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Behavior Policy

Our goal is to ensure that every child experiences a loving Christian environment, which includes feeling safe and cared for, resulting from positive interaction with peers and adults. To help achieve this goal, all preschool staff model respect, love and grace in all interactions with each other, families and children. This is the behavior that is reinforced in the classroom as the children learn to share and communicate. Teachers use behavior tactics such as redirection and positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior to encourage success regarding certain behavior. Due to the young age of the children and the learning curve for sharing and spatial awareness, a parent is not called every time a child is bumped in class or other social learning situation. However, occasionally a child's behavior warrants an immediate phone call to a parent and/or a request for a meeting. So that you know what to expect, following are a few examples of behavior that will prompt a parent meeting and possible request for the child to be picked up from school early.

- Flight risk: Running away from adults (inside or outside)
- Repeated hitting/pushing
- Repeated and/or unwanted touching/hugging of other children
- Any behavior which results in or causes potential injury to other children, including continual running within a classroom
- Verbal comments or gestures of inappropriate language and/or behavior

A parent meeting will be necessary before the child returns to school. No tuition adjustments will be made for missed days as a result of behavior. Hope Christian preschool is committed to our children and families and will assist in exhausting every resource to help find a positive solution to any situation. Please respect the teacher's feedback in these situations, we are here to help. If the behavior does not improve within a pre-agreed upon period of time it may become necessary to suspend or remove the child from our preschool. This is a last resort when all other alternatives are unavailable or have been exhausted.

Communication

We will communicate through the Remind platform. It is the parent's responsibility to set up and check their Remind account. The preschool office can help with this.

You can access Remind via the smartphone app, or at the Remind.com website. Through Remind, you are able to choose how you would like to receive notifications: SMS text, app notification, or email.

Be sure to check daily for messages from your teacher and notifications from the school.

Drop off and Pick up Procedure

Arrival

Each classroom will be assigned a specific pickup and drop off time. The doors will open at that time. Should you arrive when the doors are locked, a call button is located to the right of the doors.

Pickup

Only adults listed on your Teacher Information Form are authorized to pick up your child. This form is filled out during the summer. To add/remove an authorized pickup during the year, please email our

secretary at kellybrand@sharethehope.org and copy in your teacher. **Verbal authorization will not be accepted.** All adults picking up your child will be asked to provide a photo id.

If you need to pickup your child early, please inform your teacher. Use the call button to the right of the outer doors.

Field Trips

We typically schedule a fall, winter and spring fieldtrips for the Threes, Fours, and older Fours. We will notify you of the dates as soon as possible. Our policy for these trips is for 1 adult to accompany each child. While on the field trip site, that adult is responsible for the child.

Guests and Providers

All guests and providers will be required to sign in at the Welcome Desk. Be aware that when Covid prevention policies are in place, guests are prohibited from entering the school.

Illness

Daily Health Screen

We ask that each morning, you consult the Health Screen on our website. If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep them home, for their health and for the health of fellow students.

- Temperature 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for individuals with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Had close contact within the last 14 days (within six feet) with a person with confirmed case of COVID-19
- Had close contact within the last 14 days (within six feet) with a person currently under quarantine for possible exposure.
- Traveled to a state currently on NYS restricted list

Child Illness during school

Following guidelines, if a child becomes ill during the school day, he/she will be separated from other children in a supervised area to evaluate symptoms, including taking their temperature with a touch free thermometer. A parent will be called for any child displaying or verbally mentioning any Covid symptoms listed on the health screening form.

We ask that you have someone on call each day that could leave right away to pick up a child within about 20 minutes or less.

Any child waiting to be picked up will be supervised the entire time, and will be provided comfort, water, and an option to color or read a book while they wait.

If a child or staff goes home due to Covid related symptoms a doctor's note stating a resolution of the symptoms and release to return to school is necessary. Otherwise, if their symptoms get better and you can successfully complete the health survey, the child may return to school the next day.

If a Covid test is recommended, a negative result is needed in order to return to school.

All medical information is kept confidential.

If a child stays home from school due to illness

Please notify Mrs. Brand and your teacher at HCPS using Remind.

Please consult your pediatrician. Once your child is symptom-free for 24 hours and can successfully complete the health survey, the child may return to school.

Staff Illness

Any staff that becomes ill will also be sent home and a sub will replace them. Staff follow the same procedures as the students and will need a doctor's note to return to work.

If a staff or child tests positive for Covid-19

The school will consult the local health department (or the current health authority) immediately and follow their lead on guidelines and possible classroom closure. A case of Covid within the school does not necessarily require the entire school to temporarily shut down.

Community Outbreak

If at any time the Department of Health, or other governing body **requires all schools to close** for a period of time, HCPS will close temporarily as well.

Non-Discrimination

Hope Christian Preschool admits students of any race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

Office Staff Contact Information

For questions regarding school policies, registrations and other concerns, please contact the Director of Hope Christian Preschool, Kellie Hudson, at kelliehudson@sharethehope.org

For questions regarding your tuition account, please contact our Accounts Receivable Specialist, Sherry Trerise at sherrytrerise@sharethehope.org

For changes in contact information and all other questions, please contact our secretary, Mrs. Brand at kellybrand@sharethehope.org

Photos and Video

Your child may be photographed throughout the year at field trips and school events. By signing the Policy Agreement on the registration form, you give us permission for these photos to be used in the classroom, social media and the year-end slide show and on the sharethehope.org website. Understand that staff may use their personal phones to take photos, which we be uploaded to the preschool account and then deleted from their private accounts.

If you choose to opt-out of this policy, please download the form located on our webpage, sharethehope.org/preschool, fill it out and email to the appropriate email address. This form can only be accepted electronically.

Preparing your child for school

- practice sitting still for 1 minute for an activity and work up to 5 minutes
- help your children get used to a routine by setting a routine at home. Give little ones verbal and visual clues to ease transition from one activity to the next.
- accustom your child to wearing masks to keep everyone safe, pretend with stuffed animals
- demonstrate high fives and playing in a 6ft radius circle
- encourage them to keep hands to self
- practice hand washing – 20 seconds
- when you wash your hands then you can play again
- work on being independent in the bathroom
- teach them to sneeze and cough into their elbow

School Supplies

We always welcome donations of the following supplies:

- Alcohol-based wipes
- Alcohol-based, store purchased, hand sanitizer
- Tissues

Snacks

Current health regulations dictate we can only accept snacks that are individually wrapped.

Teachers will assign snacks by alphabet to each family, taking note of birthdays. Each family is asked to bring a package of individually wrapped snacks (the teacher will tell you how many) for each student in the class.

The teacher will inform the class of any allergies. Regardless of allergies in your room, please provide a peanut-free snack (a snack that does not contain peanut products). Unless your teacher specifies otherwise, 'made in a factory with peanuts' is okay.

Examples of a healthy snack are goldfish, pretzels, individual fruit cups, or applesauce. Please, no cookies or muffins. No drinks please, water will be provided.

For birthday snacks, any individual wrapped snack such as mini cookies are okay for a birthday.

Toilet Training & Bathroom

Two-year old classes

Diapers/pull-ups are accepted and will be changed as needed. Please be sure they are changed just before the child arrives at school. Any soiled diapers in the Twos class will be changed on a changing table.

2-day Three-year-old classes

Children will be given assistance to step in and out of wet pull-ups when the child requests assistance. Because there are no changing facilities in the Threes classrooms and also due to larger class sizes of the Threes, a parent or guardian will be called if a child has a soiled pull up that needs to be changed. When a child is wearing a pull-up, please be sure they are changed just before the child arrives at school.

3-Day Classes and 5-Day Classes (Three-year-old and Four-year-old)

Your child must be fully toilet trained, without pull-ups. **Pull-ups are not allowed in the three-day Three-year-old classes.**

Children need to be independent in the bathroom. This means they are able to pull up/down their own clothing or pull-ups. Note that for child safety reasons, teachers cannot assist children with personal hygiene. Teachers and assistants will provide help with clothing only. Teachers can and will talk them through steps for cleanliness and washing hands after visiting the bathroom. Children will be asked to close the door for privacy. The bathroom doors do not lock.

Please contact us in advance of the school year starting if your child's toilet training is still a work in process.

Accidents do happen

For all children, please keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack. Wet clothing will be changed and sent home in a bag. We may need to call a parent, as soiled pull-ups or clothing cannot be changed by staff in classes due to teacher/student ratio needs. Either the parent or alternate contact will be called to come change the child. Once changed, the child can return to class.

Tuition

A bill will be emailed (using the email address you provided at registration) to you 4 weeks before the due date. You can access our online payment system from that QuickBooks statement, or from our webpage. Tuition can be paid online by credit card, debit card or EFT, or in person at the Welcome Desk by cash or check.

Tuition Due Dates

August 15, 2022, October 15, 2022, December 15, 2022, February 15, 2023, April 15, 2023

A \$15 late fee will be assessed for all payments beyond the due date.

Please sherrytrerise@sharethehope.org with any concerns or questions.

What to bring to school

- We will provide all the school supplies your child needs.
- A great backpack. Your child will have wonderful art and other projects to show you, and school may occasionally send home important papers. Please make sure the bag is big enough to hold these amazing projects! And don't forget to check for those important papers.
- Socks for the indoor playcenter (keep an extra pair in the backpack).
- An extra change of clothes in case of accident.
- **PLEASE LABEL backpacks, coats, boots, sneakers, masks, sweaters, etc.**