Table of Contents

1.0 WELCOME MESSAGE ................................................................................................................. 2
2.0 CONTACTS ................................................................................................................................. 2
3.0 STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY ................................................................................................. 2
4.0 OUR PURPOSE ............................................................................................................................. 4
5.0 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION .......................................................................................................... 4
6.0 ENROLLMENT PROCESS .......................................................................................................... 4
7.0 CURRICULUM ........................................................................................................................... 5
8.0 THE PARENT ROOM .................................................................................................................. 5
9.0 ATTENDANCE ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE POLICY ................................................................. 6
10.0 TRANSPORTATION ................................................................................................................... 6
11.0 HEALTH ................................................................................................................................... 7
12.0 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ...................................................................................................... 9
13.0 DISCIPLINE POLICY .............................................................................................................. 9
13.5 GRIEVANCE INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES ................................................................ 12
14.0 HOLIDAYS .............................................................................................................................. 13
15.0 CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT .................................................................................................... 13
1.0 WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to Big Ideas Educational Services. We hope your family will enjoy the program and the friends you will make. This handbook describes our program, goals, policies, and the myriad of practical details that go into making each day as happy and successful as possible. Please read it and keep it for reference, as it will answer many of your questions.

2.0 CONTACTS

Please get to know our Site Supervisor. She or he will meet you on the first day of the program and answer any questions you may have.

In addition, the following people will be happy to receive your phone calls or emails. We are all here to be of service to you and your child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Director</td>
<td>Martha Harrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Office: (305)-705-4834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cell: (786)-258-1615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mharrell@bigideased.com">Mharrell@bigideased.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation Specialist</td>
<td>Mary Harrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Office: (305)-705-4834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cell: (786)-671-8670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Myharrell@bigideased.com">Myharrell@bigideased.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.0 STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Big Ideas Educational Services, in the value of human diversity and the fair treatment of all people. It is our number one goal to provide the kind of environment and the kind of influences that encourage all children to become creative, independent, responsible, fully functioning, self-directed adults. Secondly as adults we must strive to continue learning and growing in our relationships with others so that we may nurture a peaceful environment and surround our children with understanding, warmth, and giving.

It is our belief that children come first. Our values and beliefs about children are deeply rooted in the history of Childhood Education.

We believe- all children have the right to feel good about themselves and it is the responsibility of all employees to nurture the children’s self-esteem.

We believe- all of our educational and guidance decisions for the children must be based on our knowledge of child development and performance.

We believe- each person is a unique individual, and has his or her own needs. Children have a right to meet this need in their own way. However, one of the responsibilities of having rights is recognizing and respecting the rights of others.

We believe- in appreciating and supporting the close ties between the child and family. We also believe that children are best understood in the context of their family, culture, and society.
We believe- creativity, self-expression, and curiosity are expressions of individuality and should be encouraged in all people.

We believe- in helping children and adults achieve their full potential in the context of relationships that are based on trust, respect, and positive regards.

We believe- each child and family is due the respect for personal privacy demanded by professional ethics.

We believe- each parent increases their own child’s self-esteem by considering their child important enough to take the time to be involved with his/her daily walk of life in all aspects.

We believe- that the dignity and worth of each child and family is important.

We believe- that the needs of children change as they grow; that the programs must respond in content and structure by using the best techniques in human development.

Children will be accepted regardless of race, creed, national origin, or sex.

Children with disabilities are first and foremost children, worthy of equal respect, opportunities, treatment, status and place.

Big Ideas Educational Services accepts all children with disabilities.

Moral Right
Children with disabilities are first and foremost children. They will benefit from the same experiences that are desirable for all children for the same reasons. They will also benefit from avoidance of the same undesirable experiences for the same reasons. Inclusion provides opportunities for socialization and friendships to develop. It provides a sense of belonging and appropriate modeling of social, behavioral, and academic skills.

Civil Right
Separate is not equal. If something is offered to all children it must be accessible to all children. Access should not be denied based on disability or any characteristic alone. Children with disabilities have a right to go to the same schools and classes as their friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters. They have a right to be afforded equal opportunities.

Parental Right
Parents have a right, as experts on their own children, to pursue the least restrictive environment with supports and services for their children to successfully achieve their individual goals. They will always have far longer and greater responsibility and vested interest in their child’s future, than any system or paid professional. They are equal partners of the IEP (Individual Education Program) Team.

Ethical Right
Giving every child a sense of belonging, value and worth enhances their overall quality of life. Including children with disabilities in general education classes models acceptance of diversity. It teaches children how to function together with others of different abilities.
4.0 OUR PURPOSE

Our programs are designed to ensure your child reaches his or her full academic potential. Whether your son or daughter is gifted in a particular area, taking mainstream courses, or struggling with school, your child will get the attention, assistance, and support necessary to thrive academically.

**Opportunities for all children** all school-age children should be provided the academic skills and learning opportunities they need to develop the full potential of their talents.

**Family and community involvement** Children and youth must be seen in the context of their families and neighborhoods. The education and development of a child should include parent, family, and community involvement whenever possible and appropriate.

**Diversity should be celebrated** each child’s individuality contributes to the overall experience of the group. Different learning styles, interests and backgrounds help enrich student interaction and should be respected and encouraged.

**People are key to organizational success** People are our greatest asset. We are committed to recognizing individual talents, promoting diversity and cultural understanding, fostering a collaborative and open environment, and providing opportunities for personal development for all involved with the organization.

5.0 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Big Ideas offers educational after-school, and camp programs. During our program students will participate in organized outdoor activities, reading and STEM lessons, fieldtrips, arts and crafts, enrichment activities, cultural development, and health and nutrition lessons.

**Summer Camp Program**

The Big Ideas Educational Services Summer Camp Programs provide an opportunity for kids in the community to interact with their peers in a stress-free environment, emphasizing collaboration and creative thinking. *Camp hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

As in the after-school program, kids are placed in teams by grade-level and spend the day participating in activities designed to build teamwork and problem-solving skills. Led by certified Dade and Broward county teachers and trained adults, the academic work is only part of a day filled with arts & crafts, sports and other fun outdoor activities and games. We’ll also take field trips to allow the students to have a hands-on learning experience. For example, if we learn about bird migration, we might take a trip to an aviary to see the birds up close and personal.

6.0 ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Children are welcome at Big Ideas Educational Services regardless of race, color, religious background, or national/ethnic origin. Before starting the program, enrollment and authorization forms must be completed. Please Visit Bigideased.org or see the individual program sites for any registration and program needs. Parents will be asked to update information on relevant forms when necessary.
6.5 ENROLLMENT/ ACCEPTANCE PROCESS

1. Parent/Guardian MUST complete an application for programming
2. Student and family undergo acceptance review.
3. Determination letter sent to the email address on student application.
4. Parent/Guardian and student MUST attend Mandatory orientation
5. Program Start!

A child with Disabilities - Big Ideas Educational Services policy is to accept all children with disabilities.

7.0 CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is bias-free and developmentally based, focusing on the individual child's social, emotional and intellectual needs.

Our programs are designed to instill in your child a lifelong love of learning and discovery. Please see the individual program sites for activities provided.

*Program hours vary depending on location/site.

8.0 THE PARENT ROOM

Parents’ Right to Access
Parents have the right to access the program during the hours of operation. Please keep in mind that if you arrive in the middle of an activity, it may disrupt the children’s rhythm and cause them to lose focus. If you have to pick up your child early, please call in advance to see what time would be least disruptive.

Parent Orientation
All parents and/or guardians of students enrolled in the After-School Program receive a Parent Handbook and are provided with an orientation at the enrollment session.

Parent/ Staff Communication
Parent-Staff Conversation: Parents and Staff need to communicate! Please feel free to talk to the staff members at the site. You may also request a call back or a note of response.

Parents are required to sign their child out daily. This is a good time to share a few words with the staff or to arrange a later time to talk. Parent-Staff Conferences are scheduled upon request.

Parent Bulletin Board
A bulletin board is available with announcements for you to view and read. Please take the time to scan the parent board regularly to keep informed of the activities, happenings, and/or general announcements. Look for the Parent Night and other special events involving your child!

Parent Involvement
Parent involvement is MANDATORY. Parents (or family representatives) are expected to attend ALL engagement activities scheduled.
Please let our Program Managers know if you would like to be involved in the after school program in some way. You may want to volunteer your time working with some children in learning a specific skill in which you have expertise. Some programs include field trips, and we are always in need of additional adults to ensure the safety and supervision of our children while offsite. This is your opportunity to give your input for the benefit of all children and parents.

**Program Evaluations**

Parents will be given the opportunity twice a year to evaluate the program. (For Summer Programs, this is provided the last week of program). It is done in the form of a survey. Parents will be notified when it is that time of the year. This is very important to us, since you can help shape our programming for the benefit of all. Please take the time to fill it out when it is received.

**9.0 ABSENCES ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE POLICY**

Big Ideas Educational Services operates Monday – Friday 2:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. for the after school program and 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for the summer program.

Big Ideas view attendance as a student and family responsibility. Regular attendance is expected of all students and is a necessary factor in achieving success.

Absences are excusable for illness, recovery from an accident, required court attendance, professional appointments, death in the family, observation or celebration of a religious holiday, and such other good causes, considered acceptable by Big Ideas.

Excessive absence is defined as 5 or more days absent (excused or unexcused) in one calendar month.

At 3 days absent, parents will receive a telephone call notifying them of the total days absent. The site manager will discuss with the parents to determine the circumstances surrounding the absences and determine if further action is necessary.

At 5 days absent, parents will receive a letter indicating the total days absent. The parent and/or guardian must submit a written statement explaining the reason for the absences. The site manager and program director will determine to either meet with the school to seek an alternate remedy or discharge the student from the program.

All students attending the After School Program will be expected to report to the staff person on duty and sign in. Student Participants will be signed in by a Big Ideas Representative. If a child does NOT sign in with a staff member, the Site Manager will be obliged to verify that child’s whereabouts by contacting the host (school) office and/or the parent.

Big Ideas Educational Services operates Monday – Friday 8:00am -4:00 p.m. for the summer camp program.

All students attending the summer Program MUST be signed in and out by a parent/guardian. If a child is NOT signed in/out, the site supervisor will be obliged to contact the parent/guardian to return and sign the student in/out. If parent/guardian fails to sign a student in/out on three or more occasions, services will be terminated due to failure to comply with program policies.

At the end of the day, we will only release students to those individuals who are registered on their student card. Authorized individuals are adults who are at least 18 years of age. Please make sure that any of the adults you have listed on the Student Card understand that they must produce a photo ID with a matching name. **Please do not be upset if we do not immediately recognize you. This policy is designed ensure the safety and welfare of your child!**

You are also kindly requested to update the Student Card when a person needs to be added or removed. Once again, your cooperation with us will make sure that your child is being handed over to the person you want.
Late Pick Up Fees
A late fee may be applied for pick up after the scheduled time. Notification is posted at the program site. Payments are due at the time of pickup.

NB: The cost of a staff person to look after your child after the program has finished for the day must be covered by the parent. We kindly request that parents cooperate with us on paying any late fees immediately on arrival at the program site.

Late Pickup/No Show Procedures
In the event children are being picked up late, a designated staff member will remain with children until pickup by an adult that is authorized for student pickup. This designated staff member will also do the following:

1. Contact parent or guardian at home, on his/her cellular phone or at work.
2. Contact persons that are listed on emergency contact information.
3. Contact supervisor to inform him/her that children are being supervised at the site after program hours.
4. Contact local authorities.

10.0 TRANSPORTATION
Our programs do not provide transportation to/from the program site.

Where transportation is provided, this will normally be from the school that your child is attending. You will be required to sign a release form, permitting your child to be picked up by our van.

In the summer, we include field trips so that your child will have the opportunity to enjoy cultural and educational enrichment outside the immediate neighborhood. We follow strict safety guidelines when transporting children, and count on your cooperation to make sure that your child is behaving appropriately during the trip. If they show inappropriate behavior during bus travel or the field trip, we will use the following procedures:

(1) Children will receive two verbal warnings for not adhering to the rules when traveling on the bus.

(2) After the third incident the parent will be given an incident report.

(3) After the parent has been informed, should the unacceptable behavior continue a period of exclusion from field trips will be implemented and the parent will be obliged to pick up the child at time of departure.

11.0 HEALTH
You are the best judge of your child’s health, and we trust you will not allow your child to come to the program sick; however, if in the opinion of the staff your child’s condition worsens, we will call you to come and pick up your child. Each site has a staff member who has been certified in First Aid and can recognize the signs of a communicable disease and other illness. The following criteria will be considered in determining if your child must go home:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more
- Inflammation of the eye
If your child is sent home due to illness, he/she cannot return to the program until he/she has been free from symptoms for 24 hours. This is to allow your child ample time to recover and to prevent the spread of illness to the other children.

It is your responsibility to notify the site staff if your child has a communicable disease such as: measles, mumps, chicken pox, head lice, etc. A doctor’s note is required for your child to return to the program. A child may be readmitted without a statement from a physician only if the child has been absent for a period of time equal to the longest incubation period of the disease as specified by the Department of Health and Social Services.

**Acute Illness or Injury:**
If a child or staff becomes acutely ill, he/she will be separated from the other children and allowed to rest. Once settled in a separate area, vomit or other bodily fluids will be cleaned. The child’s parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick up the child as soon as possible. If the parent is not available, the child’s emergency contact will be notified.

If a child requires medical treatment, 911 will be called. If the injured or ill child requires transportation to a medical facility, an effort will be made to contact the parent before the child leaves the facility. However, the health of the child is the primary concern. Parents will be notified of all injuries happening on site. They will be informed of any first aid administered to their child. An Incident Report will describe the circumstances. The parent will be required to sign the Incident Report, confirming that information has been provided.

**Hand Washing**
Frequent hand washing with soap and running water is necessary to prevent the spread of disease. Children and adults need to wash their hands before preparing or eating snack, after water play, after handling any types of animals, toileting, coughing, and wiping noses. Set a good example and teach children how to clean their hands.

**Medication**
No medication of any kind will be administered by staff.

**Incident and Behavior reports**
If a child has an injury or incident during program hours, he/she will be separated from the other children and allowed to rest. Once settled in a separate area. The child’s parent(s) will be contacted. An Incident or behavior report will be provided to the parent/guardian or authorized person picking up the child during the program dismissal time.

**Emergency Procedures**
We have regular fire and disaster drills at each site. We urge each family to plan what you will do if a disaster strikes during the program hours. The children are taught to listen to the site staff members for directions. We will assemble and count everyone and give aid and comfort as needed. We will stay with your child until you or someone listed on his/her emergency contact form can get there. We have stored emergency equipment at each site. Each site is provided with a Certified First Aid and CPR trained staff member.

**Snacks**
We provide a healthy afternoon snack consisting of two components from the USDA food groups daily. Water is always accessible for the children. Tables will be sanitized before and after food is prepared. Snacks will be served to the children by our staff once they are seated
at the table. You are welcome to provide your own snacks. We encourage you to give your child healthy snacks as opposed to those with sugar or fat content.

**Personal Items**
No personal items on effect, i.e. jewelry, handheld games, CD’s, CD players/radios, electronic items, weapons, toys, etc… are allowed at the site. Big Ideas Educational Services, Inc. is not responsible for any stolen or lost items.

### 12.0 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

#### Emergencies (Severe Weather, Building Evacuations, Lockdowns)

The facility where the program is located may be subject to any of the following natural disasters and emergencies:

1. Severe Weather (tornado, severe thunderstorm, flooding, etc)
2. Technological Disaster (e.g. HAZMAT spill, power outage):
3. Security Emergencies or Disasters: (e.g. intruder, assault, shooting, suicidal attempt, weapons discovery, criminal/police activity in the neighborhood)

When there is inclement weather, please stay tuned to the local media for updates such as the local authorities’ enacting a state of emergency. Where our program takes place at school sites, you should also check the media and the school district website for any updates on school closings. Big Ideas will use the phone tree to contact all personnel in the event that we determine that the program has to be cancelled. Electronic devices will be prohibited from being used during a thunderstorm.

In cases of emergencies while the program is taking place, Big Ideas Educational Services will implement the following lockdown procedures in order to maintain a safe environment.

1. Site Supervisor (or designee) will announce the “Lockdown” notification procedure.
2. Site Supervisor (or designee) will contact the local law enforcement authorities
3. Site Supervisor (or designee) the 9-1-1 operator of any reported, and or known casualties.
4. The Site Supervisor will notify the District Coordinator once the police have been notified.
5. The Site Supervisor will not allow the dismissal of any students upon notification of a “Lockdown” alert.
6. All Staff and students located in open areas will immediately report to the nearest secured area.
7. Staff members will direct students in an orderly and controlled fashion to the nearest secured area. Staff members should take attendance in order to properly account for every child. In the event a student a missing from the designated group, notification will be made immediately to the Site Supervisor.

Parents/caregivers will be notified if it becomes necessary for you to pick up your child. We will designate a location for reunification of students with authorized adults. Release of students will take place, using the same procedure for regular student pick up.

### 13.0 DISCIPLINE POLICY

At Big Ideas Educational Services, we view discipline not as a means of punishing a child who has acted inappropriately, but rather as a means of teaching a child. Positive discipline teaches children where the limits are set, how to maintain control over their bodies, and how to problem solve in the event of conflict.

Discipline is most effective when it follows logical consequences. The consequences for behavior have to make sense to the child. If a child is playing on the playground and walks up the slide backwards, it is logical to tell the child that it is not safe to walk up the slide
backwards. But let’s not leave it at that. At Big Ideas Educational Services, we would get the child involved in a discussion about what could happen if the child were to fall off the slide. We consider this type of situation a teachable moment. We lead by example, and the children’s safety is very important to our organization.

Since the purpose of discipline is to teach, more verbal children should be encouraged to talk to their peers when conflict arises. This helps children to empathize with one another’s feelings and really see the results of their actions.

Limiting a child’s choices of activities due to inappropriate behavior is an effective means we use to teach children to respect property and one another. (i.e. A child who is stepping on the board games should be warned that he/she will be asked to find something else to do if he/she does it again, because stepping on the board games could break them.)

Separation of children may become necessary in the case of two or more children having extreme difficulty working or playing together without conflict. The employee will assign appropriate work and play areas for the children, with the message that they may try to get together at a later time if they do well on their own. The use of the time apart shall be very limited. A time-apart approach is an opportunity for a child who is out of control and at risk of harming himself or others to calm down and gain control once again. A time apart shall never be demeaning (forcing a child to sit in a corner or put his/her head on the table). Again, it is an opportunity to gain control over oneself so that the child and adult can discuss the situation and a more appropriate action can be taken.

When talking to the children about their behavior, we allow them input on what they feel is an appropriate consequence for their action. This works especially well as children get older. One may be surprised at how a child responds to this approach. If their suggestions are inappropriate, then we make the decision ourselves as to what the consequence should be. It is our belief that the child stands to gain the most if he/she makes retribution on his/her own terms.

Inappropriate behavior shall be viewed as exactly that. Children shall NEVER be referred to as naughty or bad. We always address the behavior as a problem, not the child. Whenever possible, we give children a choice. We try to let them own their own actions by choosing what they do. An employee is expected to show respect to the children at all times and is also expected to give unconditional acceptance of the child as a good person trying his or her best to learn about life.

**Discipline and Guidance**

At Big Ideas Educational Services, the term guidance is used for several reasons. It is a positive term and implies working with the child to develop internal control of his/her behavior. Our goal is to encourage the children to become creative, independent, responsible, and socially mature human beings. This involves learning to make responsible choices and accepting the consequences of such choices.

Guidance takes several forms:

- **Environment**- A place designed to meet the needs of children.

- **Logical Rules**- Such as keeping our hands to ourselves, and taking care of the learning environment. These are discussed with the children, as well as why such rules are needed.

- **Curriculum**- Is developmentally appropriate, based on the children’s interest and level of readiness.

- **Positive Behavior**- We reinforce the behaviors we encourage. Catch them being “good!”

- **Redirection**- Often interesting a child in another activity can eliminate a potential difficulty. We might ask a child to help us or send them to a different area to play.

- **Positive Reminder**- Telling the child what we want them to do, rather than using “no or don’t”.

- **Renewal Time**- Occasionally a child needs to be removed from the situation for a brief time allowing them to consider alternate behaviors.
Any on-going situations will be discussed with the parents to ensure a cooperative approach. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns.

NOTE: No corporal punishment will be allowed. This is defined as the use of negative physical touching. (spanking, slapping, pinching, etc.) No unusual punishment will be allowed, such as humiliation, ridicule, threat, or coercion.

**Chronic Disruptive Behavior**

We will make every effort to work with the parents of children having difficulties in the program. We are here to serve and protect all of our children, though children displaying chronic disruptive behavior which has been determined to be upsetting to the physical or emotional well being of another child may require the following actions:

- **Initial Consultation** - The program coordinator may require the parent(s) of any child who attends the program to meet for a conference after five written behavior forms have been completed. The problem will be defined on paper. Goals will be established, and the parent will have the option to be involved in creating approaches toward solving the problem.

- **Second Consultation** - If the initial plan for helping the child fails, the parent(s) will again be required to meet with the program coordinator. Another attempt will be made to identify the problem, outline new approaches to the problem, and discuss the consequences if progress is not apparent.

- **Suspension** - When the previous attempts have been followed and no progress has been made towards solving the problem, the child may be suspended from the program indefinitely. The administrative staff may immediately suspend a child at any time he/she exhibits a behavior which is harmful to himself/herself or others. A parent may be called from work at any time the child exhibits uncontrollable behavior that cannot be modified by the program staff. That parent may be asked to take the child home immediately. Suspension from the program may vary from a few hours to an indefinite period.

- We at Big Ideas Educational Services, Inc. reserve the right to dismiss a participant at any time due to an extremely disruptive episode, which is deemed as a verbal or physical threat to the participant, other participants, or Big Ideas Educational Services staff.

**Discharge Policy**

Big Ideas Educational Services reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of a child for the following reasons:

- Excessive student absents, Early/late student pick-up

- Not observing the rules of the program as outlined in the parent agreement

- A child is enrolled in the program that has special needs which we cannot adequately meet with our current staffing pattern

- Physical and/or verbal abuse of staff or children by parent or child

**13.5 GRIEVANCE INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES**

Parents are asked to follow a chain of command when conflicts arise.

- The first step is to discuss it in conference with the Site Manager of the school.

- If the problem is not resolved as a result of the conference with the Site Manager, the parent and student may appeal to the Program Director.
If the problem is still unresolved, it may be appealed to the Company’s Operations Manager.

If no resolution is reached at the Operations level, the final appeal in the complaint procedure is submitted to the program’s partnering school’s principal. A written appeal must be submitted to the school principal.

Upon receipt of the written appeal, the matter will be placed for a conference on a mutually agreeable date.

14.0 HOLIDAYS

The following holidays will be observed and the program will be closed:

- New Year’s Day
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- President’s Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veteran’s Day
- Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Break

15.0 CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Staff members are required by law to report any suspected child abuse or neglect.