CREATING A NURTURING ATMOSPHERE

School Age Child Care-Parent Handbook
The Gateway Family YMCA
Rahway Branch
Welcome to the School Age Child Care Program
The Gateway Family YMCA, Rahway Branch welcomes you and your family to the program. Our program allows children a fun place to go before and after school, and is designed to meet the needs of today’s working parents. Children will be involved in age appropriate activities, and led by dedicated staff. We believe all children deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve.

Staff
Our staff members selected based on their previous experience, education, and desire to work with children. Each site has a Site Supervisor who is at least 21 years of age, has at least two years of child care experience and is certified in CPR and First Aid. All staff, as a condition of employment, must successfully complete a state criminal background check, pre-employment drug screening, and reference checks prior to being hired. Staff must also attend extensive training that includes child abuse prevention, CPR/First Aid, safety procedures and activity planning.

Hours
Before Care: 7:00am- School Start
After Care: School Dismissal- 6:30pm

DROP OFF AND PICK – UP OF CHILDREN
When dropping off a child, never leave him/her unattended. The State of New Jersey requires parents to bring a child into school or YMCA and sign the parent “Sign-in Book.” Children cannot be released to siblings unless the sibling is at least 18 years of age. Children are not allowed to walk home and the YMCA staff may not transport children in their cars.

Written notice must be given if a child is to leave with someone other than the parents or those listed on the authorization section of the Registration Form. In the event of an emergency, parents may fax signed permission for someone else other than themselves or authorized adult to pick up a child to the School Age Child Care Director. Please tell the person picking up your child that they must provide photo identification to the staff before the child will be released.
If the parent or person authorized to pick up the child appears to be physically, mentally, or emotionally impaired to the extent that the welfare of the child is in danger;

- The child will not be released.
- Staff members will try to contact alternate persons authorized for pick-up.
- If staff is unable to make alternate arrangements, a staff member will call the Division of Youth and Family Services’ 24 hour Child Abuse Hotline to seek assistance in caring for the child.

**Tuition**
All payments are due by the 5th of each month. Payments can be made by monthly bank draft, cash, and check, Visa, Master Card, Discover or American Express. Payments received after the 5th of the month are subject to a $25 late fee. Any returned check or bank draft is subject to a $25 fee. For your convenience, payments can be made online.

Checks should be made payable to The Gateway Family YMCA and should include the child’s name and/or Member ID #.

*Important:* Before and After Care tuition fees are based on the number of school days, broken down to ten equal monthly (September-June) payments. The fee is not based on the number of calendar days per month, and no pro-rating of fees due to holidays, half days, and personal days is allowed. The only exception is if you enroll after the 15th of the month, tuition will be prorated for half the monthly fee.

**Deposits**

**All children will be required to provide a deposit upon registration.** The $50 deposit will be held until your child leaves our program, and will be utilized towards their final child care statement. Children receiving a subsidy with a parent co-pay will be required to leave a $25 deposit upon registration. Children registering after 8/31/19 will also be required to pay for the first month upon registration.

**Registration**
There is a one-time registration fee per family for processing new children into the program of $25.00.
**Membership**

Register your child by 6/30/19 for 5 days/week school age child care, paying via bank draft and we will be happy to provide a Complimentary Youth Membership for the 2019-2020 school year. To remain eligible for this option, your child must continue to attend 5 days/week school age child care and pay via bank draft. Family Membership upgrade options are available for your family.

Children registered 7/1/19 or later will be required to purchase a membership prior to registration. A valid membership is required for participation in our school age child care program.

If your child will no longer attend school age child care, we would love to discuss our membership options with you. Visit any branch for more information.

**Changes and Withdrawals**

All changes and withdrawals in care, must be submitted to the Director in writing. For parents wishing to decrease their current days of care, please be advised, change (including pricing and days of care) will not go into effect until the 1st of the following month.

To withdraw your child from the program, 30 days written notice is required and must be submitted to the Director. You will be charged tuition each month unless 30 days written notice is submitted to the Director prior to leaving the program. If you are enrolled in automatic bank draft, 30 days written notice is still required prior to leaving the program and you will be drafted accordingly.

**School Closings**

*(Includes, but not limited to Inclement Weather, Emergency Closings, etc.)*

- If a school is closed for the day due to weather, there will be NO Before Care or After Care.
- If a school has a delayed opening, there will be NO Before Care at that site.
- If a school closes early due to inclement weather, there will be NO After Care at that site.
- **There are no refunds or credits for inclement weather or other emergency closings.**
Vacation Day
Bring your kids to the Y during scheduled days off from school for a fun-filled day at our vacation day program, designed to keep children active and having fun throughout the day from 7:30am-6:30pm. Our experienced and caring staff will provide a variety activities in a safe environment, including gym time, arts & crafts, sports and much more! Open to all school-age children.

*Please register early, a minimum enrollment of 8 children is required.

Half Days
There will be After Care at the school sites when there is an early dismissal. *Half Day Hours: School Dismissal-6:30pm*

Health
The State Department of Licensing requires that each child have a medical form completed by a physician yearly and submitted prior to admission.

A child cannot be sent to the before or After Care Program if they have any of the illnesses, symptoms of illness or diseases specified below. Such illnesses or symptoms of illness shall include, but not be limited to any of the following:

- Severe pain or discomfort.
- Acute diarrhea, characterized as twice the child’s usual frequency of bowel movements with a change to a looser consistency within a period of 24 hours, or bloody diarrhea.
- Two or more episodes of acute vomiting within a period of 24 hours.
- Elevated oral temperature of 101.5 degrees or over in conjunction with behavior changes.
- Sore throat or severe coughing.
- Yellow eyes or jaundiced skin.
- Skin rashes lasting more than one day.
- All communicable diseases.

*No medicine is to be administered by YMCA Staff Members.*

Included on the registration form is a section titled “Permission for Emergency Medical Treatment.” It is imperative that this area be signed so that in the event of an emergency situation we can obtain medical treatment for your child.
GUIDELINES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If a child exhibits any of the following symptoms, the child should not attend the center. If such symptoms occur at the center, the child will be removed from the group, and parents will be called to take the child home.

Severe pain or discomfort
Acute diarrhea
Episodes of acute vomiting
Elevated oral temperature of 101.5 Degrees
Lethargy
Severe coughing
Yellow eyes or jaundice skin
Red eyes with discharge
Infected, untreated skin patches
Difficult or rapid breathing
Skin rashes in conjunction with fever or behavior changes
Skin lesions that are weeping or bleeding
Mouth sores with drooling
Stiff neck

Once the child is symptom-free, or has health care provider’s note stating that the child no longer poses a serious health risk to himself/herself or others, the child may return to the center.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The following provisions relate to excludable communicable diseases. The center shall not permit a child or staff member with an excludable communicable disease, as specified in the table below, to be admitted to or remain at the child care center until a note from the child’s or staff member’s licensed physician states that the child or staff member, respectively, has been diagnosed and presents no risk to himself, herself or to others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respiratory Illnesses</th>
<th>Gastrointestinal Illnesses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact Illnesses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Pox**</td>
<td>Campylobacter*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impetigo</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>German measles*</td>
<td>Escherichia coli*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lice</td>
<td>Giardia Lamblia*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scabies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Measles*</td>
<td>Hepatitis A*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meningococcus*</td>
<td>Salmonella*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mumps*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Strep Throat</td>
<td>Shigella*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Whooping Cough*</td>
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</table>
Reportable diseases will be reported to the health department by the center.

**Note: If a child contracts chicken pox, a health care provider’s note **is not **required** for re-admitting the child to the center. A note from the parent **is required** stating either that at least six days has elapsed since the onset of the rash, or that all sores have dried and crusted.

**Program Format**
The following is a sample of our daily program schedule. Please note, each site will participate in these activities, but there may be a variance of times and special events.

**Before Care**
Children will have the opportunity to participate in activity stations that include: arts and crafts, board games, group games, gym activities, and outdoor games.

**After Care**
3:00pm  Arrival. Attendance. Bathroom break.
         (Actual arrival time is based on school dismissal time).
3:15pm  Healthy Snack
3:45pm  Homework or Quiet Activity
4:45pm  Healthy U/ CATCH
5:30pm  Afternoon Activities
         (Organized sports, games, recreational activities, arts & crafts, etc.)

**Attendance**
Site staff will verify that all the children who are scheduled to attend are present. Parents are required to notify the School Age Child Care Department if their child will be absent.

**Snack (After Care)**
A light healthy snack will be provided daily. The snack may consist of crackers, granola bars, nutrigrain bars, pretzels, apple sauce, etc. All daily snacks will include one half-cup serving of a **fruit and vegetable** as selected by the Y. You are welcome to send your child with an extra snack in case they do not want what is served. **Water** will be served and accessible at all times and will be the main choice of beverage. If milk is served it will be either as 1% or fat free. If a juice is served it will only be 100% fruit juice and limited to one eight-ounce serving per child. Snacks will be served Family Style as youth will serve themselves from common bowls and
determine their own portion size(s). **Fried food(s) and sugar sweetened beverages** will not be an option or served and not allowed by both staff and youth participants. This includes at any/all special events (birthday celebrations, holidays, etc.).

**Homework/Quiet Time**
Time is set aside each day (except Friday) to allow children to work on homework. During this time, children need to be working on homework or some other quiet activity such as reading. If you do not want your child to do homework during the program, please let the staff know and send a book or quiet activity for them to work on. **Staff will not check backpacks or homework folders if children say they do not have homework. Staff will offer assistance as needed, but they cannot provide constant one-on-one help or supervision.**

**Group Activities**
Each day there are staff directed group activities. Active games, quiet games, craft projects, and special events are all possibilities. All children are strongly encouraged to participate in group activities. Children also have time set aside to participate in activities of their choice. This includes indoor, outdoor or gym play, socializing with friends, board games, etc. Staff will not use television or movies within group activities. Other digital devices (cell phones, lap tops, etc.) may be used during homework and/or CATCH activities only as needed and for no longer than one hour daily.

**Monthly Calendars**
Each site will post a monthly calendar of events on the parent board. This calendar will include: arts and crafts projects, Healthy U/CATCH activities, special events, school closings, etc.

**Lost and Found/ Personal Items**
Each site will have a lost and found area in their cabinet. Please check with the staff if your child is missing something. Toys, electronic devices, or other non-school, personal items are not allowed at the program.

*The Gateway Family YMCA, Rahway Branch, is not responsible for lost or stolen items.*

*Note: The contents of the lost and found will be discarded or donated to charity at the end of each month*
Child Release Policy
Each child may be released only to the child’s custodial parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the custodial parent(s) to pick-up and sign-out. Authorized person(s) must be written on registration forms, and must have photo ID at pick-up. Staff Members will ask to see photo ID from any person(s) picking that they do not know.

If a non-custodial parent has been denied access to a child by a court order, documentation must be provided to the YMCA to maintain on file.

If the parent or person authorized to pick-up the child appears to be physically, mentally, or emotionally impaired to the extent that the welfare of the child is in danger:
- The child will not be released.
- Staff members will try to contact alternate persons authorized for pick-up.
- If staff is unable to make alternate arrangements, a staff member will call the Division of Youth and Family Services’ 24 hour Child Abuse Hotline to seek assistance in caring for the child.

Late Pick-Ups
There will be a charge for late pick-ups. The office will be notified each time a child is picked up after 6:30pm closing time. Parents are required to sign a “late pick-up” form for each occurrence.

You will be billed $1 per minute, and this fee will be added to your child’s account.

If a child is not picked up by the site’s closing time, the following procedures will be followed.
- Child will be supervised at all times by at least 2 staff members.
- Staff members will attempt to contact parent or persons authorized to pick-up child.
- If after 7pm the staff cannot contact anyone, the YMCA office will be contacted and DYFS, as well as the police to help supervise the child and locate an appropriate family member.
**Children’s Code of Conduct**

The Gateway Family YMCA, Five Points Branch, works hard to create a positive atmosphere with emphasis on the YMCA Four Core Values of Character Development: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. Proper participation and conduct by each child is expected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caring</th>
<th>Honesty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be considerate of each other’s feelings.</td>
<td>Tell the truth to your parents, YMCA staff, and other children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treat others as you would want to be treated.</td>
<td>Tell a staff member immediately if someone is making you feel uncomfortable; example: upsetting or bothering you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No bullying.</td>
<td>Ask a staff member if you need help.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Respect</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listen and follow directions.</td>
<td>Be responsible for your actions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use calm and appropriate language and tone of voice.</td>
<td>Clean up after yourself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep your hands and feet to yourself (No hitting, kicking, or fighting).</td>
<td>Tell a counselor if you feel sick.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use equipment correctly.</td>
<td>Tell a counselor if you are hurt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No touching other children’s belongings.</td>
<td>Do not bring toys, games, video games, trading cards or any other personal items that could get lost or damaged.</td>
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</table>

The School Age Child Care staff will notify parents at pick up if their child does not follow the code of conduct. The Gateway Family YMCA, Five Points Branch, will use the following procedure:

1. Participant receives a **verbal warning**. Staff and child discuss the incident together, to ensure the child understands acceptable behavior. Staff will notify parents at pick-up in reference to the incident.
2. Participant receives another verbal warning, as well as a **written** follow up letter sent home. Parents are notified at pick-up. Letters will become part of the child’s file.
3. If another incident occurs, child may be **suspended** for one to three days. Before or within three days of returning to the program, parents, child, staff, and Director must meet regarding the incident and a behavior plan.
4. If behavior continues, child will be suspended for up to one week.
5. Continuance of the behavior will result in **termination** of the program for the remainder of the school year.

**Note:** Any action endangering one’s self or other participants will result in **immediate parent pick-up and an automatic one day suspension.** For the safety of the children and staff, School Age Child Care practices Zero Tolerance for any incident involving a weapon. Any Zero Tolerance violation will result in immediate expulsion from the program and the school principal will be alerted. All suspensions will be determined by the School Age Child Care Director, based on the severity of the incident.
Parent Responsibilities

- Parents are required to sign their child in each morning and out each evening. Any notes or information from the staff will be available at this time.
- It is very important that you notify the YMCA if your child will be absent.
- Before Care begins at 7:00am. Children are not permitted to be dropped off early.
- After Care ends promptly at 6:30pm. Children present after this time will be charged a late fee of $1 per minute. Please arrive on time.
- Ensure that all addresses, phone numbers, and emergency care numbers are up to date.
- Provide any information to the Director regarding concerns that your child may be experiencing.
- Homework: please notify staff if you would like your child to complete their homework at After Care or not. Staff will help children with homework, but it is the parent’s responsibility to review and check all work.

POLICY ON PARENT COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Parents, parent volunteers, and/or observations are always welcomed at our Y. There is an open door policy and parents may call with any questions. Parent meetings may be scheduled throughout the year. We also encourage parents to share their ideas and concerns with us at any time. Correspondence is generally in the form of verbal conversations in at the program or by phone. Special events, school closings and other program notifications may also be shared via email. Please remember: our doors are always open to you!

Parent Behavior

In the event that a situation develops where a family is considered difficult to deal with, the YMCA reserves the right to require the family to withdraw their child (ren) immediately without notice. Examples of “difficult to deal with” include, but are not limited to:

- Arriving to a site impaired and attempting to remove their children from the program.
- Being abusive to staff members and/or other program participants.
✓ Failing to adhere to YMCA policies listed in this parent handbook.

**DYFS Investigations**
Our center is legally required to cooperate with all Division of Youth and Family Services inspections and/or investigations. DYFS staff may interview staff members and children.

Anyone who has a reasonable cause to believe an enrolled child has been or is being subjected to any form of hitting, corporal punishment, abusive language, ridicule, harsh, humiliating or frightening treatment, or any other kind of child abuse, neglect or exploitation by an adult, whether working at the center or not, is required by state law to report the concern immediately to the Division of Youth and Family Services Office of Child Abuse Control, toll-free at (800) 792-8561, or to any District Office. Such reports may be made anonymously.

Parent may secure information about child abuse and neglect by contacting Community Education Office, Division of Youth and Family Services, CN 717, Trenton, NJ 08625.

*Information to be reported to the Division of Youth and Family Services*

**Verbally within 24 hours:**
- Injury or illness that results in the admittance to a hospital or death of a child.
- Occurrence of a reportable disease.
- Change in use by other occupants of a multi-use building in which center is located.
- Permanent closing of the center.
- Damage to premises of the center caused by fire, accident or the elements.
- Proposed use of emergency space including use of rooms not approved by local municipal officials or the Bureau.
- Any criminal conviction(s) or guilty plea(s) of the sponsors, director, or any staff member.

**Verbally within 3 working days:**
• Any change in information previously submitted to the Bureau on the application. The center must then complete an amended license application form and submit it within 30 calendar days of the change.

Licensing Requirements

There are documents we are required to have on file for each child prior to their beginning the program. Children cannot start the program if required documents are missing. These documents include: registration form, persons authorized to pick-up, emergency information, permission for emergency treatment, permission for field trips, current medical report completed by a doctor and record of immunizations. Due to state regulations, the required documents must be submitted yearly including the medical form completed by a physician.
Under provisions of the *Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (N.J.A.C. 3A:52)*, every licensed child care center in New Jersey must provide to parents of enrolled children written information on parent visitation rights, State licensing requirements, child abuse/neglect reporting requirements and other child care matters. The center must comply with this requirement by reproducing and distributing to parents and staff this written statement, prepared by the Office of Licensing, Child Care & Youth Residential Licensing, in the Department of Children and Families. In keeping with this requirement, the center must secure every parent and staff member’s signature attesting to his/her receipt of the information.

Our center is required by the State Child Care Center Licensing law to be licensed by the Office of Licensing (OOL), Child Care & Youth Residential Licensing, in the Department of Children and Families (DCF). A copy of our current license must be posted in a prominent location at our center. Look for it when you’re in the center.

To be licensed, our center must comply with the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers (the official licensing regulations). The regulations cover such areas as: physical environment/life-safety; staff qualifications, supervision, and staff/child ratios; program activities and equipment; health, food and nutrition; rest and sleep requirements; parent/community participation; administrative and record keeping requirements; and others.

Our center must have on the premises a copy of the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers and make it available to interested parents for review. If you would like to review our copy, just ask any staff member. Parents may view a copy of the Manual of Requirements on the DCF website at [http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/CCCmanual.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/CCCmanual.pdf) or obtain a copy by sending a check or money order for $5 made payable to the “Treasurer, State of New Jersey”, and mailing it to: NJDCF, Office of Licensing, Publication Fees, PO Box 657, Trenton, NJ 08646-0657.

We encourage parents to discuss with us any questions or concerns about the policies and program of the center or the meaning, application or alleged violations of the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers. We will be happy to arrange a convenient opportunity for you to review and discuss these matters with us. If you suspect our center may be in violation of licensing requirements, you are entitled to report them to the Office of Licensing toll free at 1 (877) 667-9845. Of course, we would appreciate your bringing these concerns to our attention, too.

Our center must have a policy concerning the release of children to parents or people authorized by parents to be responsible for the child. Please discuss with us your plans for your child’s departure from the center.

Our center must have a policy about administering medicine and health care procedures and the management of communicable diseases. Please talk to us about these policies so we can work together to keep our children healthy.
Our center must have a policy concerning the expulsion of children from enrollment at the center. Please review this policy so we can work together to keep your child in our center.

Parents are entitled to review the center’s copy of the OOL’s Inspection/Violation Reports on the center, which are available soon after every State licensing inspection of our center. If there is a licensing complaint investigation, you are also entitled to review the OOL’s Complaint Investigation Summary Report, as well as any letters of enforcement or other actions taken against the center during the current licensing period. Let us know if you wish to review them and we will make them available for your review or you can view them online at https://data.nj.gov/childcare_explorer.

Our center must cooperate with all DCF inspections/investigations. DCF staff may interview both staff members and children.

Our center must post its written statement of philosophy on child discipline in a prominent location and make a copy of it available to parents upon request. We encourage you to review it and to discuss with us any questions you may have about it.

Our center must post a listing or diagram of those rooms and areas approved by the OOL for the children’s use. Please talk to us if you have any questions about the center’s space.

Our center must offer parents of enrolled children ample opportunity to assist the center in complying with licensing requirements; and to participate in and observe the activities of the center. Parents wishing to participate in the activities or operations of the center should discuss their interest with the center director, who can advise them of what opportunities are available.

Parents of enrolled children may visit our center at any time without having to secure prior approval from the director or any staff member. Please feel free to do so when you can. We welcome visits from our parents.

Our center must inform parents in advance of every field trip, outing, or special event away from the center, and must obtain prior written consent from parents before taking a child on each such trip.

Our center is required to provide reasonable accommodations for children and/or parents with disabilities and to comply with the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD), P.L. 1945, c. 169 (N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), P.L. 101-336 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Anyone who believes the center is not in compliance with these laws may contact the Division on Civil Rights in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety for information about filing an LAD claim at (609) 292-4605 (TTY users may dial 711 to reach the New Jersey Relay Operator and ask for (609) 292-7701), or may contact the United States Department of Justice for information about filing an ADA claim at (800) 514-0301 (voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TTY).

Our center is required, at least annually, to review the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), unsafe children’s products list, ensure that items on the list are not at the center, and make the list accessible to staff and parents and/or provide parents with the CPSC website at...
https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls. Internet access may be available at your local library. For more information call the CPSC at (800) 638-2772.

Anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that an enrolled child has been or is being subjected to any form of hitting, corporal punishment, abusive language, ridicule, harsh, humiliating or frightening treatment, or any other kind of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation by any adult, whether working at the center or not, is required by State law to report the concern immediately to the State Central Registry Hotline, toll free at (877) NJ ABUSE/(877) 652-2873. Such reports may be made anonymously. Parents may secure information about child abuse and neglect by contacting: DCF, Office of Communications and Legislation at (609) 292-0422 or go to www.state.nj.us/dcf/.