

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
(E. C. E.)
PROGRAM HANDBOOK
Sikeston, MO 63801**

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**HANDBOOK
FOR
PARENTS AND TEACHERS**



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Preschool Program Title I

The goal for the Early Childhood Education program is for each child to learn through discovery by experimenting and manipulating objects in his / her world. From these experiences, the child will develop the important abstract thinking skills needed to successfully progress through school.

The classroom experience will give your child the pleasure of close relationships with teachers and classmates. There will be many opportunities to interact with people and materials, thus the child learns while having fun. Your child learns by associating thoughts and experiences with items, ideas, and people, through a concrete, play-oriented approach to early childhood education.

This booklet was prepared by the staff of the Sikeston Public Schools as a guide for parents who enroll their preschool children for this very important learning opportunity. We developed this booklet to offer suggestions and information so that your child's first school experience will be positive and productive.

We hope that your child's experience with us will be fun and educationally profitable.

Jenny Hobeck, Principal
Early Childhood Education
Sikeston Kindergarten Center

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The entry requirements for the preschool program are:

1. The child must be at least four (4) years old before August 1st, prior to the school term of enrollment.
2. The child must have participated in an individual screening of health, language, math, gross motor, and fine motor areas.
3. The child must live within the Sikeston R6 School District.
4. The child **must** have the following information on file with the school; State issued Birth Certificate, Up-to- Date shot record, Social Security number is needed, but not required, Medicaid number, if applicable and proof of residency.

The Scott County Health Department offers an immunization clinic where these shots may be received. There will be a small charge for each immunization. However, no one will be denied service because of inability to pay.

The location of the Scott County Health Department is 102 Groves Estates Court (off Hwy 61 North), Sikeston, Missouri and the phone number is (573) 471-4044.



"READ TO
YOUR CHILD
EVERYDAY!"



KINDERGARTEN CENTER PUP PLEDGE

I will have a good day.

I will be a Sikeston PUP.

I will be polite.

I will be understanding and make good choices.

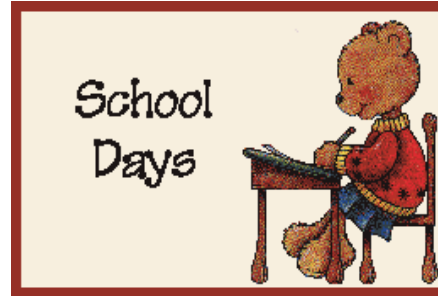
And I will play and work safely.

Woof! Woof!

The Preschool Day

The 4 year old full day program will be in session five (5) days per week. Classes start at 8:45 a.m. and end at 3:45 p.m. on each day except Wednesday. On Wednesday, classes start at 8:45 a.m. and end at 11:45 a.m. The half day 4 year old program will be in session 5 half days a week, 12:45 pm-3:45 pm. The 3 year old half day program will be in session 4 half days a week, 8:45 am-11:45 am every day except Wednesdays. The 3 year olds are off on Wednesdays.

In addition to the Early Childhood Education classes the preschool program also provides Early Childhood Special Education for qualifying students.



Attendance

Attendance is the number one factor in determining if your child will be successful in school. If your child is absent, please call the school or send a note or excuse the next day. If we do not know why they are absent, it is unexcused. Preschool students' attendance will be monitored closely. If attendance is not consistent, your child may be replaced by another child on the waiting list.

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM PROMOTES

The early childhood curriculum provides a Cognitively-Oriented Classroom. The Project Construct approach is used along with developmentally appropriate techniques.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

PLANNING

The child develops a plan for what will be done during work time. This plan may be given orally to the teacher or by imitation / gesturing. Planning is the basis for the thinking process.

WORK TIME

During work time, children are encouraged to carry out their initial plan and to make new plans for the activity. The room is arranged in well-defined areas — art, block, house, quiet — to assist in the work time activity. Teachers use work time to ask questions that will initiate and extend children's thinking and to observe children in their various stages of development.

CLEAN UP

Clean-up time allows children to develop responsibility for putting away their own materials. In the classroom, shelves are labeled to facilitate this activity. Teachers use clean-up time to ask questions about seriation, classification, and other key experiences.

FLOWER DELIVERIES

Many individuals have chosen to have flower deliveries sent to students at the Sikeston schools for Valentine's Day, Birthdays or any other type of special event. Deliveries disrupt the day-to-day operations of our schools, most importantly, the instructional time of our students. Sikeston schools will no longer continue to manage the volume and disruption this causes. The administration requests that parents refrain from sending deliveries to any of the Sikeston schools during such events.

YOUR SCHOOL WILL HELP YOU

We appreciate the interest that you have in your child, and we feel that with your co-operation, our schools can meet your child's needs and provide the proper educational opportunities.

If you have any questions about the preschool program, or if you have concerns for your child, please call the Sikeston Kindergarten Center, (573) 471-0653. We will strive to assist you.



Health Tips

Parents should check weather conditions and see that their child is dressed in clothing which meets the need. Please see that **all items of clothing**, which may be taken off at school or on the bus, are properly **marked** so that the child and teacher may identify any items which are misplaced or lost.



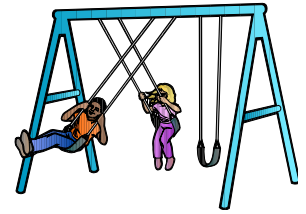
Good health is one of the important objectives in school. Children cannot be expected to do their best work unless they are healthy. Doctors tell us that the need for sleep varies with each individual child; however, most doctors agree that a five-year old child or younger, generally needs at least ten (10) hours of sleep each night.

Please send an extra t-shirt/shirt, pair of socks, underwear, and long pants or sweat pants. We will keep the extra change at school. Also, if you have extra socks, underwear, or pants ranging from 3 years old to 7 years old that you plan to throw away or give away, please send them to the school nurse. The school nurse is constantly in need of extra clothes to put on children that have an accident. Your donations are very much appreciated.



RECALL

The purpose of recall is to review and evaluate the plan that was made at planning time. Children will recall their work-time activity and will then share their experiences.



SMALL GROUP

Small group activities are planned by the teacher to offer or extend the experiences children need. The children are encouraged to use materials in different ways and to explore actively.

CIRCLE TIME

The purpose of circle time is to provide a large group activity. Examples include flannel board stories, puppets, story telling, dramatics, and circle type games. Children are encouraged to participate in the group.

SNACK TIME

Snack time activities include social interaction with peers and adults.

OUTSIDE TIME

Outside time allows children to move and develop large muscles.

REST TIME

Children in the Preschool Program will have a rest time each afternoon. Cots will be provided. **This is only for the Full Day 4 year old program.**



BUS TRANSPORTATION

Where feasible, children enrolled in the Early Childhood Program will be bussed by Sikeston Public Schools. The preschool teachers will be discussing the bus schedule with you before school begins. The busses generally arrive at a certain point on the route about the same time each day. During the first week of school, the busses are generally late since it takes a little longer to load a bus full of preschoolers. Busses will pick up the students at their houses, where possible.

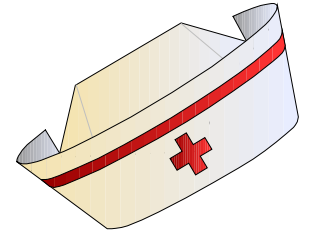


Bus tags should be worn all year by your child for his / her own safety. If you lose a tag, please pin a note on your child with the name of the child, address, and bus number. We will not make transportation changes unless it is to be a long term change. However, any person listed on the emergency card or list that was provided by the parent will be allowed to pick up the student in an emergency.

3 year old program students will need to be transported to and from school. Bussing is not available for them due to car seat limitations. Also for the half day 4 year old students, they must be transported to school but then can ride the bus home if desired.

WHEN YOUR CHILD BECOMES ILL

There is always a possibility that sometime your child may become ill at school. There is also a possibility that he or she may be the victim of an accident which occurs on the playground or elsewhere. One of the first thoughts, which crosses the mind of the teacher, nurse, or principal is, "Will I be able to contact the parent?" A young child quickly builds up fear if the parent is not accessible. Will you please see that the teacher has two (2) responsible local "alternative contacts" and phone numbers on file in the event neither parent can be reached and your child becomes extremely ill or is injured.



In order to prevent the spread of all communicable diseases, children should be kept at home if they have a temperature of 100.4° or more, a sore throat, any type of rash, a severe cough, an upset stomach, or red eyes.

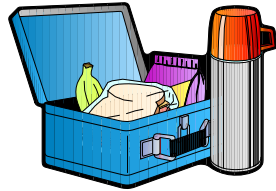
Every child plays outside a short time each day, if weather conditions permit, so please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for weather conditions. If your child has been ill, and / or cannot go outside, he / she should be kept at home. We feel that the play period each day is important to the child's health and physical development. A child who plays well usually has little difficulty in adjusting to school.



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

To avoid lost or broken toys, we ask that children let toys remain at home except on designated share days. Please keep balloons and hard candy at home at all times.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. A menu will be sent home with your child. You may check with your child's teacher if you are interested in bringing a special snack for birthdays, etc. There are eighteen(18) students enrolled in each class.



We also ask that children not chew gum at school.

Party: To ensure the safety of the students, party treats and favors need to be pre-approved at least a week prior to the party date and must be commercially prepared.



CAR RIDERS

School sessions begin at 8:45 am for the morning and full day students. The student should not be brought to school before 8 am. Afternoon sessions start at 12:45 pm and should arrive no earlier than 12:30 pm.

Car riders need to be picked up between 3:45 p.m. -4:00 p.m. for full day students and half day 4 year olds. Car riders

who are picked up before 3:45 p.m. need to be signed out in the office. 3 year old students should be picked up between 11:30-11:45 am.



PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The preschool program emphasizes language development and reading readiness activities.

Activities which improve muscular coordination are included in the basic preschool program. These will range from playground experiences, which develop the larger muscles to activities with blocks, puzzles, and art materials, which will prepare the student for fine motor manipulation.

Standards of behavior will be emphasized so that each child will be able to adjust to a democratic society. Each child will be taught to practice courtesy and to respect the rights of others. Group activities will offer all the students the opportunity to learn to share and to work as a team with others.

All aspects of good citizenship, including generally accepted standards of right and wrong, will be stressed, when applicable, in the preschool instructional program.

Behavior/Discipline

Our school uses Positive Behavior Support. Students are taught and modeled appropriate behavior. They are rewarded with incentives and encouraged to display the appropriate behaviors. Since preschool is not mandatory, if a student continues to display severe inappropriate behavior they could be dropped from the program.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is an important part of a child's education. During the year, there will be several opportunities for you to participate. Of particular importance is Parent/Teacher Conferences held each fall. During the conference your child's teacher will:

1. Provide you with activity suggestions for working with your child.
2. Provide you with development characteristics appropriate to the age of your child.
3. Provide information to you concerning any questions that arise throughout the year.

Each teacher's goal is to work closely with you and your child to provide a successful and rewarding preschool experience and to develop a cooperative two-way communication between home and school.