

Policy Handbook

2023-2024

St. Jerome Little Lions Preschool

50 Meadow Avenue
Tamaqua, PA 18252

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Teacher's Aide

Amy M. Hannis-Miskar
School Principal and Preschool Director

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

We strive to provide a safe and fun learning environment so that all students have the opportunity to learn and explore God's love and the world. We believe that parents have the first duty and responsibility for the education of their children. We will integrate that belief with the same tenderness, forgiveness, and respect that the children will receive at home. The first years of life are of vital importance to a child's growth and development. Early childhood education should be a journey, not a race. We believe that each child is unique and special, so we will provide learning opportunities that are age and developmentally appropriate, corresponding with each child's needs and interests.

OUR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Our preschool program will explore the areas of language and literacy, math, science, social studies, music and movement, art, dramatic and imaginary play, fine motor, gross motor, and religion. Children will participate in morning prayer and circle time each day. During circle time we will focus on various skills including colors, shapes, numbers, letters, calendar, days of the week, months of the year, weather, the Pledge of Allegiance and much more!

PROGRAM GOALS

Listed below are some overall goals for our preschool program.

Although there are many more goals that we reach throughout the year, this is just a general synopsis of what is set throughout the year. All of the program goals will show a beginning understanding as a 3 year old in our program and will grow to a deeper understanding and level as a 4 year old.

Social/Emotional/Spiritual:

- To learn to love and respect each other
- To develop independence and self-confidence
- To develop self-worth
- To understand own feelings and feelings of others

- To be more aware of God and how He is here for us
- To follow rules and routines
- To make friends and learn what it means to be part of a group
- To learn prayers and Bible stories

Physical:

- To develop large muscle skills – jumping, balancing, running, throwing, and catching
- To develop small muscle skills – scissors, writing, tracing, zippering, buttoning, puzzles, fingerplays, playdough
- To learn about taking care of our bodies – making nutritional choices, understand our body parts

Science and Math:

- To develop thinking skills such as the ability to solve problems
- To learn how to make observations, make predictions, ask questions, and make discoveries
- To understand the characteristics of living and non-living things
- To understand physical properties of objects and how they move
- To understand how our behavior affects the Earth – recycling, etc.
- To develop and use scientific thinking and problem-solving skills
- To understand mathematical concepts, such as counting, one to one correspondence, graphing, patterns, shapes, colors, sorting, classifying, comparing, and measurement

Language and Literacy:

- To understand receptive language – understanding words and sounds, phonological awareness (letter sounds, rhyming, etc)
- To understand expressive language – communicating with others
- To develop listening skills – following one and two step directions
- To understand the purpose of print - recognizing their names, friends' names, words and letters

- To begin writing for a purpose – to create a letter or story
- To display comprehension when reading stories – recalling details from a story, retelling a story in sequence, and being able to ask and answer questions about a story
- To develop book knowledge and appreciation – reading books from front to back, showing left to right progression, and describing the pictures seen

Social Studies:

- To understand being part of a community – drawing self-portraits including all body parts, sharing information about families
- To understand characteristics of a family
- To be able to participate in group decision making and understand your own role and responsibility in the classroom.
- To identify past, present and future – technology, daily routine, concepts of yesterday, today, and tomorrow
- To understand community workers and the jobs they do

Creative Arts:

- To explore the elements of design, shape, line, color, and texture
- To use a variety of materials to express feelings and create art
- To discuss own art creations
- To explore rhythm, tempo, and social interaction through musical games
- To understand and listen to different types of music from different cultures
- To sing familiar songs, chants, and fingerplays
- To share social interaction skills through dramatic play and trying out new roles

ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN

Children will receive progress reports two times a year, fall and spring. The information on these progress reports can be very limited, so we will also have optional parent-teacher conferences twice a year, November and March, to review them. Please note that the progress reports are based on what your

child shows us at school. It does not mean that they do not exhibit the skills at home. Experiences at school are different and materials are presented in different ways than at home. Parents and teachers are a team, working together to ensure the success of your child!

ADMISSION

The following are the requirements for registration and admission to Little Lions Preschool:

1. Children registering for preschool must be of age for the corresponding program prior to October 15th. (This would mean that any child entering into the program must be 3 years old prior to the date.)
2. All registrants must have appropriate paperwork filled out with our Advancement Director.
3. All registrants for preschool must present current immunization records prior to the first day of school. These records must be up-to-date according to the State of PA requirements and will be reviewed.
4. In the event that the child is from a separated family and lives with one parent, custody papers must be presented and will be kept on file with the student's paperwork.
5. All children need to be potty trained to attend our program unless they have an IEP stating otherwise.

APPOINTMENTS WITH TEACHER

Please let Mrs. Mohammed know if you would like to meet to discuss any concerns that you may have. You can reach Mrs. Mohammed at imohammed@sjschool.com . Your questions and concerns are very important, so please do not hesitate to reach out!

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Our school day begins promptly at 9:00 am. We ask that students do not arrive before 8:50 AM.

Our full day 4-Year-Old program ends at 2:30PM.

Students may have their temperature checked before entering the building.

At the end of the school day parents are to wait outside the building. Teachers will line students up and walk them out to the parents. Teachers will only dismiss children to ADULTS and teachers must recognize and know exactly who will be picking the students up daily. If there is any change in the pick-up person, please send a note to school or call the school office at 570-668-2757 to report the change. If there are any questions regarding the pick-up person, the teacher reserves the right to ask for identification and may retain the child until parents are contacted for verification.

We ask that the parents arrive a few minutes early for dismissal and be patient. We want to be sure the children have enough time to walk out at a safe distance and the parents can receive an update about the preschool day.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/EMERGENCY CONTACT

It is important to report all changes of address, telephone, emergency contact, etc. as soon as possible to the teacher so that proper corrections can be made on school records.

Parents are asked to provide the school with emergency phone numbers where you can be reached or where someone who can substitute for you is available in case of illness or some other emergency.

DRESS CODE

Students at Little Lions Preschool are not required to wear a uniform. However, there are some rules for clothing as follows:

- Please no high heeled shoes or shoes without backing (no flip-flops, clogs, or wedged shoes)
- Students wearing snow boots or rain boots must bring an additional pair of shoes to wear during the school day.

□ Students must wear comfortable clothing that is easy and manageable - preferably no overalls or buttons that are unmanageable for your child. Please keep in mind we will get messy sometimes!

** All students must have a spare change of seasonably appropriate clothing in their bags in case of accidents.

**Parents must understand that preschool gets messy and we are not responsible for ruined clothing due to paint and other materials.

SNACK AND LUNCH

All Children registered will need to pack a lunch. Children are also expected to bring a snack and a drink on a daily basis. Please pack the snack separate from the lunch to prevent confusion. Students eat in the classroom. We do not provide hot lunch or options to buy lunch in preschool. Once we have received all paperwork, we will let you know of any allergies in the classroom.

EMERGENCIES

In case of an emergency, please let us know and we will have your child ready for you to leave early. Our school office phone number is 570-668-2757. In the case of an emergency at the school, every attempt will be made to contact the parent first and then emergency contact listed on your student emergency card. Students will participate in all safety drills with SJRS including, but not limited to: fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown drills.

MEDICATIONS

Whenever it is necessary for a student to take medication in school the appropriate forms must be completed. These forms include a signed release form completed by the parents and the medication form completed by the physician. Medication may not be administered by school personnel unless both of these forms have been completed. We can only give prescribed medications to the children, no over the counter medications can be given. Medication must be brought to school by the parent, not by the student.

Medications must be contained in the original prescription bottle with the original label. Medications brought to school in plastic bags or in open bottles will not be administered to students. Students are not permitted to bring any over the counter medications to school, such as cough drops, cough medicines, nasal spray, etc.

All school personnel are required to learn how to administer Epi-pens in case of an allergic reaction.

ILLNESS POLICY

Parents will be asked to pick up their child from preschool if they exhibit any of the following:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Vomiting/Loose Bowel Movements
- Colored discharge from eyes, ears, nose (unless they have a doctor note stating that they are not contagious)
- Lice or eggs found in child's hair
- Injury or illness that requires medical treatment

** Parents will be notified immediately if any injuries occur at school. We will also call for nose bleeds.

SNOW DAYS/EARLY DISMISSAL/EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

School closings will be broadcasted under Saint Jerome Regional School. Little Lions Preschool WILL NOT be listed. In the event of hazardous weather conditions, information concerning the delayed opening or closing of school will be broadcast on WNEP and WBRE. It will also be posted on the school Facebook page. In the event of an early dismissal, parents will be called concerning the dismissal time.

1 hour delay - Class begins at 10AM

2 hour delay - Class begins at 11AM

3 hour delay - All students report from 12PM to 2:30PM

If the school building has to be closed due to inclement weather, Mrs.

Mohammed may or may not use e-mail to provide virtual lessons for that day. Inclement weather days will not be made up in person.

ABSENCES

If you need to report your child absent please call the school office at 570-668-2757 or e-mail Mrs. Mohammed at imohammed@sjrschool.com

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our goal in Preschool is to be proactive when it comes to behavior problems. When we have a behavior problem in the classroom, we first look at ourselves and our environment to see if we could change something to stop a behavior from occurring. We also believe that positive reinforcement on a daily basis helps to curb any behavior problems. We praise good behavior every chance we get rather than reinforce negative behaviors. Good behavior is contagious!

If there is a recurring behavior issue, parents will be notified in their child's folder, through email, or at pick up that day. As a team, we will meet to discuss the best way to deal with the behavior at hand both at home and school.

For safety reasons, Little Lions Preschool does reserve the right to dismiss any student that is a physical threat to themselves and others. Final determination of disciplinary action is up to the discretion of the director/teacher. Dismissal of a student from the program is agreed upon by the teacher and our principal.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Little Lions Preschool follows the rule of teacher-parent confidentiality. Any conversations between the staff, parents, or guardians are kept confidential. Preschool staff will not share this information with any other

individuals. However, there are times when it is necessary to share information with other parties who are involved with a specific child, i.e. their classroom teacher or principal of the school.

PARENT SIGNATURE OF UNDERSTANDING

I (We) have read and understand the Little Lions Preschool Policy Handbook. I (We) also understand that addendums may be added as necessary and we will be notified of these changes in writing. I (We) also understand that we must also follow the policies within the St. Jerome Regional School Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Printed Name