Active Play and Screen Time Policy

At Growing Pines Learning Academy, we are committed to providing a nurturing, engaging, and developmentally appropriate environment for all children in our care. As part of that commitment, we have developed a thoughtful approach to the use of screen time and technology within our program.

We recognize the importance of active play in supporting children’s physical, social, and emotional development. Active play includes any physical activity that gets children moving and using their bodies in fun and healthy ways.

Active play involves movement and physical engagement. It encourages coordination, strength, and confidence through activities such as:

* Running
* Jumping
* Walking
* Climbing
* Balancing
* Exploring nature

Our Outdoor Play Environment

We are fortunate to have access to a spacious outdoor acreage that allows for safe, engaging exploration. Our outdoor play areas include:

* Tires and wooden rounds
* Climbers
* Natural materials
* Rotating play centers These features support both structured and unstructured play, allowing children to move freely, explore creatively, and connect with the natural environment.

Daily Active Play Time

Weather permitting, children will enjoy a minimum of 120 minutes of active play each day. This time will be spread across the morning and afternoon and will primarily take place outdoors. In cases of extreme weather or unsafe conditions, active play will be moved indoors, with appropriate space and materials provided.

We are proud to promote a healthy, active lifestyle and thank you for your support in encouraging movement, exploration, and joyful learning every day.

Television and Entertainment Media

Television is not used during program hours as we prioritize active, hands-on learning experiences and meaningful interactions.  
On occasion, we may host special movie events as part of themed activities or celebrations. These events will be age-appropriate and communicated to parents in advance through e-mail and verbally.

Staff Use of Cell Phones

Cell phones are used by staff strictly for photography (with parental permission) and emergency purposes only.  
The use of cell phones for social media, personal browsing, or non-essential communication during program hours is not permitted.

Educational Technology

Technology may be integrated into the classroom in a way that supports learning and exploration.

Examples include:

* Digital microscopes for science discovery
* Projectors for group storytelling or educational presentations
* Typewriters for early literacy and motor skill development

All technology is used intentionally and sparingly to enhance the learning experience while maintaining a strong focus on play, creativity, and personal interaction.

We appreciate your support in helping us create a focused, interactive, and enriching environment for your children.