

PARTICIPANT PROTECTION POLICY

The Foundation of Arts values the participation of all children and adults in its programming and activities. We recognize the critical role of its volunteers, students, and parents. In order to assure parents and all participants that The Foundation of Arts values their safety, the following policies will govern all participants at all times during their involvement in activities of The Foundation of Arts:

1) Protection from Predators

No person who has pled guilty, or has been found guilty, of any sexually related offense or sexual offense relating to the harm or endangerment of a minor shall be granted inclusion in any way in any FOA programming or events.

The FOA practices the “rule of three”, which is the practice of never allowing only two people in a room at any given time unless there is a camera in the room, such as when private lessons are being taught. Staff are required and volunteers are encouraged to keep this policy, and any knowledge of its non-compliance should be reported to the Executive Director.

2) Staff Training

All staff members will be made aware and are responsible for knowing these safety and security policies and procedures:

- a) if a child is behaving in a manner that is disruptive or dangerous, staff will advise the child to stop what he/she is doing. If the child refuses to alter his/her behavior, the parent/caregiver will be notified, and the child risks losing privilege of participating in future activities.
- b) if a child is in need of parental care, staff will make every effort to contact parents. In extreme cases, if the parent/caregiver cannot be reached, appropriate emergency officials will be called.

We also recognize that parents are a child’s ultimate teacher, and therefore we expect parents to instruct their children how to be safe at all times, how to follow rules and instructions, and how to be responsible. In order to foster a welcoming and safe environment, the following **general responsibilities of parents/caregivers** are expected by The Foundation of Arts:

1. Parents/caregivers are ultimately responsible for the supervision of their children. Children unattended by parents are expected to be mature enough to follow rules, to take responsibility for their own safety, and to let a staff member know if they need help.
2. No child under the age of 8, or whose scheduled activity lasts less than 45 minutes, should be left unattended by a parent. Waiting areas are available for parents/caregivers.
3. The Forum and The Arts Center are public buildings, and not alternatives to long or short term child care. Staff cannot monitor everyone who enters, and all citizens are free to use any public area in our facilities.

4. Parents/caregivers are expected to ensure that their children arrive no earlier than 20 minutes, but no later than 5 minutes, PRIOR TO THEIR ACTIVITY START TIME. Also, parents/caregivers must pick their children up from their activity no later than 15 minutes after it ends. The Foundation of Arts does not employ babysitters or security guards. While staff and other hired personnel are capable of supervising children during scheduled events, they cannot be responsible for children during times that occur outside of scheduled events.

If the staff of The Foundation of Arts is aware of a situation of a child being dropped off early or picked up late, every effort will be made to monitor that child; however, The Foundation of Arts nor its staff can be held responsible for the negligence of a parent or caregiver. To avoid these situations:

In the 1st event of a child dropped off early or picked up late, the parent will be contacted and reminded of the policy.

In the 2nd event, the parent will be charged \$1.00 for every minute that the child is on the premises outside of the activity schedule. If this fee is not paid, the child will no longer be eligible to participate in FOA activities.

If a child is left at The Arts Center or The Forum after closing hours (or after activity hours), the staff reserves the right to call the Jonesboro Police Department or the Department of Human Services to care for the child.