Prettyboy Recreation Summer Camp 2024

Parent Handbook

Program Director:
Shelly Regars
shellyregars@gmail.com

Phone: 410-357-9509

Hours of Operation: 8:30am-4:00pm Camp Hours 8:30am-9:00am Sign In/3:30pm-4:00pm Sign Out 7:00am-8:30am/4:00pm-5:00pm Extended Care

Address:
19810 Middletown Rd.
Freeland, MD 21053
Located in the Recreation Rooms of Prettyboy Elementary School

Prettyboy Recreation Council Chairperson Chrissy Brandt – chrissybrandt1@gmail.com

> TAX-ID: 52-1071231 License #117702

Camp Weeks

June 24 – June 28 (Pirate Adventure)
July 1 – July 3 (Red, White, & Blue)
July 8 – July 12 (Rocks and Gems)
July 15 – July 19 (Cooking)
July 22 – July 26 (Christmas in July)
July 29 – August 2 (Into the Wild)
August 5 – August 9 (Sports)
August 12 – August 16 (Colors)

WELCOME

Thank you for choosing **Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp** for your child. Please read this handbook thoroughly. It is important that you feel comfortable with our policies and procedures. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the Program Director or our volunteer chairperson. We appreciate your trust in us. We look forward to spending time with your child this summer.

ABOUT US

Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp is located in the Recreation Rooms of Prettyboy Elementary School.

Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp 2024 is designed for students in grades K-5. Enrollment is not limited to the students of Prettyboy Elementary - all are welcome. Home B.A.S.E. our before/after care program has been an important part of the Prettyboy community for many years. Many of our staff members live in the community and some are former students. Home B.A.S. E. is overseen by the Prettyboy Recreation Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer organization that works with Baltimore County Recreation and Parks to provide organized recreational activities throughout the year for the families of the Prettyboy Community. Recreation Council meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the recreation room at Prettyboy Elementary. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Mission Statement and Philosophy

Mission:

To provide exceptional childcare while fostering each child's intellectual, social, and moral development in an academic-rich environment.

Philosophy:

It is the philosophy of **Home B.A.S.E.** that children be encouraged to learn and grow by providing developmentally appropriate experiences where each child can succeed in a safe and loving environment. We believe that each child is an individual that is capable, curious, full of potential, and worthy of respect. Our program provides an inclusive setting that recognizes each student's abilities, interests, needs, and learning style. We promote meaningful play as an avenue to learning. It cultivates creativity, curiosity, discovery, and problem solving which allows for personal growth and the development of positive self-image. We champion risk takers and invite the sharing of ideas. Our program is child centered. We take a holistic approach by educating the whole child. We believe that developing social skills, emotional intelligence, and mindfulness are just as important as the ABCs and 123s.

Our Summer Camp provides 7.5 weeks of care in a safe but stimulating environment. Each week is themed and planned to include art, music, physical fitness, and games. Our staff is educated in early childhood development and trained to promote learning in a nurturing, fun environment. In addition we work to encourage healthy habits such as participating in outdoor physical activity, eating good snacks, and being able to socialize and get along with persons of all ages and abilities. We encourage the children to problem solve and guide them as they work through conflicts that arise.

Our <u>Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp</u> is devoted to providing a secure, caring, stimulating, inclusive environment which is responsive to the needs of individual children regardless of ability, race, background, culture, religion, gender, or economic circumstances. Second only to meeting the needs of all the children in our care is safety. All staff members are first aid/CPR certified. We participate in the Prettyboy Elementary School emergency drills. We have Safety/Health and Emergency Plans in place that are reviewed annually. All staff are trained in the appropriate response. Staff is encouraged to connect on a personal basis with every child, every day to help them develop secure, healthy relationships with adults other than their parents. We promote personal responsibility and respect for all living things so the children in our care grow up to be successful, productive, caring members of our community.

CURRICULUM STATEMENT

Home B.A.S.E. operates on a philosophy of providing quality care and developmentally appropriate experiences so that every child may grow to his/her fullest potential as an individual. We provide opportunities that encourage our children to express their ideas and feelings, to develop problem solving and reasoning skills, and to enhance self-confidence.

Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp serves children ages 4-12, in a summer child care capacity. We aim to provide age appropriate stimulating themed activites to promote socialization and fun. To this end, we implement a child centered, inclusive curriculum that encourages creativity and risk taking. We do this knowing that all kids are curious and capable of learning across all developmental domains: physical, cognitive, emotional, language, and social development. We acknowledge that all students learn at their own pace and that milestones can occur at different rates and stages in a child's development.

Curriculum can be broadly defined as the totality of student experiences that occur during the educational process. At **Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp**, we believe that it's interactive. It's everything that takes place while the students are in our care. While it certainly can be a planned sequence of instruction, for us it's so much more. It's not just academics but also the physical environment, learning materials, routines, and transitions. It encompasses our developmental and learning goals, our staff and the methods they use to teach skills. It's basically any element that aids children in learning. As stated earlier, we do not focus on academics, the main areas we address at <u>Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp</u> are Health, Social Foundations, and Physical Education. However, we do often address the other (academic) areas through our themed related activities.

REGISTRATION

To hold your child's spot on the roster, please complete and turn in the following:

- Registration form
- Rate/Attendance Agreement form
- Emergency form
- Parent Signature Page
- Parent's Guide to Regulated Child Care Page 2 with signature
- Registration Fee (checks payable to PBRC) \$35/family before 5/15/24 or \$50/family after 5/15/24

In order to attend **Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp** the following paperwork needs to be turned in by June 9, 2024:

- Health Inventory Part One completed by parent
- Health Inventory Part Two signed by a physician and dated no earlier than June 1, 2023.
- Immunization Certificate
- Lead Testing Certificate (if applicable)
- Topical Base Care Product Administration form if applicable
- Prescription Medication Authorization form if applicable

This paperwork is MANDATORY per MSDEOCC.

All must be received in order to attend.

HOURS OF OPERATION

8:30am-4:00pm Camp Hours 8:30am-9:00am Sign In/3:30pm-4:00pm Sign Out 7:00am-8:30am/4:00pm-5:00pm Extended Care

There is a \$1 per minute, per child charge for each minute after the scheduled departure time that your child is with us. Please do not attempt to enter the Recreation Room before 7:00am. Please be respectful of the staff's time and personal responsibilities. Recurring late pick-up can result in termination of service.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Please do not attempt to enter the Recreation Room before 7:00am. For your child's safety, a parent or guardian must accompany the child in and out of the building each day. Please do not leave children unattended in the parking lot. Every child needs to be signed in and out on the attendance sheet with a parent signature and the time in/out. If you need help locating the attendance sheet, please ask a staff member for assistance.

Your child can't be released to anyone except those indicated on your registration paperwork. If there is an exception, we must be notified in writing (email) and the person picking up will need to show identification. No one under the age of 16 can pick up a child.

ABSENCES and ATTENDANCE

If your child is going to be absent, please notify us by calling 410-357-9509 or emailing the Program Director at shellyregars@gmail.com. When children are absent from the center, whether due to illness or vacation, there is no reduction in tuition.

We reserve the right to terminate a child's spot on the roster for the following reasons (but not limited to):

- Failure to pay
- Routinely late picking up your child
- Failure to complete the required forms
- Lack of parental cooperation
- Failure of child to adjust to the center after a reasonable amount of time
- Physical or verbal abuse of any person or property
- Our inability to meet your child's needs
- Lack of compliance with handbook regulations

CLOSINGS & DELAYS In the case of inclement weather, families will be emailed our opening status. Please know that we CANNOT operate if BCPS schools and offices are closed.

PAYMENT

You will be billed according to the Rates/Attendance Form you submitted at registration. Families will be invoiced as follows:

Invoices will be sent by June 15 and Due July 1 for weeks starting 6/24, 7/1, 7/8, 7/15.

Invoices will be sent by July 15 and Due August 1 for weeks starting 7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12.

PBRC Home B.A.S.E. utilizes <u>Brightwheel</u>, a platform that allows for online payment. Once your child is registered you will be set up in Brightwheel. We will continue to take checks or cash if that is your preferred method of payment. Checks should be made payable to Prettyboy Recreation Council (PBRC.) Checks and cash can be placed in the Lock Box in the classroom or mailed to:

HBTT c/o Prettyboy Recreation Council P.O. Box 518 Monkton, MD 21111

HOLIDAYS

Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp will be closed on Thursday and Friday, July 4 & 5. Happy Fourth of July!!

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS

We want families to stay informed of day-to-day happenings. We use the following methods of communication with parents:

- Parent Information Booth located near the front door of the Recreation Room. There is a bulletin board with useful information and the payment lockbox.
- Emails and Newsletters These will be sent periodically to update families on the happenings of Home B.A.S.E. These will include but not be limited to policy updates, exposure to illnesses, activities added to the Calendar.
- Communication with staff at the start and end of the day are always helpful and encouraged.

NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

At <u>Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp</u> we value being healthy and feeling good. We know that students will perform at their highest level when eating well, sleeping well, and getting daily physical exercise. We promote keeping active. We go outside every day weather permitting. We encourage families to set consistent bedtimes, so our students are well rested.

SNACKS/DRINKS

Nutritional snacks and drinks (1% milk, 100% fruit juice, water) will be provided for AM snack. Safe, fresh drinking water is always available. Staff encourages students to drink water throughout the day. Families are asked to provide a reusable water bottle each day.

SUPPLIES

No supplies are needed. <u>Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp</u> kids are welcome to bring a BCPS issued computer from home. These can only be used during "Down Time." Any other device (non-BCPS computer, cell phone, iWatch, etc.) will need to be kept in a backpack for the duration of the day. **Home B.A.S.E. is NOT responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.** Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately each day for the weather. Whenever possible we like to spend time outdoors!

ACTIVITIES

<u>Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp</u> will provide age appropriate, theme related activities each week. These will inlcude literature, science, art, music, physical fitness, and more. Many of our activites will take place outside and we will access the playground each day.

PLEASE apply sunscreen prior to arrival. If your child needs to apply throughout the day, please fill out the MSDE – Medication Administration form and provide a bottle of sunscreen labeled with your child's name.

INJURIES

At <u>Home B.A.S.E.</u> we make every effort to keep all students injury-free. Unfortunately, children fall, get scrapes and cuts, and can injure themselves sometimes without even trying. All staff is CPR/First Aid certified. We will perform basic first aid and record the event. At time of pick up, parent will be notified of the injury, cause of injury, and the staff actions following the incident. If necessary, staff will contact parents or emergency contacts. 911 may be contacted depending on the seriousness of the injury.

SICKNESS POLICY

Parents agree to keep their child home or seek alternative care arrangements for the following conditions:

- Pain any complaints of unexplained or undiagnosed pain
- Fever of 99*F/37.2*C or higher
- Sore throat or trouble swallowing
- Unusual or unexplained headache or stiff neck
- 3 unexplained diarrheas or loose stool in close increments
- Nausea, vomiting, or abdominal cramps
- Severe itching of scalp or body
- Known or suspected communicable diseases
- Any discharge/drainage from eyes, nose, ears. If a child has pinkeye/conjunctivitis, they need to have been on antibiotic/drop treatment for **24 hours** before returning.
- Open sores such as those seen in children with Chicken Pox or Hand, Foot, Mouth Disease. Child needs to be free from blisters/sores or these blisters/sores need to be completely scabbed over before returning.

When a child becomes ill while in our care, we will make the child comfortable in a quiet place away from other children. Here the child can rest and be closely supervised. Parents will be notified immediately and agree to begin making alternate work arrangements or arrangements for alternative care. If your child is seriously ill, you or an alternate must come for the child IMMEDIATELY. If we cannot reach the parent, we will call an emergency contact given at time of registration. 911 may be contacted depending on the seriousness of the illness. **Children must be free from fever, vomiting, and diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to Home B.A.S.E.**

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

At <u>Home B.A.S.E.</u> several of our staff members are certified to administer medications. For a child to be given either a prescription or OTC medication, parents need to complete the proper paperwork. All forms are on the Prettyboy Recreation Council website. All medications are to be brought in by the parent and labeled with the child's first and last names. Prescription medication requires a signature from the prescribing physician. We prefer that medications are given at home but if they can't be, we are happy to help. Please know that we can only administer one dose of medication per day.

HEAD LICE POLICY

If a child is found to have head lice, the parents/guardians will be notified, and the child will need to be picked up immediately. The child will only be readmitted to the program after the staff determines that treatment has been effective, typically 48 hours once treatment began. There are several products on the market that can be used to kill head lice. Some are OTC and others are prescription strength. It is recommended that all members of the household be treated.

BASIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our Program is dedicated to keeping our staff and students safe and healthy. We have a Health Plan in place to ensure that all employees understand their part. It addresses not only how we obtain student and staff health history but how staff are to deal with illnesses, injuries, infectious diseases, first aid, administering medication, hand washing, safely handling food, and record keeping. In addition to being trained on our Health Program, all employees are required to take the MSDEOCC approved course, "Basic Health and Safety Training." Per the MSDEOCC, employees will now take this course annually.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Several staff members have taken the MSDEOCC approved course, "Emergency Preparedness in Childcare." We have an Emergency Plan in place. It addresses the various types of safety drills we participate in with Prettyboy Elementary School. Each employee is trained on our Emergency Plan and will be expected to follow the procedures. This plan is kept in our "Ready to Go" bag. Parents are encouraged to ask questions as they arise.

SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT

In accordance with the procedures set forth in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, any staff member having reasonable cause to believe that a child known to him/her in a professional capacity may be an abused or neglected child shall immediately report the matter to the Program Director. Oral and written reports will be made to the proper authorities. All our staff are mandated reporters.

CHILD CUSTODY

If only one parent has custody of a child, the center must be notified immediately upon enrollment. If the non-custodial parent is unauthorized to pick up the child, the custodial parent must inform the Program Director and provide a certified copy of the court order confirming that one parent doesn't have visitation rights. Without such a court order the law grants parents joint custody and the center isn't allowed to refuse the release of the child to either parent. If there is a restraining order that involves the child, please ensure that a copy is given to the Program Director at time of enrollment.

VISITORS

Parents of our students/campers are always welcome to stop by and see our program in action. Members of the Prettyboy Recreation Council are also welcome at any time. These visits are to be conducted in such a manner as to not disrupt the daily operations of **Home B.A.S.E.** All others need to clear their visit through the Program Director or our volunteer chairperson. All visits are to be pre-approved and entered in our Visitor Logbook.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Throughout the summer our staff will be taking pictures and possible videos that may be put on our social media page or used for marketing and advertising. Families may decline to have their child included in these photos/videos by indicating this preference on our Parent Signature Page.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990/2009

The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability or special health needs in all areas of life including education and childcare. The purpose of the law was to ensure that persons with disabilities or special health needs would have equal opportunities and enjoy the same rights as everyone else. Employees are required to take the MSDEOCC approved course, "Including All Children and the ADA." The Program is dedicated to making all children feel included. We will make accommodations as necessary to see that all our students can learn and play safely. At time of enrollment we encourage families to share IEPs or IFPSs if their child has one. All staff will follow the individualized plan. We will work with any therapists or special educators involved.

TRAINING

We have a diverse staff with each member bringing something different to the team. Some of our staff hold degrees in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. Some have been working with children of all ages for many years. All staff participate in taking yearly Continuing Education classes and are expected to use what they know regarding Child Development to enable them to find strategies on how to improve the learning process. First and foremost, we focus on the whole child by addressing physical, emotional, social, and cognitive skills. Children are unique and learn in various ways and at different paces. Oftentimes a child may excel in one area and struggle in another. Teachers/Aides are expected to provide experiences that include all learning modalities and accommodate individual students. Activities should be age appropriate and balance both teacher-directed and child-lead lessons. It is our responsibility to help all students improve their social competence and build self-esteem. A young child's development has a direct effect on their overall development and on the adult they will become. Our staff is dedicated to investing in the young kids in our care to maximize their future well-being.

STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Home B.A.S.E. is fully licensed and complies with all applicable licensing regulations and standards. These standards relate to our location, staff, health, safety procedures, nutrition, care giver to child ratios, and record keeping. We believe that these standards are in the best interest of the children. The Home B.A.S.E. rooms are subject to inspection by state and city health, fire, and licensing officials. All childcare in Maryland is regulated by the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care's (OCC) Licensing Branch. For more information on this please follow this link to the Maryland State Department of Education's pamphlet on *A Guide to Regulated Child Care*:

https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/2/guide to regulated child care.pdf

MD EXCELS

Home B.A.S.E. participates in MD Excels. It is a voluntary program for licensed childcare and early education programs. Being a participant shows our continuous commitment to meet standards that **exceed** the state's licensing requirements. Research shows that quality childcare and early learning experiences provide the building blocks for life-long learning. Early childhood professionals play a crucial role in creating the stable foundation that children need to be successful. As a MD Excels participant, we commit to quality by engaging in an ongoing process of self-evaluation and improvement. MD Excels focuses on the following content areas:

- Licensing and Compliance
- Staff Qualifications and Professional Development
- Accreditation and Rating Scales
- Developmentally Appropriate Learning and Practice
- Administrative Policies and Practices.

As of January 2020, Maryland has 4,712 participating programs and providers - 4,202 with published quality ratings. We are proud to be one of them.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT

At <u>Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp</u> we do not assess, score, or report on academics. As a Summer Camp we focus more on our children's Health, Physical Education, and Social Foundations. We provide a variety of activities and experiences that challenge our kids to act and react appropriately, take risks, problem solve, and socialize with others of different ages and abilities. The staff regularly interacts with the students of Home B.A.S.E. making observations and discussing right from wrong. Each student is seen as an individual. We work with each child to ensure that they are growing socially and can handle themselves in a variety of situations.

Screen Time Policy

At <u>Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp</u> we take a personal interest in the health and wellbeing of the children in our care. As a result, we follow the recommendations of the American Pediatric Academy on Screen Time.

- Children ages 2-5 should watch no more than 1 hour per day total of high-quality programs. Adults should co-view with children to help them understand what they are seeing and apply it to the real world around them.
- Children ages 6 and older, should have consistent limits on the time spent in front of screens. Time spent should not take the place of adequate sleep, physical activity, and other behaviors essential to good health.

In our case, "Screen Time" refers to television/DVDs, personal cell phones, and tablets that students bring to school. <u>Home B.A.S.E.</u> understands that television and other electronic devices can get in the way of exploring, playing, and interacting with others which encourages learning and healthy physical and social development. Therefore, we will restrict Screen Time by:

- Allowing our after-care students ages 6 and older to use cell phones or tablets under strict supervision and with parent permission. Time allowed is limited to the last hour of care.
- Not allowing any Screen Time during meals and snacks.

We do not rely on television/DVDs, cell phones, or tablets to fill space in our daily schedule. Weather permitting, we go outside every day to play on our playground equipment, sport courts, and fields.

We will continue to encourage our families to designate media-free times together, such as dinner or driving, as well as media-free locations in the home, such as bedrooms. We believe in having ongoing communication about online citizenship and safety, including treating others with respect online as well as off. We know that this generation of kids and adolescents is growing up immersed in media. It can harm the amount and quality of sleep a person gets. Problems arise when media replaces physical activity, hands-on exploration, and face-to-face social interaction in the real world, which is critical to learning. Because of this we will always promote old school play over media use.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The families we serve live in Northern Baltimore County. Nearby are several parks and nature centers. There are also many family friendly, child-centered museums and businesses not too far away. The state of Maryland offers many resources and opportunities for families with children with special needs or disabilities. There are also public and private agencies available to help families concerned with developmental delays or behavioral issues. We have developed a list of these resources. The document will be emailed to families at the beginning of the school year and hard copies are available in our Parent Information Booth. We encourage our families to take advantage of these resources.

BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE POLICY

The early childhood years are an important time in a child's social and emotional development. Every moment is a challenge to appropriately act or react and make good choices. The word "discipline" has, at its root meaning, "instruction" or "training." This meaning rather than punishment is the foundation of our approach to behavior management. We accept that kids will sometimes display their emotions or try to achieve their goals in unproductive or immature ways. It's natural and just part of being a child. Much of a child's most valuable learning occurs during behavioral problem-solving.

At Home B.A.S.E. we believe in establishing consistent, easy to understand, age appropriate limits. When these are present, children increasingly become more responsible and self-reliant. We also believe in having adults who respond to inappropriate behavior with insight, sensitivity, and skill. When improper behaviors occur, we believe that it's important for the child to understand why the behavior was inappropriate and how to modify it. We see misbehaviors as our opportunity to teach kids the social, emotional, and communication skills necessary to manage themselves, resolve conflict, prevent bullying, and develop pro-social behaviors.

Our staff sees working with challenging behaviors as part of our job. Guidance is always positive, productive, and immediate. Discipline, when properly practiced, uses a multi-faceted approach that teaches and reinforces desired behaviors. We focus on:

- Modeling As adults if we can accept, control, an express our feelings in a direct, non-aggressive way, it shows children that it's possible and can be done.
- Encouragement We encourage our children to be kind, helpful, and caring with each other. We encourage our children to treat others as they want to be treated. We encourage the acceptance of the opinions of others. We celebrate being different from each other.
- Empathy We strive to help our children see things from different perspectives. We teach that everyone has feelings and that we don't always respond to situations the same way.
- Assertiveness We want our children to be confident. We work on developing a positive self-image. We promote self-respect and self-love. We teach children that they can set boundaries for themselves and that others need to respect those boundaries. We practice "using our words" when they feel as if someone has pushed too far.
- Composure Staying calm and in control of oneself is a lifelong skill that we address every day. There are a multitude of things that can throw a child over the edge, making them angry or sad. Using attentive observation, we can often intervene to guide children before situations escalate. We help kids verbalize feelings, frustrations, and concerns.
- Conflict Resolution When situations do escalate, we empower our children to walk away and go to our "Thinking Space" to calm down and regain composure. This is NOT a time out, rather an opportunity to learn breathing techniques, positive self-talk, and the ability to calm down on their own. We want our kids to think through the situation that has occurred and discuss what they could have done differently to promote a better result.
- Accountability We often tell our children that "No one is perfect. Making mistakes is part of being human." We support admitting mistakes, making apologies, and trying to do better. Sometimes children act out purposefully. In this case we address the inappropriate behavior and stress that every choice has a consequence. Consequences can be gratifying or awful. We challenge kids to learn from their mistakes and make more favorable choices.
- Choices We teach that every day is full of decision making. Impulse control and delaying gratification are discussed openly. We help children see that it sometimes takes a while to achieve goals and that productive choices and perseverance do pay off.

When duly implemented, discipline helps children learn and internalize the lifelong skills of self-motivation, self-control, competence, and empathy. Our staff is dedicated to helping the children in our care learn to manage themselves so they will become happy, productive members of our community. When a pattern of behavior persists that endangers self, others, or property or significantly disrupts our Program, we will work with the child's family to find solutions, up to and including referral for outside services or exclusion from the Program.

CLOSING

At Home B.A.S.E. Summer Camp we acknowledge that the parents are the child's first teachers. We respect each family's parenting style, culture, and religion. We focus on building long term, trusted relationships which both family and staff will lean on if difficult situations arise. We work together with families to ensure that their child is happy, healthy, and learning the social skills needed to be productive members of our community.