

Fall 2021 Opening Guidelines

July 26, 2021

Welcome back to our preschool “Eaglet’s Nest” for 2021-22 school year. I look forward to serving your family and getting to know you and your child more in the days and weeks ahead. I hope that you will find this document helpful as you and your child prepare for your first week of school beginning August 9th.

As we prepare for our fall session and as our community continues to strive to stay healthy and get back to work, we as an essential business and ministry, continue to move forward to provide a safe and quality education for families of young children. Just like our community has re-opened cautiously in phases, we are, too; however, not as fast as we might like. We are blessed to have completed our first COVID-19 phase safely last year and this summer. Now, with the continued support and help of our families and staff we are ready for our upcoming fall session.

We’ve updated our plan for the fall below still following Child Care Licensing and Health Department requirements. Some procedures will remain the same from the last year based on our governor’s directives and CDC’s guidelines for best practices; while other procedures will change slightly based on up-dated information from our local Child Care Licensing Agency and QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System)-NV Silver State STARS program. All of which are current and for the best interest of our children’s and staff’s safety as we learn and grow together.

Throughout all last year, we were in personal contact with our families, licensing surveyor and the health department advisor. This close contact helped us and families feel comfortable in asking questions and getting up to date information to continue our operations safely. Everyone had an important role in keeping each other healthy and safe, everything from wearing masks, keeping distance and reporting any illness.

Thank you for partnering with us this year. We appreciate your understanding, support and grace with these guidelines that we will be operating under until we are able to get back to “normal” operations by having a fully open campus again. We will continue to monitor the CDC recommendations and Governor’s orders closely and stay in touch with Child Care Licensing and our local Health Department. Open communication is important as we join together to have another successful year.

Our awesome staff is back again! I am excited to share with you our classroom staff assignments as follows:

Caterpillars (**2 yrs Toddlers**) – Ms. Jeannie & Aide (TBD)
Butterflies (**3 yr olds**) – Mrs. Lori & Mrs. Alicia
Honeybees (**Half-day 4/5yrs**) – Mrs. Nikki & Mrs. Kori
Ladybugs (**Full-day 4/5yrs**) – Mrs. Sharon & Mrs. Laura
Kitchen – Mrs. Prisca
Substitute – Ms. Kerrie
Elementary Extended Care Aide – Mrs. Nikki & Miss Abi

Finally, I must emphasize that while we may do our very best to live by these guidelines in order to reduce the possibility of coronavirus transmission, we cannot guarantee that your children or any adults at the preschool will not be exposed to the coronavirus or any other illness. So, please continue to pray with us that everyone will continue to do their part to help keep everyone safe.

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Extra time is needed for set up/cleaning at the start/end of the day).

- Morning Care drop off for children of working parents 7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
(Playground or Honeybee classroom – watch the sign holder)
- Instructional Preschool Hours
 - Full-day 8:30 - 3:00 (Pick up time - see schedule below)
- Half-day pick-up by 11:30
- After Care hours 4:00 - 5:30p.m. (Extra charge)

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- Drop-off and pick-up will be at the preschool playground gate or classroom back door. Please watch for the directional signage. Parents will park on the West side near the preschool playground in a numbered spot and greeted by a staff member to do a brief health check.
 - Arrival time 7:30 - 8:20 The doors and gate will be closed after 8:30 to begin class.
 - (7:55) 8:00 - 8:20 Please allow enough time for temp check/health questions and sign-in.
 - Honeybees (4's) – classroom back door
 - Ladybugs (4's) – classroom back door
 - Butterflies (3's)/Caterpillars (2's) – playground gate
(Weather permitting, if weather is bad parents will be texted for drop-off location.)
 - Pick up for full-day students 3:15 – 3:50 at the playground gate. Please **do not** come prior due to elementary carpool between 2:45-3:15; we are trying to minimize congestion in the parking lot loop and keep people safe from cars backing out from parking spaces into traffic during that busy time.
 - Children will have temperature check at drop-off and will do periodic temperature checks on staff and students throughout the day as needed.
 - Those with the following will not be allowed to remain on campus:
 - A temperature of 100.4 F or above; or
 - Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and low-grade fever; or
 - Had close contact in the last 14 days with someone who has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19; or is under investigation for COVID-19, or is ill with a respiratory illness
- Parents/Designated persons are to keep social distancing in place AND wear a mask during drop-off and pick-up of a preschool student; we strongly encourage families to have the same person to pick up or drop off to limit the number of contacts made between our staff and other people. If possible, older family members, such as grandparents, or those with serious underlying medical conditions who have not been vaccinated, should not pick up children due to being in a higher risk category, per CDC guidelines, for severe illness from COVID-19.
- All sign-ins and sign-outs will occur with a staff member. Please have photo ID ready to present.
- **Half-day children in Butterflies & Caterpillars will be picked up before lunch between 11:15 - 11:30 from their classroom.**
- **Half-day Honeybees will be picked up between 11:20 - 11:30 from classroom back door or playground gate.**

Office Area

- Office hours for public 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Office doors will remain locked and visitors/delivery service will be limited access to keep with physical distancing. Everyone entering the building during school hours is required to wear a mask if in the office area or preschool wing until further notice.
- School families are asked to continue to communicate to the office by phone or email

Physical Distancing & Ratios in the Classroom

- Preschool ratios will continue to be 10:1; Toddler ratio continues to be 6:1.
- Group size/Occupancy amounts are posted in each classroom using the *35 sq. ft. per student requirement* – this meets the CDC 6ft physical distancing requirement in a preschool classroom.
- Students will be with the same staff member(s) the majority of the day to keep consistency and tracking, unless their teacher(s) were to be absent or they attend before-/after- school child care.

Schedule

- Full curriculum will continue.
- Currently, Chapel time will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays with classes sitting in separate areas of the Sanctuary.
- Recess will be with individual classes rotated throughout the day, and if the weather is too hot (105 or higher) or cold and wet, students will stay indoors and have large motor activities in the gymnasium or classroom.

Nap Time

- All mats will be safely distanced and sanitized daily according to Licensing regulations.
- All personal belongings will be stored in their plastic nap bags and remain at school for the entire week. Do **not** bring their “favorite” snuggly or blanket that has to go back and forth; choose a **small/nap size blanket**, “special school” one, that will fit and stay in their cubby.
If your child doesn’t need a snuggly, it is okay, and preferred, because it limits the items going back and forth.

Meal Time

- Snack/Lunch will be served in the classroom, outside, or in the gymnasium.
- **We will provide morning/afternoon snacks in individual serving bags, and families will provide lunch from home or through our contracted provider “A Better Lunch” <https://www.mybetterlunch.com/>.**
- Milk/Water will still be provided; please *do not* pack a beverage other than a water bottle. Please save juice boxes for at home or other special times.

Extra Clothes

- Parents will be required to bring in extra clothes for their children in case of an accident. The extra clothes will need to be in a labeled, clear zip-lock bag for soiled clothing to be returned to the family, if needed. Children will not be permitted on campus without the extra set of clothes from home. This is essential to keep down on germs being passed around in the classrooms. Please pack an extra pair of shoes (In this case, flip flops will be permitted with emergency change of clothes).

Cleaning

- Constant cleaning and sanitizing of the classrooms, toys and high touch areas, as recommended by Licensing and CDC, will be done by the staff as their mid-day and end of the day duties in addition to having professional janitor service nightly.
- Families will wash all lunch/snack containers and water bottles daily.

Masks

- Per Licensing requirements, as of July 2021, all preschool staff, parents and adults within distance of preschoolers must wear a mask when on campus and especially at drop-off and pick-up times (except outdoors on the *playground*). We will update you of any changes.
- At this time, preschool children will not be required to wear masks.

Health

- Proper hand washing technique will be taught and continued:
 - 20 seconds – Sing our hand-washing song and use the light up timer.
 - Many times throughout the day, such as the following: entering the classroom and changing from center to center play, after recess breaks, after using the restroom or coming in contact with bodily fluids, before/after eating, etc.
- Sick children MUST remain home. If a child in our care appears sick while at school, a parent will be called for immediate pick-up. **The child must remain home for 72 hours and not return until fever- and/or symptom- free.**
- Our current “Exclusion Due to Illness” form and illness information sheet from CDC will be handed out.

General

- To minimize items traveling back and forth daily (and to save you money), we are requiring that your child **NOT** bring a backpack. Projects or special notes will go home in a folder or in their nap bags at the end of the week.

I have attached the upcoming school year calendar with the most current dates (subject to change). Please note that we may have to change or adjust events due to COVID and Governor or Health Department mandates regarding assemblies as fall/winter approaches.

Please be sure to submit your child's birth certificate, immunization records, and Pre-Admission Physical (new students only – see attached) to our office as soon as possible, if you have not done so.

Thank you for your partnership and patience as we work through this year of unknown changes and blessings that are ahead.

Blessings,

Donna Einspahr
Preschool Director
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“Created for a Purpose”
Ephesians 2:10