoor Activity Permission Form must be on file for your child to participate in outdoor water play.

**Nutrition:**
Breakfast and afternoon snack are provided daily to all tuition students in attendance at serving times. Parents are asked not to send additional breakfast or snack food to school. Breakfast is served each morning from 8:15 and 8:45 a.m.; snack is served each afternoon between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. (2:30 for toddlers). (Please note that school food cannot be held for late arrivals; after serving times, left-over food is returned to the kitchen.) You may choose to purchase school lunches or send sack lunches with your child. Food served at school is planned to meet children’s daily nutritional needs, in compliance with federal school breakfast/lunch program guidelines. (See [http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/) and [http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/resources/mpk_tips.pdf](http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/resources/mpk_tips.pdf))

Parents who choose to provide sack lunches assume responsibility for meeting their child’s daily food needs. Lunches are not refrigerated and teachers do not reheat food before serving. Soda, candy, and peanut products are not allowed. Any food from home must be labeled with the child’s name and the date.
(For suggestions for nutritious sack lunches, visit [http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/food/factsheet/sacklunchwhattopack.pdf](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/food/factsheet/sacklunchwhattopack.pdf))

Children who are not yet able to eat food provided by the school will need bottles, formula, baby food, etc., provided by parents. These supplies will be identified for individual use. The school can supply bibs, feeding bowls and spoons, or parents may send these items if they prefer to do so. Parents who want infants to use pacifiers should send these. Infant bottles are to be labeled with the child’s name and date brought to school. Breast milk must also be labeled with the date it was expressed. Frozen breast milk is thawed under running water or in the refrigerator, not in the bottle warmer, and gently swirled, not shaken, before feeding.
After heating, bottles of formula or breast milk must be discarded after one hour at room temperature; bottles that are mouthed may not be re-used for another feeding. Food is thrown away based on expiration date or contamination by saliva; any refrigerated food is thrown away each Friday. Children under 12 months of age are not served cow’s milk, and children 12-24 months of age are served only whole milk. Solid foods and fruit juices are not served to children less than 6 months old.

**Birthdays:** If you would like to celebrate your child’s birthday at school, please discuss plans with your child's teacher in advance, at least one week before the party. Prime times for parties are at the end of lunch and at afternoon snack time. The following guidelines must be observed to comply with health and safety regulations:

- Only whole fruit or commercially prepared foods in factory sealed containers may be shared with the group.
- Candles may be used for decoration but may not be lit.
- Balloons should not be used at school parties.
- Party favors or goodie bags will be sent home with children. Contents should not include food, candy, or items that might be choking hazards.

**Walkers:** Infant “walkers” have been identified as significant safety hazards and are not used in our program. Walkers may be used for children with physical needs when indicated in a student’s Individual Educational Plan.
EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF CHILD PROGRESS

**Screening:** All students receive a developmental screening within the first 90 days of school attendance. Hearing, speech and language screening assessments are provided annually for 3-5 year olds at no additional charge. 4-5 year olds receive vision screening annually.

**Developmental Assessment:** Developmental skills are continuously assessed. The High/Scope Child Observation Record (COR) is used to identify and record the growth that is taking place as children play, try out new ideas, solve problems, and make new friends. Teachers write anecdotal observations and collect representative samples of children’s work. An assessment portfolio is maintained on each child and updated three times each year. Results are discussed with parents in individually scheduled conferences as the beginning and end of each school year. A written summary of your child’s performance (COR Family Report) is provided at each conference and at mid-year.

**Follow-up:** Any follow-up testing indicated by screening or developmental assessments will be discussed with parents; resources will be recommended. Parents must assume costs for additional testing.

**Individual Education Plans and Individual Family Service Plans:**
All Deaf Education students at Callier have individual learning plans. The Individual Education Plan (IEP) for each child is developed by a team that includes teachers, parents, and other professionals who have knowledge of the child’s needs. Plans include the specialized goals, services, and accommodations that a child needs to support development and educational progress.

Callier Child Development staff members also work with families enrolled through the tuition program to support implementation of IEPs. Families who need this support are encouraged to contact program supervisors for further discussion.
Confidentiality
Information contained in children’s files, and assessment information on children, is considered confidential. Program staff are provided access to information as needed to ensure children’s health and safety, appropriate care, and educational support.

Children’s files and assessment documentation may be subject to review by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the University of Texas at Dallas, for purposes of program regulation and evaluation. Written consent of a parent/guardian is required before student records may be released to other individuals or agencies.

DISCIPLINE AND GUIDANCE
Callier views children’s behavior in terms of development. The goal is to help children gain a sense of self-control. It is the philosophy of the program that all children need to feel loved and secure, that a developmentally appropriate environment and daily routines are basic tools in positive guidance of children’s behavior, and that adults are powerful models in showing children acceptable behaviors.

Teaching strategies include anticipating and preventing problems whenever possible, setting clear and consistent limits, staying engaged with children to support appropriate play, recognizing and identifying children’s desirable actions, hesitating when appropriate to support children to resolve conflicts independently, investigating to better understand causes and circumstances before determining solutions, allowing children to experience natural and logical consequences of their choices, and communicating with children, parents, team members and support staff as needed. Children are removed from an activity or from the group only when necessary to help them regain control; they are given the opportunity to return when they are able to do so. When a child displays persistent problem behaviors, parents will be included in developing a plan to address these.
Biting: Biting is a common occurrence among young children. Research indicates that one in ten children bite another child at least one time. Biting occurs for a variety of reasons: a misdirected attempt at communication or interaction; aggression or defense of property or territory; sensory exploration or a response to teething. Biting is more disturbing than most other types of aggressive behaviors to parents, care-givers, and children, and is always taken very seriously.

The child who bites is removed from the vicinity of the bitten child. Other than a short, clear message – “Biting hurts! No biting.” – interaction is kept to a minimum; teachers stay calm to avoid reinforcing the action. The child who is bitten receives comfort and the bite receives appropriate First Aid. When a child is bitten at school, the parents of that child, and the parents of the child who bit, are notified.

In responding to biting, the paramount goal is to prevent recurrence; keeping children safe is the most basic priority. The biting incident is reviewed to help determine causes/contributing factors; when identified, these are immediately addressed. Once a child has bitten, teachers are alert to catch and redirect further attempts. Children whose biting seems to be related to oral stimulation may be given alternatives that are allowable to bite. Children whose biting seems to target particular individuals are redirected to play with other partners. Children for whom biting may be an attempt to engage peer attention are given opportunities to learn and practice appropriate communication and interaction strategies. Children who bite may be “shadowed”, with one-on-one monitoring during some activities and routines.

Children sometimes get “stuck” in a pattern of biting. When those situations do not respond to the best efforts of the teachers, the program may request support from Callier Psychological Services. This might include classroom observation, suggestions for behavior management, parent conference, and/or recommendations for further resources or intervention.

The program is committed to supporting children’s optimal development, to addressing children’s individual needs, and to creating a caring community. Every effort is brought to bear to extinguish biting behavior, without
vilifying or rejecting the child who is biting. Dismissal from the program is
the last resort.

If all of the program resources have been brought to bear and a child’s biting
of other children continues in spite of those interventions, then parents may
be asked to keep the child at home for a period of time or to withdraw the
child from the program.

**Web Resources on Biting**

http:// toddlerstoday.com/resources/articles/firstbite.htm
http://www.cdasandiego.com/parenting%20tips/biting.htm
http://www.healthychild.net/articles/sf25biting.html
http://ceep.crc.uiuc.edu/poptopics/biting.html

**PARENT PARTICIPATION**

**Parent-Teacher Communication:** On-going communication between
home and school is essential to the child's well being. Parents of infants,
toddlers and two-year olds will receive written information daily. E-mail is
another effective way for teachers and parents to exchange information.
Parents are encouraged to talk regularly with teachers. Although parents and
teachers may talk briefly at arrival and pick up times each day, teachers are
unable to engage in extended conversations when they are responsible for
children. To discuss an issue at length, it is recommended that you schedule
a mutually convenient time for a meeting or phone call. Teachers may make
or return phone calls when children are napping or when someone is
available to cover the classroom.

**Messages:** Staff e-mail addresses are available through the school directory.
Phone messages for staff may be left through the school office.
The CD Building desk is staffed and the phone is answered until closing at
6:30 p.m. daily. After hour calls may be left on voice-mail. Emergency
calls may be made to the Callier Security desk, at 214-905-3020.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Formal individual conferences to discuss
student progress are offered in October and May each year. Additional
conferences may be held at the request of the parent or may be requested by
the teacher. Parents receive written summaries of children’s performance at
conferences and at mid-year.
Information Boards and Clothes-pins: The information boards at the front door of each classroom/building are used to relay information about activities for the day. Cubbies or clothes-pins are used both for messages to parents and for holding items children may take home; please remember to check these daily. Each Friday, parents receive information about curriculum for the next week via the "Gold Sheet", a summary of the next week's lesson plan including target vocabulary, themes, and some of planned activities in math, science, and literacy development.

Observation/Participation: Parents are encouraged to observe the program at any time. Observation windows are available in all classrooms, reducing the problem of disruption of routines. Parents are invited to visit classes, join their children for lunch, and accompany children on field trips. Parent may also schedule times to volunteer in the classroom or to help with other tasks, such as working in the library.

Field Trips: Field trips are an integral part of the preschool curriculum, providing rich learning opportunities through shared experiences exploring the resources of our community. Parent participation is welcomed. Parents are provided written guidelines for field trip volunteers and are asked to support the teachers by following these policies. Parents who volunteer as field trip chaperones may not bring along siblings or other children. CPA funds are available to cover admission costs for volunteers as needed.

Parent Resources: Information of interest to parents is posted on the bulletin boards at time clocks. Brochures and hand-outs on topics related to parenting and early development are displayed. Replacement copies of current menus, calendars and other distributed items are also available in these areas or from the office. Links to websites on various topics may be found on the program website at www.callier.utdallas.edu/preschool.html. Books and other resource materials are available in the program resource library and in the Conference/Nursing Room in CD Building for parent check. Other materials, related to specific issues, may be provided upon request. Parents may attend evening classes in sign language at no charge.
Callier Parents’ Association (CPA): The Parents’ Association provides support for the school through fund-raising activities and volunteers. Parents of all Callier Child Development Program students are considered members. CPA meetings are held monthly. There are many opportunities for participation through numerous projects and special events each year; information about these events is posted on designated bulletin boards near the check in stations.

Program Evaluation: Each May, parents have an opportunity to evaluate the program’s performance. These surveys provide key information about customer satisfaction and help identify goals for improvement. Additional program review is conducted in various ways, including:

- TDFPS Licensing Inspection (Annual – moves forward one month each year)
- Report to NAEYC Academy (Annual - March)
- UTD Compliance Audit (Annual - September)
  - Quarterly Compliance Reviews
- Staff Surveys (Annual - May)
- Student Assessment Outcomes (June)

Grievance Procedures: Parents’ concerns which cannot be satisfactorily resolved by communication with the child’s teacher should be addressed to the appropriate supervisor. Parents may contact supervisors at any time by phone or e-mail to request an appointment. If families and program administrators are not able to reach a satisfactory solution, parents may present their concerns in writing to the Director of the UTD-Callier Center. Callier is committed to working with families to achieve a shared goal of providing the best possible care and learning environment for children. Despite diligent effort, in some cases, resolution of differences may not be possible. In such circumstances, parents or the UT Southwestern-UTD Callier Child Development Program administration may decide to terminate enrollment.
REPORTING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

All staff are required to participate in 1 hour of annual training on this topic.

As an employee, each staff member has responsibility for reviewing concerns about children in the program with supervisors. Any report made on a Dallas Independent School District student requires an employee to complete the appropriate paperwork

The following information is excerpted from the pamphlet *TEACHERS AND CHILD ABUSE: Responsibilities and Protections* distributed by the Texas Attorney General’s Office.

"The Texas Family Code requires any person "having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect" must report the case to any local or state law enforcement agency and to the Texas Department of Human Resources Child Protective Service Office. Failure to report a case of child abuse or neglect is a Class B Misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment of up to 180 days and a fine of up to $1000.

The 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline number is **1-800-252-5400**.

Teachers who see evidence of abuse or neglect and who report it in the good faith belief that such conditions exist and do so for the best interests of the child or children are immune from liability, and their reports will be confidential.

If you see [the following] signs in a child AND have cause to believe that abuse has taken place, the law requires that you report it.

**Common indicators of PHYSICAL ABUSE** include:

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns, especially when the child cannot adequately explain their cause.
- Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury.
- Burns or bruises in an unusual pattern, which may indicate the use of an instrument or a human bite. Cigarette burns may be seen on the face, arms, or palms.
- Aggressive, disruptive and destructive behavior.
- Passive, withdrawn, and emotionless behavior.
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Fear of going home or of seeing parents.
- Injuries which appear after the child has not been seen for several days.
- Wears unseasonable clothes which may hide injuries to arms or legs.
Common indicators of **NEGLECT** include:
- Obvious malnourishment.
- Lack of personal cleanliness.
- Habitually dressed in torn and/or dirty clothes.
- Obvious fatigue and listlessness.
- Unattended for long periods of time.
- Needs glasses, dental care, or other medical attention.
- Begs or steals food.
- Frequently absent or late to school.

Common indicators of **SEXUAL ABUSE** include:
- Physical signs of a sexually transmitted disease.
- Evidence of injury in the genital areas.
- Pregnancy in a young girl.
- Difficulty in walking or sitting.
- Frequent expressions of their own or other children's sexual involvement with adults.
- Extreme fear of being alone with members of the opposite sex.
- Engages in sexually suggestive or promiscuous behavior.
- Knowledgeable about sexual relations.
- Reports sexual assault.

The individual decision to report child abuse/neglect does not relieve the employee of the responsibility to review concerns with a supervisor (Karen, Arlene, Kathy or Gayle).

When reporting concerns for Dallas ISD students, teachers are required to submit documentation to the appropriate school district personnel.

Materials available for parents include information from the Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center (http://www.dcac.org/parentresources.aspx).
Callier Child Development Program CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing address: 1966 Inwood Road
                    Dallas, TX  75235

Telephone:

Preschool Office (C104)  214-905-3094
                        (UT Southwestern call 5-5437)

Fax  214-905-3022

Infant/Toddler Office  214-905-3099
                        (UT Southwestern call 5-5438)

Fax  214-905-3004

Administrators’ E-mail

Gayle Wilson  gwilson@utdallas.edu
Arlene Graham  arlene.graham@utdallas.edu
Karen Clark  kclark@utdallas.edu
Kathy Powers  Kathy.Powers@utdallas.edu

Callier Business Office (Patty Lee)  214-905-3119

Callier Security  214-905-3020

UT Southwestern Liaison

Michael Serber  214-648-7851