

Little Arrows Preschool

Parent Handbook

2026-2027 School Year



Dawn Samuelson – 507-562-6300 or
email dawn.samuelson@pas.k12.mn.us

Jenny Amundson – 507-562-6301 or
email jenny.amundson@pas.k12.mn.us

Angela Claar – 507-562-6269 or
angela.claar@pas.k12.mn.us

JUST PLAYING

When I am building in the block room,
Please don't say, "I'm just playing." For,
you see, I'm learning as I play About
balance and shapes.

When I'm getting all dressed up, Setting
the table, caring for the babies.
Don't get the idea I'm "just playing."
I may be a mother or father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint,
Or standing at an easel, or modeling and shaping clay,
Please don't let me you say, "He's just playing." For,
you see, I am learning as I play.
I'm expressing myself and being creative.
I may be an artist or an inventor someday.

When you see me sitting in a chair
"Reading to an imaginary audience,
Please don't laugh and think I'm "just playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I maybe a teacher someday.

When you see me combining the bushes of bugs,
Or packing my pockets with choice things I find.
Don't pass it off as "just playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play I
may be a scientist someday.

When you see me engaged in a puzzle.
Or "play anything" at my school.
Please don't feel the time is wasted in "play" For,
you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to solve a problem and concentrate
I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,
Please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is just
"play."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play
I'm learning how my body works
I may be a doctor, nurse, or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school today,
And I say, "I played!"
Please don't misunderstand me.
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to be successful in work.
I'm preparing for tomorrow.
Today, I'm a child and my work is play.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

It is the goal of Little Arrows Preschool to provide high-quality care and education in a safe, nurturing environment to the families and children we serve. Children's school readiness is affected by the early care and learning

experiences they receive. With current brain research from children birth to 5 it has shown these influences can help the child's ability to learn and succeed in school. Children will enter kindergarten with the skills necessary for school success!

OUR CURRICULUM

Benchmark Advance is a comprehensive literacy program that helps preschoolers build early reading, writing, and language skills. Through fun stories, songs, and engaging activities, children learn important concepts like letters, sounds, vocabulary, and comprehension. The program is designed to meet young learners where they are and help them grow step by step, preparing them for future reading success in kindergarten and beyond.

In addition to reading and writing, Benchmark Advance also brings in other important areas of learning. Many lessons connect to science, social studies, and social-emotional skills, helping children build curiosity, problem-solving abilities, and confidence in expressing their ideas. It gives preschoolers a well-rounded foundation for school and life success.

~~We use Creative Curriculum.~~—With the curriculum, each child can explore and discover as a way of learning. The curriculum enables children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills. There are 10 areas of development and learning within this curriculum. The areas are social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, science and technology, social studies, mathematics, the arts, and English language acquisition. With our curriculum, we use an assessment called TS GOLD. This is completed twice a year for each child that attends.

CLASS SCHEDULE

- 3-4 year olds attend Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday either AM or PM
- 4-5 year olds attend Monday thru Friday either AM or PM

- AM Session 8:15-11:15
- PM Session 12:15-3:15

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

During the school day, we follow a daily schedule. Within this daily schedule are circle time, center time, snack time, free choice play time, and outside time (weather permitting). Children will be able to work alone and in groups. Teachers will take observations during the day to identify the children's needs and interests.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS/LATE STARTS

If PAS has a 2 hour late start, there will be NO morning preschool. We will run afternoon preschool the normal time, which is 12:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

If there are any early dismissals the afternoon session will not meet. School announcements can be seen on the local weather channel, or heard on the radio, or you can sign up for the school app through the App Store – Pipestone Area MS/HS.

TRANSPORTATION

We have several different options for you to pick from when it comes to transporting your child to and from school. Parents can pick up and drop off their children. Use the parent pick-up and drop-off line in front of the elementary school. Parents can call the Pipestone Transit at 507-825-1180. Parents are responsible for buying tokens/passes and communicating with the transit about where to pick up and drop off their children. If older siblings ride on the bus to or from school; the preschool child can also ride with them. We are also now offering busing from Ludolph Bus Service at 11:15 and 12:15 times. To set up that service call Ludolph Bus Service at 507-825-2303.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIME

If you are dropping off your child for either AM or PM session, please do not bring them prior to **7:50** for the morning session and **11:55** for the afternoon session unless you have made arrangements with the classroom teacher. Teachers are planning lessons and attending school meetings.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS/Early Childhood Screenings

Your teacher will send a calendar home monthly. On this calendar will be days of **NO SCHOOL**. When there is an early dismissal. Follow the early out schedule provided by your classroom teacher. We do Early Childhood

Screenings three times a year at the preschool. When we do those, there will also be **NO** preschool that day.

*****New schedule due to the early out schedule on most Wednesdays*****

On those, Wednesday's the morning session classes will be held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month and for the afternoon session classes will be held on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month in the morning.

OPEN HOUSE

We will have an open house before school starts so your child can become familiar with the classroom and the staff that will be there.

SNACKS

We do have a snack every class day. A snack calendar will be sent home every month of who brings the snack on which days. Some examples of snacks include: crackers, cheese sticks, yogurt, pretzels, chex mix, pudding, applesauce, granola bars, or fruit cups.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH

If your child attends the AM session they will be offered breakfast that is provided by the school. If your child attends the PM session they will be offered lunch that is provided by the school.

TUITION

There is no cost to families for preschool.

TOILETING

~~Preschool students attending the 3 and 4 year old preschool class do not need to be potty trained students attending the 4 and 5 year old program do need to be potty trained.~~

Preschool students enrolled in the 3- and 4-year-old program are not required to be toilet trained.

Students enrolled in the 4- and 5-year-old program are expected to be toilet trained prior to enrollment.

~~Your child does not need to be toilet **fully** trained to attend preschool.~~

~~If your child wears diapers or other toileting products, please send a supply to be kept at school, including diapers or pull-ups and wipes. If your child is in the process of toilet training, please communicate any strategies being used at home so staff can support consistency between home and school. If your child is transitioning to underwear, please send an extra set of dry underwear and clothing (pants, socks, etc.) in their backpack in case of accidents.~~

~~If your child wears diapers, pull-ups, or other toileting products, please provide an adequate supply of diapers/pull-ups and wipes to be kept at school. If your child is currently toilet training, please share any routines or strategies used at home so school staff can provide consistent support. Children who are transitioning to underwear should bring an extra set of clothing, including underwear, pants, and socks, to keep in their backpack or at school in case a change is needed during the school day.~~

ILLNESS

If you as a parent feel that your child is not feeling well it is best for them and the rest of the class if they stay home. If your child becomes sick or ill during the school day parents will be notified. For illness purposes please keep us informed on new phone numbers. Below are common illnesses and a guide for you to follow.

*A fresh **cold** – nasal discharge, cough, watery eyes which have developed within 24 to 48 hours and are contagious keep your child home.

*Must be **fever** free for 24 hours before returning to school.

*If your child has **vomited** or had **diarrhea** keep home for 24 hours after symptoms have resolved and the child can keep food and fluids down.

***Strep throat** you must wait 24 hours after antibiotics have begun.

*If your child has **pink eye** they need to have used prescribed eye ointment and should not return to school for 24 hours.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Every child has to have a record of their immunizations in their file. The school nurse will notify you if there is more information needed.

MEDICATIONS

If your child needs to take any medications, they need to come to school in the pharmacy bottle and notes. The medicine can be given to the school nurse.

ABSENCE

If your child is going to be absent for the day let the teacher know. You can either call the office at (507) 562-6204 or email the teacher.

CLOTHING

Please have your child wear comfortable clothing to school. We do some messy activities so do not send clothes that you don't want to get stained. We do art projects, we have playdough in the classroom as well as a sand/water table. Extra clothes can be sent in the backpack or we can store them at school in a Ziploc bag.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline is a vital component of the learning process of a child. Gentle discipline is a means of teaching, guiding, and training. When boundaries and expectations are clearly defined, children feel secure. By setting rules and clearly communicating expectations, misbehaviors can be avoided and children can develop self-discipline and self-control. Children will be reminded of the rules, redirected, separated from the problem situation, or sometimes given a brief time-out. Time-out is the removal of a child, for a short period of time, from a situation in which the child is misbehaving and has not responded to other discipline techniques. The space is usually a chair and is located away from the classroom activity but within the teacher's sight. During the time-out, the child has a chance to think about the misbehavior which led to their removal from the group. After a brief interval, the teacher discusses the incident and appropriate behavior with the child.

PIPESTONE AREA ELEMENTARY

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

After reading the Student/Parent Handbook, please sign the appropriate lines below and return the form to your child's classroom teacher.

We, the parent (s)/guardians of, agree to follow the policies outlined in the student handbook for the current school year. We recognize the right and responsibility to discuss the rules and policies with our child and recognize it is the right and responsibility of the staff and teachers to make the rules and reinforce them.

Student name _____ **Grade** _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____

Please sign and return this page to the office.