Children’s Programs

PARENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020

Foothills Park & Recreation District
Family Friendly Service

Our Mission
To create fun, enriching opportunities for youth and families in a safe and supportive environment.

We have a Commitment
To keep our commitment, we need your help throughout the year!

Help us stay in tune with your needs and interests:
• Tell us about your child’s special talents and strengths.
• Let us know when your child needs extra help or support.
• Keep us informed about any important changes so we can best serve you.
• Ask us questions if you do not understand our policies and procedures and make suggestions that will help us serve you better.
• Share with us your family and cultural traditions.
• Let us know how we can help you connect with your child’s experience in the program.

Visit whenever you can. You are ALWAYS welcome!

Foothills Children’s Programs Staff members:
• Meet or exceed established educational and experience requirements for the position held. Many hold degrees in recreation, education or other related fields.
• Meet Colorado State Licensing requirements for their position held under the Division of Childcare rules and regulations.
• Participate in formal trainings throughout the year.
• Undergo background checks through local, state and federal authorities.
• Are certified in CPR, First Aid and Standard Precautions.
• Are trained on the Foothills Park & Recreation District Exposure Control Plan and how to handle bloodborne pathogens.
• Receive support through training, resources and administration.
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Welcome

Welcome to Foothills Park & Recreation District’s Children’s Programs! We are committed to providing your child with quality programs that provide social, emotional and cognitive skill development – and hope your entire family enjoys your experience with us. Please let us know how we can be of assistance to you. We look forward to building a relationship with you and your child.

General Information

Children’s Programs is divided into two key areas – early childhood programs and school age programs.

- For Before & After School Programs, visit www.ifoothills.org/schoolage
- For Early Childhood Programs, visit: www.ifoothills.org/preschool
- For Camps Programs, visit: www.ifoothills.org/camps

or contact 303-409-2511 for more information. Please be advised that Foothills Park & Recreation District Children’s Programs reserves the right to cancel or discontinue programs.

Children’s Programs operates in Foothills Park & Recreation District facilities, as well as several Jefferson County Schools. Our main facility addresses are listed below:

Ridge Recreation Center  Lilley Gulch Recreation Center
6613 S. Ward Street  6147 S. Holland Way
Littleton, CO 80127   Littleton, CO 80123

Our programs are licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services. We are required to maintain licensing standards, including staff-to-child ratios. Please see us with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding our facilities and staff. To file a complaint about any of our programs, please call the Childcare Licensing Agency at the Colorado Department of Human Services at 303-866-5958.

Children With Disabilities

Foothills Park & Recreation District supports the standards set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Foothills is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students with disabilities who meet the essential eligibility requirements of Children’s Programs and State Licensing Guidelines. The District cannot make accommodations that are unduly burdensome or that fundamentally alter the nature of the programs. Any student, including students with disabilities, may be removed from a program if that student, even with reasonable accommodations, is so disruptive to the program that other students cannot participate or are in danger. The District has established a process that is designed to facilitate the reasonable accommodation of students with disabilities. Please contact the Children’s Programs Supervisor at 303-409-2127 to discuss individual requests regarding children with disabilities or contact the Human Resources office at 303-409-2118 for additional information.
Preschool and Childcare Programs

Our Early Childhood opportunities include a variety of programs to stimulate young learners.

All Day Preschool Program (Ages 3 – Kindergarten)
All Day Preschool Program provides an environment for children to grow both emotionally and intellectually. We know the most important aspect of early childhood education is to create an environment in which children can solve problems, make discoveries and think independently. Children in this program will benefit from structured preschool components as well as a variety of recreational activities. This program is offered at Lilley Gulch and Ridge Recreation Centers, MON – FRI from 6:45 a.m. until 6 p.m.

**Parent/Legal Guardian has 3 options from which to choose:**
- MON – FRI
- MON/WED/FRI
- TUE/THU

Part-time Preschool Program (Ages 3 – 5)
Preschool classes are 3 or 4 hours in length and offer children the opportunity to develop self esteem, socialization, physical development, and kindergarten readiness skills. Classes are available for two days per week or three days per week and run September through May at Lilley Gulch Recreation Center.

Parent/Legal Guardian of part-time preschoolers is requested to volunteer in the classroom once every four to six weeks. This special time allows Parent/Legal Guardian an opportunity to experience the Part-time Preschool Program with their child. Parent/Legal Guardian is requested to occasionally provide a snack for each child in the class. Teachers will provide a calendar for the interested Parent/Legal Guardian to sign up.

Preschool classes will observe winter, spring, fall and summer breaks as scheduled by the Jefferson County School District. Additionally, there will be no preschool on Martin Luther King Day, President’s Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day.

**Parent/Legal Guardian has 4 options from which to choose:**
- MON/WED/FRI (9 a.m. – Noon)
- MON/WED/FRI (9 a.m. – 1pm)
- TUE/THU (9 a.m. – Noon)
- TUE/THU (9 a.m. – 1pm)

Parent Partnerships
A variety of methods will be used to cultivate positive child, staff and family relationships. Staff will work with families daily at drop off/pick up time to discuss children’s daily progress. We provide a warm and welcoming environment so that all children and Parent/Legal Guardian will feel a sense of belonging in the classrooms. Our goal is to create a sense of community that allows for open communication should a challenge arise. Our Early Childhood programs provide two annual developmental assessments and offer conferences twice per year. During conferences, staff will discuss individualized transitions with families. Examples of transition strategies might include encouraging families to visit local elementary schools for open Kindergarten enrollment. If Parent/Legal Guardian has any concerns about their child’s development, please request to schedule a meeting with your child’s teacher and a site supervisor. If our staff members have identified any developmental concerns with your child(ren), we will set up a time to discuss them with you privately. We offer referral options such as Child Find to help investigate any developmental concerns.

Your child’s health is important to us. During the enrollment process, we ask a number of questions to ensure that your child has received specific health care services. These include vision screenings, hearing screenings and dental screenings. We also ask if families have medical insurance to ensure families have access to health care and in the event there is an emergency onsite at any of our locations. If families do not have medical insurance or if their child(ren) have not had a dental, hearing or vision screening, we have a list of resources where families can obtain these at an affordable cost. Please go to the Parent Partnership resource in the Parent Portal or contact 303-409-2127 for more information.
School Age Programs
These programs offer enrichment opportunities, Before & After School, and full day care during breaks for children attending kindergarten through fifth grades. Our Camp Programs held during summer months also include teen opportunities.

Before & After School Programs
These programs are offered at a variety of Jefferson County School sites as well as at Ridge Recreation Center. Before School Programs operate from 6:45 a.m. until school commences and After School Programs operate from school dismissal until 6 p.m. Children participate in a variety of activities including age appropriate art, crafts, sports, games, science, reading, cooking, and homework. After School Programs include snacks.

Partial/No School Day Care
Occasionally, schools schedule student non-contact days and partial-contact days for Parent/Legal Guardian – Teacher Conferences and teacher in-service training. On such occasions, the School Age Programs will provide all day care with activities at individual Before & After School Program sites or at one of the local recreation facilities. Parent/Legal Guardian must pre-register and prepay for all full day and partial day care. Space will be limited.

Camp Programs
All Day Camps are offered during school vacation breaks including Winter, Spring and Summer Breaks. These programs provide children with the opportunity to participate in age appropriate, individual and group activities which focus on the development of social, cognitive, and emotional growth. Specialty Camps are also offered in the summer months which focus on Sports, S.T.E.A.M. in Motion, Outdoor Adventure and Teens. Programs offer activities from as early as 6:45 a.m. to as late as 6 p.m. Programs are located in the recreation facilities as well as at some Jefferson County school sites.

Parent Partnerships
A variety of methods will be used to cultivate positive child, staff and family relationships. Staff will work with families daily at drop off/pick up time to discuss children’s daily progress. We provide a warm and welcoming environment so that each child and Parent/Legal Guardian will feel a sense of belonging in the classrooms. Our goal is to create a sense of community that allows for open communication should a challenge arise. Conferences are available upon request, initiated by either a Parent/Legal Guardian or a staff member, at any time throughout the program.

Our program coordinates with local schools and community service providers to best meet the needs of each of our individual students. Please notify us if your child is receiving any services regarding Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP), Individual Education Programs (IEP), School Readiness Plans, Individual Learning Plans, hearing, speech, OT, PT, Behavior Management, or any other type of individual plan. Program staff will communicate with school personnel regarding children’s welfare and development when necessary. Foothills is proud to partner with Jeffco School Specialists such as school nurses, school psychologists, or others if deemed necessary. We look forward to collaborating with any agency to help meet goals set forth in any individualized or family service plan. Please see a Site Director or call 303-409-2127 to initiate a consultation.
Foothills is proud to partner with local agencies regarding family resources. If Parent/Legal Guardian would like a list of local resources, they can speak with any staff member to obtain a list. These resources include, but are not limited to: child care assistance, family support services, health care, immunizations and food banks. There is also a Parent Partnership resource page in the Parent Portal noting resources available in Jefferson County.

**Enrollment**

Enrollment and payments are completed online using our Parent Portal located on our website www.i foothills.org. Parent/Legal Guardian can enroll for programs, schedule attendance, and even view or pay billing statements online using this secure website. Enrollment must be completed for each child a minimum of 48 business hours prior to attendance. Enrollments received after 5 p.m. will be considered the next day of business. Before & After School and All Day Care Enrollments are accepted year round. Preschool enrollment begins in January for the upcoming school year, Summer Camp enrollment begins in April.

Families who attend programs year round (attend the entire school year and the previous summer) will be given an early enrollment date for Summer Camp. Families who are current participants of Before & After School Programs will be given an early enrollment date for Winter/Spring Break Camp.

Parent/Legal Guardian will also be required to submit the following, prior to child’s attendance:

- Annual non-refundable Enrollment Fee ($60/child or $80/family) is due at time of enrollment. (Annual enrollment fee covers programming from June 1 – May 31 and must be submitted each year)
- Immunization Records for each child
- Physician’s Report for children 7 and under only (form located on Parent Portal)
- Field Trip Forms when required (forms located on the Parent Portal)
- Permission for Administration of Medication if necessary - please refer to the “HEALTH & SAFETY” section for more information regarding administration of medications (forms located on the Parent Portal)
- Summer Camps Only: a $25 non-refundable deposit per week is due at time of enrollment. Deposit price will be subtracted from the full weekly price of tuition for that week. Deposits may not be transferred from one week to another week.

Enrollments are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. All children must have current enrollment documentation, updated online annually. Enrollment documentation must be completed accurately and must be signed electronically. A signature on the enrollment form shall be an acknowledgement that the Parent/Legal Guardian has read and understood the contents of such form and has advised all other individuals who may be involved in the child’s participation in the program(s). If the enrollment form documentation indicates evidence of emotional or physical problems, a form entitled Permission for Release of Information may be requested. This information will assist staff in the care of the child. This release will be used in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Colorado Open Records Law.

**Change of Enrollment Information:**
The Parent/Legal Guardian is responsible for informing Foothills Park & Recreation District of any changes to their account such as change of address, phone numbers, and so on. These changes can be made in the Parent Portal. Changes to enrollment status such as withdrawing, must be provided in writing to the Children’s Programs staff as soon as they occur.
Billing Policies & Procedures

All payments are to be made in advance of the child’s participation in the program(s). Please request current fee information from the Children’s Programs staff or our website www.foothills.org.

General Payment Policies
There is an Annual Enrollment Fee (non-refundable) of $60 per child / $80 per family (rates cover June 1 – May 31). Enrollment payment must be paid online at time of enrollment.

Tuition Payments:
- Parent/Legal Guardian may choose credit card, check or money order payments.
- Parents choosing to pay by check or money order should call 303-409-2335 before enrolling.
- Auto Pay may be selected. If Parent/Legal Guardian chooses auto payments, they will need to set up an auto pay card in the Parent Portal. Auto pay will run on the 1st day of the month prior to care.
- Parent/Legal Guardian choosing to pay by credit card will pay on the Parent Portal. See specific payment policies under each program area.
- If Parent/Legal Guardian chooses manual check/money order payments, they must turn in their payment directly to the Children’s Programs black Payment Drop Boxes upstairs at Ridge Recreation Center, 6613 S. Ward Street, Littleton, CO 80127 OR at Lilley Gulch Recreation Center, 6147 S. Holland Way, Littleton, CO 80123 (Drop Boxes are located next to the Front Desk). Payments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the 1st day of the month. (if the 1st day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, check/money order payments will be due to the Children’s Programs Administrative office on the last business day prior to the 1st).

Please make checks payable to Foothills Park & Recreation District.

- Returned Check Fee: $20 Processing Fee is assessed for each returned check.
- After three returned checks or declined credit cards or a combination of the aforementioned, payments must be made by money order or certified funds only. Payment must be made in full within 48 business hours after notification is given to the Parent/Legal Guardian or further care will be terminated until payment is received.
- A 2nd child discount will be assessed to the tuition charges of older siblings enrolled in Children’s Programs.
- Non-District residents may be required to pay a slightly higher fee in some programs.
- No cash payments are accepted.

Late Payments Are Assessed A $35 Late Payment Fee:
- Payments not made in full by the 1st of each month will be assessed a Late Payment Fee of $35 on the 2nd of the month.
- Failure to pay late fees may result in actions up to and including the dismissal from all Children’s Programs.
- For all accounts carrying a balance, the Parent/Legal Guardian will be notified by Foothills Staff. Any outstanding accounts that are not paid in full within 48 business hours after notification will result in care being terminated.
- CCCAP & Scholarship does not cover late payments and sponsor will be responsible for full amount of fee.
Late Pick Up:
Any Parent/Legal Guardian arriving after the scheduled end of the child’s program is assessed a $10 Late Fee per child, at the beginning of each 15 minute period. Late Fees are charged to your child’s account and must be paid in full within 48 business hours or care will be terminated until payment is received. CCCAP & Scholarship does not cover late child pick-up fees and sponsor will be responsible for full amount of fee.

Schedule Changes/Refunds/Credits:
Changes to calendars for Before & After School Programs are not permitted. Switching or transferring fees in lieu of other days will not be permitted. Cancellations to camp calendars will not be accepted after the designated due date for each individual program. Changes to schedules for Part-time Preschool or All Day Preschool are subject to space availability and require director approval.

- Refunds and Credits are not issued. There are no credits for sick days nor will we be able to transfer one tuition date for another.
- **Special circumstances:** Family situations such as death in the family or any unforeseen event will be handled on an individual basis. **All requests for credits must be submitted in writing to Children’s Programs Specialist or Supervisor within 10 business days of the occurrence.** If a credit for a special circumstance is received, it must be used within 2 months of issue.
- The Parent/Legal Guardian is responsible for informing the Site/Program Director and the Foothills’ Billing Staff in writing of any changes in enrollment.

Colorado Child Care Assistance Programs (CCCAP):
Foothills Children’s Programs partners with CCCAP to assist families in need. For more information, please contact your Site Director. Parent/Legal Guardian will be responsible for all fees and child care tuition for sessions that CCCAP does not approve. CCCAP is not accepted in Specialty Camps or Part-time Preschool. CCCAP Parent/Legal Guardian is required to sign a contract with Foothills Children’s Programs outlining and agreeing to the terms of this program. Care cannot begin until Foothills has received authorization.

Disclosure Regarding Payments:
All payment information relating to a child’s participation shall be deemed confidential by the District and will only be released to the enrolling Parent/Legal Guardian or authorized persons, unless otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. If asked, District personnel shall inform the requesting party of the standard fee(s) for the program(s), and shall provide no other information regarding amount of payments or source of payments.

Holidays/Staff Development Training:

- Program Holiday closures include New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day (Thursday & Friday) and Christmas Day.
- In an effort to improve program quality on an ongoing basis, Foothills’ staff participates in Training and Staff Development Activities. Occasionally these days will occur on weekdays – not to exceed five (5) days within any given year.
- When Staff Development days are scheduled on weekdays, you will be given thirty days notice to make alternate arrangements for child care.

Rates, Fees and Policies are subject to change with 30 days notice:
Parent/Legal Guardian will be given 30 days advance notice of any rate changes.
Billing Policies Specific to All Day Preschool

- Parent/Legal Guardian will have three schedule selection options from which to choose:
  
  MON – FRI Option or MON/WED/FRI Option or TUE/THU Option
- The option selected will remain constant throughout the year. If Parent/Legal Guardian would like to change options, this will be allowed if space is available in the desired selection. Changes require a two week notice in writing. There will be a limited number of changes allowed per family throughout the year and a change fee of $35 will be assessed beginning with the 2nd change request.
- Tuition rates for each option will be charged monthly. Monthly tuition will be due on the 1st of the month. Rates will not be altered or prorated for holidays, sick days, staff professional development days, inclement weather days or other missed days of care. Observed holidays include: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, two days for Thanksgiving (THU & FRI), and Christmas Day. Staff professional development days may occur up to two days per year and Parent/Legal Guardian will be given a 30-day notice prior to program closure.
- Drop-in care is charged at a higher rate and is contingent upon space availability. Drop-in care requires prior approval from the Site Director. If a child arrives as a drop-in without prior approval, that child will not be accepted into the program that day. Drop-in care will be charged to your child’s account and must be paid in full within 48 business hours or care will be terminated until payment is received. There is no 2nd child discount available for Drop-in care.
- Parent/Legal Guardian may take up to 5 days of vacation per enrollment period (June 1 – May 31) and will receive a credit equivalent to the daily rate for any “vacation” days that are used. This credit will be applied to the following month’s tuition. Vacation days may be taken intermittently or all at once. Vacation days must be requested in writing at least two weeks in advance. Vacation days can be used after a child has been enrolled and attending for 90 consecutive days. To receive a vacation credit, the child may not be in attendance on the requested vacation dates.
- To disenroll your child(ren) from Foothills Children’s Programs, please submit a notice to your Site Director at least two (2) weeks before your last day.

Billing Policies Specific for Part-time Preschool

- Families select a set schedule that remains consistent for the entire school year. No drop-in care is provided for Part-time Preschool.
- Classes observe Thanksgiving, winter, spring, and summer breaks as scheduled by the Jefferson County School District. There is no school on Martin Luther King Day, President’s Day, Memorial Day & Labor Day.
- To disenroll your child(ren) from Foothills Children’s Programs, please submit a notice at least two (2) weeks before your last day.
Billing Policies Specific to Before & After School

- Monthly tuition is based upon the number of days that a Parent/Legal Guardian has selected on a monthly tuition schedule. Parent/Legal Guardian will pick their schedule online on our Parent Portal each month. These selected days become contracted days for care. If Parent/Legal Guardian has picked days/weeks incorrectly please note that NO days may be switched or altered from the original calendar; however, days may be added. Calendars open on the 15th of each month for the upcoming month schedule selection.
- Parent/Legal Guardian is encouraged to select schedules by the 2nd to the last day of each month for the upcoming month. Beginning at 5 p.m. on the 2nd to last day of each month, any selected calendar days will be charged an additional fee per session.
- Calendars may be selected up until midnight for the following day.
- Drop-in care is contingent upon space availability and requires prior approval from the Site Director. If a child arrives as a drop-in without prior approval, that child will not be accepted into the program if there is no space available – the Parent/Legal Guardian will be contacted immediately to pick up their child. The child may also be taken to the school office or will be sent back home with the Parent/Legal Guardian. Safety is of extreme importance to us and if we are not aware that your child will be attending, we will not make attempts to look for them if they do not arrive after school. Drop-in care will be charged to your child’s account and must be paid in full within 48 business hours or care will be terminated until payment is received. There is no 2nd child discount available for Drop-in care.

Tuition Payments:

- Families in programs will be required to submit payment on the Parent Portal, at the time the days of care are selected for the following month.
- Parent/Legal Guardian may choose to pay by check, and must contact the business administration office at 303-409-2335 for the check unlock code to enter a calendar without making immediate payment.
Billing Policies Specific to Summer Camp

- Summer Camps require a $25 non-refundable deposit per week, per child and is due at the time of enrollment. Deposit price will be subtracted from the full weekly price of tuition for that week. The remaining tuition is due on the 1st of the month for that month’s care.

- Weeks of care are contracted and cancellations are permitted. Cancellation Forms must be turned in to the Administrative Office no later than Monday at 5 p.m. of the week prior to the week being cancelled. Failure to cancel by the set deadline results in the Parent/Legal Guardian being held financially responsible for that week’s tuition payments. Cancellation Forms are located on the Parent Portal. There are no credits, refunds or transfer of deposits paid. We do not process any changes to schedules. Parent/Legal Guardian who wants to make a change will need to cancel a reserved week and re-enroll for another week or option that is open and pay a new deposit to make a change.

- There is no 2nd child discount applied to camp deposits.

- The 2nd child discount will be applied to tuition charges after deposits have been paid.

- Drop-in care is available for Kids on the Move or Camp Hoppers only and is contingent upon space availability. Drop-in care requires prior approval from the Site Director. Drop-in care is charged at a higher rate. If a child arrives as a drop-in without prior approval, that child will not be accepted into the program if there is no space available. If there is no space available, the Parent/Legal Guardian will be contacted immediately to pick up their child or their child will be sent back home with the Parent/Legal Guardian. Drop-in care will be charged to your child’s account and must be paid in full within 48 business hours or care will be terminated until payment is received. Specialty camps do not offer drop-in care.

- There is no 2nd child discount available for drop-in care.
General Program Information

Child Participation & Activity Schedules
Children are encouraged to participate in all scheduled activities. However, Parent/Legal Guardian should notify staff if their child should not participate in any activity. Parent/Legal Guardian must make all such requests in writing prior to attendance in Children’s Programs. The initial online enrollment process may be utilized to communicate this information and Parent/Legal Guardian is strongly urged to review any special requests or needs with the staff prior to their child beginning. If Parent/Legal Guardian has children who are secondary English language learners, please share this information on enrollment information or speak with a staff member. If a dominant second language is present in a program, a bilingual teacher who is fluent in that language will be assigned to that program.

Parent Newsletters and Activity Calendars are provided on a regular basis and give more specific details about program activities and special schedules.

Location & Accountability of Children
Programs are located in various locations within facilities. To locate a registered child during program hours, Parent/Legal Guardian can check the primary program area, gymnasium, cafeteria, school front office or facility front desk, or playground. The Site Director will notify the school’s office, facility front desk, or supervisory staff if the group leaves the site. Staff members will leave a note on the door of the primary location explaining where the children are and when they will return.

Staff are responsible to know where children are at all times. Children are required to stay within sight and sound of a staff member while participating in the program. Staff will take attendance regularly throughout the day with name to face roll call and count heads at every transition.

Transition Between School or Community Sponsored Events
Children who attend Jeffco school clubs will be required to check in with staff members before attending. Staff will have a confirmation sheet of students registered for clubs and/or confirm club attendance with Parent/Legal Guardian. Staff will escort children who attend Jeffco school events that take place during program hours (i.e. book fairs). Children who participate in classes at the recreation centers will be accompanied or escorted by staff.

Homework Policy
To support your family and your child’s school success, it is our philosophy to provide time for homework every day in our Before & After School Programs. We ask that you and your child discuss whether or not your child should work on homework during our program. We can provide the best homework assistance when staff, children and families communicate and work together to meet the needs of each individual child. Our program supports each child as he or she accepts the responsibility of completing assignments. The time set for this activity depends on the age of the child, as well as the overall structure of the specific program site.

Our staff provides guidance and encouragement to the students during their homework time. Please be aware that this will be a supervised homework period, but is not intended to be a tutorial session.

A homework agreement must be completed for each child enrolled in our Before & After School Programs. This agreement states whether or not the child should work on homework during program hours and is signed by the child, Parent/Legal Guardian and staff members. Homework agreements can be located on our Parent Portal.
Field Trips/Excursions
Parent/Legal Guardian will be given advance notice if their child will be leaving the facility or grounds. Please refer to the activity calendars and newsletters for information regarding when these activities take place and understand that you are giving permission for your child to participate in that activity or excursion when you sign your children up for those days. Occasionally, exceptions will be made when there is a group of children who may stay at the site with staff supervision. Signs/notice will be posted to give the location of the children whenever they are not located in their usual room or facility.

Foothills provides transportation for excursions and contracts with Jefferson County School District on occasion to ensure quantity and quality of drivers and vehicles. Foothills provides additional staff supervision during field trips and follows procedural guidelines for emergency procedures. In the event that such a situation arises, a replacement vehicle will be dispatched to pick up all participants. Parent/Legal Guardian will be notified of any delays.

The District maintains vehicles ranging in size from mini-buses to large school buses that are utilized to transport groups of children. Drivers are required to have all current licenses and certifications. Seat belts are required for anyone riding in District mini-buses. Vehicles are inspected prior to transport to ensure they are in good and safe operating condition. All children are instructed to abide by the rules pertaining to safe transport.

Parent/Legal Guardian is required to sign the excursion roster for each excursion. A field trip permission waiver is also required for some excursions and must be on file with the Children’s Programs office prior to transport. Staff-to-child ratios are maintained at all times during excursions.

It is our policy to constantly take head counts and to take roll to prevent lost children. In the event a child does become lost, we will notify Parent/Legal Guardian immediately to decide the next course of action, including notifying the local authorities. In the event of a lost or missing child during an excursion, an emergency plan will be activated immediately and Parent/Legal Guardian will be notified.

Clothing/Dress
Appropriate clothing is necessary to allow children the freedom to participate in all class activities. Children will participate in a variety of activities including active games, sports, art, science and cooking. Clothes that are sturdy and washable should be worn and close-toed shoes for running are recommended. Weather permitting, children will participate in outdoor activities and should be dressed accordingly. Programs set in public schools during the school year follow their individual Jefferson County Public School Dress Code. Children’s Programs staff reserves the right to address student and Parent/Legal Guardian of student whose clothing is deemed inappropriate.

For special activities such as ice skating, roller blading and bicycling, children are required to wear helmets and other safety gear, for example: wrist guards and knee pads. If you have any questions, please speak with your Site Director for a specific list of equipment needs prior to your child’s participation.
Personal Belongings
Foothills Park & Recreation District and its employees are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items brought to Children’s Programs. Parent/Legal Guardian is discouraged from allowing a child to bring personal belongings to the program. Electronic devices such as portable stereos and video games should remain at home. Occasionally, Before & After School Programs and Camps will allow personal toys and/or electronics at specific times – contact Site Director for more information. We discourage children from bringing cash to the program. Children’s Programs staff will not be responsible for children’s personal belongings or cash.

Inclement Weather/School Closures
If Jeffco Public Schools declare a snow day and close on a regularly scheduled school day, or close the schools for another reason, Foothills Children’s Programs will also be closed. When a two-hour delayed start is called by Jeffco all programs will also be on a two-hour delayed start. Before School Programs will begin at 8:45 a.m., All Day Preschool Programs will begin at 8:45 a.m. and Part-time Preschool Programs will begin at 11 a.m. REFUNDS & CREDITS WILL NOT BE ISSUED for inclement weather conditions or school closures.

Parent/Legal Guardian should listen to the local media or Jeffco School District website for closure announcements or visit our website at www.ifoothills.org for more information. Parent/Legal Guardian may also contact the Site Director regarding closures.

If District facility operations are declared CLOSED, all Children’s Programs will be declared closed. REFUNDS AND CREDITS WILL NOT BE ISSUED for inclement weather conditions.

Movies, Music, Screen Time & Media Use
It is the policy of the District to show only “G” and “PG” rated movies. Only occasionally, a “PG” rated movie will be shown. Movies are generally announced in advance. Please communicate any concerns with the Site Director or teacher.

Music provided by the program staff is screened to ensure that it is appropriate for children. Children may not bring inappropriate music from home. Use of Jeffco Public School and Foothills Park & Recreation District electronic networked resources and computer systems are subject to District policies. Children will occasionally be permitted limited time with personal electronic devices. All non-network software used by children is either rated “E” for everyone or is screened by the Site Director to ensure that is appropriate for school-age children.

Behavior Guidelines
Our behavior guidelines are based on the fundamental premise that all children should be treated equally and with fairness. The ultimate goal of these guidelines is for the child to demonstrate self-control and the ability to make proper decisions. We strive to achieve a safe and healthy environment for all children and insist on respect for all people and property. Physical punishment is not permitted by any Foothills staff member.

- Children will follow the rules set for the program, camp or class.
- Children are expected to participate in activities without disrupting or preventing other children’s participation.
- Children will learn self-discipline, respect for others and how to make good choices. Children are expected to approach others in a positive manner and treat others with respect.
- Emphasis is placed upon each child to take responsibility for his/her own behavior. Staff will work with Parent/Legal Guardian and school staff (for school age children) to establish consistency for each child.
• Appropriate behaviors are recognized and rewarded – misbehaviors are redirected.
• Parent/Legal Guardian will be kept informed of problems as they arise and may be asked to follow through at home in special situations.

Our goal is to create and maintain a socially and emotionally respectful environment for all children. In this environment, children are able to learn at their own pace based on their individual temperaments, development and culture. Children will be taught to express themselves, understand the feelings of others and how to communicate their wants, needs and feelings.
• Staff will implement teaching strategies that support positive behavior, pro-social peer interactions and overall social and emotional competence in children.
• Staff will provide social and emotional intervention and support to children who need this.
• Staff, Parent/Legal Guardian and, if needed, a mental health consultant, will work together on persistent challenges.
• Staff will develop a team-based positive behavior plan, if needed, with the intent to reduce challenging behavior to prevent suspensions and dismissals from the program.

Disciplinary action may include one or more of the following guidelines:
1. **Verbal warning:** Talk to the child and offer reminders about rules and redirection.
2. **Removal from activity:** A natural consequence and loss of privilege.
3. **Discussion with Parent/Legal Guardian:** Communicate concerns and outline behavior expectations; possible behavior report.
4. **Behavior modification plan:** A signed contract outlining behavioral expectations.
5. **Suspension from program:** Immediate removal of the child from the program and loss of program privileges for a specified time period.
6. **Dismissal from program.**

Unauthorized leave (running away) from the Foothills Children’s Programs or possession of a weapon, fireworks, drugs or tobacco may be grounds for immediate suspension or dismissal from the program. We require that an authorized adult be available if it is determined that the child needs to be removed from the program. If we are unable to contact an authorized adult, the next contact would be to Human Services and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency, dependent upon the circumstances. Any expenses incurred under this step may be the sole responsibility of the child’s Parent/Legal Guardian.

Removal of the child from the program may be a result of an injury or illness, a behavior problem, or due to the inability of a Parent/Legal Guardian to abide by the procedures set forth in this document. Parent/Legal Guardian will be notified as soon as possible if an incident requiring removal would occur.

**NO CREDITS OR REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN.**
Health & Safety

Notification Of Absences
Notification by a Parent/Legal Guardian is required whenever a child will be absent from the program. If your child will not be attending on a scheduled day, please call the Site Director to notify staff of your child’s absence. In the event that a child is scheduled for an After School Program and is absent without prior notification, staff will make every attempt to locate the child. If a child does not arrive after school when scheduled, Parent/Legal Guardian will be notified in a timely manner. An emergency plan will be activated to locate any missing child which will include contacting the local police department if it cannot be verified that the child is safe.

Sign-In/Sign-Out Procedures For Children
The Colorado Department of Human Services regulations require a Parent/Legal Guardian to sign a child in and out of the program each day. (Authorized signers of children in Part-time Preschool or All Day Preschool must be 18 years of age or older.) Authorized individuals have the ability to sign children in and out of the program using an electronic keypad called SchoolCare Works Insite. Each individual authorized to pick up children must use a unique PIN to identify who is picking up or dropping off the child. This PIN is automatically assigned for each Parent/Legal Guardian and emergency contacts by SchoolCare Works when the child’s account is created. This PIN should not be shared between individuals authorized to pick up. Each person should use their unique PIN. You must accompany your child into the program and sign them in. Children’s Programs accepts responsibility of the child upon the Parent/Legal Guardian signing the child into the program and relinquishes responsibility when the Parent/Legal Guardian informs the Foothills staff member that the child is leaving the program for the day and signs the child out. The sign-in/sign-out procedures are a critical component of the child’s safety in our programs. Compliance is mandatory. Failure to comply with the sign-in/sign-out procedures can result in the dismissal of the child from the program.

Only those authorized adults listed on the child’s enrollment documentation will be allowed to pick up your child. You must include at least two names. This list may be updated as needed. All authorized adults, including each Parent/Legal Guardian, should be prepared to show photo identification when picking up children. Arrangements for alternates to pick up a child must be requested in writing by the Parent/Legal Guardian. Alternates will be required to show picture identification at the time of pick up.

In the event that a person arrives to pick up a child without proper authorization, the program staff will attempt to contact the Parent/Legal Guardian. Children will not be released to unauthorized individuals. Should the unauthorized person persist, staff will immediately notify the local authorities.

If a staff member feels that an authorized Parent/Legal Guardian picking up a child appears to be intoxicated we will suggest that the Parent/Legal Guardian call an alternate driver/taxi. If the Parent/Legal Guardian in question refuses, the child will be released and a phone call will be placed to the local authorities advising them of the situation, the driver’s name, address, make of car and license plate number. In the event the authorized adult picking up the child is not the Parent/Legal Guardian, staff members may refuse release of the child and will contact the Parent/Legal Guardian for pick up.
Late Parent/Legal Guardian Pick Up Procedure

If you will be late to pick up your child, please contact the Site Director as soon as possible. Foothills staff will attempt to locate any late Parent/Legal Guardian or contact an authorized adult to pick up the child. If staff is unable to contact the Parent/Legal Guardian or authorized alternative within one-half hour after the scheduled end of program, the local authorities will be notified.

Late Pick Up: Any Parent/Legal Guardian arriving after the scheduled end of Children’s Programs will be assessed a $10 Late Fee, per child, at the beginning of each 15 minute period. Late Fees will be charged to your child’s account and must be paid in full within 48 business hours or care may be terminated until payment is received. More than three late pick up fees per semester or during the summer may result in dismissal of the child from the program. Failure to pay current late fees may result in actions up to and including the dismissal of the child from all Children’s Programs. (CCCAP & Scholarship does not cover late child pick up fees and sponsor will be responsible for full amount of fee.)

Snack & Lunch

A nutritious snack will be provided mid-morning and mid-afternoon for All-Day Preschool/ Part-time Preschool children and mid-afternoon for After School Programs. Please alert staff of any food allergies or dietary restrictions on your program enrollment documentation. Foothills Children’s Programs discourages use of the on-site vending machines during program time.

Parent/Legal Guardian is required to provide a nutritious, non-perishable lunch and drink plus morning and afternoon snacks during all no-school and camp programs. Parent/Legal Guardian is required to provide a nutritious, non-perishable lunch for their child(ren) in the All Day Preschool Program. Perishable items must be packaged with a cold storage product such as an ice pack. Foothills facilities cannot accommodate cold storage of lunches.

Suggested nutritious items for lunches and snacks: Crackers, Breadsticks or Pretzels; Fresh, Canned or Dried Fruit; Sandwiches; Cheese; Salad; Raw Vegetable Slices; Chicken Pieces or other Cold Meat; Yogurt; Granola Bars; Trail Mix or Seeds. Please pack your child’s lunch with, at minimum, the following food items: 1 protein, 1 dairy, 1 grain, a combination of 2 fruits or vegetables and 6 oz. of fluid milk. This is a Colorado State Licensing requirement.

Parent/Legal Guardian who does not provide a lunch for their child may be charged a $10 fee for costs incurred by staff to provide a lunch for the child.

End of Day Closing Procedures

To ensure that all children are picked up before the staff leave, staff members will check the daily attendance to confirm all children have been picked up and checked out. If a child was not checked out, the staff member will phone the Parent/Legal Guardian to get verbal confirmation that the child was picked up.

Medication Procedures

Foothills Park & Recreation District does not employ any medical staff or provide any medication, including sunscreen, aspirin, non-aspirin products or antiseptic. Children requiring medication will not be permitted to begin the program without proper forms and medications. When possible, please make arrangements for the nurse at your child’s school to give your child any medication.
For Foothills Children’s Programs staff to administer medication to your child:

- It is the responsibility of the Parent/Legal Guardian to notify staff of the need to administer medication.
- The proper Medication Administration form must be completed by an individual with prescriptive authority (Doctor, Physician’s Assistant, Certified Nurse Practitioner).
- Medication Administration forms must include name of medication (if medication is generic, the forms must include the generic name), dosage, route for medication to be taken, time of administration, length of time medications can be taken and prescriptive authority signature.
- All medications must be brought in by the Parent/Legal Guardian and given directly to the designated staff and medications are to be kept in a secured, safe place in the program.
- Most medications will be stored in a locked area. Some emergency medications, such as Epi Pens or inhalers that must be accessed immediately in case of emergency, will be stored in a secure area out of reach of children. If required, staff will accommodate medications that must be refrigerated in an on-site refrigerator, in a locked container. Children are not permitted to self-carry or self-administer medications.
- Medications must be in the original container with directions and dosages clearly marked. Prescription medications must include the original pharmacy label including the child’s name, date, name of medication and RX number. (Old medication containers may not be refilled with new medication.)
- Medications requiring measurement must be provided with an accurate measurement tool.
- Medications left with the program staff will be stored in a locked box (with the exception of emergency medications such as epi-pen or inhaler) and will be returned to the Parent/Legal Guardian as specified by the Parent/Legal Guardian.
- Foothills staff are unable to cut pills or administer cut pills.
- Children’s Programs staff will dispose of medications after the expiration date or after two weeks of a child’s withdrawal from the program.

NOTE: If a child is given Benadryl or an antihistamine for an allergic reaction, Parent/Legal Guardian will be asked to pick up their child and monitor their child for 24 hours before returning to the program.

**Illness**

Parent/Legal Guardian is requested to keep children at home when they show any signs of illness including cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, green discharge from nose or elevated temperature. Children who arrive to the program ill or who become ill during program hours are required to be picked up by an authorized adult within 30 minutes. Parent/Legal Guardian shall be notified pursuant to the procedure set forth under medical emergencies.

For the safety and well being of all children, children with a contagious virus or illness, such as strep throat, flu, or a fever, will not be allowed to return to the program (without written permission from a physician) for 24 hours after initial administration of medication or fever-free for 24 hours.

**Immunizations**

Immunization Records or statement of exemption to immunizations must be submitted for each child at time of enrollment and updated as immunizations are updated. Foothills Park & Recreation District does allow children to attend who have not been immunized. Parent/Legal Guardian wishing to submit non-medical exemptions (religious or personal beliefs) must do so online at [www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](http://www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption).
**Communicable Diseases**

Parent/Legal Guardian should report to staff if their child has been diagnosed or exposed to a communicable illness. When children have been diagnosed with a communicable illness such as hepatitis, measles, mumps, meningitis, diptheria, rubella, salmonella, tuberculosis, giardia or shigella, children’s confidentiality must be maintained.

Parent/Legal Guardian will be notified by posted signage if their child has been exposed. Communicable diseases are reported to Jefferson County Health Department. The Health Department will determine the appropriate and necessary actions as the situation requires. Foothills follows the Colorado Department of Public Health Guidelines for infectious diseases in child care and school age programs. Foothills Park & Recreation District has the right to strengthen these guidelines as it determines necessary for the health & safety of the community.

When Parent/Legal Guardian reports the exposure of a child to communicable illness outside of the center, at the discretion of the director, the child may be excluded from the center for the period of time prescribed by the child’s physician or by the local health department.

**Sunscreen**

Sunscreen should be applied to your child daily before they arrive. Additional sunscreen to be applied during the course of the day must be provided by a Parent/Legal Guardian and requires written authorization for application. We ask for all program participants to provide sunscreen labeled with your child’s first and last name.

**Visitors**

Foothills welcomes you to visit any time, provided that visitors do not disrupt or otherwise interfere with the conduct of the program(s). All visitors are required to report to the Children’s Programs staff and sign the Visitor’s Log. Visitors will be required to present picture identification at the time of sign-in and are required to sign out with the Children’s Programs staff at the conclusion of their visit. Staff shall be the sole arbiter as to whether a visitor is creating an undesirable disruption or disturbance. In such an event, the visitor will be asked to leave promptly upon request.

**Child Abuse & Neglect**

Your child’s best interests, health and safety are our primary concern. As required by law, if a staff member has reasonable cause to believe that a child is being abused, neglected, or has observed the child being subjected to circumstances which could result in abuse or neglect, the staff member will immediately file a report with Jefferson County Department of Human Services and/or a local law enforcement agency. A report demonstrates that there is a cause for concern and should not be taken as an accusation. We are not allowed to consult with the Parent/Legal Guardian first and must file a report immediately.

If you believe that your child has been physically or sexually abused, you should seek immediate assistance from your local department of Human Services. To report abuse to Jefferson County Department of Human Services, please call 303-271-1388.

**Accidents/Injuries**

When accidents or injuries occur, Foothills policy is for staff to notify the Parent/Legal Guardian and if necessary, call the physician or medical facility as indicated on the child’s enrollment documentation.
Emergencies

Medical Emergencies:
In case of an emergency, every effort will be made to reach the Parent/Legal Guardian as identified on the enrollment form. If all efforts to reach the Parent/Legal Guardian have failed, the Children’s Programs staff will take all the steps necessary to obtain care. These steps include, but are not limited to the following:
1. Staff will attempt to contact a Parent/Legal Guardian by telephone.
2. Staff will attempt to contact any of the authorized persons listed on the enrollment form.
3. The staff will attempt to contact the child’s physician by telephone.
4. If we are unable to reach any of the above mentioned people, one or more of the following steps may be taken:
   a. call another physician;
   b. call the paramedics or emergency medical assistance;
   c. transport the child by ambulance to the nearest hospital, where a staff member will stay with the child until a Parent/Legal Guardian arrives.

Any expenses incurred under step four shall be the sole responsibility of the child’s Parent/Legal Guardian. NOTE: In a life threatening emergency, staff will call 911 before attempting to contact the Parent/Legal Guardian.

Emergencies & Natural Disasters:
Foothills staff has been trained to respond to emergencies and natural disasters and will take every precaution necessary to protect the children. Staff will assess the situation, activate emergency procedures and promptly notify their immediate supervisor after evaluating the following:
1. How to provide a safe environment and how to assess the situation;
2. If local authorities should be notified;
3. Emergency transportation, if necessary.

In the event weather conditions become severe during the course of the program, all groups will take shelter immediately. If we experience excessively hot weather children will be provided with alternative indoor activities during the duration of the extreme weather. It is our procedure to seek shelter any time thunder is heard.

Emergency Drills:
• Fire, Tornado, Lock Down and other emergency drills will be held often enough that all participants are familiar with the drill procedure and their conduct during a drill is a matter of established routine.
• All program locations will maintain an individual written plan for managing emergencies to include an emergency evacuation plan.

Children Separated from Group:
When it has been identified that a child has separated from their group, staff members will make every reasonable effort to search the immediate building and grounds. If, after a search, the child’s whereabouts are still undetermined, a staff member will call the home of the child or the listed phone numbers of the Parent/Legal Guardian, and the emergency contacts until someone is reached. Staff will leave messages if needed and when possible. Meanwhile, additional supervisory personnel will also be contacted and will begin a search of the surrounding community in the event the child has walked away from the building. If the child is not located, a staff member will call the police. This procedure will be followed in as brief a time period as possible. This procedure will also be followed on field trips.
Emergency Plans & Parent Reunification Plan:
Parent/Legal Guardian can locate additional information about their specific program emergency plans and parent reunification plans on the Communication Tab of the Parent Portal. If an emergency should occur in a Jeffco School during school operating hours, before and after school programs and staff will abide by that school’s emergency and parent reunification plan.

Parent/Legal Guardian Communication
At Foothills, we know that Parent/Legal Guardian and Staff Communication is vital. The most important communication between Parent/Legal Guardian and staff happens each day during conversations at drop-off and pick-up times. Staff will also post signs/notices on Parent/Legal Guardian tables notifying families of any new information, upcoming events, reminders that tuition and/or tuition calendar selections are due, or other useful information. Letters and e-mails from the directors to Parent/Legal Guardian is sent when needed to communicate important information.

Parent/Legal Guardian is encouraged to drop in any time to visit their child and are welcome to telephone directly to the program for information. Parent/Legal Guardian may visit or call directors to discuss their concerns. We never forget that YOU are the most important people in your child’s life.

Parent/Legal Guardian Conduct
It is the District’s goal to provide participating children with a loving, nurturing and respectful environment. This is possible when Parent/Legal Guardian cooperates by also exhibiting those traits. Parent/Legal Guardian and visitors are expected to treat staff and the children with the utmost respect at all times. Intimidating, threatening or hostile behaviors, verbal threats, written threats, physical threats, physical contact, inappropriate or offensive comments to staff will not be tolerated. If any such actions occur, appropriate authorities shall be contacted immediately, and the Parent/Legal Guardian will be asked to remove their child from the program.

For further information, please see the District Code of Conduct which is posted at all District facilities and on our website at www.ifoothills.org.

Parent/Legal Guardian Conferences
We will request conferences with the Parent/Legal Guardian as needed, to review your child’s behavior, progress, and/or social and physical needs. Please feel free to request a conference at any time you feel it may benefit the child, the teacher or yourself.

If an enrolled family needs assistance to communicate linguistically with the teachers, outside resources will be considered to facilitate communication. Some language interpreters are on staff and available to assist. We partner with resources including Mile High Multilingual Services, Inc.

Custody Situations
For all District programs, it is presumed that the Parent/Legal Guardian who registers the child has the legal right to enroll such child and act on his/her behalf. That presumption shall be held by staff until presented with written, legal documents to the contrary. By creating the account, the Parent/Legal Guardian makes an affirmative representation to the District of his/her lawful right to enroll the child and act on his/her behalf. The Parent/Legal Guardian who registered the child for the program and creates the account must authorize all changes in enrollment information. There can only be one login and password created per account.
Both parents listed as guardians have the right to pick up a child and a right to information pertaining to the child(ren) on an account unless otherwise noted on registration paperwork. If one Parent/Legal Guardian has sole legal custody of a child, Foothills Park & Recreation District must have a legal document on file stating such.

Financial responsibility for the child’s account will belong to the Parent/Legal Guardian who enrolls the child unless additional arrangements are made in advance. If any custodial arrangements affect the child during his/her participation in the program(s), it is incumbent upon the enrolling Parent/Legal Guardian to inform staff of all such arrangements.

Examples, not intended to be all inclusive, of such arrangements are limitations upon contact with the child, specific parental contact information as set forth under medical emergencies, and the right to information about the child.

Legal documents must be provided to Children’s Programs Administrative Office in the event that any changes are made to a child’s legal name. Staff is not required nor expected to inquire as to any custodial arrangements, nor to interpret the propriety of any statements made by a Parent/Legal Guardian.

Unless agreed by the enrolling Parent/Legal Guardian or ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, information regarding the child, including but not limited to the daily activities or behaviors of that child, shall not be shared with anyone except the enrolling Parent/Legal Guardian or another authorized adult identified on the enrollment documentation.

A written order is required, reviewed by District’s legal counsel, to deviate from the protocol set forth on this page and established by the enrollment documentation.

Legal Proceedings
District staff is not qualified to interpret legal documents or to render legal decisions. Any effects upon a child in a program created by any legal proceeding shall be conveyed to staff in writing, including all necessary orders from a court of competent jurisdiction. No change in presumptions or practice shall be implemented by staff until District’s legal counsel has reviewed all relevant documents and advised staff as how to proceed. In the event any situation requires immediate attention, staff shall call appropriate law enforcement agencies and wait for direction from responding personnel.

Program Evaluations
We welcome your feedback. Please let us know how we are doing and how we can better meet your needs and your child’s needs. Foothills will provide Parent/Legal Guardian Evaluation Forms periodically throughout the year which enables you to evaluate our program, staff and facilities. This feedback helps us develop Quality Improvements Plans (QIP). Please see your Site Director or Program Specialist to review or receive a hard copy of our most updated QIP. These are generally emailed out to programs at least once per year. Please take a moment to let us know what you think!

Foothills Tax ID Number 84-6013730
Foothills Park & Recreation District is not responsible for maintaining individual tax records and information. Tax statements and receipts can be viewed and printed from the online Parent Portal.
When it's out of nowhere, know where.

When your child’s primary care provider is unavailable, Children’s Hospital Colorado’s Urgent and Emergency Care at South Campus is there. Here, your child gets after-hours care from pediatric experts who specialize in kids and only kids. Whether it’s urgent or an emergency, your child is in the right place.

Children’s Hospital Colorado South Campus

Emergency: 24/7
Urgent Care: Monday through Friday
Noon to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

1811 Plaza Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
720-478-1234

Save the address to your phone so you’ll have it if you need it.

Hold your iPhone camera or QR reader over the QR code
Scan code
Save location