

YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHILDREN'S CENTER

AVOCA * FARRELL-EMMETT * YALE

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All day care * Preschool * Latchkey

PRESCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK

Updated April 14, 2014

Preschool classes are provided for children beginning at age 3 and 4. All students must be potty trained prior to admittance (able to pull their pants up and down independently, and be able to fully wipe them selves). For day care children preschool is included at the same hourly rate.

1. The program is intended to provide quality Childcare and Preschool services for students age 3 and 4.
2. The program will provide consistency for a child's daily routine.
3. Social, emotional, physical, and educational activities will be provided which enhance the school programs and opportunities for a child's development.

Daily schedule

The program is open Monday – Friday on regularly scheduled school days. The program will not operate on vacation days or snow days. **Please read all notes given out by your child's teacher thoroughly and read the newsletters sent to your home by the district for days off and special events.**

All day childcare is available daily from 6:00am through 6:00pm. The school lunch is available to these children at the parent's expense (\$2.00).

The **Preschool** program will operate Monday through Friday from 8:45am-11:45am. Tuition for the Preschool program will be paid monthly in advance. If at any time the child is dropped off before 8:40am or picked up after 11:50 the hourly fee will be charged and must be paid that day. To attend this program, children must be potty trained, able to pull their pants up and down independently, and be able to fully wipe themselves.

Admission Policy It is necessary to register in advance to attend our programs. To complete registration, the following forms must be completed and provided to the Children's Center:

Preschool

1. Registration form
2. Child information card
3. Parent handbook form
4. Enrollment agreement
5. Physical, dated within 6 months prior to enrollment
6. Discipline Policy
7. Nutrition agreement
8. Good health statement
9. Transportation agreement
10. Copy of Immunizations

All forms must be filled out and turned in *before* your child's first day.

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

The following procedures will help to assure that each child is safe and that the wishes of the parents are followed for child-care.

- Parent designee must be a person age 16 years and older with appropriate ID available.
 - A note from the parents will be required for all designee's that are having persons under the age of 18 dropping off and picking up of any child. No exceptions will be made.
1. When dropping off a child in the morning, the parent or parent designee must walk the child **into** the Children's Center room in the school and sign them in. Staff will not be responsible for children not signed in. **When picking up a child, the person must be prepared to show ID daily.** When the caregiver in the room is unsure if they recognize the person, even if it is the mother or father, they will ID the pick-up person. When picking up the child, sign them out before leaving.
 2. A child will be released **only** to those persons listed on the emergency card. Notes for releasing a child to a person not on the emergency list in the child's file will only be honored for that day only. You may update names on the emergency card as needed.
 3. Any change to your child's schedule or daily routine must be communicated by the parent. It is the parent responsibility to contact us and the office.

Nap and Rest time

Yale Public Schools Children's Centers are required by state licensing to offer a rest time for children up to 6 years of age. According to the licensing rule R400.5106 (4) "A center shall provide each child under school age in attendance for 5 or more continuous hours a day with an opportunity to rest." Cots or mats are provided daily. Parents of children who will be lying down may bring a blanket and pillow in a plastic bag.

Medication Policy

It may be necessary to provide medication to a student during the time the child is in our care. Medication, prescribed or over-the-counter, must be administered according to the Michigan Department of consumer and Industry Services Day Care Licensing Handbook, rule R 400.5113b. Other health and emergency situations may arise which require attention and will be handled according to the guidelines, which follow:

1. Medications ordered one or two times daily should be given at home unless the medication must be given specifically during time periods when the child is in attendance.
2. A medication consent form must be completed and on file at the program before any medication, prescription or over-the-counter, can be administered to a child. Such forms will contain written consent of parent or guardian and the complete instructions of the physician according to the prescription bottle. This includes chapstick, sunscreen, and any ointments.
3. Over the counter medications, cough medicine, pain or fever medication, etc., must have the appropriate dosage for the child's age and/or weight on the package. Only the amount specified on the package will be administered unless otherwise specified by a physician's note.

4. Program staff will not administer any prescription medication not prescribed by a physician.
5. Medication must be in the original pharmaceutical container and labeled with the child's name, medicine name, amount of dosage, date, the time of administration, and the physician's name.
6. Medication is not to be carried by the child on a daily basis. The parent must carry any medication to any childcare program and given to staff. Medication carried to any childcare program by the student will be confiscated and given to the parents; this includes Chap Stick, lotions, and make-up.
7. The parents are responsible for notifying the staff when medication has been discontinued or changed. The parent is expected to pick up any unused medication.
8. Suntan lotion and bug spray may be brought to any of the childcare programs by the parent to be kept at the childcare center the child attends. A form will need to be filled out and signed by the parent annually.

Forms signed by grandparents cannot be accepted unless the grandparent has official guardianship of the child.

Illness Policy

Please call the center on days when your child is ill, or will be absent for any other reason.

A child may be sent home if he or she appears to have an illness while in attendance. In such cases, the child will be immediately isolated from others and a parent or emergency contact person will be contacted to pick up the child.

Your child must be fever free without medicine for 24 hours in order to return to school. If your child has been vomiting or had diarrhea they need to be home for 24 hours from the last episode to attend school. If your child is on an antibiotic they cannot return for 24 hours from the first dose.

A parent will be contacted to pick up their child when:

1. The child has a fever of 100 or higher
2. The child has an unidentifiable rash
3. The child is in any pain
4. The child has excessive green or yellow discharge from his/her nose
5. The child vomits for any reason
6. The child has diarrhea

AT ANY TIME A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IS IDENTIFIED THE CHILD WILL NEED A DOCTOR'S CLEARANCE IN ORDER TO RETURN.

Accident Policy

Should your child become injured or ill while in attendance, parents will be contacted if the staff feels medical attention is necessary. An accident report form may be completed by the center staff and will be kept on file by the site Director. In case of serious injury, the staff will make an immediate attempt to contact a parent or designated person. If the parents cannot be contacted, we will contact the child's physician. If necessary, an ambulance may also be called.

*******Please keep emergency contact numbers up to date. *******

Discipline Policy and Conduct

It is a goal of this program to provide a physically and emotionally secure environment for the children. Standards of individual conduct and interaction with other children will be followed for the well being of all participants in this program. When necessary, corrective action will be fair, consistent, immediate, and appropriate for the development of the child. **The Yale Public Schools Children's Center staff is prohibited at any time from using any form of corporal punishment as a form of discipline for any latchkey or preschool children.** A parent may not always be informed of every behavior issue that develops. We attempt to work through minor issues with the child before informing a parent. A few simple rules for conduct each child must follow include:

Rules of conduct

1. The child must keep his/her hands to oneself.
2. Children must take care of items in the room, including playthings or work items and leave other children's items alone.
3. Children must show respect for each other and staff.
4. Children must never leave the supervision of the staff.

The following consequences are usual procedures for addressing problems with student conduct:

1. A verbal warning in which the child is warned that his/her behavior is inappropriate and with any necessary explanation.
2. The child is redirected to positive behavior.
3. A child is placed in the "thinking chair" for a brief period of time appropriate for the age of the child to reflect on their actions or choices.
4. A child may be restricted from participating in certain activities.
5. Parents will be given a written notice that their child's behavior could be cause to terminate the child's enrollment with the program. This is the "first warning."
6. If behavior continues a conference may be called with the parent(s) to discuss persistent unacceptable behavior to determine corrective action. This is considered a "second warning."
7. The third occurrence of any unacceptable behavior will result in the parents being called to pick up the child and the child will be dismissed immediately from all Children's Center programs. The child will not be eligible for re-registration until the start of the following school year. A meeting may be required before re-registering. No credits will be given.
8. **Any child exhibiting behavior, which is dangerous to themselves, other children or staff, will be terminated from the program immediately** without the above warnings, and the parent will be contacted to pick up the child immediately.

Preschool

Preschool will be served breakfast free of charge, from an approved menu each day. Each center will have a set time for this. Items will be from at least two (2) food groups. For example: pancakes and milk, cereal, milk and apple, or bagel and cream cheese. If your child has severe food allergies: we ask that the parent supply the child's breakfast each day. It is safer for the child to bring approved food items from home in these cases.

Snacks and lunch

Lunch may be purchased at school or a sack lunch can be brought from home daily. A lunch schedule is posted at each site. The cost of a lunch from school is \$2.00 daily. Parents can send any amount over \$2.00 to be kept in an account for your child to use. The school will let you know when the amount is used up. When packing your child's lunch please make sure there is enough for the day and the contents are nutritious. Please inform staff as soon as possible if your child is having a hot or cold lunch. The kitchen needs to know our lunch count by 9:00am.

Children cannot share food with other children in the room. **Candy bars, cookies and cake are not nutritious and are strongly discouraged.** When needed certain items may be restricted due to student allergies.

Inclement Weather/Emergency Plans

When Yale Public Schools is closed due to building problems or weather conditions, all the childcare programs offered within that school would also be closed. If **one** school closes because of a building problem; then all the programs within **that** school will also be cancelled. **If school is cancelled after children have arrived, the childcare programs are required to close, and the children will need to be picked up according to the emergency plans form submitted to the transportation department and the school office for Latchkey and Kinder care within one hour of call.** All day care and Preschool parents will be contacted to pick up their child according to the information card on file for each child. Parents should listen to the usual local radio stations early in the morning for closings even if the weather appears nice.

All centers are closed on the following days in accordance with YPS calendar.

Thanksgiving weekend, Thursday and Friday

Christmas break, usually two weeks

Mid-Winter break, Friday and Monday, in February

Good Friday

Spring break

Memorial Day

Summer break

The site Directors and Yale Public Schools reserves the right to cancel a day or any program due to low enrollment, room availability, staff absences, or any situation where the school has been deemed unsafe to accept children. Advance notice will be given when possible.

Withdraw Policy

A **written** one-week notice is required when withdrawing your child from the program or when changing normal schedule. Examples when notice is required are, job change, lay-off, extended illness (parent or child), or a relative staying in the home. Failure to do so will result in the child or children being dropped from the program and their spot being given to another child.

After a two-week period of a child not attending and no communication from the parents the child is automatically dropped from the program. Upon returning, the registration fee must be paid again and new paperwork must be filled out IF there is room for the child to return.

When notice is given of switching from attending weekly to a drop-in basis the registration fee does not need to be repaid. Your child's paperwork will need to be inspected to make any necessary changes.

All past charges the parent has incurred will need to be paid before the child will be allowed to re-enroll.

***** The Yale Public Schools Children's Centers reserve the right to notify a parent of immediate disenrollment due to unforeseen circumstances.*****

Fee Payment Schedule

There is an annual non-refundable registration fee of \$25.00 per child.

***Any parent that credits themselves for hours not used, or days not used will be charged a \$15.00 penalty fee. There is a \$20.00 NSF fee for all returned checks.**

There is a minimum of 1 hour per day charge; all fees after that are charged in hour or half hour increments

DAY CARE

Hourly- \$4.00 child

PRESCHOOL

\$12.00 per scheduled day

*Preschool is from 8:45-11:45. Any additional time will be charged hourly

PRESCHOOL INFORMATION

Preschool tuition is due the first of every month as follows:

Two days a week: \$12.00 per scheduled school day Tuesday/Thursday

Three days a week: \$12.00 per scheduled school day Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Full tuition is expected every month according to the center schedule. If payment is not received by the first of the month, the child may not attend until full tuition and a \$15 late fee is paid.

Preschool is from 8:45-11:45. **Any additional time will be charged hourly.**

*Credits will only be given if the center cancels a day due to low enrollment, staff absences or weather. Please listen to your local radio stations. If there is no school, preschool is also cancelled. We will also give credits for illnesses as long as we have verification form your physician.

To discuss questions or concerns about payments please contact the Director of your Children's Center.

All fees must be paid by check or money order. **CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**

Parent Relationships and Responsibilities

Cooperative and positive relationships are necessary between parents and childcare staff in order to provide effective childcare. Yale Public Schools will provide qualified and trained staff to assure appropriate care of the children. The following lists of items are parent responsibilities to assure effective program and communication with staff:

1. Complete our required registration forms and provide up-to-date and revised health emergency information when necessary.
2. Meet your financial responsibility according to the schedule and deadline outlined in the parent handbook.
3. Parents or designee must walk their child **into the room**, sign them in and out, and instruct anyone bringing the child to all childcare programs to do the same.
4. Notify the staff in case of illness or communicable diseases.
5. Pick your child up on time each day as scheduled and pay for any time differences.
6. Spend a few minutes on a regular basis talking with staff regarding the activities and development of your child.
7. At any time that you have a concern that is not immediately addressed in a brief conference with staff, call or requests a conference with the Director to discuss the concern that you have.
8. Stay informed of developments and updates in the program by reading any notes or newsletters which may be provided to parents.
9. If possible share any special skills, interests, or talents that you have that may be beneficial to the children.
10. Toys brought from home are not the center's responsibility if they are broken, stolen or lost.
11. Please provide a backpack for you child. A change of clothes suitable for the weather is required and should stay in the backpack. Clothes should always include pants, shirt, underwear, socks and shoes. *Please check the backpack daily for papers and to update clothing.

Goal and Philosophy for the Preschool program

- ✓ Strive to provide a well rounded program that establishes a warm, stimulating, nurturing, multi-sensory environment that encourages developmentally appropriate learning situations guided by qualified, nurturing staff.
- ✓ Evaluate, assess, and review program goals to maintain a developmentally appropriate educational experience.

Preschool Curriculum

*Our Preschool programs curriculum is based on a combination of the Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Pre-kindergarten from the Michigan State Board of Education, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Michigan Curriculum Framework.

*The curriculum is designed to include experiences related to children's social, emotional, intellectual, language, creative, and physical development with play being a vital part in the early childhood experience.

*During facilitated and monitored play children learn conflict resolution, cooperative play, communication skills, and can test their changing skills in a way that is relative to their stage of development.

Preschool Schedule

From 8:45am through 11:45am your child will have a mix of free choice time, group time, story time, snack time, large motor time, and work time. During each time the staff in the room will work with your child on many skills including social skills.

An example of a daily schedule can be found below.

8:45 Arrive and wash hands
9:00 Breakfast
9:15 Teeth brushing and social play
10:00 Circle time
11:10 Centers
11:30 Recall
11:45 Dismissal

*All times/activities are subject to change depending on center location. Times are also subject to change a little from day to day depending on projects, special events.

Communication skills, following directions, and self-help skills are a vital part of the preschool environment. If you ever have any questions or concerns the directors of your child's Children's Center will be available to meet with you or talk to you over the phone. We would like to be a partner with you in your child's educational experience; lets work together to make it a positive experience.

Health Care Plan

Staff is trained yearly on all situations

Hand Washing-Hands will be washed with soap and running water.

The following procedures will be used for hand washing:

- Moisten hands at a comfortable water temp. and apply soap.
- Rub hands together vigorously until a soapy lather appears and continue while singing ABC's.
- Rub under fingernails, between fingers, around nail beds and jewelry, wrists and back of hands.
- Rinse hands under running water until free of soap and dirt. Leave water running while drying hands.
- Dry hands with a clean, disposable paper/single use cloth.
- Turn off tap with paper towel.

Handling Bodily Fluids

All staff is trained on how to handle bodily fluids. School procedures will be followed to ensure a safe clean –up and removal of any waste.

- Staff will put on gloves
- Clean up bodily fluid
- Wash area with soap & water, rinse and sanitize
- Wash hands of child
- Dispose of gloves and wash hands

Cleaning and Sanitizing

The following steps are to be followed for cleaning and sanitizing on a daily basis.

- Spray surface area with sanitizing solution (Basic-G)
- Wait briefly
- Spray surface area with cleaning solution (Basic-H)
- Wipe clean
- Spray surface area with water and wipe clean

Toys are washed daily and rotated monthly or on an incident basis (a toy/item is placed in a child's mouth etc.), items are cleaned and sanitized.

*Sanitizing solution is made up of water and Basic-G Germicide (a Shaklee product).

½ an oz. to 1gallon of water

1 drip to 32oz. water

Controlling Infections

- All universal precautions stated above.
- Bedding will be stored in plastic bags.
- Cots/mats will be washed daily when used by children.
- The room is sprayed down every night with a sanitizing solution.
- Children who have any type of communicable disease/condition will be removed from the center and may return with a doctor's note.
- Children who become ill will be kept away from all other children until they are picked up.
- Hand washing is encouraged often.
- Children are taught to cough/sneeze into elbow not hands.
- Staff will wear gloves when handling food.

Health records and immunizations (waivers) have to be up to date

Outdoor Play

Staff/child ratios are always met when going outside. Children are restricted from certain equipment when in our center. Children are never left unattended while outside. If a child gets hurt a staff member will bring that child in while the other gathers up the other children. If a child falls or is severely hurt, staff will follow all precautions as instructed by First Aid training. An incident/accident report will also be filled out and filed with parents, school, and licensing.

Resources: Health Care: Health department, hospitals, poison control, Red Cross, Tri Hospital (CPR/First Aid)