

## Philosophy and Purpose

The purpose of our program is to provide learning experiences within a safe, stimulating environment to encourage and support the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and cultural growth and development of the child as a whole.

The Youth Development program, established in 2004 is licensed by the Mississippi State Department of Health and complies with all standards put forth by the department. Children are admitted regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or religion.

## Daily Schedule

- The daily activities for each child in the facility will be designed to promote concept of self and motivation to enhance his/her social, intellectual, emotional and physical skills. The program will be flexible, geared to change in weather, children's interests, and changing needs.
- The program can accommodate up to 50 children for the school year for after care.
- After Care Schedule:
  - 2:30 – 3:00 Snack time
  - 3:00 – 4:00 Power Hour (Help Members with Home work)
  - 4:00 – 5:30 Activities in the Core Program Areas
  - Character and Leadership, Healthy & Life Skills, Education and Career Development, the Arts, Sports, Fitness and Recreation

## Open Door Policy

- The Hancock County Youth Development operates on an "open door" policy. Children can enter or exit the program during hours of operation. However children are not to leave unless there is a signed permission from the parent or an approved person picks up the child. If a child leaves the premises of the program on his/her own at any time, the child is no longer under the supervision of Hancock County Youth Development staff.

## **Core Program Areas**

- Character and Leadership.... Empowers youth to support and influence their program and Community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and others' cultural identities.
- Health & Life Skills.... Develops young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.
- Education and Career Development.... Enables youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations and embrace technology to achieve success in a career.
- The Arts... enables youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts and creative writing.
- Sports, Fitness, and Recreation.... Develops fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment and social skills.

## **Hours of operation and other Information**

- The program will be open at 2:30 P.M and close at 5:30 P.M. Monday through Friday during the school year... The program is open at 7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Monday through Friday during the summer.
- The program closes promptly at 5:30 P.M. All children must be picked up at this time. A late fee of \$25.00 for the first 15 minutes and \$1 per minute thereafter.
- A parent must notify the program in writing if he or she wishes someone other than the parents, legal guardian or anyone who is not on the pick up list to pick up there child. The person picking up your child must present a photo I.D. in order to pick up children. If applicable, a copy of the court order signed by a Judge will be kept on file to dispute any custody issues.
- Further, the program reserves the right to notify the custodial parent who enrolled the child in the center prior to releasing the child to anyone.
- Holidays will be observed. The director will post closings one week in advance if at all possible.

**Please contact Debbie Kuylen, Project Coordinator for more information.  
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