

NEW BOSTON PRESCHOOL

PARENT HANDBOOK

Revised 5/11

Preschool Daily Schedule

7:55/12:30- Arrival- Book bag/coat/folder/name tag/wash hands/table activity

8:05/12:40- Announcements/Chat time

8:15/12:50- Restroom/Wash hands/Drink

8:25/1:00- Calendar/Songs/Stories

**8:40/1:15- M & F- Large Group Lesson
T & W & Th- IT Time- Small groups**

8:55/1:30- Centers: Snack, Housekeeping, Library, Computer, Writing, Blocks, Toys and Puzzles, Painting, Sensory Table each day. Special centers available depending on theme and interest studies.

9:55/2:30- Clean-up/Stickers/Pack book bags

10:00/2:35- Gross Motor Time- Outside: 25-90 degrees/Inside: Gym/Activity Room when weather inclement.

10:30/3:05- Bus loading- south doors (am)/ Early bus loading- south doors (pm)

3:05- Town students pick up- in the foyer (pm)

3:15- Late bus loading- south doors (pm)

*****Speech and other therapy is scheduled in and out of the class as determined by the therapist.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

- If you bring your child to school, morning class can bring your child to the classroom at 7:55, afternoon class can meet the class and teacher by the main entrance at 12:30 pm. Please walk your child into the school and make sure teachers are there waiting for him/her.
- If you arrive late (after 8:05/12:30) you will need to sign your child in the office and your child will be counted tardy.
- If you pick up your child after school, you may wait in the foyer at 10:30/ 3:05. If you are not there at the designated time, the office secretary will call your home first and then emergency numbers until someone can be reached to pick up your child. Your child will wait in the office until a designated adult arrives to pick him/her up from school. Frequent late pickups will be referred to the principal.
- Please notify the school if your child will be absent, late or if someone other than the designated person will be picking your child up after school. Excessive unexcused absences (20% absence) may result in your child losing his/her spot in the Prekindergarten program.
- Have your child dress in appropriate clothing for messy art projects, outdoor play and according to the weather. It is required to keep an extra pair of shorts/pants and underwear in your child's book bag.
- Parents are invited to send snacks. Please notify the teacher if a "special or birthday snack" is being sent to avoid a conflict with a cooking project. We highly discourage cupcakes as the kids do not eat them well at this age. Home made treats are not allowed at school. We do have snack as a part of our center time, so please make sure your child's birthday treat is here at the start of their day.
- Invitations to birthday parties are not to be passed out at school unless each child receives an invitation. I am not able to give out addresses and phone numbers for children in the class.
- Items from home can only be brought on Friday SHOW AND TELL DAY. They must remain in your child's book bag to and from school. Collectibles are not allowed. Children are always asked after show and tell if they want to put the item away or share. If it is something you prefer your child not to share, please keep it home. Of course, no toy guns or "fighting toys". Thank you.

ILLNESSES

- Please keep your child home if he/she has a fever or any other condition which would prevent him/her from feeling like participating in Preschool activities. As a general rule, children need to be kept home for 24 hours following a fever. Recent (within the past 24 hours) vomiting and/or diarrhea are also good reasons to keep your child home until you are sure they are symptom free.
- If your child comes to school with or develops a fever, vomiting or diarrhea while at school, you will be contacted to come and pick up your child.
- In case of an emergency, we will try to notify the parent immediately. We will then follow the procedure you have indicated on your child's emergency card.

- If live lice or fleas are found on your child, we will have to call you to come pick up your child. Lice and fleas are NOT indicative of a dirty home. Anyone can have them and we will do all we can to help you eliminate the problem. We must remove the child to avoid spreading the fleas or lice to other homes. Thank you for your cooperation.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

- We will celebrate the following parties: Fall Festival (November) Winter Frolic (December), Special Friends (February), Spring Fling (March/April).
- There will be a sign-up sheet available at First Night or Open House so that you can sign up for the party(ies) you would like. Party coordinator will then contact the other parents and plan the party. Please, if your plans change and you cannot help, let the coordinator know. Likewise, if you would like to help at the last minute, please call the party coordinator so that she knows. I will help out in anyway that I am asked.

BOOK BAGS

- I ask that each child bring a book bag to school each day. I will send home a homework folder the first day in your child's bag. This is where you will find any notes from school and your child's work. Please look it over and clean it out each night. I will look in the folder each day for notes from you. If your child's folder gets worn out (and it will!) please send \$1 and we will replace it. As a general rule, if your child does not have a book bag, he will not be able to bring any work or notes home from school.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

- Parent participation is an important part of the Preschool program. Parents are expected to attend a parent meeting before their child is enrolled to learn about the parent participation options. As part of your child's enrollment in Pre-K, each family will be required to earn ten parent points each nine weeks in order to continue their child's enrollment in the program. Points may be earned through attending parent meetings, reading to your child at home, completing story sacks activities, volunteering in the classroom, donating materials and supplies, attending field trips and more. Specific information will be provided at the introductory parent meeting and through additional handouts.

RIDING THE BUS

- If your child rides the bus to school, and he/she will not be at school for any reason, you need to contact the bus barn in Joy by 6:30/10:00 am. The telephone number is: 584-4630. If you can not contact anyone there, then call the

elementary school and the secretary will get the message to the driver. If your child will be riding a different bus, please contact the bus barn and the school. You may call the office or send a note in your child's bag. **It is important that you contact both the school and the bus barn.** On All-Day field trips, it will be your responsibility to contact the bus barn if you want your child picked up in the morning if the bus does not normally stop there.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD DO WELL IN SCHOOL?

ATTENDANCE

In order for your child to benefit from Preschool, he/she needs to come every day (unless he/she is ill). Your child needs to know that you think school is important. If your child's absence rate is 20% or more, he/she may be dismissed from the program to allow another child to attend and get the full benefit of the program.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH

When children are hungry, it is difficult for them to pay attention to events and situations around them, and hunger also can make them cranky. If you would like your child to participate in the breakfast program, I would suggest you make arrangements with an older student to help your preschool age child as the preschool teachers will not be able to assist them. Since we are not able to offer a hot lunch to Preschool children, I encourage you to make sure your child has a nutritious lunch before you send him/her off to school. Please remember that eating/drinking is not allowed on the bus. We will provide a snack later in the morning/afternoon. Please feel free to donate snack items.

SLEEP

The lack of a good night's sleep can also affect a child's ability to do well in school. Set a reasonable bedtime and stick to it. This provides for the child's sleep, and also provides a few well deserved moments of rest and relaxation for parents. Expect your child to be tired when he/she returns home from school, especially at the beginning of the school year.

PROPER BEHAVIOR ON THE BUS

Riding the bus will probably be a new experience for your child. Talk to him/her about bus rules (staying in your seat, talking quietly, etc.). Please do not send food for your child to eat on the bus- this is not allowed. On the noon route, for the safety of all the children, please escort your child out to the mini-bus and buckle him/her in the seat. This procedure allows the driver to remain attentive to the other children on the bus.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Prekindergarten Program has many opportunities for parents to become a part of their child's educational process. By attending the events and activities throughout the school year, you will show your child how proud you are of him/her and his/her accomplishments.

ENJOY YOUR CHILD

Your child will show a lot of growth in language and learning during year. Show your enthusiasm for the many projects he/she will bring home by displaying them around the house.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT MY CHILD IS DOING IN PREKINDERGARTEN?

LOOK

You are welcome to visit during the school hours. Look around the classroom. Watch the children at play and at work. Look at their artwork. Notice how the adult and children interact with each other.

LISTEN

A parent who is a good listener will hear about all of the things that their child has done at school. If you ask your child, "What did you do at school today?", the answer will probably be, "Nothing." Instead, be more specific- "What did you have for snack?", "Did you go outside to play?", "What did you make today?", or "What story did your teacher read to you?" Conversation is a skill that preschoolers are learning and it takes practice.

READ

Your child will bring home a newsletter. Please read it so that you will be more informed about classroom activities and future events. You may also want to read it with your child. Many notes will also be sent home to keep you informed. Please be prompt in returning notes (field trip permission forms, etc.) requested by the teacher.

TALK

You will be meeting with your child's teacher several times during school year. You will be working together to plan for your child's learning. For this to be most effective, you and the teacher will share thoughts about your child and his or her progress.

SHARE

If something has happened that may affect your child, please let the teacher know. A child's behavior or mood may change because of an event or situation at home. Please keep the teacher informed, as the teacher will keep you informed if anything happens at school. If your child comes home and tells you something that you are concerned about, it is always best to call the teacher as soon as possible to clarify any misunderstandings.

VOLUNTEER

The best way to know what is going on with your child is to be a part of his/her school experience. We do try to go on monthly field trips, and parent participation is essential to the success of these outings. Please try to plan to attend as many as possible. Parent volunteers are very important to us (and to your child's self-esteem and success in school). Ask the teacher what you can do to help.

HOW SHOULD THE PREKINDERGARTENER BE TAUGHT?

Preschoolers are constantly in motion and are rapidly gaining control of their bodies. Until now, they have spent most of their time at home and their experience as social beings has been somewhat limited. In preschool most children begin to interact with people outside the family and to learn how to relate and socialize within a group.

During the first years of formal education, a child's thinking is stimulated at all levels, and even preschoolers can be encouraged to think creatively and evaluatively. Preschoolers' language is developing rapidly and can benefit from continued encouragement and guidance. In these early years, educators not only help young children form basic concepts but also nurture creativity. To the preschool child, learning is an exciting endeavor.

The young child learns throughout actions on objects and through exploration in the environment. Preschoolers learn best in natural settings that allow them to be active participants.

Preschoolers cannot be "taught" in the traditional sense of the word. They can be stimulated, guided, and encouraged in carefully planned activities that allow them to develop at their own optimum rate. An early childhood educator can provide and arrange for these experiences but should not thrust solutions to problems on the children. They must be allowed to discover the answers themselves through experimentation and investigation.

Information must be learned in a meaningful context to enable full understanding by the young child. The teacher provides the props, experiences, and interactions. The children use all five senses to interact with the objects, people, and events that are presented.

Children learn best when there is a planned curriculum of activities focused on a particular theme or concept. Through the thematic approach, children's ability to explore it broadened and their thinking skills are stimulated. Young children learn best through playful interaction with their environment.

GOALS OF THE PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

- To make each child's school experience positive
- To provide a classroom that can meet the needs of each individual child
- To encourage sharing and cooperation

- To provide opportunities for self-expression for each child through language, drama, art, music and play
- To increase each child's attention span and ability to obtain information from their environment
- Promote feelings of confidence in tackling and mastering new situations and experiences
- Aid each child to adapt to new situations
- Develop the ability to think logically and make associations
- Encourage independence in tending to personal needs
- Encourage sharing and cooperation
- Help each child to recognize the rights, feelings, and property of others
- Develop skills using all parts of the body (fine and gross motor skills)
- Build upon each family's strengths
- Encourage family/school involvement and foster positive parent/teacher relations
- Encourage positive interactions and relationships between the children