

Johnson County Central Public Preschool

Johnson County Central Public Preschool serves children three years of age to kindergarten entrance age. Children must be three years of age by October 15th of the current year to attend preschool.

Children who are eligible by age to enroll in kindergarten (those who reach age five by October 15th of the current year) may not attend preschool.

At this time, there is no fee to attend preschool if your family lives in our school district.

In the event that tuition is necessary in future years, the following pay scale will be followed:

- Families who qualify for "free lunch" will pay no tuition.
- Families who qualify for "reduced lunch" will pay half of the set tuition.
- Families who do not qualify for "free or reduced lunch" will pay full tuition.

Enrollment Priorities

Johnson County Central Public Preschool has established an enrollment plan in the event that we are unable to serve all the students who preregister for preschool. First priority will be given to families who meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Family qualifies for "free or reduced lunch"
- Child is an English Language Learner
- Child qualifies for Special Education services
- Child is eligible for kindergarten for the following school year

Program Staff

Each preschool classroom is staffed with a teacher who holds a Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an endorsement in Early Childhood. A paraeducator is assigned to each classroom to assure a ratio of at least one adult for every ten children is maintained. The maximum group size is twenty students.

Preschool Goals

The purpose of Johnson County Central Public Preschool is to offer a safe and nurturing learning environment where each child can grow socially, intellectually, creatively, and physically. The Johnson County Central Preschool Program will provide activities to build a strong foundation for future learning experiences.

Social Goal: Children will grow in independence, self expression, self control, and confidence.

Language and Literacy Goal: Children will increase their vocabulary and language skills, grow in their understanding of phonological awareness, letters, words, and print, exhibit an appreciation for books, and demonstrate comprehension skills.

Math Goal: Children will grow in their understanding of relationships, numbers, patterns, geometry, spatial sense, and time.

Science Goal: Children will learn about the physical properties of objects, enhance their understanding of living things, and develop respect for their natural surroundings.

Creative Arts Goal: Children will engage in activities which foster creative and individual expression, self-esteem, and imagination.

Physical Development Goal: Children will grow in gross and fine motor coordination, eye-hand coordination, and eye-foot coordination.

Health and Safety Goal: Children will show growing independence in hygiene and personal care, show knowledge of healthy eating and lifestyle habits, and develop understanding about what to do in case of a fire or tornado.



Program Approach

In our preschool program, adults use a responsive style with children:

- Responsive adults support children's enjoyment of people, materials, and ideas.
- Responsive adults follow children's interests.
- Responsive adults approach the child at the child's level of understanding.
- Responsive adults encourage children to experience success.

Children construct their understanding of the world from their own active involvement with people, materials, and ideas. It is fundamental that children engage in active learning. Accordingly, the majority of our daily schedule encompasses exploratory play in a language and literacy-rich environment. In our preschool program, active learning includes the following components:

- Choice - the child chooses what to do.
- Materials - there are abundant materials that children can use in a variety of ways.
- Manipulation - the child can manipulate objects freely.
- Language - the child describes what he or she is doing.
- Support - adults and peers recognize and encourage the child's problem solving and creativity.

Activities, materials, and equipment reflect and respect the diversity of race and multiculturalism.

Enabling Processes

Prosocial

- Taking care of one's own needs
- Understanding routines and expectations
- Making and expressing choice, plans, and decisions
- Recognizing and solving problems
- Expressing and understanding feelings
- Being sensitive to the feelings, interests, and needs of others
- Building relationships with children and adults
- Experiencing collaborative play
- Developing strategies for dealing with social conflicts

Enabling Processes (continued)

Active Learning

- Pretending and role-playing
- Imitating actions and sounds
- Drawing, painting, and molding
- Designing and building
- Making predictions
- Observing nature
- Exploring cause and effect

Literacy and Language

- Talking with others about personally meaningful experiences
- Expressing wants and needs
- Using social courtesies
- Describing objects and events
- Listening to stories
- Singing songs
- Identifying rhyming words
- Identifying letters and sounds
- Writing in various ways: drawing, scribbling, letter-like forms, invented spelling, and conventional forms
- Having one's own language written down and read back
- Telling stories by picture reading
- Retelling well known stories

Mathematics

- Recognizing, naming, and creating different shapes
- Noticing and describing how things are the same and how things are different
- Sorting and matching
- Using one-to-one correspondence
- Counting objects and counting by rote
- Recognizing numerals
- Using manipulatives to represent a given number
- Extending and creating patterns
- Sequencing events (first, next, last)
- Demonstrating understanding of and correctly using positional words
- Completing puzzles

Enabling Processes (continued)

Mathematics (continued)

- Observing that clocks and calendars mark the passage of time
- Starting and stopping an action on signal

Health/Physical Development

- Participating in activities which require the use of small muscles
 - buttoning, zipping, and snapping
 - stringing, squeezing, and rolling
 - drawing, writing, painting, cutting, and gluing
- Engaging in gross motor activities to develop coordination, balance and strength:
 - running, galloping, skipping, hopping, and jumping
 - throwing, catching, bouncing, and kicking a ball
 - climbing, going up and down stairs, and pedaling a tricycle
- Using proper hand washing skills
- Eating healthy foods in appropriate portion sizes
- Trying new foods
- Following program safety rules
- Participating in fire and tornado drills
- Identifying potentially harmful objects, substances, and behaviors



Preparing Your Child

At first, most children need help adjusting to the new situation of preschool. Parents may help by talking briefly about the daily schedule. Parents should expect the child to take some time to adjust and should realize that it is not unusual for a child to cry when a parent first leaves, but then stop once the parent is out of sight. A firm, quick good-bye usually helps a child adjust more quickly.

Arrival and Dismissal

If you will be dropping off your child at school, please do not leave your child until he/she is within the building under the supervision of a school employee. **Students are to wait in the cafeteria (old gym) until school begins.** At that time the students are escorted by an adult to the classroom. Preschool begins at 8:15 AM. Breakfast is served from 7:45 to 8:10 AM. The cost of breakfast is \$1.35.

Please be punctual when picking up your child. Please wait on the bench in the main entryway of the school. The teacher will walk the students to the entryway at 11:15 AM.

Illness

If a child becomes ill while attending preschool, a parent will be notified. The child may not remain at school if any of the following symptoms are present:

- Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Unexplained skin rash or irritation
- Evidence of a contagious disease

If your child will be absent from preschool, please call and notify the school by 8:15 AM.

Snack

Each day your child will be provided with a snack that meets USDA Child Nutrition Program guidelines. There is no fee for this snack.



Clothing

A seasonal change of clothing will be kept at school in case of an accident. This change of clothing should include an entire outfit, underwear, and socks. The outfit should be sent in a Ziploc bag with your child's name marked on the bag. When this outfit is sent home, please return the bag with a new seasonal outfit.

It is also important that your child wear clothing that requires little if any help to put on or take off as this provides the child with a sense of independence.

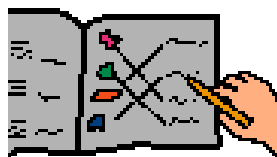
Please be sure your child has appropriate shoes and clothing for outdoor play for all seasons. For safety reasons, we would prefer that flip-flops not be worn at preschool.

Early Dismissal, School Closing, and Delayed Start

On days in which there is a 1:00 dismissal, there will be no afternoon preschool at the Tecumseh site. School closings and delays will be sent out via the Alert Now phone system. On days in which there is a two hour late start due to inclement weather, there will be no morning preschool session. Please be sure to notify the school if your phone number changes.

Progress Reports

Johnson County Central uses the Creative Curriculum developmental continuum to assess each child's progress in development and learning. The teacher and paraeducator(s) actively observe each child during his/her play experiences, project work, and daily routines. During this observation process, anecdotal notes are recorded and this assessment data is used to meet the individual needs of each child. Preschool progress reports are sent out three times a year. Formal parent/teacher conferences are held twice a year. Please know that you can contact the teacher at anytime to discuss your child's progress.



Birthday Celebrations

We will celebrate birthdays at preschool. If your child has a summer birthday and would like to celebrate his/her half birthday, please let me know, otherwise, we will celebrate summer birthdays in May.

You are encouraged to donate a new book to our classroom library for all the children to enjoy, rather than bring birthday treats as nutritious snacks are already provided. However, birthday treats will also be accepted.

Book Orders

Periodically throughout the year, book order forms will be sent home. Please do not feel obligated to purchase books; however, this is a very cost efficient way to build your child's home library.

Walking Field Trips

The preschool class may take walking field trips around town. A one-time permission slip will be signed at the beginning of the year.

Show-and-Share

The monthly calendar will designate the type of show-and-share item that your child may bring that week. Children may not bring toy knives, guns, or swords to school. Violent play is not allowed at preschool.

Child Guidance

It is our belief that a positive adult-child relationship built on trust and caring will foster children's cooperation and motivation. We promote children's success by designing the environment to encourage child engagement. We also focus on teaching children what to do by teaching expectations and routines as well as by teaching skills that children can use in place of challenging behaviors.

Child Abuse

According to law, school employees and all other persons are required to notify Child Protective Services and law enforcement officials if they believe a child has been subject to abuse or neglect.

Custody Orders

A certified custody order must be provided to the school prior to enrollment or immediately upon receipt if the order has a direct relationship to school activities. Any change to a custody order must also be made available to the school.

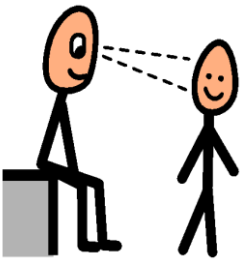
Elementary Handbook

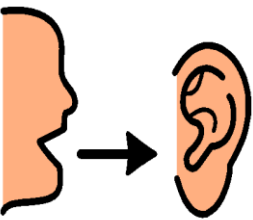
The Johnson County Central Preschool Program follows all applicable policies and procedures as stated in the elementary handbook. Please sign and return that last page of the Elementary Handbook

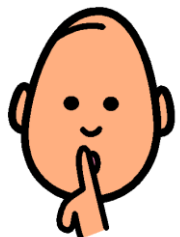
Daily Schedule


7:45 - 8:15	Breakfast
8:15 - 9:25	Arrival & Discovery Time
9:25 - 9:30	Clean-up Time
9:30 - 9:50	Restroom Break & Snack Time
9:50 - 10:00	Circle Time
10:00 - 10:30	Large Motor Time
10:30 - 10:40	Restroom Break
10:40 - 10:50	Story Time
10:50 - 11:05	Activity Time
11:05 - 11:15	Clean-up Time & Dismissal

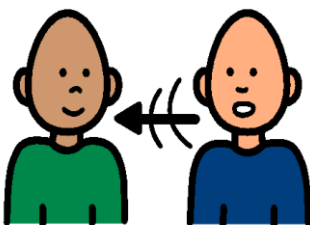
Preschool Rules

1.  Look at person

2.  Listen

3.  Quiet voice

4.  Keep hands, feet, and objects to self

5.  Use kind words