

Cold Springs School Early Childhood Center



Family Handbook

September 2024 – June 2025

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Gloucester City Public Schools:

www.gcsd.k12.nj.us



What an exciting time for you and your child to begin, or continue, their preschool experience at the Cold Springs School Early Childhood Center.

What to Expect

Your child will have a creative, stimulating and nurturing experience in a safe facility. Because of this, and many support systems in place, we expect to enrich your child with heightened self-esteem, the building blocks for a sound character and body, as well as responsibility and respect for diversity. The great start your child will have in our preschool program will enable him/her to become a curious, aware and knowledgeable lifelong learner who will grow to be a contributing citizen to a better society.

Join Us with Your Good Ideas

We encourage you to participate with us in creating an enriching environment and happy experience during the preschool years so your child will have the best opportunity to develop in a positive way.

A Handy Guide for You

Please keep this booklet as the information contained herein will answer many questions you may have throughout the school year. Should you have any suggestions or concerns, we encourage you to call to discuss them.

We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure a safe, caring and enriching preschool experience!

Here's to a great year together!

Jennifer Daubert, Principal jdaubert@gcsd.k12.nj.us

Rory Boettcher, Assistant Principal rboettcher@gcsd.k12.nj.us

Andrea Salstrom, Early Childhood Director asalstrom@gcsd.k12.nj.us



GLOUCESTER CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The Gloucester City School District is committed to providing an exceptional learning environment that exceeds the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Our mission is to ensure that all students are prepared to excel in a nationally competitive and globally connected society through a collaboration with home, school and community.

Where Students Are Confident - Well-Rounded - Happy

SUPERINTENDENT OF GLOUCESTER CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MR. SEAN GORMAN

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF GLOUCESTER CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. KIM CHIODI

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS 2024 - 2025

Michelle Wright - President

Kelly Rivas - Vice President

Kathleen Maas- Brooklawn Representative

Jackie Borger

Jennifer Evans

Leon Harris

Bernadette James

Keith O'Donnell

Michael Smollock

Harry Ulmer

Board of Education members are unpaid community volunteers chosen in a special Fall election to serve staggered one or three-year terms.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

GCBOE Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. once a month.

2024-2025 INFORMATION

Preschool Administration

Jennifer Daubert, Principal
Rory Boettcher, Assistant Principal
Andrea Salstrom, Early Childhood Director

Location

Cold Springs School Early Childhood Center
1194 Market St.
Gloucester City, NJ 08030

Phone: 856 - 456 - 7000

Front Office:
Janice Van Diepen - ext. 2017
Danielle Niedzwiadek - ext. 2016

Nurse:
Ryann Frame - ext. 2025
Erin Sheehan - ext. 2026

Community & Parent Involvement Specialist:
Andi Dahlberg - ext. 2141

Security:
George Berglund - ext. 2090
Officer Brian Green - ext. 2091/2090

School Hours

FULL DAY	TARDY	FULL DAY ABSENT	AM ABSENT
8:15 - 3:03	8:35 - 10:00	Arriving after 10:00 a.m. <i>without a doctor's note</i>	Arriving after 10:00 a.m. <i>with a doctor's note</i>

Early Dismissal Day:

8:15 a.m. – 1:03 p.m.

2-Hour Delay Day:

10:15 - 3:03

Teachers & Assistants:

8:05 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Kids Choice Hours:

7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Wrap Around Services are offered through Kids Choice

Please see the following for more information and contact information:

<https://www.kidschoicewt.com/gloucester-city/>

School Closing, Delayed Openings, & Legal Attendance Days

School closings, delayed openings and early dismissals because of poor weather conditions are broadcast on the following radio stations and via Remind:

FM Stations:

WVLT – 92.1
WBSS – 97.3
WMGM – 103.7
WRDR – 104.9
WSNJ – 107.7

AM Stations:

KYW - 1060
WMIZ - 1270
WNJC - 1360
WMVB - 1440



If a delayed opening is called due to inclement weather, the school will open 2 hours late. Therefore, students arrive at school at 10:00 AM and breakfast will not be served.

This information is also transmitted through all Philadelphia television stations. (School closing code is **561**; delayed opening code is **561**).

2024- 2025 District Calendar

GLOUCESTER CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2024-2025

07/31/2024

Cold Springs School ▫ Gloucester City Middle School ▫ Gloucester City High School

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GLOUCESTER CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2024-2025

Cold Springs School • Gloucester City Middle School • Gloucester City High School

School will be closed on the days specified. State law provides a minimum of 181 days per school year.

STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

ASSESSMENT	GRADE	TESTING DATES
NJSLA-ELA/Math	3-10	TBD
Portfolio Appeals	12	
NJSLA-S (Science)	5,8,11	
DLM	3 - 8, 10	
PSAT	High School	
SAT	11	

August 26,27,28 & 29	Staff Development ~ School Closed for Students
September 2	Labor Day ~ School Closed
September 3	First Day of School for All Students
September 12	Back to School Night ~ GMS Grades 4-8
September 18	Back to School Night ~ CSS Grades PreK-3
September 19	Back to School Night ~ GHS Grades 9-12
October 14	Columbus Day ~ School Closed
October 23	**Parent Conferences Evening ~ Early Dismissal HS
November 4	**Parent Conferences Evening ~ Early Dismissal CSS & MS
November 5	Parent Conferences Evening ~ Early Dismissal CSS & MS
November 6	**Parent Conferences Afternoon ~ Early Dismissal CSS & MS
November 7 & 8	NJEA Convention ~ School Closed
November 27	Early Dismissal Students and Staff
November 28 & 29	Thanksgiving Recess ~ School Closed
Dec. 24 - Jan.2	Winter Recess ~ School Closed
January 20	Martin Luther King Day ~ School Closed
February 5	**Parent Conferences Evening ~ Early Dismissal CSS
February 6	**Parent Conferences Evening ~ Early Dismissal CSS & MS
February 7	Parent Conferences Afternoon ~ Early Dismissal CSS & MS
February 17	President's Day ~ School Closed
March 12	**Parent Conferences Evening ~ HS
April 17	Early Dismissal Students and Staff
April 18-25	Spring Recess ~ School Closed
May 23	Early Dismissal Students and Staff
May 26	Memorial Day ~ School Closed
June	8th Grade Graduation ~ Early Dismissal MS
June 10-13	Early Dismissal for Students
June 13	Last Day for Students
June 13	Gloucester City High School Graduation
June 16	Staff Development
June 23	Summer Classes Begin

K-12 Grades
End Marking Periods
November 6, 2024
January 27, 2025
April 1, 2025
June 13, 2025

Gloucester City School District
PM PD
October 11, 2024
January 17, 2025
February 14, 2025

****Evening Parent Conferences will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.**

The Gloucester City School District does not discriminate in admissions or access to, or treatment, or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities.

Creative Curriculum

Research has demonstrated that high-quality preschool education programs for children provide a link between home and school environments that can foster mutual educational expectations for school readiness.

Our Early Childhood Program provides all three and four-year old children in Gloucester city with free high quality full-day preschool. In addition, children are encouraged to explore, interact and develop reasoning skills through hands-on learning experiences. There is a strong focus on oral language development throughout the preschool day. Each of our classrooms has a certified teacher as well as an assistant. In addition, each classroom has a wide variety of materials for children to use, manipulate, role-play, explore and develop their fine and gross motor skills, as well as social-emotional, language and math skills.

Preschool sets the foundation to build the bridge to higher learning. It is our goal that all children leave preschool with a love of learning, a firm foundation of skills to begin kindergarten, and an exciting attitude about their future educational experiences.

Gloucester City's Early Childhood Preschool Program is dedicated to providing your child with a meaningful educational experience using the Creative Curriculum preschool curriculum.

For more information about our preschool program, please visit our website:

<https://www.gcsd.k12.nj.us/Page/152>

Teaching Strategies GOLD Child Observation Record

The Teaching Strategies GOLD is an authentic, ongoing observational system for assessing children from birth through kindergarten. It helps teachers to observe children in the context of everyday experiences, which is an effective way to learn what they know and can do. It provides both formative and summative assessment information and meets the school readiness criteria established by the State Board of Education. Teachers rate their students on a ten point scale in the following areas: social-emotional, physical, oral language, cognitive, literacy and mathematics.

Classroom Schedule

Young children require a consistent routine of events, structure and comfort so they feel safe and secure at school. As such, a daily routine is established in each classroom during instruction. Exact times may vary between classrooms; however the following components are included in the daily schedule:

- Greeting Time/Arrival
- Choice Time
- Small Group Time
- Gross Motor Play
- Outdoor Choice
- Handwashing
- Read-aloud
- Large Group Time
- Breakfast, Lunch and Snack Time
- Rest Time
- Planning and Reflection

Items To Send In To School

Please send in the following items, **labeled with his/her name**, in your child's backpack for use at school:

- An extra set of seasonal clothing including underwear and socks to be stored at school in case your child has an accident or his/her clothing becomes soiled.
 - Note: Throughout the day our preschoolers are active and busy. This includes using a variety of materials (such as paint and markers), so their clothes may get a little messy sometimes.
- An extra pair of close-toe shoes.
- A blanket to use at rest time.
 - Your child's blanket will be sent home every Friday to be washed and should then be returned to school on Monday.
- For children not potty trained: Pull-ups, wipes, and extra clothing.

Please label all outerwear, backpacks and lunch boxes with your child's first and last name.

This eliminates the need to call parent(s)/ guardian(s) at home or work requesting a change of clothing to be brought into school if there is an accident.

Also, if your child is sent home with his/her alternative outfit because of an accident, please send in replacement clothing to be kept in the classroom the following school day.

Full Inclusion Classrooms

Cold Springs Early Childhood Center is a community of educators and families who work closely to create enriching learning experiences for all children. The program is committed to the learning and developmental outcomes for preschool children. We will continue to implement research based best practices to support children's successful participation in a high quality early childhood inclusion program.

One of the critical elements of our program is Family Engagement. Family partnerships are key as we develop and implement individualized support. We will continue to share strategies and use feedback and discussions to ensure success. Our hope is that our parents will continue working closely with us and use suggested strategies at home that have been successfully implemented at school.

Our goal is that all practitioners in our program will use the strategies with fidelity to improve outcomes for children as we continue developing strong relationships with families. The administration and staff will continue to use data driven decision making to ensure the effective and appropriate support for all children and families.

Personalized Learning For Diverse Learners

The surge in learner diversity means teachers need knowledge and skills to customize learning for learners with a range of individual differences. These differences include students who have disabilities and students who perform above grade level and deserve opportunities to accelerate. Differences also include cultural and linguistic diversity and the specific needs of students for whom English is a new language.

Our teachers recognize that all learners bring to their learning varying experiences, abilities, talents, and prior learning, as well as language, culture, and family and community values that are assets that can be used to promote their learning. To do this effectively, our teachers have a deeper understanding of their own frames of reference (e.g., culture, gender, language, abilities, ways of knowing), the potential biases in these frames, and their impact on expectations for and relationships with learners and their families. Finally, our teachers provide multiple approaches to learning for each student.

The core teaching standards give learners a more active role in determining what they learn, how they learn it, and how they can demonstrate their learning. They also encourage learners to interact with peers to accomplish their learning goals. In these ways, the standards embody a vision of teaching that personalizes each learner's experiences while ensuring that every learner achieves high levels.

General Preschool Policies

Absences

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward. Missing 10% of school (1 or 2 days every few weeks) can make it harder to:

- Gain early reading and math skills.
- Build relationships.
- Develop good attendance habits.

High quality preschool and kindergarten has many benefits!

- The routines your child develops will continue throughout school.
- Make the most of early grades by encouraging your child to attend every day.

Children are expected to attend school on a regular basis - as it is in the best interest of your child for them to have consistency in their daily routines. Please be aware that the academic part of the school day starts at 8:30 a.m.

Please call the main office to leave a message for your child's teacher when your child will be absent or tardy. For an absence or tardy to be considered excused, you must provide a doctor's note. **All doctor's notes must be received on the day your child returns from absence.**

Tardiness (Arriving after 8:35 a.m.)

The school day begins at **8:15 a.m.** Children who arrive at school after **8:35 a.m.** are considered tardy. Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)/ Caregiver(s) must bring their child to the security desk and sign in the child. Students will **not be admitted into school after 10:00 a.m.** without a doctor's note as this interferes with the instructional components of the day.

If the school is not notified, the following attendance policy will be implemented for chronic absences or tardiness:

The attendance regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6), require each district board of education to develop, adopt and implement policies and procedures regarding the attendance of students, including the adoption of a definition of "unexcused absence," and the provision of mandated services for students with between one and nine cumulative unexcused absences and a mandate for those with ten or more cumulative unexcused absences.

- **Child absent (5) days: Letter sent home**
- **Child absent (7) days: CPIS phone call home**
- **Child absent (10) days: Letter sent home, CPIS phone call home to set up meeting with parents/guardians and administrator.**
- **Child absent (15) consecutive days : Students may be dropped from the preschool program.**

Bus Riders



Students issued a Bus Pass through the Gloucester City Public School Transportation Department will be provided busing to and from school, only on the bus indicated on the Bus Pass.

If you need to make a change to your child's normal dismissal procedures, please notify the main office before 2:00 p.m. of the change.

Please have a responsible adult with your child at times of bus pick-ups and drop-offs.

If the bus driver determines that there is no one available at the drop-off site, your child will then be returned to the school. Please call the school so you can arrange for immediate pick-up.

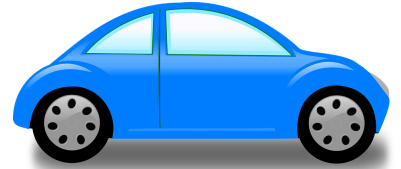
Information regarding **late buses** will be provided via Remind.

Car Riders and Walkers

Car riders may be dropped off for the day at **8:15 a.m.** and picked-up **promptly by 3:00 p.m.**

Arrival

Preschool Parents may park in designated preschool parking spots, and then walk their students to their assigned drop off location. Parents must wait with their child until received by an ECC staff member. There are three drop off locations. Please see the map below regarding which teachers are at each drop off location. Please bring your child to the location that matches your child's teacher.



Dismissal

Preschool parents may park in the designated preschool parking spots, and then walk to the designated pick up area to pick up their child. Parents will need to show the school issue paw print to an ECC staff member and sign off that they are picking up their child. The child will then be released to the parent. Parents may line up at the identified area according to their child's teacher and the attached map. (see below)

For your peace of mind and the safety of your child, when picking up or dropping them off outside of the designated times, children must be signed in and out at the security desk. Children may be picked up by parent(s)/ guardian(s) or an authorized escort only.

Please be prepared to show your proof of identification (i.e. picture ID, driver's license, paw print) every time you enter the school including dropping off and picking up children.

For safety purposes, please do not leave other small children unattended in the car and do not leave your car running while you pick-up or drop-off.

***** This is a New Jersey State Law *****

Arrival and Dismissal Map



Student Pick-ups

For security reasons, students will **ONLY** be released to parent(s)/ guardian(s) and family members that present the school issued paw print.

All escorts are asked to check-in at the security desk and have **their valid picture identification.**

In situations where another adult may be picking up your child, we ask that the parent(s)/ guardian(s) do the following:

- Call 856-456-7000 ext. 2016 or 2017 **by 2:00 p.m.** to notify who will be picking up your child
- Give the **paw print** to the adult picking up your child.

Procedure for Child Left at School After Dismissal

Every effort will be made by staff to contact the parents/ guardians or persons listed on the emergency contact sheet to escort the child home.

After failed attempts to contact parents/guardians the Gloucester City Police Department may be contacted.

Security and Visitation

A security guard is posted in each entrance to ensure the safety and security of your children.

Please cooperate with security by:

- Signing your child in/out at the security desk.
- Providing your **photo identification** each time you arrive at the school.
- Signing in at the security desk for scheduled meetings, office visits, etc.
- All visitors must wear a "Visitor" badge while in the building.
- Leaving any items that need to be delivered to the classroom with the security guard. A staff member will ensure that the items are delivered to your child's room.
- Complying with designated parking requests to ensure the safety of our children during arrival, dismissal, and for special events.



Emergency Drill Information

The Gloucester City Preschool Program complies with all state and city regulations including monthly fire drills and lockdown, shelter in place, or evacuation drills.

Family/School Communication

We recognize that communication between school and home is essential. We appreciate you sharing with us any insight into your child's life that could influence his/her progress at school. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any concerns or questions.

School Forms

At the start of school, parent(s)/ guardian(s) receive a set of school forms that need to be completed and returned within one week. ***It is especially important that we have valid phone numbers for parent(s)/guardian(s), and emergency contacts.***

You may stop in the front office at any time to update your contact information or add/remove emergency contacts. Please contact the school **immediately** with any changes to your phone number(s), address, and email address that occur during the school year.

Celebrations and Family-Involvement Activities

At various times throughout the school year we will be celebrating numerous holidays and events in ways that are appropriate for our preschool-aged children. These events are designed to provide students and their family members with special opportunities to enjoy all that our program offers. Due to the ever-changing diversity of our school families, we will offer events that can be embraced by all cultures. Notices for celebrations will be sent home ahead of time - either through a printed flier sent home and/or school email. If you choose not to have your child participate in any events, please inform your child's teacher.

Specific information regarding activities will be provided throughout the school year.

At this time, **families are able to send in class snacks and treats to share as long as they are prepackaged and sealed. All food items must include nutrition facts as well as a list of ingredients.** This includes any items for student's birthdays and other celebrations.

Preschool Newsletter



Cold Springs School issues weekly newsletters to keep parents up to date with ongoing activities, special events and important dates to remember. Click on the Preschool link each week for specific information regarding CSS Early Childhood Center special events and dates .

Cold Springs School Web Page & Facebook

Follow these social media pages for up to date information regarding our school.

WEBSITE: <https://www.gcsd.k12.nj.us/Page/152>

FACEBOOK: Cold Springs School

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Preschool Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) /Teacher conferences are scheduled in accordance with the school district conference schedules for elementary schools and are offered twice per year.



When parent(s)/ guardian(s) take an active role in the conferences and their child's education, the child will flourish in the classroom. Here are some tips on how to be an active participant in your child's conference:

- Be willing and ready to share information about your child and family.
- Stay focused on your child.
- Attend every parent/ guardian- teacher conference.
- Arrive on time.
- Listen with an open mind.
- Be prepared.
- Keep the conversation focused on what can be done for your child.
- Stay involved.

2024 - 2025 Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) Conference Dates are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Monday, November 4, 2024 | Evening |
| • Tuesday, November 5, 2024 | Evening |
| • Wednesday, November 6, 2024 | Afternoon |
| | |
| • Wednesday, February 5, 2024 | Evening |
| • Thursday, February 6, 2024 | Evening |
| • Friday, February 7, 2024 | Afternoon |

Notices will be sent home before the dates to schedule appointments.

However, if you would like an individual conference with your child's teacher during other times of the school year, please do not hesitate to call and schedule a convenient time.

FIELD TRIPS

Students will be participating in field trips for the upcoming school year. More information will be provided at a later date.

Food Service

Gloucester City Public Schools provides nutritious low-cost meals to all students regardless of income.

Our preschool program serves on-site breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and lunch between 11:30 pm – 12:30 p.m, depending on classroom schedules.



Prices for meals for the 2024 - 2025 School Year, meal applications, and menus are available on the Gloucester City Schools website.

A new meal application must be filled out every year. Please return your application promptly.

Snacks/Food Sent Into School

If you do not wish to use the Gloucester City Public Schools Food Service Department for meals, you may send in a bagged lunch and snack for your child. However, due to safety regulations and time constraints, our teachers are **not able to refrigerate or microwave lunches**. Please use ice packs and/or thermos as needed in packed lunches.

We also have identified peanut free classrooms for those students with food allergies. If your child is placed in a nut free classroom, those teachers will provide further guidance on what foods can be sent into school.

Please see the guidelines below when sending in lunch or snacks. For healthy and safety practices, students will not be able to share any food with other students.

Meal Guidelines based on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Nutritious meals and snacks are essential for young children's optimal growth and development. During meals preschoolers learn to make nutritious choices, discover a wide variety of different foods and develop healthy eating patterns. Please follow the guidelines provided below when providing breakfast/ lunch and or snacks for your child. Further information can be found at (www.nal.usda.gov).

BREAKFAST

Food Components	Ages 3-5
1 milk fluid milk	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup
1 fruit/vegetable fruit and or vegetable (<i>juice must be full-strength</i>)	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup
1 grains/bread bread (<i>must be whole-grain or enriched</i>) or biscuit/ muffin (<i>must be whole-grain enriched</i>) or cold dry/ hot cooked cereal (<i>must be whole-grain/enriched</i>) or pasta or noodles or grains	$\frac{1}{2}$ slice $\frac{1}{2}$ serving $\frac{1}{3}$ cup $\frac{1}{4}$ cup $\frac{1}{4}$ cup

LUNCH OR SUPPER

Food Components	Ages 3-5
1 milk fluid milk	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup
2 fruits/vegetables fruit and or vegetable (<i>juice must be full-strength</i>)	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup
1 grains/bread bread (<i>must be whole-grain or enriched</i>) or biscuit/ muffin (<i>must be whole-grain enriched</i>) or cold dry/ hot cooked cereal (<i>must be whole-grain/enriched</i>) or pasta or noodles or grains	$\frac{1}{2}$ slice $\frac{1}{2}$ serving $\frac{1}{3}$ cup $\frac{1}{4}$ cup $\frac{1}{4}$ cup
1 meat/meat alternate meat/poultry/fish (<i>must be cooked lean meat/poultry/fish</i>) or alternate protein product or cheese or egg or cooked dry beans or peas or yogurt	$1 \frac{1}{2}$ oz. $1 \frac{1}{2}$ oz. $1 \frac{1}{2}$ oz. $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (1 egg) $\frac{3}{8}$ cup 6 oz.

SNACK: Choose 2 of the 4 components

Food Components	Ages 3-5
1 milk fluid milk	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup
1 fruit/vegetables fruit and/or vegetable(juice must be full-strength)	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup
1 grains/bread bread (<i>must be whole-grain or enriched</i>) or biscuit/ muffin (<i>must be whole-grain enriched</i>) or cold dry/ hot cooked cereal (<i>must be whole-grain/enriched</i>)	$\frac{1}{2}$ slice $\frac{1}{2}$ serving $\frac{1}{3}$ cup $\frac{1}{4}$ cup
1 meat/meat alternate meat / poultry/ fish (<i>must be cooked lean meat/poultry/fish</i>) or alternate protein product or cheese or egg or cooked dry beans or peas or yogurt	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ cup 2 oz.

School Health Services

The School Health Services include administering to the injured and sick, as well as health screenings and education.



The School Health service hours are the same as the school's educational day.

The School Health Center may be reached at 856-456-7000 ext. 2025 or 2026.

Medication Administration Policy



No medication (prescriptions or over-the-counter) may be sent to school with your child on the school bus. All medication must be brought to school by the Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) only and given to the School Nurse with doctor's orders to give medication during the school day.

All parents/guardians must complete a medication consent form and have a written doctor's order. If the medicine is a prescription drug, it must be in its original bottle with a label. If the medicine is over-the-counter, you must provide a note from your child's doctor.

A parent/guardian must drop off and pick up the medicine that needs to go home with your child from the School Nurse.

Please contact the school nurse if your child has any health concerns that may require treatment while in school. (Ex. asthma, food allergies, seizures, etc.)

**** Please do not send your child to school if he or she does not feel well or has had a fever in the prior 24 hours.****

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL

When your child is sick, please keep him/her home from school. For the protection of your child and others, please do not send your child to school with signs or symptoms of illness. Some important signs of illness are:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. A temperature of 100 degrees or more orally | 2. Nausea or vomiting |
| 2. Stomachache | 3. Diarrhea |
| 3. Pale or flushed face | 4. Red or Pink eyes |
| 4. Persistent cough | 5. Rash or infection of the skin |
| 5. Earache | |

*****Do not administer a fever reducing medication (Children's Tylenol or Advil/Motrin) and send your child to school. Your child must be fever free for 24 hours without receiving fever reducing medication before your child can return to school.**

If your child does come to school and complains of being sick or does not look well after he/she reaches school, we will contact you to come and pick up.



PREPARING FOR PRESCHOOL

For some children, preschool is the next step from their child care setting. Playing and sharing with other kids is nothing new. For others, going to school is their first experience away from home.

Help prepare your child for this big and exciting adventure before the school year begins by:

- Visiting the school for **Back To School Night** (on Wednesday, September 18, 2024) to meet the teacher and visit the classroom.
- Prepare a bed time. It is suggested that preschoolers go to bed at the same time every night and receive at least 10 hours of sleep each night.
- Check in with your own feelings. Are you feeling excited, enthusiastic, and apprehensive? Children will pick up on these feelings and transfer them to their own experiences. Remember if you are positive and excited at your daughter's/son's beginning school, your enthusiasm will most likely become part of your child's experience.

And on the first days of school remember:

- Supply your child with a backpack and school uniform.
- Dress your child in the school uniform, making sure he/she is comfortable in the clothes (i.e. buttons or belts on pants/skirts may be difficult for young children; buy Velcro closures while teaching your child to tie his/her shoes).
- **Have your child's name, classroom, and bus number written in the backpack.**
- Adjustments will be easier for your child if you accept any initial emotional reactions as normal and continue to reassure him/her of your love and interest.
- Never sneak off without saying goodbye - that only serves to reinforce a child's fear.
- Develop a "goodbye" routine. Children thrive on the predictability of rituals and routines.
- A "goodbye" routine will not always keep your child from crying, especially at first. Some children cry for days before they adjust. Once you have finished the activities in your routine, you may need the teacher's or staff's reassuring presence to help your child as you leave.

Parents/ Guardians PLEASE CALL AND LET US KNOW...

- When your child is going to be absent before 10 a.m.
- When you are delayed in dropping-off or picking-up your child
- When you have a change of phone number at work or at home
- When your emergency contacts have a change in address or phone number at work or at home
- When something is happening at home which may affect your child's feelings and/or behavior
- When you don't understand a procedure, a communication, or a request
- When you are pleased with our program



We thank you for sharing your precious child with us & we hope you and your child have a happy and successful year in preschool!

