2023-2024 River Valley Preschool



***Translation or reading assistance available upon request.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of the River Valley Preschool to nurture the continuing growth of children's knowledge and understanding of themselves and their environment. It provides a safe, caring, and stimulating place where learning can flourish. The program recognizes that every child is a unique individual and encourages children to learn through active involvement and play. The River Valley Preschool values teachers and parents as partners in the child's education to ensure the availability of a quality preschool program that promotes lifelong learning.

ELIGIBILITY

Iowa resident children who are four years old by September 15 of the current year, unless directed by an Individualized Education Plan(IEP).

Each classroom has a capacity of 20 students.

REGISTRATION

All information concerning your child and preschool will be kept confidential. Please be certain to complete all of the following forms and return them as soon as possible.

- 1) Parental Consent Paper/Information for Teacher form
- 2) Physical Form with Blood Lead Results included
- 3) Green Emergency Card
- 4) White All school emergency form.
- 5) Lavender medical sheet

Promptly notify the preschool if you have a change of address or telephone number or wish to change any of the above information.

ALL paperwork must be completed by September 12th or your child may be unable to attend preschool until the appropriate paperwork is completed. For students entering school after the initial day, paper is due within 2 weeks of the 1st day of attendance.

SCHEDULING

Schedules will be finalized after registration. Tentatively, they are scheduled as follows:

4-year-olds

8:20-1:00- SVPP tuition-free program (Morning bussing only)

1:00-3:20- Extended Day Programming, (Includes afternoon bussing)

**We run in cooperation with the River Valley School District. Holiday and vacation schedules will coincide with that of the school.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Please use the gym entrance of the Washta building for morning drop-offs. Students will wait in the gym for their teacher or classroom aid to come get them. For parents who pick up their child at the end of the day, you will stay in your vehicle and pull up to the main entrance at the end of the day. Parent pickups usually start at around 3:20-3:25. This will help with confusion at dismissal time. Thank you for your cooperation!

VISITING

All parents and guests are welcomed and encouraged to visit our classrooms. In some cases, your child may be anxious about preschool and it may be disruptive to the group if the parent/child separation does not happen smoothly. Therefore, a brief discussion with teachers before joining the group may be beneficial to everyone and is greatly appreciated. We do realize that advance notice is not always possible or required in the case of unplanned visits.

SNACKS

All snacks will be provided by the school district.

DISCIPLINE POLICIES

River Valley Preschool utilizes the Early Childhood PBIS program. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting *students*' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. When implemented with fidelity, PBIS improves social emotional competence, academic success, and school climate. It also improves teacher health and wellbeing. It is a way to create positive, predictable, equitable and safe learning environments where everyone thrives. This program teaches students problem-solving strategies and encourages positive interactions between peers and adults. The teaching staff will encourage children to respect other people, to be fair, respect, property and learn to be responsible for their actions. The Teaching staff will use discipline that is consistent, clear, and understandable to the child. They will help children learn to persist when frustrated, play cooperatively with other children, use language to communicate needs, and learn turn taking.

Challenging Behavior

The teaching staff in the preschool is highly trained, responsive, respectful, and purposeful. The teachers anticipate and take steps to prevent potential challenging behaviors. They evaluate and change their responses based on individual needs. When children have challenging behaviors teachers promote prosocial behavior by:

- Interacting in a respectful manner with all children.
- Modeling turn taking and sharing as well as caring behaviors
- Helping children negotiate their interactions with one another and with shared materials.
- Engaging children in the care of their classroom and ensuring that each child has an opportunity to contribute to the group.
- Encouraging children to listen to one another and helping them to provide comfort when others are sad or distressed

The teaching staff will guide children to develop self-control and orderly conduct in relationship to peers and adults. Children will be taught social, communication, and emotional regulation skills. If a child displays persistent, serious, and challenging behavior, the teaching staff, parents, and AEA support staff will work as a team to develop and implement an individualized plan that supports the child's inclusion and success.

Aggressive physical behavior toward staff or children is not acceptable. The teaching staff will intervene immediately when a child becomes physically aggressive to protect all of the children and encourage more acceptable behavior.

Permissible Methods of Discipline

For acts of aggression and fighting (biting, scratching, hitting) staff will set appropriate expectations for children and guide them in solving problems. This positive guidance will be the usual technique for managing children with challenging behaviors rather than punishing them for having problems they have not yet learned to solve. In addition, staff may: (1) Separate the children involved; (2) Immediately comfort the individual who was injured; (3) Care for any injury suffered by the victim involved in the incident.; (4) Notify parents or legal guardians of children involved in the incident; (5) Review the adequacy of the teaching staff supervision, appropriateness of program activities, and administrative corrective action if there is a recurrence.

Classroom Consequences for Misbehavior

Consequences for classroom misbehavior will be most effective if implemented consistently and immediately. Students should be informed in advance that certain behaviors are unacceptable and will lead to consequences. Consequences that can be used by teachers other than removing students from the room include the following:

- Students are encouraged to take a break to self-regulate. They can return to the group when they are calm. On occasion, if students are exhibiting unsafe behavior, students are moved to a "break area" within the classroom and are supervised by an adult until they have regulated.
- Students are asked to practice expected behaviors
- Assign the student to sit in a different section of the room
- On very rare occasions, a student may visit with the building principal
- Contact parent(s)/guardian

TOILETING

River Valley Preschool follows the diapering guidelines set forth by the Iowa Quality Preschool Program.

Children will be checked every 2 hours, at a minimum when awake and after napping. Diapers and/or pull-ups will be changed when wet or soiled in the preschool restroom.

When changing children, preschool staff will follow the posted changing procedures found in the preschool restroom.

For children who are unable to use the toilet consistently:

- Those with cloth diapers must have an absorbent inner liner complete within an outer covering of waterproof material that will prevent soiling
- Any clothing that is soiled will be placed in a plastic bag (without rinsing) and set home for laundering.

ILLNESS AND INJURY

If your child has had a fever of 100.4 degrees (or 99.5 with other symptoms such as sore throat or stomach ache) or higher or vomited during the past 24 hours, he/she needs to stay at home and rest. Please call the school to let them know if your child will not be attending or send word with one of the other parents.

If your child becomes ill, we will call you or the persons designated by you on the emergency form. First Aid will be administered for minor injuries. In a serious situation, we would call 911 and contact you.

Should you need to contact the school in an emergency, you may call River Valley Elementary (712-447-6318).

TUITION

Regular preschool programming, **Monday-Thursday from 8:20-1:00 will be TUITION-FREE**, based on the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Grant.

\$45/per month for Extended Day (Monday-Thursday from 1:00-3:20)

Tuition fees are payable to the River Valley Preschool and must be paid by the 10th of each month. Please send fees in a marked envelope to your child's teacher. No fees will be refunded because operating costs are fixed and on-going. Days missed due to illness are built into our fees. Tuition can be paid by the year, ½ year, quarterly, or monthly

- *Tuition fees are set by the River Valley School District.
- **Tuition fees for 4-year-old students depend on the status of the Statewide Voluntary grant status.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Immunization Records IQPPS 5.1

All students in the River Valley Preschool program must submit, within the first 3 weeks, health records that document the dates of services to prove that the child is current in all routine screening tests and immunizations as recommended by the <u>American Academy of Pediatrics</u>. If a child is overdue for any routine health services, the legal guardians must provide evidence of a scheduled appointment to enter into our program and/or to remain enrolled in River Valley Preschool. The only exception for this would be immunizations that parents claim a religious exemption. This <u>link</u> will connect you to our school website and the health and immunization forms we use.

TOILETING IQPPS 5.5

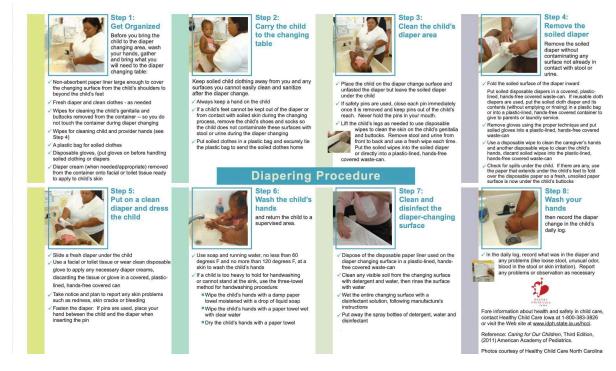
We realize that most preschool students that are attending are usually potty trained, but we also acknowledge that we will have students that are still working on achieving this goal. For students still working towards this goal, our preschool teachers will work with parents to make a plan so that the child will achieve this goal.

Although a child may be potty trained, we also realize that preschool aged children can "forget" to go to the bathroom and have an occasional accident. Because of this, we recommend that all parents/guardians send their child with an extra set of clothes for such an incident. The best way to do this is to send a bag clearly labeled with your child's name on it, and keep it stored at school.

When accidents do occur, clothing that is soiled with feces or urine, will be removed, the child cleaned, and new clothes will be put on the child.

River Valley Preschool follows the diapering guidelines set forth by the Iowa Quality Preschool Program. Children will be checked every 2 hours, at a minimum when awake and after napping.

Diapers and/or pull-ups will be changed when wet or soiled in the preschool restroom. When changing children, preschool staff will follow the posted changing procedures found in the preschool bathroom



For children who are unable to use the toilet consistently:

- Those with cloth diapers must have an absorbent inner liner complete within an outer covering of waterproof material that will prevent soiling
- Any clothing that is soiled will be placed in a plastic bag (without rinsing) and set home for laundering.

Medication Policy IQPPS 5.8

The school will administer medication to children with written approval of the parent and an order from a health provider for a specific child. Because administration of medication in the school is a safety hazard, medication administration will be limited to situations where an agreement to give medication outside preschool hours cannot be made. Whenever possible, the first dose of medicine should be given at home to see if the child has any type of reaction.

A Prescription Drug Authorization Form/Medication Administration Form is used if your student needs to take medication here at school, either a prescribed medication for a long term diagnosis (including allergies and asthma) or a short term medication for an acute illness. Any prescription medication must be transported to school in the pharmacy bottle with the correct label attached (including the correct first and last name of the child, the date the prescription was filled or the recommendation obtained directly from the child's licensed health care provider, the name of the

medication or the period of use of the medication, the manufacturer's instructions or the original prescription label that details the name and strength of the medication, and instructions on how to administer and store it) and any over-the-counter medication needs to be in its original container.

Medicine will be administered by the school nurse or a staff member who has successfully completed a medication administration course.

The person administering medication, who has successfully completed the medication administration course, will:

-Verify that the right child (1) receives the correct medication (2), in the correct dose (3), at the correct time (4), by the correct method (5) with documentation in the child's record each time the medication is administered by the medication administered staff (6) each time the medication is given.

If an incident occurs where an error has been made in administering the medication, Regional Poison Control will be contacted immediately, followed by the child's parents.

All medications, prescription or over the counter are locked in a container within the nurse's office.

Specialized Health Care Needs, Food Allergies, and Special Nutrition Needs IQPPS 5.13

In order to make sure the health, nutrition and allergy needs of all students are met, River Valley Preschool, and the rest of River Valley CSD offers Diet Modification Forms. This form is located in the elementary and high school office and is designed for families, physicians and specialists, and the school to ensure that each student has what they need in order to be healthy and receive the nutrition that they need at this very important age. This form allows for modifications to the meal to made in the following areas (not limited to just these areas): modified textures, modified thickness of liquids, special feeding equipment, modifications necessary for given disabilities, and students with allergies including but not limited to lactose/milk, soy, eggs, seafood, peanuts/tree nuts, and grains.

River Valley Preschool and CSD offer both breakfast and lunch for students. Preschool students have the option to pack a breakfast/lunch or eat from the school's cafeteria. In the mornings, preschool students may eat in the cafeteria. For lunch, our preschool does a homestyle meal, in which the food is served from platers, bowls, and other methods.

If you child has food allergies, we must have a Diet Modification form filled out. If a child is allergic to a certain food, precautions are made in the kitchen in handling the food, preparation of food, and storage of food in accordance with the <u>USDA National School Lunch Program</u>. With permission to post information about that child's specific food allergy from the child's legal guardians, our kitchen staff will post the information in preparation areas of the facility (and classroom) in order to have the constant visual reminder to be aware of the foods that give allergic reactions to the child.

High risk foods, often involved in choking incidents, may be served at our school. For children younger than four years old, these include but are not limited to: hot dogs, grapes, popcorn, raw peas, and hard pretzels, peanut butter,

chunks of raw carrots, or meat larger than can be swallowed whole. Please contact your child's teacher, school nurse, and food service director for any concerns that you have for your child.

The school does not use food or beverages as a reward for good behavior, and does not withhold food for punishment.

Maintaining a Healthful Environment IQPPS 5.18-5.19

- -All staff must be alert to the health needs of each child in the classroom and known allergies or special medical conditions. Staff are made aware of these by communicating with the parents of the children.
- -The preschool teacher and staff must be alert to the Whereabouts of all children. Systems are in place for accounting for children at regular intervals especially during periods of transition.
- All staff are to follow proper procedures were hand-washing, using disinfectant, and following universal precautions to prevent infections.
- All teaching staff and paraprofessional staff complete occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens annually.
- At the beginning of each school year all staff that are not certified in pediatric first aid will go through certification classes. This includes managing a blocked Airway and providing rescue breathing for infants and children. At all times during the day at least one staff member that is certified in pediatric first aid will be present.

At River Valley preschool we take pride in our facility. We maintain a clean and sanitary condition. When spills or accidents occur, the area will be closed off to children and cleaned immediately. On a daily basis we disinfect all surfaces, sinks, door handles, and bathrooms. For the safety of our students we do not store chemicals in the classroom, but our custodial staff is ready at any time during the day to clean any accident or spill.

Any time a teacher or staff member Witnesses a child put a toilet in their mouth, that toy is removed immediately and sanitized before it is put back into circulation. All disinfectants for toys or the areas listed above, are non-toxic solutions.

At the end of the day our preschool rooms are sanitized by custodial staff. Any bleach solution used for cleaning we'll be left for 2 minutes before it is wiped and cleaned with a paper towel. Our preschool staff will also wash cloth toys and classroom rags that have been placed in a child's mouth or contaminated by Body secretion before it is used again in the preschool classroom. All trash cans are emptied at the end of the day, ond when they are full. this includes the trashcan in the bathroom that is used for soiled diapers. Carpets are cleaned by a standard vacuum cleaner, and an extractor that can disinfect the carpet by shampooing and extracting the moisture and shampoo. All staff in the preschool room is trained on cleaning techniques and proper use of protective barriers such as gloves, improper handling and disposing of contaminated materials, and information required by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration about the use of any chemical agents. Since our preschool is on a 4-day program, Fridays are a deep clean day. All toys and school supplies are soaked and scrubbed clean, air dried, and put back into their proper locations for the coming week.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

CHICKEN POX

Child should stay out of school until most scabs are gone. At least 7 days following eruption of last lesions or "blisters."

COLDS

Child should stay home during the acute stage (sneezing and running nose) even though the temperature is normal.

COUGH

Child should stay out if cough is persistent and until it has subsided.

IMPETIGO

Impetigo starts as red, open areas. Lesions become crusty yellow. Have your child use his/her own towel and washcloth at home. Your child should be seen by a health care provider for proper treatment. Lesions should be covered. Wash hands frequently.

PINK EYE

Child must not attend school for 24 hours after starting medication.

RINGWORM

Use an ointment prescribed by your healthcare provider.

SCARLET FEVER

Child should stay out for 7 days from onset if untreated or 24 hours after antibiotics. You should check with your family doctor immediately for the protection of other family members.

SCARLETINA

Child should stay out of school for at least 7 days.

LICE

The school highly recommends treatment before returning to school.

STREP THROAT

Child must not attend school for 24 hours after medication is started.

GASTROINTESTINAL/STOMACH BUGS

Child should be diarrhea and vomit free a minimum of 24-hours before returning to school.

Your family physician may shorten the duration of absence by giving written permission to return to school.

ASSESSMENT

IOPPS 4.2

Assessment is a significant part of our PK program. With assessment, we have data to support where students are at developmentally, the ability to plan instruction around student need, and be able to benefit the children in our program

Many of our preschool assessments are strictly given by our teachers since they are trained professionals. We do seek to have parents be involved in our assessments planning and data collecting. At River Valley Preschool, we give parents the "Parent Developmental Screener". For this we give parents a copy of the Parent Developmental Questionnaire, which is a screener. This is usually completed by all parents, but is not required. We also have our Ages and Stages assessment. Parents are told about this assessment and are given the option to administer this assessment at home. Most choose not to give this at home since it is such a long assessment. If parents choose not to give this survey, the teachers will give the assessment at school. All parents are told about these two assessments at the beginning of the year during home visits. Home visits typically occur on the first two days of the school year for the district.

All River Valley Preschool assessments are kept confidential. Though we have several types of assessments we keep them confidential in three different ways. For Gold and myIGDI's, all scores are password protected on the websites used to administer these assessments. For our other assessments, we use a secured drive, and only test administrators have access to the content. We do make copies of assessment scores to give to parents and keep in a permanent student file. The student's permanent files are locked in a filing cabinet in the elementary school office. Only school administration have access to these filing cabinets.

Throughout the course of the school year, River Valley Preschool offers a variety of assessments. It is important for our preschool parents to be aware of their child's progress. To insure this, we use communication on Seesaw and email for regular communication. There are times where this is used to informally talk about our students assessments. Formally, we mail out quarterly report cards that indicate progress in Gold and in other assessments that have been taken during these time periods. We also use our fall and spring parent teacher conferences as an opportunity to communicate with parents the scores that we have been provided by the assessments that we have given to their child. In addition to sharing the results of the assessments formally through a quarterly report card and through our fall and spring conferences, we communicate with parents about upcoming assessments through Seesaw and email to make sure that the students and families are best prepared for these assessments.

Assessment	Purpose	Administratio n Window(s)	Assessments are given to 4 year olds
Fine Motor Assessment	Assess Postural control, shoulder stability, hand preference, Pencil grasp, Bimanual Skills, Visual/motor skillstracing, copying, coloring, drawing, cutting Determine initial skills and potential need for OT support.	Beg. of the school year	yes

Ages and	Developmental Screener-	Fall and Spring	yes
Stages	Developmental milestones in the areas of social skills, motor skills, cognitive skills, and language Used to identify at-risk behavior.	, ,	
Parent Developmental Screener	Assess the areas above while in the home environment	Fall/ Beg. of the year	yes
Math and Literacy Assessment	Assess uppercase and lowercase letter knowledge, letter sound identification, numeral identification, counting- rote and one to one correspondence, and knowledge of shapes. Assessment is used to track progression of knowledge and share progress with parents.	Fall, Winter, & Spring Semester	yes
My IGDIS	Literacy Screener- Assess early literacy skills in the areas of rhyming, picture naming, sound id, which one doesn't belong, and alliteration. Results inform data-based decisions about intervention and services.	Fall: August 15th- November 14th Winter: November 15th- February 14th Spring: February 15th- May 14th	yes
The Teaching Strategies GOLD	Embed widely held expectations and assessment into every day activities. Results inform classroom practices and individualize learning. Data is used to tailor individual and whole group instruction. This assessment is aligned with the lowa Early Learning Standards and student progress data in all developmental areas throughout the year. Each time the assessment is given a progress report is given to parents. This assessment is implemented through our <i>Creative</i>	Fall: August 12- November 19th Winter: November 20- February 25th Spring: February 26- May27th	yes

as a diagnostic test.		Curriculum, which is based on student interests. This assessment can also be used as a diagnostic test.		
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Teacher/Team Group	Frequency of team meetings	Data used in discussions	Connections to instructional planning and practices
ECSE meeting	monthly	IEP progress monitoring	 Discussion of the progression towards students' IEP goals. strategies to assist in meeting goals behavior interventions growth of individual students Gen-Ed concerns
Administrative preschool meeting	Weekly	Lesson plans/ GOLD	 Discussions on lesson plans to embed and teach GOLD objectives. Administrative support needed in the classroom.
Team meeting with teachers and associates	Weekly	GOLD and observations in the classroom	 Discussions involve individualized strategies for students changes in progress monitoring Progression towards IEP goals data collection procedures collaboration on lessons to meet GOLD objectives
PLC	Weekly	Progress monitoring, GOLD, Classroom Observations	Curriculum discussions, lesson planning

River Valley Parent Preschool Survey IQPPS 10.15

At River Valley preschool, we value opportunities to collaborate with our families. Because this is so important to us, we give a parent survey at the end of the school year, in order to allow families to share highlights of our preschool program in areas that we can continue to work on. We also extend to our families opportunities to come in and meet with their teachers twice a year for parent-teacher conferences between the parent survey, and these conferences we take the opportunity to better plan our preschool program in our operations. We take the opinions of our parents and preschool families into consideration and discuss them as a preschool staff. This is one of the best ways for our program to continue to grow to better serve River Valley preschool-aged students.