

**Valley Kids Out of School Care**

**Parent Handbook**

Revised: July 2020

# Welcome to the Sundre Daycare Centre

The Valley Kids Out of School Care (VK or Valley Kids) is run by the Sundre Daycare Centre (SDC), a non-profit organization run by a Board of Directors. The SDC was established as a Society in May 2008. Valley Kids provides care for up to 40 children ages 4 to 12. We are in room 301 of River Valley School with our administrative office located in the Sundre Daycare Centre above Greenwood Neighbourhood Place.

We are pleased that you have chosen Valley Kids for your family’s school aged children childcare needs. It is our wish and purpose to facilitate learning through play for all children in our program. While your child is at VK, they will be cared for by a qualified team of child care staff.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with our Program Director who can clarify the issue or resolve the problem with you. We always welcome suggestions for improvements or changes to our programming and welcome parental involvement in any way possible. We want all our families to enjoy their time at VK!

**Important Contact Information**

Sundre Daycare Centre 403-636-1088

Website [www.sundredaycare.ca](http://www.sundredaycare.ca)

Email sundredaycare@gmail.com

Board of Directors sdcvkbod@gmail.com

After Hours Emergency 587-580-7442 (Leah, Program Director)

403-636-0638 (Rhonda, Assistant Program Director)

# Arrival & Departure

A parent or guardian is required to accompany their child into the centre and remain with them until they are accepted by a staff member (the only exception to this is when a child is coming into VK after school).

VK is not responsible for the welfare of a child who enters the centre unaccompanied. Children from grade 1 to 6 will be dismissed to the playground at 8:15 am each morning and are expected to be at our program as soon as they are dismissed from their final class at 3:05 p.m.. If a child has not arrived by 3:15 p.m., we look for them and will contact parent, the office, etc.

All Kindergarten children are escorted to their classroom in the morning and picked up from their class in the afternoon by one of our staff.

A parent or other authorized adult (as per registration form) of at least 18 years or older, must receive the child upon departure. If you request that an individual under the age of 18 be allowed to pick up the child, there is a consent form in the office that must be filled out and signed by the parent BEFORE the child can be released to anyone under the age of 18.

Staff are responsible to sign children in and out and if parents wish they can receive a copy of their charged hours with their invoice each month.

Please note that we have the right to refuse any individual, whether it is the legal parent or authorized person, to pick up any child if we feel that the child’s safety is at risk. Examples of this would be if the individual was under the influence of alcohol or drugs or if the child will not be properly secured in a vehicle.

# Cancellation Policy

VK requires that a parent give a dated notification (email or text) to the Program Director at least 48 hours in advance of cancelling or adjust hours of care. This will prevent financial penalty for hours booked.

# Change of Information

Parents must notify the centre immediately of any changes to name, address, phone number, emergency contact information or any other factors that may affect the child’s care. Parents will be asked to review this information up to twice a year to ensure accuracy.

# Consent Forms

**Field Trips**

Parents or guardians are required to sign a field trip consent form prior to the child’s participation in any trips off premises. Walking field trips will be covered under an ongoing consent form to be signed at the time of registration. These will allow us to bring the children to the neighbourhood parks, on nature walks and so on. Any time we will be transporting children by any means other than walking, we will require a special form to be signed.

**Photographing/Video Taping:**

We would like to capture some of your child’s great moments on film/digital device. For us to respect your requests, you will be required to complete a photo release form. Pictures will be used for a variety of purposes from art activities, to decorations at the centre, and for use on our website or social media pages.

# Emergency Evacuation and Fire Drill Procedures

Unannounced fire drills will take place monthly at various times during the day to ensure that all staff and children are familiar with the correct evacuation procedures. A Fire Safety Checklist is posted at the main entrance. The checklist is used to record dates and times of fire drills conducted. Fire inspections are conducted annually by the fire chief of the Sundre Fire Department or a designated alternate. All Fire extinguishers are inspected annually. Copies of the floor plan indicating the correct exit route(s) are posted in every room.

**Emergency Shelters**

Sundre Daycare Centre Sundre Arts Centre

1, 96 2 Ave NW 100, 2 Ave NW

Sundre, AB Sundre, AB

T0M 1X0 T0M 1X0

403-638-3939 403-638-4355

# Registration Policy

Registration into our program is open to any child. We will work with the families to discuss any accommodations that may be needed for the child and strive to find the resources necessary to meet these accommodations.

Parents will be required to complete a registration package for each child entering the program. All information must be completed prior to acceptance of the registration into VK. Parents are responsible to update their information as any changes occur to ensure that all information is kept current.

# Fundraising Policy

As VK is a non-profit organization, we require fundraising to supplement our operational budget. We require parent involvement with this portion of operations. We will be doing two mandatory fundraisers per year and sometimes an additional non-mandatory fundraiser. VK will indicate at the beginning of every fundraiser what the minimum participation requirements are. If a family decides that they are unable or unwilling to participate in the fundraiser or if they fail to meet the minimum requirements, a charge of $100 will be added to the family’s next invoice. Fundraising helps keep VK open and helps keep parent costs down.

For those families that are using VK for casual care only, the fundraising requirement will be waived. Casual care (in this instance) is defined as a family that average less than 20 hours of care per month over the period of the fundraiser.

# Grievances or Concerns

The Grievance Policy is an umbrella policy that covers all members of the SDC and VK community and provides a way for parents as well as community members to bring forward problems, complaints, or grievances. If you, as a parent, guardian or community member, have any concerns, we encourage you to discuss them with the Program Director.

Please note, we will not tolerate abusive or disrespectful behavior. We understand that you may be upset or disagree with us, but the only way that we can move forward and remedy the situation is if we correspond rationally and respectfully.

If your concern is not met satisfactorily, please contact:

Board of Directors: sdcvkbod@gmail.com

Or by mail:

 Sundre Daycare Centre Board of Directors

 Box 1498

 Sundre, AB

 T0M 1X0

If the Board of Directors is unable to resolve your concern, you may contact the regional licensing officer:

Central Alberta Child & Family Services Authority

Attn: Tammy Hawryszko

 3rd floor, 4826 Ross Street

 Red Deer, Alberta

T4N 1X4

Phone: 403-755-1483

# Child Guidance Policy

VK provides an environment where each child develops independence, where each child’s self-esteem is enhanced and where each child is encouraged to care for others. We want children to like themselves for who they are, to feel safe and confident and to experience successes every day. Therefore, we will not tolerate incidences of bullying within our program. If incidences of bullying do occur, we will do our best to help the child who is the aggressor to discover better ways to deal with their issues and frustrations. We will do this through open dialogue with the child and if necessary their family recommending alternative actions that the child could use. We may also recommend that the child speaks with a trained counselor to help them manage their aggression issues. Unfortunately, if incidents of bullying continue the child will be asked to leave our program.

Children are encouraged to always be respectful of the other children and staff. This is taught by the staff modeling positive behaviors such as not interrupting the child who is speaking as well as helping the children to learn strategies that support positive relationships.

Children will disagree with other children and adults. We want children to feel that what they feel, and desire is just as important as how everyone else feels. To help children resolve their conflicts we want them to learn to use open dialect and discuss these thoughts and feelings in a positive way. We will help children learn to calm themselves down and discuss what is bothering them.

VK will never use any form of physical punishment or neglect. We will not accept the use of any belittling or degrading statements. We do not condone withdrawing needs or comforts (food, clothing, shelter or security items) to modify behavior. VK will not remove or isolate a child from the group (i.e. time out) as punishment. We believe in using positive reinforcement of accepted behaviors to foster improvements.

# Hours of Operation

VK is open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We will be closed on the following holidays: New Year’s Day, Family Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, August Civic Holiday, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. **Please note:** we are also closed the week between Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. If there are any other closures or early shut down, we will give you as much notice as possible.

# Immunization

At VK, we understand that immunization is completely the parents’ choice. We will not refuse care if your child does not have all his/her immunizations. We must be aware of any immunizations that your child has not received, so we can take proper precautions to protect your child in the case of an outbreak. In the case of an outbreak or suspected outbreak, the affected child as well as any un-immunized children will be not allowed to attend VK until it is considered safe by Health Care Professionals. The return date of all children affected will be subject to approval by the Program Director.

# Late Pick up

The late pick up fee is $1.00 per minute past closing time without notice. The late pick up fee is to be paid to the staff member on duty when you pick up your child. If parents/caregivers are late more than three times, they may be asked to make other child care arrangements. If an emergency should occur, parents should notify the centre as soon as possible before closing time so we may be aware of the problem. If a parent/caregiver fails to pick up a child by closing time without making prior contact with the centre, the following actions will be taken:

* Staff will attempt to contact parent/guardian or alternate care contacts on authorized pick up list if parent cannot be reached.
* Program Director will make appropriate arrangements for the child and a message will be left with the RCMP stating where the child can be picked up.
* The centre will notify Child and Family services.

# Liability

VK shall not be liable for any illness, injury, disease or accident that may occur to any child while in the care of the centre. Also, the SDC shall not be liable for any loss or damage to the clothing or other personal belongs of the child.

# Licensing and Monitoring

VK is licensed and monitored by Central Alberta Child and Family services. Recent inspection reports are available for your review and are located on the Parent Board or by going online: [www.child.alberta.ca/home/childcarelookup.cfm](http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/childcarelookup.cfm).

# Meals

Fees at the VK include an afternoon snack. The afternoon snack will be nutritionally balanced and include two food groups. Parents are required to provide all other food, which includes morning snack and lunch, for their children. Food brought into the facility should be healthy. The SDC recommends that parents check the Health Canada website for healthy food suggestions. **Please note VK is a peanut free facility – please leave all nuts at home.**

# Medications

VK will administer medication to children in accordance with child care regulations. Parents are expected to provide the following:

* Written, signed authorization including dosage and times a drug is to be administered.
* Medication must be in its original container, clearly labeled with the child’s name, name of drug, dosage, date of purchase and instructions for storage and administration.

Medications will be stored in a locked container that is not accessible to any child. Medication that requires refrigeration will be stored in a locked container in the refrigerator.

If a child requires nonprescription medication it can be given but only if the product comes in its original container with strict instructions on when to give it and the amount to be given. Herbal medications will be administered following the above noted guidelines.

If, for whatever reason, you give your child medication of any form prior to them attending daycare, please let the staff know in writing when you drop your child off. This will ensure that in an emergency your child is cared for in the best possible way.

Emergency Medications (e.g. epi-pens, inhalers) will be in the child’s room on a shelf no less than 5ft in height.

# Notice of Termination

Families must provide at least two weeks’ notice when they withdraw their child. One month’s payment can be used in lieu of notice.

VK can terminate its services to a family under the following circumstances:

* If a family member harasses, threatens or commits a violent act towards staff, children, or other families in the program;
* If a family picks up their child late more than 3 times without notice;
* If fees are not paid in full and on time;
* If the centre is unable to satisfactorily resolve a problem/issue with a family;
* If a child is absent from the program without the parent advising the centre of the situation for an extended period (two weeks);
* If a child is unable to manage safely in a group of children and behavior is an issue and the family is unwilling to get proper support for the child (the centre will help in any way it can).

# Open Door Policy

Parents are welcome to drop in at any time during the day to see how their child is doing. There is no appointment necessary for this. However, we recommend that this is done discreetly as it can be upsetting to a child who sees their parent and then sees their parent walk away without them. If you wish to know how your child is doing, we recommend calling to speak with the staff member responsible for your child first and then if you feel it is necessary come in and observe.

Prior to enrollment into either of our programs we recommend that you visit at least once without making an appointment as this will guarantee that you are able to observe how the program operates daily. If you wish to observe at Valley Kids, we recommend that you do it after 3:30 p.m. on a school day or anytime on a non-school day. Please remember that we often travel (field trips) on non-school days so you may want to check with our Director to see if there is an event scheduled for that day.

# Orientation Policy

We encourage all parents to view our website and read through our parent handbook before completing a registration form. We also encourage them to drop by our program with their child to ensure a proper fit. This can be done without an appointment although if you require to speak with the Program Director it is strongly recommended that an appointment is made.

Prior to commencement of care, we require that you provide us with a completed registration package (Registration Form and Parent Sign-Off). We offer one hour of free child care once your child is registered into the program. This is our way of allowing you to try us out and make sure this is what works for you. To access this, you must pre-book your child so that we can ensure that there is adequate staff on hand for your child to be there as well as ensuring that we know to expect your child.

# Parent Feedback

We believe that you, the parent, know your child the best; therefore, we encourage and appreciate your feedback and ideas on what you like, what you want to see more of and what you don’t like. These comments and suggestions are what make our program truly exceptional! You can let us know your thoughts in a number of ways: speak with any of our staff; email us at sundredaycare@gmail.com; attend a board meeting; email our board at sdcvkbod@gmail.com; or join our Board. We also occasionally send anonymous surveys via email. These surveys help us to evaluate our programs and staff.

# Parent Involvement & Volunteer Policy

Parent involvement is strongly encouraged and appreciated. Parents are encouraged to share their knowledge, culture and skills with the program and children in any way they feel comfortable. We encourage any interested parents to join our Board of Directors. If you have something you would like to share with the children, please let any of the staff know. To volunteer with our program, you must provide us with a current Criminal Record Check (less than 6 months), Vulnerable Sector Check, as well as a copy of your First Aid certification if you have one.

# Partnership Policy

As a community run facility, we actively seek and encourage partnerships with various service groups, businesses and other organizations within our community. These partnerships are what ensure our programs are what our community want and need. These partnerships can be seeked out by any member of our staff or any member of the Board, but the details of what these partnerships involve and what information is to be shared must be approved by BOTH the Program Director and the Executives of the Board of Directors to ensure that the best interest of the Program and the children in our care are being met. No child/family information is shared with those outside our program without prior written consent from those involved.

# Personal Belongings

Please label all personal belongings that come to VK. Children must come appropriately dressed for the changing weather conditions, as we strive to have outdoor time every day. Children are required to wear indoor footwear while at VK; these can be clean shoes or slippers worn indoors only.

If a child brings their own toys to VK, please label them prior to arriving. We are not liable for any lost toys.

# Privacy Policy

It is necessary for VK to obtain personal information from families to properly run our program. Information required will be obtained via a registration form prior to the commencement of care. The VKOSC is committed to the appropriate and responsible use of all such information. Each child’s file is kept secured in a locked cabinet within a private office. Following a child’s withdrawal from the program, their information will be kept, locked and secured for up to ten years at which time it will be destroyed. No personal information will be shared without prior written consent. The only exception is in the case of an emergency where required information may be released to the authorities (RCMP, hospital, paramedics, Child Protection Services, etc.) without prior permission.

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# Program Fees & Invoicing

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| --- | --- |
| Hourly | $7 per hour (hours must be pre-booked to ensure availability) |
| Daily (up to 8 hours) | $45 |
| Weekly (July – Aug) | $200 per week  |
| Monthly  | $310 (Sept – June) $750 (July – Aug) 100-125 hours; $50 per additional 25 hour block |

**Please Note: An NSF charge of $20 will be applied to all returned cheques.**

**Bookings / Invoicing / Payment Policy**

* All customers must be on a prebill system.
* Bookings for the next month need to be in to the daycare by the last day of the current month (i.e. April’s bookings are due by March 31). If you cancel within the cancelation policy, your actual charges will be adjusted based on actual usage.
* If your bookings are not in on time, we will create them based on your average booking (i.e. February and March, you used Monday – Friday 8-5 that is what we will enter for April and it will be your responsibility to cancel any unrequired care within the cancelation policy to avoid being charged).
* If customers have not received their invoice by the 9th, it will be their responsibility to send an email inquiry to sdcvkinvoicing@gmail.com.
* If customers have any questions or concerns regarding their invoice, they can email sdcvkinvoicing@gmail.com, however, rudeness and disrespect will not be tolerated. We all do our best to ensure accuracy but sometimes mistakes can happen. We will work as quickly as possible to resolve any issues.
* Payments are due by the 22nd.
* Overdue invoices are subject to a $25 late charge.
* Invoices 1-30 days overdue will receive a payment arrangement email outlining stricter repayment terms. Payment arrangement is to cover amounts outstanding, but customers still need to pay their current charges in addition to back charges.
* Customers with invoices over 30 days overdue, without an acceptable payment arrangement agreement will not be able to use the daycare.
* Customers over 60 days will go to collections.
* If you pay with cash at the SDC, please be sure to get a receipt. If staff cannot issue a receipt you will be asked to make your payment and a different time.

Payment by e-transfer’s must be sent to sdcvkinvoicing@gmail.com and the answer must be “daycare”. E-transfer’s sent to the wrong email address or with the wrong password will be returned and will be the customers responsibility to correct the errors and resend by the 22nd to avoid a late fee.

# Program Policy Review

From January to March of each year we will be reviewing all policies and procedures in our handbooks. To do this we will invite all staff, board members and parents to review our existing policies and procedures and offer any input they have on any of these items. All suggestions will be reviewed by the Board and at least one staff member and the necessary changes will be made. To facilitate these reviews all people involved will be offered a feedback form to be filled out and returned.

These reviews may happen more frequently or outside of this time frame if legislation changes or if research in Best Practices shows a different or possible better way of doing things. When changes are made to any policy or procedure, the necessary people will be notified via email and given the opportunity to offer any feedback they may have.

# Sick Child Policy

**In the best interest of your child and the health and safety of others, children cannot be at the centre if there is any question of illness. If a child is too ill to participate in activities or to play outside, they are expected to stay at home.** If a child arrives at VK with any of the following symptoms or these symptoms present through the day, they will be sent home:

* Temperature above 38.0°C (taken via a forehead thermometer);
* Vomiting;
* Two or more instances of diarrhea;
* Red, watery eyes with thick, yellowish discharge (conjunctivitis);
* Inability to participate, child complains of not feeling well or is unable to participate in daily activities with one other positive symptom;
* Persistent coughing that prevents them from participating OR causes loss of breath;
* Live lice on the scalp or nits attached to the hair shafts.

If your child becomes ill at VK, you will be notified to arrange immediate pick up. Children must be free from symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the aid of medication, before returning to VK. If they have a doctor’s clearance, they may return even if symptoms persist and if the child is well enough to participate in all activities.

If your child contracts a communicable disease, please notify VK immediately. Any child believed to be suffering from a communicable illness will require a parent or guardian to remove them from the premises immediately. Should staff see evidence of lice (e.g. child scratching head excessively), children may have their hair checked.

Should a child become seriously ill or injured, first aid will be administered and if necessary an ambulance will be called. If there is no parent available, a staff member will accompany the child in the ambulance and stay with them until a parent or other caregiver arrives.

# Subsidy

To those families that qualify, the Government of Alberta will provide subsidy for a portion of your child care fees. Parents are still required to pay their portion of the fee as per the Program Fees policy.

 Childcare Subsidy

 Box 1641

 Edmonton, AB T5J 2N9

 Email: hs.childcaresubsidy@gov.ab.ca

 Fax: 780-422-5692

 Phone: 1-877-644-9992

Forms and information on subsidy can be accessed at: <http://humanservices.alberta.ca/financial-support/15104.html> This link works best in Firefox or Internet Explorer. The Program Director can assist you with your application but is not responsible for completing or submitting any documentation unless there is an arrangement made to do so. It is the parents’ responsibility to keep their subsidy status current.

# Technology and Social Media Policy

Technology is a large part of our day to day life. We feel that while it can be worthwhile and educational, children do not always need to be using these items. Therefore, we enforce a 30-minute limit when using computers. This is enforced by the children being required to sign in to use the equipment. The signup sheet allows the child to write his/her own name and what they wish to use, the time they start and the time they are finished. The sheet is to be monitored by staff to ensure that it is completed and that the children obey the rules of use.

When using the internet, the children are to be monitored to be sure that they are not accessing inappropriate sites or activities. Social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as well as all chatrooms are strictly forbidden.

All electronic games are rated E and are also reviewed by the administration to ensure that they are appropriate for the children in our care.

Movies are allowed on special occasions such as PJ Day and sometimes we use them on the bus while travelling to or from our field trip destination.

DS, DSi, PSP, tablets, and all other handheld computers/gaming devices are not to be used during our regular VK days, but may be brought to occupy the child on the bus during a field trip.

Children and staff are discouraged from bringing in cell phones, iPods and MP3 players. We will allow them for entertainment on the bus during fieldtrips, but will not allow them into the classroom. VK is not responsible for loss or damage that may occur to these items. Staff cell phones must be left with personal belongings or in the Program Director’s office turned to silent or off so as to not be a distraction.

**Social Media:** Social Media is a large part of today’s society. We must ensure that the children within our program remain safe; therefore we do not allow children to log into any social media accounts while in our care. We believe that children’s actions on social media should be monitored by the child’s parent or guardian and is not something that the staff/administration is qualified to monitor. What we find OK may not be the same as what you find appropriate.

# Transportation

The SDC will not transport children off site by means other than walking without prior consent from a parent/guardian. A walking field trip consent form will be provided at registration. This form will allow children to go to such places as the playground, library and so on.

# Parent Sign-Off

I have read and understood the policies and procedures in the Sundre Daycare Centre Parent Handbook (February 2019 version) and agree to abide by them, including but not limited to: Guidance Policy, Cancellation Policy, Sick Child Policy, Fundraising Policy and Program Fees Policy.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Orientation Sign-Off

Myself and my child(ren) have been oriented into the daycare. This orientation included a tour of the centre, receiving this handbook and Registration form, and meeting the staff who will be caring for my child. I was also instructed on who to call with questions or concerns.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Orientation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Orientation conducted by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Free Orientation time completed on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Free Orientation time waived: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_