



DCF LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITY (C09AL0028)

ENDORSED TRAUMA-INFORMED CENTER

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Who We Are

MISSION

At Girls Place, we empower girls to grow courageous, strong and self sufficient. We inspire our girls to celebrate themselves—their minds, their hearts, and their physical well being.





VISION

Girls Place girls become independent women who embrace diversity, express their ideas, rise above obstacles, enhance their communities, and lead those around them.

VALUES

At Girls Place, we believe that all girls should be inspired, challenged and nurtured to become their very best.



Girls Place History

In more than 40 years of serving girls in Alachua County, Girls Place has evolved into a passageway from childhood to womanhood for many girls in the Gainesville community. The young women of today are learning to become tomorrow's future by living and developing in a continuously changing world. Girls Place embraces this opportunity and challenge, and is confident that girls will prosper through programs.

March-April 1981

The Gainesville Junior Woman's Club began investigating the need and interest for a girls club in the community with surveys and public meetings.

November 1982

A 20 member Operations Board of Directors was created and The Girls Club of Alachua County applied for non-profit status.

January 1985

Renae Clements was hired as our first Executive Director.

June 1985

The first Girls Club summer day camp was held at Sidney Lanier School, run by volunteers and was an incredible success.

November 1985

The City of Gainesville granted Girls Club 5.3 acres of land.

April 1986

Construction commenced on the Girls Club facility, Summer Day Camp continued being held at Westwood Middle School.

August 1987

The first after-school program at the Girls Club of Alachua County Clubhouse began.

January 1988

United Way announced the Girls Club as one of their affiliated agents.

April 1991

A fifteen-member rotating Board of Directors of the Girls Club of Alachua County Foundation was created, and officers were elected.

November 1991

Girls Club of Alachua County Foundation was issued non-profit status.

September 2008

The Girls Club underwent a name change and officially became known as Girls Place, Inc.

July 2013

The ACHIEVE (Academic Counseling and Help Increasing Educational Victories Everyday) program began with a focus on supporting girls academically throughout the year.

October 2015

Our BrainPower program began. We are the first year-round holistic program to offer on-site mental health services; nearly eliminating cost and transportation as barriers.

June 2017

Girls Place officially became licensed by The Florida Department of Children and Family Services (DCF).

September 2017

Christi Arrington became the 3rd Executive Director of Girls Place, Inc.

June 2020

With the support of Anthem Church, donors through the Amazing Give, our GP Family and Friends, and the Women's Giving Circle, we built 3 new classrooms for our girls!

July 2021

Received the Award for Advancing Minority Mental Health from the American Psychiatric Association Foundation for our work in BrainPower.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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2101 NW 39th Avenue Gainesville, FL 32605 (352)373-4475 www.girlsplace.net

HOURS OF OPERATION

Normal Operating Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:30am - 6:00pm Early Drop-Off: 7:00am-7:29am (\$1/day per child due in cash each morning) *Please enter through "kitchen" door on North side of the building*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Christi Arrington, Executive Director Christi@girlsplace.net

Tara Counts, PhD, Operations Director Tara@girlsplace.net

Jillian Ariet, Operations Coordinator Jillian@girlsplace.net

TBA, Program Director - Summer Day Camp and ACHIEVE

Nevada Smith, Program Director - After School Nevada@girlsplace.net

Liv Simmons, Program Director - Athletics Liv@girlsplace.net

TBA, BrainPower Coordinator

TRAINING AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

STAFF

- Pass a Level-II FDLE Background Screening
- CPR and First Aid certified
- Complete Department of Early Learning Pre-Service Courses
- Complete Department of Children and Families Courses
- Complete a minimum of 10 hours of in-service training every year
- Ideally maintain a 15:1 child to adult ratio; DCF requires a 25:1 child to adult ratio

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

- Pass a Level-II FDLE Background Screening
- Generally college students seeking course credit
- · Receive GP Orientation and training on how to interact with the girls
- Under the direct supervision of Girls Place staff

GROUP VOLUNTEERS & GUEST SPEAKERS

- Groups from the University of Florida, Santa Fe College, and the local Gainesville community provide lessons and activities
- Dates are arranged with the Program Director
- · Activities are directly monitored by GP Staff
- Screening NOT required; volunteers sign-in to the volunteer/visitor log

Fees

MAKING PAYMENTS: Fees can be paid on www.myprocare.com at any time or in the front office between 11:00am and 6:00pm. Please plan accordingly.

TUITION EXPRESS: All families **MUST** have a valid credit card or bank account on file at all times. Accounts with a balance on Friday morning will be automatically charged via Tuition Express at noon. It is your responsibility to update credit card information as needed.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 per family (due immediately with registration, nonrefundable and nontransferable)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$25 for one child; \$50 for 2 or more children residing in the same household (nonrefundable and nontransferable). All programs require participants to have a current Girls Place membership. Membership fees are charged once a year.

WEEKLY FEE: \$90 for the first child; \$75 for each sibling. Fees are due by 12pm the Friday before the week that your child will attend.

EARLY DROP OFF FEES: If you choose to drop-off your child between 7:00am-7:29am, \$1 per child in cash is due at drop-off (Room 1).

LATE PICK-UP FEES: Parents will be charged \$1 for every five minutes they are late beyond 6:05pm due in cash upon arrival. Please notify Girls Place as soon as possible if you will be late.

NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS (NSF): All NSF checks, declined credit card charges, or overdrafts will be charged a \$25 fee.

REFUNDS: Refunds are granted in accordance with the Summer Day Camp Payment Procedures.

Please consult the SDC Payment Procedures for all payment related questions.

CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

CHECK-IN

- Girls must be checked-in with the Procare app by parents or a staff member by 9am every day.
 - Please call or message via the Procare App if your child(ren) will not be attending for the day.
 - Excessive absence or tardiness may jeopardize scholarship eligibility.
 - Families on ELC must abide by both Girls Place and ELC guidelines.
 Failure to do so can result in dismissal from Girls Place or loss in funding from FLC.
- If a staff member is not outside during check-in, parents **MUST** walk their child inside and check them in.
- Girls report to the classrooms immediately.
- Girls who arrive after their group has departed for a field trip CANNOT stay at Girls Place or be dropped off at the field trip site.

CHECK-OUT

- If arriving before 4:30pm for pick-up, you are required to park and come inside.
- If arriving between 4:30-6pm, please pull up to the yellow curb. A staff member will be outside (weather permitting) to verify identity. Staff will then call for your child to come outside for pick-up. Please continue to move the pick-up line forward.
- Parents can utilize the Procare App to once they arrive on property to check-out girls.

NOTES

- Girls Place reserves the right to release the child to the Gainesville Police Department if the parent/guardian/emergency contact is more than 15 minutes late and cannot be reached.
- Girls can be checked out at any time from Girls Place, but must be picked up no later than 6:00pm.
- Girls will only be released to individual's authorized to pick up the child by the parent/guardian during the registration process. Photo identification will be used to verify identify.
- Parents and guardians CANNOT pick up girls from field trips.
- REMINDER: Late fees will be charged if arriving after 6:00pm. Girls Place reserves the right to refuse service.

CURRICULUM AND ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

- Girls engage in age-appropriate activities based on the social determinants of health
- A weekly schedule of events is provided so families can be prepared
- To combat summer learning loss, girls read a minimum of 20 minutes each day. Girls are encouraged to bring school required summer tasks.
- Counselors facilitate Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) skills each week.
- Girls have 15 minutes a day for "quiet/meditation time" to relax and engage in mindfulness practice. This is not a nap time; blankets and pillows are not allowed.

FIELD TRIPS

- Field trips support our curriculum. Trips occur nearly 2-4 days/week and often include local parks, museums, skating, movies, bowling, or community service.
 - Field trips are NOT optional
 - Girls arriving after their group has departed for a field trip CANNOT stay at Girls Place
 - Girls CANNOT be dropped off or picked up from a field trip
 - Groups are typically back on property by 4:30pm, unless otherwise noted on the schedule
 - We will be swimming this summer where a lifeguard is provided

GROUPS

- Girls are placed in groups by the grade level they are <u>entering in the</u> <u>upcoming school year.</u>
 - Pink (K-1)
 - Red 2
 - Red 3
 - Yellow 4
 - Yellow 5
 - Green (6-7)
 - Blue (8-9)
- Exceptions will not be made with group assignments (i.e. if a child is held back in 3rd grade, they will remain in Red 3.)

WEEKLY THEMES

Week	Dates	Theme
1	June 3-7	Once Upon a Time
2	June 10-14	Under the Sea
3	June 17-21*	Five Senses
4	June 24-28	Board Games
5	July 1-5*	Plan It
6	July 8-12	Color Me Crazy
7	July 15-19	Holidays
8	July 22-26	Around the World
9	July 29-August 2**	Olympics
10	August 5-9**	Lego of Summer

^{*}Closed June 19th & July 4th

House Rules and Words of the Month are utilized to reinforce skills throughout the summer curriculum.

HOUSE RULES

- G Give your heart
- R Respect comes first
- O Own your genius
- W Win with trust

WORD OF THE MONTH

- June Acceptance
- July Curiosity
- August Pause

^{**} No Breakfast or Lunch provided

SAMPLE SCHEDULES

SAMPLE PARENT SCHEDULE

eek 6:	July 13-17	St	Word of the Month: E Theme: Music Around th		
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
B-fest Lunch	Breakfast Bar Turkey Ham Sandwich	Cereal Pizza	Muffin Nachos	Breakfast Bar PB&J snackers	Honey Buns Grilled Cheese
	Northeast Pool	LaChua Hiking Trail	No trip away from GP	Pajama Day!	Rum Island Springs
	Leave at 10:00, return by 12:30	Leave at 9:30, return at noon		No trip away from GP	Leave at 9:30, return at 1:00
Pink	Bring bathing suit, towel and sunscreen. Please label everything.	Please wear sneakers and lighting diothing. Water bottle is a must! Consider wearing a hat as well.		Feel free to wear pajamas (and sneakers) for a chill day that will include watching Shrek the Musical.	Bring bathing suit, sowel and sunscreen. Please label everything. Floats are or. Please lave them deflated until we get to the springs. This spring has a to of shallow section for our nonswimmers.
	Additional activities: House Rules Plan for Empower Show	Additional Activities: Chinese Ratis Drum Rain Sticks	Activities: Harmonicas Guests: UF Chinese Student Assoc. (12:10) Wind Chines Ghungroo	Additional Activities: Castanets Practice for Friday Let's Move it	Additional Activities: Empower Rehearsal & Show (2:00)
_	Northeast Pool	No trip away from GP	Possum Creek Park	Cedar Key	No trip away from GP
	Leave at 10:00, return by 12:30		Leave at 9:00, return at 11:15	Leave at 9:30, return at 2:30	
Red	Bring bathing suit, towel and sunscreen. Please label everything.	5	Feel free to wear pajamas (and sneakers) for a chill day that will include watching Teen Beach.	Bring bathing suit, towel and sunscreen. Please label everything. Floats are oit. Please leave them deflated until we get to Cedar Key.	
œ	Additional activities: House Rules Plan for Empower Show	Activities: Let's Move II Chinese Ratile Drum Rain 55cks Harmonicas Practice for Fotay	Additional Activities: Guests: UF Chinese Student Assoc. (11:30) Pajama Dayf Bring your PJs to change into after funch' Movie: Teen Beach Wind Chimes	Addisonal Activities: Ghungoo Practice for Friday Gardeners meet at 2:45	Additional Additional Costances Empower Rehearmal & Snow (2:00) Complete projects from the week Let's Move it
	Northeast Pool	Pajama Day!	Cedar Key	No trip away from GP	UF Stadium
	Leave at 10:30, return by 1:00	No trip away from GP	Leave at 9:30, return at 3:30		Leave at 9:30, return at noon

SAMPLE STAFF SCHEDULE

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MEAL PROGRAMS

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

- All summer camp participants, regardless of income, can choose to receive FREE meals (provided by School Board of Alachua County)
 - See SBAC website for menu
 - Sample Breakfast: cereal with milk or pastry with juice
 - Sample Lunch: sandwich, crackers and fruit
- Breakfast and Lunch will NOT be provided the last two weeks of the summer
- Families may also choose to send a packed lunch from home

SNACK

- Girls Place offers a "Free Snack" to each participant daily
- "Buy Snack" is also available for those who would like to purchase snack items
- Prices range from \$0.25 to \$1.00
- A snack account can be established in the front office.
 - Snack accounts are **CASH ONLY**
 - · Additional money can be added to the account at any time
 - Please place money in an envelope or bag with child's full name on it
 - Money **MUST** be turned in upon arrival
- Spending limits can be set by parents/guardians
- Girls Place is <u>NOT</u> responsible for lost or stolen money

Buy Snack Sample Menu

Water (\$0.50) Capri Sun (\$0.50) Propel (\$1.00) Gummies (\$0.25) Ice Pops (\$0.25) Popcorn (\$0.75) Cheez-Its (\$0.75) Pringles (\$0.75)
Pickles (\$0.75)
Sun Chips (\$1.00)
Veggie Straws (\$1.00)

OUTSIDE FOOD

- Outside food for groups must be approved by the Program Director in advance. (e.g. cupcakes for a birthday celebration)
- Please be aware that we have children with severe peanut and tree nut allergies.
- Food delivery for girls is not permitted (DoorDash, Uber Eats).

TRAUMA-INFORMED DISCIPLINE POLICY

POLICY

Girls Place, Inc. behavior expectations and discipline procedures are based on the Girls Place Mission. Using a trauma-informed approach, Girls Place, Inc. promotes behavior guidance and discipline through creating a positive environment, developing structure, promoting social and emotional learning, reinforcing our mission, and addressing challenging behaviors.

Definitions:

- 1. Trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.
- 2. A Trauma-Informed approach recognizes and responds to the signs, symptoms, and risks of trauma to better support the health needs of those who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma or toxic stress.

Girls Place, Inc. team members promote desired behaviors through teaching and reinforcement. Staff redirect or problem-solve with youth when they are not displaying desired behaviors. In all instances, discipline should be reasonable, timely, fair, age and developmentally appropriate, logically connected to the behavior, relationally based, and should match the severity of the misbehavior.

There are times when restrictions may be necessary and are most often linked to the health, safety, or well-being of others. In the event an individual harms themselves or someone else, trained staff may physically restrain the youth to ensure safety. Girls Place staff does not use corporal punishment under any circumstance.

TRAUMA-INFORMED DISCIPLINE POLICY

INCIDENT REPORTS

Internal documentation is kept on incidents to help staff understand and identify patterns of behaviors and common triggers of the children. Staff members keep parents aware and alert to all challenging situations and ask for advice and support when needed. Any time a child receives an incident report, parents will be asked to acknowledge receipt by signing the document.

PROGRAM SUSPENSIONS

Program suspensions will be at the discretion of the Program Director and based on severity of the incident as well prior incidents for the school year. No refunds will be given in the event of a suspension.

PROGRAM EXPULSIONS

We recognize and appreciate the unique characteristics and behaviors that each child and family brings to our program. Unfortunately, there are times we must remove a child from our programs either on a short term or permanent basis. Girls Place team members will do everything possible to work with the family of the child(ren) to prevent expulsion.

Expulsion is meant to be a period for the parent/guardian to work on the child's behavior and/or to come to an agreement with our organization. The parent/guardian will be notified of the length of expulsion and the expected behavioral changes required for the child to return to Girls Place.

Parent/Guardian Actions for Expulsion

- Failure to pay fees and/or failure to pay fees on time
- Failure to complete required forms or comply with Girls Place policies and procedures
- Habitual tardiness when picking up your child
- Verbal abuse or intimidation towards staff

Girls' Actions for Expulsion

- Failure to comply to Girls Place's House Rules in a reasonable amount of time
- The child is at risk of causing injury to herself or others
- Uncontrollable outbursts
- Physical, verbal, and emotional abuse to staff or other girls

FIRST AID

- Basic first aid supplies are provided and will be administered by certified staff
- Accident reports are completed and provided to parents when an injury occurs and when treatment is provided
- Parents will be notified immediately if an injury involves the head, is severe, or requires additional attention.

MEDICATIONS

- A signed consent form must be on file for staff to administer medication of any kind to the child. A medication log will be maintained by staff after each administration of medication.
- Prescribed medication must be in a current and labeled prescription bottle with the members' name, dosage and usage clearly labeled.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) medication must be in it's original container, in date, and labeled with the child's name. (ex. Tylenol, Advil, Cream)
- Prescription medications are secured in a lock box with access limited to administrative staff.

LICE

- Lice checks are conducted on an as needed basis. Parents or guardians will be called if nits or lice are evident.
- If a child is sent home due to head lice, proof of treatment is required prior to their return
- Girls are instructed not to share brushes, hats, or clothing due to the potential spread of lice

FEVERS

• If a child has a fever above 101, parents will be contacted to pick-up the child. The child must be picked up within one hour of notification.

ISOLATION FOR POTENTIALLY CONTAGIOUS ILLNESS

Families are expected to communicate immediately about illnesses and keep children home with the following minimum expectations:

Strep Throat

- Definition: bacterial infection caused by group A Streptococcus or "group A strep." People who are sick with strep throat are very contagious.
- Recommendation: stay home from school and GP until they no longer have a fever without medication and have taken antibiotics for at least 24 hours.

Flu (Influenza)

- Definition: common contagious viral respiratory illness that can affect the nose, throat, and lungs. Flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. Flu illness can vary from mild to severe
- Recommendation: that those who have a fever and respiratory symptoms stay at home until 24 hours after their fever ends (100 degrees Fahrenheit [37.8 degrees Celsius] or lower), without the use of medication.
- Exposure: If exposed or direct contact with someone who has the flu, it is recommended to wear a well fitted mask, wash hands frequently, avoid contact with the sick person, and do not share personal items

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV):

- Definition: contagious virus that affects the lungs and breathing passages.
 Most children get RSV infection by age 2, but you can get infected at any age and more than once in your lifetime.
 - People who are sick with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are contagious for 3 to 8 days. People usually get sick with RSV 4 to 6 days after being exposed to the virus.
 - Recommendation: A child with RSV can return after it has been 8 days since symptoms started.
 - Exposure: If exposed or direct contact with someone who has RSV, it is recommended to wear a well fitted mask, wash hands frequently, avoid contact with the sick person, and do not share personal items

COVID-19:

• As of March 1, 2024, The updated Respiratory Virus Guidance recommends that people stay home and away from others until at least 24 hours after both their symptoms are getting better overall, and they have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).

PERSONAL PROTECTION AND HANDWASHING

- Staff are required to be masked while preparing and packaging opened foods and snack items
- Staff are trained and reinforce proper hand washing, the importance of covering your cough/sneeze and doing so into the bend of your arm, and physical distancing
- Sanitizer will be available for instances when hand washing is not possible

CLEANING, SANITIZING, AND PURIFICATION

- Bathrooms are well stocked with soap and paper towel and sanitized as needed by staff during the day
- In addition to staff responsibilities, a contracted cleaning company cleans nightly with emphasis on high touch areas
- The building is sanitized with Electrostatic backpack sprayer daily
- Purifiers are used in the original 5 classrooms (Rooms 1-5) to support CDC suggested ventilation efforts while the new classrooms (Rooms 6-8) are equipped with a modern HVAC unit that pulls fresh air into the space consistently
- Windows are partially open in vehicles to promote fresh air entering the vehicle
- If a child or staff person is diagnosed with Covid-19, a room may close temporarily for deep sanitizing; girls will utilize other space in the building during that time

SOILED CLOTHING

- Please pack clean underwear and shorts if your child is known to soil her clothing on a regular basis. Staff will NOT help girls change their clothes.
 - The girls will be provided a private bathroom, wipes to clean, and a bag for soiled clothing.
- Girls Place has the right to refuse service to any child who consistently soils her clothes.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- We practice fire, inclement, and intruder drills periodically throughout the summer
- Parents will be notified by email, Procare message, and/or phone call in the event of an actual emergency.

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation is provided for field trips only
- Members will be transported in Girls Place vehicles or chartered busses
- Girls Place staff are not allowed to transport girls in their personal vehicles

Van/Bus Rules

- The bus is equipped with a driver and a monitor to supervise the children
- Smaller vehicles may only have a driver on the vehicle, in this instance there will be at least 2 children on the vehicle at all times.
- Children must remain seated at all times with the seatbelt securely fastened
- Feet should be out of the aisles
- Voices should remain at a conversational level
- Heads and arms must remain inside the windows.
- Girls are asked to have their bags on the floor between their feet or on their laps rather than on the seat

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LOST AND FOUND

- Girls Place is NOT responsible for items that are lost or stolen. Please DO NOT bring expensive or valuable items to GP.
- To prevent lost items, please label belongings as much as possible
- Periodically check lost and found for personal belongings
- Items left in lost and found will be donated to a local charity

ELECTRONICS

- Electronics are not allowed at Girls Place (e.g. cell phones, smart watches, tablets, etc.)
- If it is necessary for your child to have an electronic device, it must be turned in to the front office upon arrival.
- Staff have been instructed to take electronic devices if they seem them and turn them in to the front office until the child goes home.
- If you need to get in touch with your child, please call the front office (352)373-4475
- Girls Place is not responsible for lost or stolen electronics.

PHOTO AND SOCIAL MEDIA RELEASE

- If you agree to the photo release on the registration form, your child's image may be used in Girls Place publications including, but not limited to newsletters, fliers, brochures, newspapers, and television promotions
- If you agree to the social media release on the registration form, your child's image may be use in Girls Place social media.

SOCIAL MEDIA USE

- Girls are not given access to any social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat)
- Members are prohibited from accessing social networking sites during field trips to the library
- Staff are prohibited from being "friends" with any Girls Place members on social media
- It is strongly discouraged for counselors to be "friends" with members' parents