

We have been researching and working hard to find ways to safely hold preschool classes this fall. We have never taught preschool in a pandemic before, so this is all new to us and we are learning as we go. There are no easy solutions and we can't please everyone perfectly, but here is our basic plan for starting preschool this fall. We will update and modify it as needed. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to find ways to have a fun and safe preschool experience. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

Schedule

- The Pre-K 4-year-old class will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9-11:30 AM. The first day of class is Monday, August 31.
- The 3-year-old class will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-11 AM. The first day of class is Tuesday, September 1.
- The majority of parents indicated they were comfortable with our normal class size, so for now we will plan on the regular schedule with 12 students meeting together. However, if we feel that current conditions of virus spread warrant moving to a smaller class size we will change to the following schedule: Half of the 4-year-old class (6 students) will meet each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-10:30 and the other half of the class will meet each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:45-12:45. For the 3-year-old class, half of the class (6 students) will meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:45-10:30 and the other half of the class will meet from 10:45-12:30. We will only do the modified schedule as long as conditions warrant and will return to the normal schedule as soon as we feel it is safe. With the modified schedule class time is shortened slightly, but we feel like the smaller class size will give your child plenty of individual attention and we will be able to do activities more efficiently. If we need to do the modified schedule we will do our best to accommodate parent's choice of time, but we do need to balance the class sizes so some families may not get their first choice. We appreciate your patience in this matter.
- We will follow the lead of the Alpine School District and state mandates. If in-person classes are cancelled at the public schools we will also not hold in person classes. Many parents indicated that they would like to receive preschool materials and remote lessons to do at home, so we will do our best to accommodate this as needed.

Attendance

- **It is very important that sick children and teachers do not attend preschool!** This is probably the most important part of keeping preschool safe! Please do not bring your child to preschool if he or she has any COVID-19 symptoms. These include a fever over 100.4, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, or a decrease in sense of smell or taste (from the CDC website). In addition, please don't send your child if he or she shows other signs of sickness such as vomiting, runny nose, diarrhea, or if your child is extra tired or lethargic. This

year we need to be extra careful, so when in doubt, it's probably better to keep your child home. We have a touchless thermometer to do temperature checks as needed. We also ask that you please check your child's temperature at home before coming to preschool.

- Do not send your child to school if he or she has had close contact with anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days. Close contact means closer than 6 feet to a person who has COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes. The CDC website has more information about when to quarantine for a COVID-19 exposure.
- To make it easier when your child has to miss preschool, we are going to record our large group lessons each day and post them on a private blog so your child may watch them from home. You may also pick up materials from class for your child to work on at home.
- If your child needs to miss preschool for more than 2 class periods per month for sickness or quarantine, you may take \$8 off the next month's tuition for each missed day over 2. This credit does not apply for days missed due to vacation or other optional family activities.
- If one of the teachers gets sick or is exposed to COVID-19 we will do our best to have a substitute teacher. However, since both regular teachers work closely together it is possible that we may both need to miss at the same time and we would need to cancel class. If this happens we will notify you and your tuition for the next month will be prorated so you are not paying for the cancelled classes.

Hygiene

- All students must wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water when they arrive at preschool before entering the classroom.
- Students will wash with soap and water again before snack time.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for use as needed during class such as after sneezing, using a tissue, or touching the nose or mouth.
- Teachers will thoroughly teach and model good hygiene. This will include good hand washing techniques, how and when to properly use hand sanitizer, sneezing and coughing into sleeves or clothing, using tissues, etc. Parents can help by emphasizing and practicing these things at home as well.
- The preschool will provide [plastic face shields](#) for children to wear during class. Each child will have his or her own reusable face shield labeled with his or her name and they will be cleaned after each class time. If parents want their child to wear a cloth face covering with the face shield or instead of the plastic shield, that is fine. Teachers will also use masks and/or face shields.

Cleaning and Sanitization of Classroom and Materials

- Miss Janice is researching air purifiers for her home and plans to have something in place before preschool starts to clean the air in the preschool. As weather allows we will also open windows to bring fresh air into the classroom.
- High touch surfaces such as door handles, faucets, and hand rails will be sanitized frequently. The classroom will be cleaned daily.
- Toys and other items used by the children will be cleaned or sanitized daily. I am looking at buying a UV sanitizing bag or box to help with sanitizing items that are hard to clean.
- Each student will have their own box of supplies (crayons, pencil, and glue stick) labeled with his or her name to use during class so that these supplies do not need to be shared with other students.

Social Distancing

We believe that one of the most important things children do at preschool is play, both independently and with other children. Because we want children to be able to socialize and interact freely, students will not always be socially distancing. However, while sitting in group activities and while working at the tables we will try to keep the children in smaller groups to allow for more space between the children.

Your child's safety and well-being are important to us and we will do our best to take appropriate and reasonable precautions as outlined above. However, we cannot completely eliminate the risk of exposure to COVID-19. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any place where people gather together. We know some students or family members may be at higher risk, so please consider this plan carefully and decide if having your child participate in our preschool this year will work for your child and family.