Tobacco-Free Policy for North Carolina Family Child Care Homes

Purpose/Belief Statement

We, Happy Little Scholar Academy (59 Dando St, Garner NC, 27529), understand that the use of tobacco products on childcare premises and in vehicles used to transport children or during any off-premise activities is an environmental hazard and detrimental to the health and safety of children, staff, and visitors.

Background

Exposure of children to environmental tobacco smoke is associated with increased rates of lower respiratory illness and increased rates of middle ear effusion, asthma, and sudden infant death syndrome. Exposure during childhood may also be associated with development of cancer during adulthood.

N.C. Child Care Rules 10A NCAC 09 .1719 REQUIREMENTS FOR A SAFE INDOOR/OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT:
(a) The operator of a family child care home (operator) shall provide a physically safe and healthy indoor and outdoor environment that meets the developmental needs of children in care, including but not limited to the following:

- (10) keep tobacco products in locked storage when children are in care. Children shall be in a smoke free and tobacco free environment. The operator and staff shall not smoke or use any product containing, made or derived from tobacco, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, smokeless tobacco, and any device used to inhale or ingest tobacco products at any time during operating hours on the premises of the family childcare home, on vehicles used to transport children, or during any off-premise activities;
- (11) notify the parent of each child enrolled in the facility, in writing, of the smoking and tobacco restriction;

Application

This policy applies to all children, families, visitors, volunteers, and staff.

Procedures/Practice:

Smoking and the use of tobacco products are prohibited at any time during operating hours:

- on the premises of the child care facility
- on vehicles used to transport children
- during any off-premise activities sponsored by our facility

Communication

Our facility will review this policy with parents/guardians, volunteers, and staff in writing and verbally at child care-sponsored or related events. Copies of the policy are in staff and parent handbooks. We may provide materials and information provided by the local health department.

Staff*

- All current staff members and newly hired staff will review the **Tobacco-Free Policy** before providing care for children.
- Staff will sign an acknowledgement form that includes the individual's name, the date the facility's policy was given and explained to the individual, the individual's signature, and the date the individual signed the acknowledgment

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- The child care facility shall keep the signed **Tobacco-Free Policy staff acknowledgement form** in the staff member's file.

Parents/Guardians

- A copy of the policy will be given and explained to the parents/guardians of newly enrolled children on or before the first day the child receives care at the facility.
- Parents/guardians will sign an acknowledgement form that includes the child's name, date the child first attended the facility, date the operator's policy was given and explained to the parent, parent's name, parent's signature, and the date the parent signed the acknowledgement.
- The child care facility shall keep the signed **Tobacco-Free Policy parent acknowledgement form** in the child's file.

* For purposes of this policy, "staff" includes the operator and other administration staff who may be counted in ratio, additional caregivers, substitute providers, and uncompensated providers.

Enforcement

Parents and visitors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain while on the child care premises or to leave the premises.

Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policies.

Definitions

- "Premises" – the entire child care building and grounds including but not limited to natural areas, outbuildings, dwellings, vehicles, parking lots, driveways, and other structures located on the property.
- "E-cigarette" – Any electronic oral device that employs a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit regardless of shape or size and that can be used to heat a liquid nicotine solution or any other substance, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, or under any other product name or descriptor.
- "Off-premise activity" – any event sponsored by our facility that is not on the child care facility premises, including but not limited to field trips and educational or entertainment activities.
- "Smoking" – The use or possession of a lighted or heated cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, little cigar, pipe, hookah or any other lighted or heated tobacco product containing, made or derived from tobacco and intended for inhalation in any manner or in any form.
- "Tobacco product" – Any product containing, made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by any other means, including but not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars; little cigars, hookah, snuff, snus, and chewing tobacco. A tobacco product excludes any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

Tobacco Cessation Resources

Our facility will consult with the local health department or other appropriate health and community-based organizations to provide staff and administrators with information and access to treatment programs and services to support them in complying with this policy. The North Carolina Quitline 1-800-

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QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) offers free coaching sessions, helps develop a plan to quit, provides reading materials, and offers counseling. See http://www.quitlinenc.com.

References

- NC DHHS Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, http://tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov/smokefreenc/
- Caring for Our Children 3rd Edition, Standard 3.4.1.1: Use of Tobacco, Electronic Cigarettes, Alcohol, and Drugs http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/3.4.1.1
- Caring for Our Children 3rd Edition, Standard 9.2.3.15: Policies Prohibiting Smoking, Tobacco, Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, and Toxic Substances http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/9.2.3.15

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Parent or guardian acknowledgement form

I, the parent or guardian of _____ **(child or children's name)** acknowledge that I have read and received a copy of the facility's Tobacco-Free Policy for North Carolina Child Care.

Date policy given/explained to parent/guardian	Date of child's enrollment

Print name of parent/guardian

Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date

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Staff acknowledgement form:

I _____ **(name)** acknowledge that I have read and received a copy of the facility's Tobacco-Free Policy for North Carolina Child Care.

_____
Date policy given/explained to staff

_____ _____
Staff signature Date

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