



PRE-K EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION PARENT HANDBOOK



PRE-K

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EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT:

Inspiring all learners to reach their highest potential as responsible, productive citizens.

IDEA, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, mandates a free and appropriate education for all children. Osceola County School District serves children ages 3 to 5 within a varying exceptionalities environment. Our Pre- K ESE program is an educationally enriched environment to help your child develop a strong foundation for future educational experiences.

IEP - Individual Education Plan

Every child in our program has an Individual Education Plan that has been developed by you, the parent, and the other members of the staffing committee. Your child's IEP is based on his/her individual needs. Because of the diverse needs of our students, the approach to your child's learning may be different from other children within the class. Our teachers and assistants use a multi-modality approach using all senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch, and sometimes, taste) to help your child develop his/her skills.

COMMON ACRONYMS

DD	Developmentally Delayed
ESE	Exceptional Student Education
IEP	Individual Education Plan
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
OT	Occupational Therapy
PT	Physical Therapy
RCS	Resource Compliance Specialist
SLP	Speech/Language Pathologist
SLT	Speech/Language Therapist
VE	Varying Exceptionalities
InD	Intellectual Disabilities
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF PRE-K!

School should be a fun and exciting learning experience for the entire family. During the first few weeks of attendance, you may experience some uneasiness in leaving your child. This is a normal feeling for parent and child during the initial school experience. Some ideas to ease these feelings include the following:

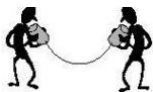
- Arrive at school at the designated time and place determined by your child's teacher.
- Feel free to speak to your child's teacher if you (or your child) have difficulty separating.
- Quick good-byes work best - never sneak away from your child or linger beyond the goodbye.
- Regularly pick up your child at the designated time and place determined by your child's teacher. Other children will be leaving school, and if you are late, your child may fear not being picked up.

PARENT'S ROLE



We believe that you are your child's first teacher. Parent participation is recognized as a stepping-stone to strengthening the partnership between home and school. Some of the goals we would like to achieve through parent involvement include:

1. Helping you, the parent, to understand the developmental stages your child experiences and the importance of play as a part of learning.
2. Encouraging a literacy-rich environment (reading, writing, talking to, with, and by your child).
3. Encouraging parent involvement throughout your child's education.
4. Promoting positive attitudes towards school and family.
5. Reinforcing to your child that his/her education is important to you.



We believe we can achieve these goals through open communication between home and school.

MEETINGS



Initial staffing, annual reviews, reevaluation and transition to Kindergarten are a few examples of different meetings you will be invited to attend throughout the course of your child's participation in the Pre-K ESE program. Please make every effort to attend any meetings scheduled concerning your child. Your participation as a team member is vital to the success of your child's whole education experience. We invite you to initiate a meeting with the Resource Compliance Specialist and/or teacher at your child's school any time throughout the school year if the need should arise.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

It is an Osceola County District policy that all people volunteering in school activities fill out "Osceola Adults Serving and Inspiring Students" (OASIS) Forms. These are available from your child's teacher:

PLEASE NOTE:

When you are participating with your child, either in the classroom or on a field trip, you **will not** be permitted to bring other siblings or children with you. The reasons for this policy are:

1. Insurance and liability are School District policy concerns.
2. If you are responsible for 3-4 students, you have to give them your complete attention.
3. We want this time to be special for the Pre-K children.



FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN, PLEASE OBTAIN A VISITOR'S PASS FROM THE OFFICE BEFORE ENTERING YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES



Drop-off

For the safety of your child, **an authorized adult must accompany** your child to school. The adult must also bring the child to the teacher in the area designated by the teacher. **PLEASE BE PROMPT.**

Pick-up

An authorized adult must pick up your child from school or the bus stop. Your child will not be released to any unauthorized adults without prior notice from you and picture I.D. Authorized adults must be 18 years or older and listed on student information cards. Notify your school office and child's teacher if there are to be any additions or deletions to these lists. All school personnel and bus drivers will have access to these lists.

IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY, YOU MUST SIGN HIM/HER OUT IN THE MAIN OFFICE.



PARENTS OF BUS RIDERS

You or an authorized adult listed on the emergency card must arrive at your child's bus stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled school bus pick-up/drop-off time (both in the mornings and the afternoons).

FAMILY INFORMATION



In the case of emergencies and for your child's safety, **it is very important that you notify your school office and child's teacher of any change of address, phone number, or family situations. Change in family situation may include a new baby, family illness, death in the family, divorce/separation. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER WITH A COPY OF ANY LEGAL DOCUMENT PERTAINING TO CUSTODY AND/OR RESTRAINING ORDERS.**

ABSENTEEISM



Your child is an active member of our learning environment. We encourage your child to attend school every day he/she is able. **IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT, PLEASE SEND A NOTE FROM YOU OR A DOCTOR TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCE.**

TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE CHILDREN IN THE CLASSROOM, DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS HAVE EXISTED WITHIN THE PAST 24 HOURS:

FEVER

HEAD LICE

RINGWORM

INFECTION

VOMITING

PINK EYE

DIARRHEA

RASHES

Children will not be administered medications unless they are prescribed drugs in the original container with dosage instructions. A completed authorization form available in the health office of your child's school **MUST** accompany these medications.

TARDINESS

A consistent daily routine is an important part of your child's school experience. Please make every attempt to have your child in school on time. **Interruptions in our daily routine are confusing and disrupting to everyone.** In the event your child is tardy, you **MUST** take him/her to the school office to receive a tardy slip. Once you obtain the tardy slip from the office, please escort your child to the classroom and give the slip to the teacher.



PERSONAL CARE

Additional Clothing: Accidents do happen. It is required that you provide an extra complete set of clothing (shirt, shorts/pants/skirt, underwear, and socks). Please label **ALL** items with your child's name. When extra clothing is used, please send in a fresh set the following school day. In addition, if your child is in pampers/pull-ups, additional supplies are required (extra diapers and wipes).

APPROPRIATE SCHOOL ATTIRE

The Pre-K learning environment is active and physical in nature, so please understand if your child comes home messy. We recommend that your child

- . Wear comfortable clothing
- . Wear clothes appropriate for the weather
- . Wear clothes that can get dirty
- . Wear comfortable shoes that fit
- . Leave valuables at home (jewelry, toys, etc.)



THE PRE-K ESE CLASSROOM



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Busy
 Materials are at the children's level
 Labeled shelves and toys
 Children's work displayed
 Work and play areas
 Messy

Colorful and bright
 Warm and safe
 Inviting
 Non-threatening
 Books, Books, Books
 Creative art



WHAT DOES IT SOUND LIKE?

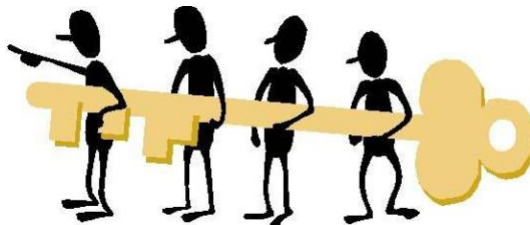


Noisy
 Talking
 Laughter
 Music
 Singing

Bargaining
 Acting
 Calming
 Encouraging
 Positive

Multi-lingual
 Quiet (sometimes:)
 Crying (sometimes:)

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our program and thank you in advance for the opportunity to having a positive, cooperative, and successful working relationship.





IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

My Child's School

Phone number

My Child's teacher

Extension

My Child's RCS

Extension