



2021 HOPE & HOME CHILDCARE POLICY SUPPORT GROUPS –Woodland Park

Dear Families,

Hope & Home considers Support Groups an essential ingredient in providing the support necessary for you to succeed as foster parents.

The world of foster care is a fast-paced world full of changes and curveballs. In Woodland Park alone, we see over 25 kids come through childcare in the course of one month. There are lots of logistics at play and we appreciate your cooperation in making sure that this process is as smooth and effective as possible.

There are a few things to note that we require each parent to understand and sign off on if you plan to use our childcare services in 2021. Please read and understand this document.

Thank you!
Amber Leibbrand
Woodland Park Site Manager

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Childcare is provided for Support Groups. Special Hope & Home events do not include childcare. Those events are designed as connecting opportunities for you and your children. Your children are your responsibility at events. If an event includes childcare, it will be clearly communicated as such.

Please note that Hope & Home is not a licensed childcare center. Our childcare program operates under Volume 7's licensing exemption number 7.701.11 B, which states that a license is not required for:

3. A childcare center operated in connection with a church, shopping center, or business where children are cared for during short periods of time, not to exceed three hours in any twenty-four-hour period of time, while parents or persons in charge of such children, or employees of the church, shopping center, or business whose children are being cared for at such location are attending church services, shopping, patronizing or working on the premises of the business. This facility must be operated on the premises of the church, business, or shopping center. Only children of parents or guardians who are attending a church activity or patronizing the business or shopping center or working at the church, shopping center or business can be cared for in the center.

As such, Hope & Home is not required to and may not meet all of the standards of a childcare facility.

SUPPORT GROUP CHILDCARE GUIDELINES

Please communicate directly with the Woodland Park Program Team, about everything related to childcare. The best way to do this is to text the Hope & Home Program Number 719-249-7038 (this is a NON-CLINICAL and TEXT ONLY number; please call the on-call number 719-237-5739 for any urgent issues regarding the children in your home). Amber Leibbrand will monitor this text number for our Woodland Park families.

This Program Number is the same number that you will receive the confirmation text from the day before your Support Group confirming your childcare needs. It is important to respond promptly to this number so that we can coordinate staff and activities for each age group. Please respond to this text to confirm your reservation! Please be sure to text us if a last-minute cancellation needs to occur after you have responded with your RSVP.

Childcare operates independently from the rest of Hope & Home. This means that information you give to your home supervisor or licensing specialist is not automatically passed on to childcare staff. Tell us about new kids in your home, kids going home, respite, vacations, behavioral challenges, food allergies or any other concerns you might have. Please don't pass this on to us through your kids. We need to hear it from you directly!

Support Group Child Care Guidelines: (pursuant to Vol 7 Rules)

1. We can only provide childcare for children (anyone 18 and under) who are currently in your care. This can include your biological children, adopted children and children currently in foster care (whether they are placed with you or doing respite care.)
2. We cannot watch friends or relatives of children, children from other placement agencies, or kinship placements.
3. Children must be able to walk and be fairly independent to be in childcare. Infants must stay in support group with parents.
4. Parent(s) must remain in the same building while their children are in childcare.
5. Behavioral concerns and/or dietary restrictions must be planned for in advance of children being in childcare. Please do not surprise us!
6. Parents need to be aware of the standard programming for childcare. We do not have the staff to watch children separate from the activities provided nor are we able to restrict activities. Please be willing to find alternative care for your children if they cannot participate in such activities.
7. If children are struggling to engage in programming, please be willing to come out of support group and help.
8. Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of topics discussed in Support Group, children older than toddler-aged cannot sit in Support Group with you.
9. In general, we try to maintain a ratio of 50/50 for children in care vs. bio kids. When this ratio gets substantially upside down, it becomes cost prohibitive for Hope & Home to operate. If you are in a support group that has very few foster children in childcare and a lot of bio kids, we may ask you to leave your biological children at home or bring someone to Support Group to help in childcare.

Hope & Home childcare is not a place for you to try to enforce consequences for behavior or restrictions. If you ask us to enforce those consequences, we will ask you to find alternative childcare for your kids. This is an intentional decision we've made for a multitude of reasons, including:

- We do not have excess staff to provide supervision for these consequences. Leaving a child unsupervised falls outside our policy guidelines, as we must ensure all children are supervised at all times while they're in our care.
- Kids in foster care have a lot of uncertainty in their lives and we want their few interactions with Hope & Home to be positive ones. If kids move from your home to another Hope & Home family, we want their childcare experience to be consistent and positive. We strive to make sure that childcare at Hope & Home is filled with positive, healing, and growth-oriented experiences.

WOODLAND PARK CHILDCARE PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Toddlers:

The littlest ones in care spend their evening in a space specifically meant for new walkers and small explorers! This will always be separate from our older age groups. They will find toddler-specific toys and enjoy sensory-rich experiences with caring staff. Our evenings are full of dancing, counting, and singing. High fives and smiles are endless, and bubbles abound! They'll end the night watching a mini-movie (20-30 minutes of an age appropriate movie or TV show). Between 7:45 and 8:00pm the staff will bring the toddlers to the adults in Support Group.

Dietary Notes: Dinner: cheese pizza in small bite-sized pieces | Movie Snack: goldfish | If your child has an allergy to either of the items listed, please plan to bring an alternative dinner and snack.

3-5-year olds:

The 3-5-year-olds enjoy various activities and games throughout the night! Each month they will have new activities to look forward to! They'll spend about 30 minutes on each activity and will have lots of positive attention and encouragement from caring staff and volunteers. We break up the evening with dinner and dancing (from GoNoodle.com). Towards the end of the night there is a mini age-appropriate movie that plays for 20-30 minutes. Between 7:45 and 8:00pm staff will bring 3-5-year-olds to the adults in Support Group.

Dietary Notes: Dinner: cheese pizza in small bite-sized pieces | Movie Snack: goldfish | If your child has an allergy to either of the items listed, please plan to bring an alternative dinner and snack.

6-12-year olds:

Once checked in, kids will head to their designated room in the church to enjoy their dinner. The team leader in the room will have multiple games and activities set up for the evening to ensure each child has something that excites them! If the weather is nice and we have access to appropriate play space outside, that will be our first stop! Our goal is to allow kids the space to engage in teamwork, create, build confidence, relax and play. The group will have the option to enjoy 30-45 minutes of an age appropriate movie. At the end of the evening, adults will pick up their 6-12-year olds between 7:45 and 8:00pm.

Dietary Notes: Dinner: cheese or pepperoni pizza | Movie Snack: popcorn | If your child has an allergy to either of the items listed, please plan to bring an alternative dinner and snack.

13 and up:

Depending on how many kids we have signed up for childcare and the space allotted to us by the church, teens will either gather in the room with the 6-12 year olds or in a separate area after check-in. Food is enjoyed with their friends and companions. We encourage your teens to bring something they enjoy from home that they would like to share with friends during this time. We will also bring games and activities that we think they might enjoy! They are free to join in with all the other activities designated for our 6 to 12 year olds. If you have a teen that needs to complete homework prior to participating in activities, please let us know that ahead of time. We are happy to accommodate this request on occasion but would prefer the time they spend at Hope & Hope Support Groups to not be dedicated time for school work. Adults will pick up teens between 7:45 and 8:00pm.

If you have a teen who is interested in helping with the younger age groups, please let our childcare supervisor know. *Please note: If this is something your teen is interested in, phone or electronics of any kind will have to be left with their parent during support group. They will never be left unaccompanied with children without the presence of an adult.

Dietary Notes: Dinner: cheese or pepperoni pizza | Movie Snack: popcorn | If your child has an allergy to either of the items listed, please plan to bring an alternative dinner and snack.

GENERAL NOTES:

- If your child cannot participate in any of the above activities alternative childcare is required.
- Once your child is dropped off with you at the end of the night (1-5yo are generally brought into Support Group by staff) or picked up by you (6-12yo and 13+yo should be picked up from their designated room in the church) your children are your responsibility. Please do not let your children visit the Zoondoogle factory or run around the building without your supervision.
- No matter their age, everyone leaves with Zoondoggles to spend (or save!). Children will receive at least 15 Zoondoogle dollars each time they come to childcare at Hope & Home.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the unlikely event of a fire alarm. Do not pick up your child from childcare. Adults please exit the building in a safe and orderly manner, and you will be reunited with your child outside of the building. This is critically important because childcare staff must be able to account for all of the children under their supervision when exiting the building.

ILLNESS

Please use your best judgment when bringing kids to Support Group. We work with a wide range of children with varied medical histories. If you or your child have been sick in the last 24 hours, please do not come.

If you have any questions, please contact Hope & Home. We hope these guidelines make it possible for all our families to take advantage of our support groups!

Name 1 (printed): _____

Signature 1: _____

Date: _____

Name 2 (printed): _____

Signature 2: _____

Date: _____