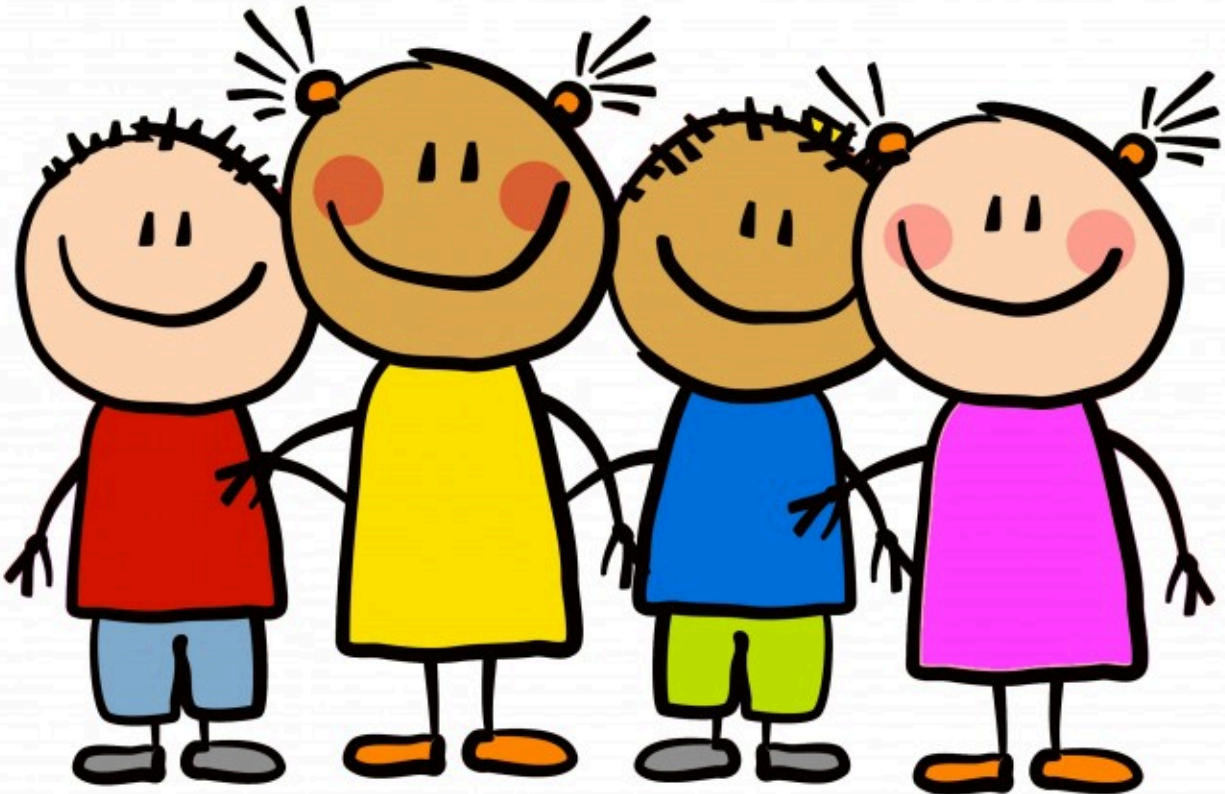


# Welcome to Johnson County Central Preschool



**2025-2026**

358 N. 6th St.  
Tecumseh, NE 68450  
402-335-3320

# Johnson County Central Preschool

Thank you for choosing Johnson County Central Public Schools. We are very excited that you are a part of our school family and appreciate the opportunity to join you in the education of your child.

Communication is very important and plays an integral role in each student's success. Please know that we highly value communication between home and school. We encourage you to contact your child's teacher or administration when you have questions or concerns. We look forward to a positive and productive year together!

The purpose of the program is to promote the social, emotional, intellectual, language, physical, and aesthetic development and learning for the children served and to promote family development and support. The preschool program promotes a positive self-concept, supports exploratory play and active involvement, encourages questioning and reasoning, and provides activities to build a strong foundation for future learning experiences.

## Preschool Sessions

Children attend preschool four days a week: Tuesday through Friday.

❖ Full-day Pre-kindergarten Preschool Session:

- 8:00 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.
- School **lunch** can be purchased
- Afternoon **snack** provided

❖ Part-day Pre-kindergarten Preschool Session:

- 12:20 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.
- Afternoon **snack** provided

❖ Three-year-old Preschool Session:

- 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Morning **snack** provided

Breakfast is available at 7:15 a.m. Classroom teachers are not present in the cafeteria during breakfast. Support staff supervise breakfast.

Please reference the school website for the most up-to-date pricing for meals: PARENT INFORMATION tab > **School Pay (Online Payment) Information**

Please inform the school if your child has identified food allergies.

## Philosophy

Young children are active, self-motivated learners who learn best from personal experience. Preschoolers are able to construct knowledge through participation with others in activities that foster exploration, experimentation, problem-solving, and social interaction.

Four fundamental principles guide our practice and foster intentional learning in our preschool program:

1. Positive interactions and relationships with adults provide a critical foundation for successful learning.
2. Social-emotional competence is a significant factor in school success.
3. Constructive, purposeful play supports essential learning.
4. Well-designed environments with appropriate materials allow children to think and learn effectively.

## Program Approach

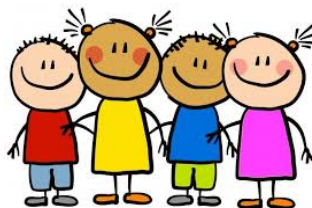
In our preschool program, adults use a responsive style with children.

Responsive adults...

- Support children's enjoyment of people, materials, and ideas
- Follow children's interests
- Approach the child at the child's level of understanding
- Encourage children to experience success
- Teach children what to do by communicating expectations and routines
- Teach skills that children can use in place of challenging behaviors

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



## **Positive Approach to Discipline**

Praise and positive reinforcement are effective methods of behavior support for children. When children receive positive and understanding interactions from adults and others, they develop good self-concepts, problem solving abilities, and self-discipline. Based on this belief, Johnson County Central Public Schools uses a positive approach to discipline and practices the following behavior and discipline support techniques.

### **WE DO**

- Communicate to children using positive statements.
- Communicate with children on their level.
- Talk with children in a calm, quiet manner.
- Explain unacceptable behavior to children.
- Give attention to children for positive behavior.
- Praise and encourage the children.
- Reason with and set limits for the children.
- Apply rules consistently.
- Model appropriate behavior.
- Set up the classroom environment to prevent problems.
- Provide alternatives and redirect children to acceptable activity.
- Give children opportunities to make choices and solve problems.
- Help children talk out problems and think of solutions.
- Listen to children and respect the children's needs, desires and feelings.
- Provide appropriate words to help solve conflicts.
- Use storybooks and discussion to work through common conflicts.

### **WE DO NOT**

- Inflict corporal punishment in any manner upon a child. (Corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force to the body as a discipline measure. Physical force to the body includes, but is not limited to, spanking, hitting, shaking, biting, pinching, pushing, pulling, or slapping.)
- Use any strategy that hurts, shames, or belittles a child.
- Use any strategy that threatens, intimidates, or forces a child.
- Use food as a form of punishment.
- Use or withhold physical activity as a punishment.
- Shame or punish a child if a bathroom accident occurs.
- Embarrass any child in front of others.
- Compare children.
- Place children in a locked and/or dark room.

## **Positive Approach to Discipline (continued)**

- Leave any child alone, unattended or without supervision.
- Allow discipline of a child by other children.
- Criticize, make fun of, or otherwise belittle a child's parents, families, or ethnic groups.

If there seems to be a change in a child's behavior or your child has behavior that is causing a concern, program staff will communicate and strategize with you concerning behavioral issues and their possible cause, considering all of the factors that impact your child and family. If needed, your family will be asked to collaborate with the program in developing a behavior support plan for implementation in the classroom and/or home. Some children might also have intensive behavioral or learning difficulties that indicate referrals for more specialized evaluations and/or supports that might be needed.

## **Goals**

The Johnson County Central Public Preschool Program provides a safe and nurturing learning environment where each child can grow socially, intellectually, creatively, and physically. The program provides activities to build a strong foundation for future learning experiences by promoting a positive self-concept, supporting exploratory play, and encouraging questioning. All activities, materials, and equipment reflect and respect the diversity of race and multiculturalism and the physical and mental abilities of all children.

**Social-Emotional:** Children will grow in independence, self-expression, self-control, cooperative behavior, and confidence.

**Language:** Children will demonstrate listening and understanding skills as well as increase their vocabulary and language skills.

**Literacy:** Children will show knowledge of phonological awareness (the ability to hear and understand the different sounds of language), demonstrate letter and sound knowledge, exhibit appreciation for books, demonstrate understanding of print concepts, interact during read-alouds, use emergent reading skills, and demonstrate writing skills.

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

**Cognitive:** Children will demonstrate positive approaches to learning, remember and connect experiences, use classification skills, and use symbols and images to represent something not present.

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

**Creative Arts:** Children will express themselves creatively through music, movement, dance, art, and dramatic play.

**Science:** Children will show interest in active scientific investigations by observing, hypothesizing, predicting, describing, discussing, and sequencing.

**Health and Safety:** Children will develop an awareness of health, nutrition, and safety.

## Progress Reports

The *Teaching Strategies GOLD* assessment system is an effective means for providing quality learning opportunities and measuring child progress. Documentation gathered through ongoing observation and assessment provides objective measures of each child's performance and progress in development and learning. The assessment data is used to plan activities to meet the individual needs of children.

Formal parent/teacher conferences are held twice a year. Please know that you can contact your child's teacher at any time to discuss your child's progress.

## Home Visits

Successful early childhood education depends on relationships and collaboration with children's families. Preschool staff develop positive relationships with families knowing that what family engagement, development, and support means and looks like depends on the unique characteristics and the individual comfort levels of each family. Preschool staff acknowledge that families are children's first teachers and they have a powerful effect on their young children's development. Preschool staff address parental requests for support as well as provide information and materials regarding child development.

Home visits are a wonderful way to build the home-to-school connection. Home visits will occur twice a year (fall and spring).



## Attendance

Children are expected to be in attendance every day that preschool is in session, if your child is ill or will not attend preschool, the parent or caregiver must call the Elementary Office, (402) 335-3320.

- Excused absences are when the parent or caregiver calls to notify the office that the child is ill or will be absent for personal family business.
- Unexcused absences are when no call is made to the office when a child is absent.

Consequences will occur should a child accumulate **12** absences, a conference will be required to determine if the child will continue in preschool.

## Illness

If a child becomes ill at school, the school nurse or other school employee will determine the appropriate response. When a child is too ill to remain at school, a school employee will contact the child's parent(s) and arrange for the child to be picked up. If an illness or injury requires immediate medical attention, school officials shall attempt to contact the child's parent(s) regarding treatment for the child. If the parent(s) cannot be contacted, school officials may have the child treated by an available physician. A student who shows symptoms of a contagious disease may be sent home, and the district may require a physician's statement before allowing the child to return to school.

A student 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
- Live head lice or nits
- Evidence of a contagious disease

Additionally, a child may be sent home on determination by the school nurse or other school employee that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the educational program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or warrants medical consultation.

**A child must be fever-free without medication and symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to preschool.**

If your child will be absent, please notify the school office by 7:30 a.m.

- 402-335-3320

## 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 goodbye usually helps a child adjust more quickly.

## 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.

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. Weather permitting (as long as there are no hazardous alerts or active precipitation) children play outside. ***Accordingly, please be sure your child has a warm coat, hat, and gloves.***

## Daily Dismissal

Please respect pick-up time for dismissal. Failure to pick up a child in a timely fashion will be turned over to the administration.

## Delayed Start, Early Dismissal, and School Closing

Information is sent out via the automated phone system.

Two-hour late start:

- No AM Three-year-old session
- All-day session will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Early dismissal:

- All-day session will dismiss at 1:00 p.m.
- No PM Pre-K session

School Closing:

- No preschool

## Birthday Celebrations

We enjoy celebrating birthdays at preschool. If you would like to send store-purchased items for your child's birthday, please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements.



## **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.

## **Age Participation**

The preschool program will be available to children of the following ages:

- Children who are 3 years of age on or before July 31 of the enrollment year;
- Children who are 4 years of age (on or before July 31 of the enrollment year) at the start of the enrollment year; and
- Children who are 5 years of age at the start of the enrollment year, so long as they do not turn 6 years of age prior to January 1 of that year (subject to the participation limitation below).

All enrollment is subject to capacity limitations and enrollment priorities established in this policy. Three-year-old children will only be offered half-day attendance.

**Five-Year-Old Participation:** Participation of 5-year-old students who will not turn 6 prior to January 1 of the enrollment year will be further limited to those students who attain a Total Score below the Cut-off Score on the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III (3-5 years).

**Capacity Limitation:** The maximum capacity for the program is 51 children. In the event where the total number of children registered for the program by July 15 rises above 51, the district will only offer the program to children with the following priority for enrollment:

- Resident students;
- Four-year-olds;
- "At-risk" children (as defined by Rule 11);
- Qualified five-year-old students; and
- Three-year-olds.

If the program is at capacity after July 15, further enrollment applications will be denied. Exception: If an "at-risk child" (as defined by Rule 11) moves into the district and the program is at capacity, the child will be enrolled in the program.

The last application received from a student who is not "at risk" will be withdrawn from the program.

## **Notice of Parental Rights**

### **5017 - Routine Directory Information**

FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children.

Directory information is information contained in a student's education record that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if it were disclosed.

The school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Name and grade
- Name of parent and/or guardian
- Address
- Telephone number
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- The image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium
- Most recent previous school attended
- Certain class work which may be published onto the Internet
- Classroom assignment
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user.

Within 30 days prior to or following the commencement of each school year and, for a new student who enrolls after the commencement of a school year, within 30 days following such enrollment, the district will notify parents and guardians each year of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Parents will be given an opportunity to prevent the release of this directory information by filing a written objection with the district.

Directory information about your student(s) can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent.

**You have two options:**

If you **DO NOT OBJECT** to the disclosure of directory information about your student, you do not need to do anything.

If you **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about your student, you should write a letter to the principal at the building where your student(s) attend(s) school. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that you do not wish to have released about your child or the particular types of outside organizations to which you do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than September 1 of the current school year.

**Non-directory Information.** Please be aware that all of the other personally identifiable information about your student(s) that is contained in this school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except: (1) in accordance with the provisions of FERPA and regulations, (2) in accordance with state statutes and regulations, or (3) in accordance with your written instructions.

**Internal Use of Information.** Whatever choice you make, the school district will be able to use this directory information for internal school purposes and to share it with other education institutions in accordance with law.

**Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment.** Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform you when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

**Complaints.** You have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

## Student Handbook

In addition to this handbook, the Johnson County Central Preschool Program follows all applicable policies and procedures as stated in the Johnson County Central Student Handbook.

Please sign and return the signature page found at the back of this handbook designating that you understand all policies and procedures outlined in the preschool handbook as well as in the student handbook.



## Early Childhood Staff Directory

Superintendent	Jon Rother	<a href="mailto:jon.rother@jccentral.org">jon.rother@jccentral.org</a>
PK-3 Principal	Beckie Robeson	<a href="mailto:beckie.robeson@jccentral.org">beckie.robeson@jccentral.org</a>
Teacher	Cheryl Panko	<a href="mailto:cheryl.panko@jccentral.org">cheryl.panko@jccentral.org</a>
Aide	Tiffany DeJonge	<a href="mailto:tiffany.dejonge@jccentral.org">tiffany.dejonge@jccentral.org</a>
Aide	Ann Britt	<a href="mailto:ann.britt@jccentral.org">ann.britt@jccentral.org</a>
Teacher	Jacy Pollard	<a href="mailto:jacy.pollard@jccentral.org">jacy.pollard@jccentral.org</a>
Aide	Kim Guenther	<a href="mailto:kim.guenther@jccentral.org">kim.guenther@jccentral.org</a>
Aide	Vanessa Sell	<a href="mailto:vanessa.sell@jccentral.org">vanessa.sell@jccentral.org</a>
Secretary	Sandra Orozco	<a href="mailto:sandra.orozco@jccentral.org">sandra.orozco@jccentral.org</a>
Preschool Special Education Teacher	Lisa Othmer	<a href="mailto:lisa.othmer@jccentral.org">lisa.othmer@jccentral.org</a>
Special Education Coordinator	Rebecca Kling	<a href="mailto:rebecca.kling@jccentral.org">rebecca.kling@jccentral.org</a>



## Receipt of Handbooks

This signed receipt acknowledges you have received the preschool handbook and student handbook for Johnson County Central Public Schools. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that the student handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules. The receipt also serves to acknowledge that the district's policies of non-discrimination and equity are understood, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures which exist in the student handbook should be used in responding to harassment or discrimination.

Johnson County Central Public Schools is a Drug-Free School zone and signing this receipt acknowledges that you will adhere to the drug-free statement in the student handbook for Johnson County Central Public Schools.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:  
Sandra Orozco, Secretary