

# West Fork Community School Preschool

*Program Policies and Procedures*



West Fork Community School  
Preschool - Rockwell Campus  
210 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Rockwell, IA 50469  
641-822-3234

**West Fork – Rockwell Preschool  
210 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Rockwell, Iowa 50469**

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# Preschool Policies and Procedures

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to West Fork Elementary for the 2024-2025 school year! This handbook is provided to you, our families and students, as a reminder of school procedures and provides general information about our school.

We ask that you read carefully and discuss the information in this handbook, as well as any information provided to you by your child's teacher. Communication is key for all of us to work together to create the best learning opportunities for all of our students.

We appreciate your continued support in your child's education. We promote respect, responsibility, honesty and kindness in all areas to foster a great learning environment at West Fork Community School District.

West Fork Preschool invites you to become involved in one or all of the following ways, and welcomes other ideas as well.

1. Support your child's daily transition to school by sharing information about your child's interests and abilities. Keeping the teacher informed of changes and events that might affect your child allows the teacher to be more responsive to your child's needs.
2. Attend family meetings.
3. Return all forms, questionnaires and so on promptly.
4. Attend Family/Teacher conferences in the Fall and Spring semesters.
5. Take time to read the family bulletin board.
6. Check your child's backpack each day.
7. Participate in field trip activities.
8. Share some of your talents in your child's class through activities such as: reading or storytelling, cooking, art, music, sewing, crafts, hobbies, your profession, or artifacts from trips you have taken.
9. Share any of your families' cultural traditions, celebrations, or customs.
10. Help prepare snacks and enjoy it with your child.
11. Read all the material sent home with your child.
12. Come to play.
13. Help with special events. Helping takes many different forms such as preparation of materials at home, making telephone calls, preparing or posting flyers, recruiting other volunteers, collecting donations or prizes, run errands, photography, setup before the event, or clean afterwards.
14. Serve on the Preschool Advisory Committee.
15. Add to the monthly newsletter or organize it.

We want to keep the lines of communication open and should you have any questions regarding the information contained in this booklet, please contact elementary principal – Ashley Flatebo @ 641-822-3234 or via email: [ashley.flatebo@westforkschool.org](mailto:ashley.flatebo@westforkschool.org).

For more information about our elementary or West Fork school district in general, look for us on the web at [www.westforkschool.org](http://www.westforkschool.org).

Thanks for your support and have a wonderful school year!  
Ashley Flatebo, PK-5 Principal

## **Program Policies and Procedures**

### **I. WELCOME TO WEST FORK PRESCHOOL QPPS 10.1**

West Fork Preschool was awarded the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Grant in 2011 as a result of the Preschool Advisory Committee's dedicated work. The program's goal is to provide a high quality preschool program meeting each child's needs, including children with disabilities and those from a diverse background. The preschool provides a rich learning environment that encourages children's natural curiosity and supports them to take risks that lead to new skill development. It is a setting where children feel safe, respected, and cared for. This is an opportunity for all preschool children to take part in planned, active learning experiences to build their readiness skills. The preschool program has adopted and meets the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, administered by the Iowa Department of Education. The Iowa Early Learning Standards are used to guide expectations for the children and instructional practices.

#### **Home Visits**

Home visits are made prior to the start of school. This is an opportunity for the preschool teacher to get to know you, your child, and your family and for you to begin to create a partnership between home and school in order to best meet your child's needs. This is a great time for you to share what makes your family unique, how you prefer to communicate with the teacher, and share your knowledge about your child's interests, approaches to learning, and developmental needs. You can help the teacher understand what your goals are for your child and whether you have any concerns you'd like addressed. Parents are encouraged to share these preferences, concerns, and questions at any time with either the classroom teacher or administrator.

#### **Family Teacher Conferences**

The preschool program will have formal family teacher conferences at the same time as the elementary school - fall and spring. During the conference the teacher will share results of classroom assessments and samples of your child's work. Together you can make a plan to continue to encourage your child's growth and development.

#### **Family Night**

Family night is an opportunity for you and your family to come to school to participate in fun as well as educational activities. Based on results from a family survey, the teaching staff will select a topic for the evening. With help from family volunteers, the night will be planned to meet the needs of the children and families in the classroom. Past practices have included a Preschool Pathways program that facilitates a multi-week learning experience. We encourage all parents to take advantage of this opportunity if it or a similar program becomes available in the future.

### **I. MISSION, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOALS QPPS 10.1**

#### ***West Fork Mission:***

The West Fork Community School District is dedicated to creating successful learners, citizens, and leaders.

#### ***West Fork Vision Statement:***

West Fork students will be proud of their educational experience and confident in their ability to succeed in a complex global environment. We will instill this through our Portrait of a Graduate Competences of adapt, persist, communicate, think critically, respect, and collaborate.

***West Fork Preschool Mission Statement:***

The mission of West Fork Preschool is to help children learn to develop a sense of personal worth, security, a feeling of self- control, creativity, responsibility, interest and joy in learning. We will also help them learn the value of sharing, the enjoyment of being curious and more about the world around them through guided exploration.

West Fork Preschool will provide EXCELLENCE OF EDUCATION so that each student will discover LIFELONG LEARNING and become a self-respecting, contributing adult member of society.

***West Fork Preschool goals:***

Our goals are based on the Iowa Early Learning Standards where we will work in collaboration with families to build knowledge around creative arts, social studies, different approaches to learning, physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, science, mathematics, and communication, language, and literacy.

## **II. ENROLLMENT**

### **Equal Educational Opportunity**

West Fork Community School District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e). Students who feel they have been discriminated against are encouraged to report it to the school district Affirmative Action Coordinator, Jen Schmidt, and she can be reached at 641-822-3234. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Director of the region VII Office of Civil Rights, US Department of Education, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 800, Milwaukee, Wi, 53203-2292, (414) 291-1111, or the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, (515) 281-5294. Procedures and levels are outlined in district policy for resolving complaints and are available upon request from the curriculum director's office.

### **Eligibility**

Children must be three years of age prior to September 15<sup>th</sup> of the current school year to attend three year old preschool. Children must be four years of age prior to September 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year to attend four year old preschool. Pre-registration will begin in the spring of the year. Registration materials are available from the elementary secretary. Final registration will occur in the fall.

### **Arrival and Dismissal Times**

#### **Three Year old Preschool**

Children attend Tuesday and Thursday from 8:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Busing is provided to school, parents to provide pick up. Transportation will be an option for those that attend daycares for an extra fee. These children do not eat breakfast at school.

#### **Four Year old Preschool-Full Day Program**

Children attend Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. Busing is provided before and after school. Students do not attend on Tuesday and Thursday. This allows for parent meetings, home visits, planning time for the teaching staff, and collaboration with community agencies.



#### Four Year old Preschool-Half Day Program

Children attend Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Busing is provided before school, parents are to provide pick up. Students do not attend on Tuesday and Thursday. This allows for parent meetings, home visits, planning time for the teaching staff, and collaboration with community agencies.

#### Pre-Kindergarten

Children attend Monday thru Friday from 8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. Monday through Friday. Busing is provided before and after school.

If your 4 year old or Pre-K student walks to school or is dropped off by a private vehicle, please have them arrive by 8:10 a.m., unless they are to eat breakfast. If they are eating breakfast at school, please have them arrive by 7:50 a.m.

Meal fees for 4 year old preschool and Pre-K will be as follows: Breakfast - \$1.95; Lunch - \$2.95. If your child brings cold lunch and wants milk, \$0.40 will be charged for the milk. These fees will not be charged if your child is absent. A hot lunch will be provided at school. A separate meal account will be kept for each child and you will be notified when your child's food account needs more money. If a child is unable to drink milk, his/her parents will be responsible for sending a suitable, nutritious substitute or water will be provided.

The preschool follows the West Fork School calendar.

#### **Fees**

Cost for 3 year old preschool is \$70/month.

Cost for 4 year old preschool is \$75/month for the full day program.

Tuition is due the first school day of each calendar month.

The 5 yr old PreK and 4 year old preschool ½ day program students are not charged a monthly fee. Students will also need lunch money in their accounts for lunch and breakfast, if they choose to eat at school, as well as snack and milk.

We prefer that you pay by check as it assures that you get proper credit for tuition and meals. Checks for meals should be made separately from tuition checks. Make checks payable to West Fork School.

#### **General Information**

Within six weeks after a child begins the program, health records that document the dates of service shall be submitted that show the child is current for routine screening tests and immunizations according to the schedule recommended and published by the American Academy of Pediatrics. **QPPS 5.1**

The maximum class size is 20 children in each session based on square footage of the current location. A teaching staff-child ratio of at least 1:10 will be maintained at all times for four year old students and 1:9 for 3 year old students to encourage adult-child interactions and promote activity among children. The elementary principal will maintain a current list of available substitutes for both the teacher and teacher assistant. Should one of the teaching staff need to temporarily leave the room, the teacher will call the elementary office and the principal will arrange for coverage of the classroom to maintain the staff-child ratio. **QPPS 10.4**

The preschool program provides all children, including those with disabilities and unique learning needs. Modifications are made in the environment and staffing patterns in order to include children with special needs. Facilities meet American with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements. Accessibility includes

access to buildings, toilets, sinks, drinking fountains, outdoor play space, and all classroom and therapy areas. Staff are aware of the identified needs of individual children and are trained to follow through on specific intervention plans. It is our belief that inclusion in our program will enrich the experience for teachers, students, other children and their families. **QPPS 9.10**

#### **IV. A CHILD'S DAY**

##### **Who Works In The Preschool**

Program Administrator The elementary principal is designated as the program administrator supervising the preschool program. The elementary principal meets all qualifications described in the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards. **QPPS 10.2**

##### Teacher

A full-time teacher licensed by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners and holding an early childhood endorsement is assigned to the preschool classroom. **QPPS 6.2**

##### Associate

A full time teacher assistant in the classroom carries out activities under the supervision of the teacher. The teacher assistant will have specialized training in early childhood education. **QPPS 6.3**

##### Health Staff

The preschool will have the assistance of the school nurse. The current nurse is employed full time, is a certified RN, and is recertified every three years. She maintains student health records by updating them quarterly, and attends to the health needs of the students while they are at school. She is available for parent consultation when necessary. At least one staff member who has a certificate showing satisfactory completion of pediatric first-aid training, including managing a blocked airway and providing rescue breathing for children, is always present with each group of children. **QPPS 5.2**

##### Support Staff

Central Rivers AEA support staff provide resources and assistance to the teacher and classroom upon request to help all children be successful in the preschool setting. Such staff may include: early childhood consultant, speech and language pathologist, social worker, occupational therapist, physical therapist or others.

##### **Daily Activities**

A consistent daily schedule is planned to offer a balance of learning activities. Learning is both formal and informal. Play is planned for at least for one, continuous hour every day. Listening is balanced with talking, group activities with solitary time, indoors with outdoors, quiet play with noisy play. Your child will have the opportunity for the following types of activities every day:

Interest Areas: Blocks, Dramatic Play, Toys & games, Art, Library, Discovery, Sand & Water, Music & Movement, Cooking, Technology, and Outdoors.

Education will be provided in large and small groups as well as individual activities. Self-directed play and outdoor activities will also be arranged.

Lesson plans for each week are posted in the classroom showing how these activities are incorporated into the daily schedule. Weekly notes will be sent home to families in children's backpacks and electronically, if parents desire. Play is planned for a continuous hour - uninterrupted play.

##### **Curriculum**

Curriculum is a framework for learning opportunities and experiences. It is a process by which learners obtain knowledge and understanding, while developing life skills. It is continually revised and evaluated

to make learning fun and exciting. Teachers organize space and select materials in all content and developmental areas to stimulate exploration, experimentation, discovery, and conceptual learning. Teachers work to prevent challenging or disruptive behaviors through: environmental design, schedules that meet the needs and abilities of children, effective transitions, and engaging activities. Teaching staff and children work together to arrange the classroom materials in predictable ways so children know where to find things and where to put them away. **QPPS 2.1 - 2.3**

It is the policy of this district that the curriculum content and instructional materials utilized reflect the cultural and racial diversity present in the United States and the variety of careers, roles, and lifestyles open to women as well as men in our society. One of the objectives of the total curriculum and teaching strategies is to reduce stereotyping and to eliminate bias. The curriculum should foster respect and appreciation for the cultural diversity found in our country and an awareness of the rights, duties, and responsibilities of each individual as a member of a multicultural nonsexist society. **QPPS 1.7**

The preschool program uses *Creative Curriculum*, a research and theory based comprehensive curriculum designed for children ages 3-5. Five components – How Children Develop and Learn, The Learning Environment, What Children Learn, The Teacher’s Role, and The Family Role make up the organizational structure of *Creative Curriculum*. Eleven interest areas – Blocks, Dramatic Play, Toys and Games, Art, Library, Discovery, Sand and Water, Music and Movement, Cooking, Computers, and Outdoors apply the five components to these areas. It provides children an opportunity to learn in a variety of ways - through play, problem solving, movement, art, music, drawing and writing, listening, and storytelling. Suggestions for modifications and adaptations are an integral part of the curriculum. **QPPS 2.1, 2.2**

## **Child Assessment**

### *Guiding principles:*

It is the school district’s belief that assessment of young children should be purposeful, developmentally appropriate, and take place in the natural setting by familiar adults. The results will be used for planning experiences for the children and to guide instruction. Assessment will never be used to label children or to include or exclude them from a program. A family’s culture and a child’s experiences outside the school setting are recognized as being an important piece of the child’s growth and development. All results will be kept confidential, placed in each child’s file, and stored in a secure filing cabinet.

### **QPPS 4.3**

Children are assessed in the following ways:

- *Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment* is modified to align with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. It records student progress in all developmental areas at the beginning, middle and end of the year.
- Observational data provides an ongoing anecdotal record of each child’s progress during daily activities.
- Child portfolios are organized by the teaching staff and include the assessments, observational data, and child work samples collected on an on-going basis.
- Families are asked to contribute information about their child’s progress. Young children often show different skills in different settings. Working together, the teaching staff and families can gather a complete picture of a child’s growth and development.

The information from the above is used in the following ways:

- To provide information about children’s needs, interests, and abilities in order to plan developmentally appropriate experiences for them;
- To provide information to parents about their children’s developmental milestones;
- To indicate possible areas that require additional assessment.

Assessment information will be shared formally with families during Parent Teacher Conferences in the fall and spring. The preschool teacher will communicate weekly regarding children’s activities and developmental milestones. Informal conferences are always welcome and can be requested at any time.

If, through observation or information on the *Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment* the teacher feels that there is a possible issue related to a developmental delay or other special need, she/he will communicate this to the family during a conference, sharing documentation of the concern. Suggestions for next steps may include the following, with the knowledge and consent of the parents:

- The teacher requests assistance from the Pre-School Assistance Team as an early intervention process. This team engages in problem identification, plan interventions, provide support, and make outside resources available to those individuals requesting assistance. The Tier 2 team is available and functional for all students and teachers in the building.
- A request made to Central Rivers AEA for support and additional ideas or more formalized testing.

The preschool teacher would assist in arranging for developmental screening and referral for diagnostic assessment when indicated.

If a child is determined to need special accommodations, those accommodations are included in the materials, environment, and lesson plans for that child. Examples include sign language and visuals for children with hearing impairments or language delays and behavior plans for children whose behavior does not respond to the typical strategies used by teaching staff in the classroom. **QPPA 7.3-7.5**

### **Supervision Policy**

Before children arrive at school, the preschool teacher will complete the following daily safety checklist indoor and outdoor:

- Staff clean and sanitize toilet seats, toilet handles, toilet bowls, doorknobs, or cubicle handles and floors either daily or immediately if visibly soiled. Staff clean and sanitize potty chairs, f in use, after each child’s use.
- All safety plugs and electric outlets covered, heat/AC, water temperature, and toilets, etc. in working order. Floor coverings are secured to keep staff and children from tripping or slipping.
- All cleaning supplies/poisons out of children reach and are stored properly.
- Classroom and materials checked for cleanliness/broken parts, etc. including playground.
- Supplies checked - first aid kit, latex gloves, soap, paper towels, etc.
- Daily monitoring of the environment - spills, sand, etc. Other serious problems will be reported to the head custodian.

- Upon arrival, each child is observed by the teacher for signs of illness or injury that could affect the child's ability to participate in the daily activities. **QPPS 9.11, 9.12, 9.13**

No child will be left unsupervised while attending preschool. Staff will supervise primarily by sight. Supervision for short intervals by sound is permissible as long as teachers check every two to three minutes on children who are out-of-sight (e.g. those who can use the toilet independently, who are in the library area, etc.) **QPPS 9.2**

### **Creating a Predictable, Consistent, and Harmonious Classroom**

Teaching staff will equitably use positive guidance, redirection, and planning ahead to prevent problems. They will encourage appropriate behavior through the use of consistent clear rules, and involving children in problem solving to foster the child's own ability to become self disciplined. Where the child understands words, discipline will be explained to the child before and at the time of any disciplinary action. Teaching staff will encourage children to respect other people, to be fair, respect, property and learn to be responsible for their actions. 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. **QPPS 1.7**

#### *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 **QPPS 1.8-1.9**

Teaching staff will guide children to develop self-regulation 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 intervention that supports the child's inclusion and success. **QPPS 1.9**

Aggressive physical behavior toward staff or children is unacceptable. Teaching staff will intervene immediately when a child becomes physically aggressive to protect all of the children and encourage more acceptable behavior.

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 is there is a recurrence.

The program does not, and will not, employ any of the following disciplinary procedures:

1. harsh or abusive tone of voice with the children nor make threats or derogatory remarks.
2. physical punishment, including spanking, hitting, shaking, or grabbing.
3. any punishment that would humiliate, frighten, or subject a child to neglect.
4. withhold nor threaten to withhold food as a form of discipline.

### **Outside Play and Learning**

We have daily opportunities for outdoor play as the weather permits and provided the weather air quality and environmental safety conditions do not pose a threat. This allows children the opportunity to develop their large muscle skills, get exercise, and be active. Sometimes we spend longer getting bundled up than we spend outside. We use the Child Care Weather Watch guidelines produced by Healthy Child Care Iowa to determine if the Wind Chill Factor or Heat Index is safe for outdoor play.

In cases when we cannot go outside (due to weather conditions) children are given the opportunity to use indoor equipment for similar activities inside and are supervised at the same level as outdoor equipment. For example, gymnasium spaces are utilized for gross motor activities.

In order to make sure that your child can play comfortably outside it is important to dress him/her according to the weather. When it is cold outside he/she needs a warm coat, mittens or gloves and a hat (labeled with your child's name). For the warmer days dressing your child lightly is just as important. For those in-between days dressing your child in layers is a practical idea.

There are areas on the playground for children to be in the shade and still be active. We encourage you to bring a hat or other clothing for your child to wear as another protection from the sun. Sunscreen or sunblock with UVB and UVA protection of SPF 15 or higher will be applied to your child's exposed skin (only with your written parental permission to do so). We will also use an insect repellent containing DEET (only with your written permission) no more than once a day to protect your child from insect bites when the public health authorities recommend its use. **QPPS 5.4**

Program staff will complete the National Program for Playground Safety's Suggested General Maintenance Checklist on a monthly basis.

### **Clothing**

Your child will be learning through creative, active play that can sometimes be messy. Your child should wear comfortable, washable clothing as well as rubber-soled and closed-toe shoes to school. While we encourage the use of paint smocks or shirts during art projects, we can't guarantee that spills or stains will not occur. Clothing should be free of words, graphics, or pictures that are profane, immoral, illegal, or disruptive in nature. All families are asked to provide an extra set of clothing for their child in case of an "accident" or messy play. Please clearly label the clothing with your child's name to reduce the possibility of mistakes.

### **Toilet Learning**

Toilet learning is an important time in a child's development. For children who are unable to use the toilet consistently, the following procedures are in place:

1. Diapering will only be done in the designated diaper area, i.e., the bathroom adjacent to the classroom with a fold down changing table. Food handling will not be permitted in this diapering area.
2. For children who are unable to use the toilet consistently, the program makes sure that:
  - a. For children who require cloth diapers, the diaper has an absorbent inner lining completely contained within an outer covering made of waterproof material that prevents the escape of feces and urine. Both the diaper and the outer covering are changed as a unit.

b. Cloth diapers and clothing that are soiled by urine or feces are immediately placed in a plastic bag (without rinsing or avoidable handling) and sent home that day for laundering.

Staff check children for signs that diapers or pull-ups are wet or contain feces

c. at least every two hours when children are awake and

d. when children awaken.

e. Diapers are changed when wet or soiled.

f. Staff change children's diapers or soiled underwear in the designated changing areas and not elsewhere in the facility.

g. Each changing area is separated by a partial wall or at least three feet from other areas that children use and is used exclusively for one designated group of children. For kindergartners, the program may use an underclothing changing area designated for and used only by this age group.

h. At all times, caregivers have a hand on the child when being changed on an elevated surface.

In the changing area, staff

i. post changing procedures and

j. follow changing procedures

k. These procedures are used to evaluate teaching staff who change diapers.

l. Surfaces used for changing and on which changing materials are placed are not used for other purposes, including temporary placement of other objects, and especially not for any object involved with food or feeding.

m. Containers that hold soiled diapers and diapering materials have a lid that opens and closes tightly using a hands-free device (e.g., a step can).

n. Containers are kept closed and

o. are not accessible to children.

p. Staff members whose primary function is preparing food do not change diapers until their food preparation duties are completed for the day. **QPPS 5.5**

### **Objects From Home**

Because the preschool program provides ample toys and learning materials for your child, we ask that you limit toys brought from home. If your child brings an "attachment" item from home, we ask that it is small enough to fit inside his/her backpack or cubby. Please do not allow children to bring gum, candy, money, or toy guns to school. The program cannot be responsible for lost or broken toys brought from home.

### **Weapon Policy**

No student shall carry, have in his or her possession, store, keep, leave, place or put into the possession of another student any real weapon or a look-alike weapon on any school premises, in any school vehicle or any vehicle used by the school or for school purposes, in any school building or other buildings or premises used for school functions, whether or not any person is endangered by such actions. "Look-alike weapon" means any item that resembles or appears to be a weapon. *A zero tolerance policy on dangerous weapons (real or toy) is in effect; i.e., gun, squirt guns, water rifles or pistols, slingshots, toy guns, toy grenades and other similar items knives, etc. Violation may result in a student suspension/expulsion.*

### **Classroom Animals and Pets**

***No live animals are to be inside the West Fork School buildings or classrooms at any time.***

If you, as a parent or legal guardian, want to bring your family pet to share with your child's classroom you are welcome. However, all animals must remain outside the school buildings during the visit. The preschool teacher ensures that the animal does not create an unsafe or unsanitary condition. The animal would appear to be in good health and have documentation from a veterinarian or an animal shelter to

show that the animal is fully immunized (if the animal should be so protected) and suitable for contact with children. The teacher would ensure staff and children practice good hygiene and hand washing when coming into contact with the animal and after coming into contact with the animal. Teaching staff supervise all interactions between children and animals and instruct children on safe behavior when in close proximity to animals.

Any children allergic to the pet will not be exposed to the animal. Reptiles are not allowed because of the risk for salmonella. The classroom teacher is responsible for checking requirements have been met.

### **Birthdays**

Birthdays are an important and significant event in the life of a child. They afford the opportunity for children to be given special recognition. Accordingly, students who wish to bring treats for the class on their birthday may do so. Food that comes from home for sharing among the children must be either whole fruits or commercially prepared packaged foods in factory-sealed containers. The teacher will provide families a list of foods meeting the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program guidelines. Those who have summer birthdays are welcome to choose a school day to celebrate with their class. Invitations to parties outside of school that do not include the entire class will not be distributed at school. Absolutely no food items containing peanuts or peanut products are allowed. **QPPS 5.10**

## **V. COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

The program will promote communication between families and staff by using written notes as well as informal conversations or e-mail. Families are encouraged to send written notes and/or email with important information so all the staff who work with the child can share the parent's communication. Parents are encouraged to maintain regular, on-going, two-way communication with the teaching staff in a manner that best meets their needs - email, in person, notes, or phone calls. **QPPS 1.1**

### **Open Door Policy**

Parents and legal guardians are always welcome to visit the preschool classroom. As a safety feature, all parents and visitors will check in at the elementary school office. Visitors are asked to please use discretion with regard to bringing babies and toddlers to school as young children may disrupt class sessions. Photo identification will be required for any unknown visitor to the classroom. When possible, please contact the teacher prior to your visit, especially if you are planning to have lunch with your child.

### **Arrival and Departure of Children**

All motor vehicle transportation provided by parents, legal guardians or others designated by parents or legal guardians will include the use of age-appropriate, and size-appropriate seat restraints.

When bringing your child to school, we ask that you park your car in the parking lot. Please hold your child's hand as you bring your child to the preschool door to decrease the possibility of an accident. Parents or legal guardians must either accompany children to the classroom at the beginning of the day or leave their child in the care of one of the teaching staff. No child will be permitted to leave the building without an adult.

Other than parents or legal guardians, only persons with prior written authorization (Parent Consent Form) will be allowed to pick up a child from the school. Anyone who is unfamiliar to teaching staff, including authorized individuals, will be asked to present photo identification before a child is released to them.



In the interest of students' safety, parents/guardians/authorized individuals are requested to report directly to the office when picking up their child rather than going to the child's classroom. Likewise, when a student returns to the building following an absence during the school day, the adult should stop in the office and sign the child in.

If your child rides the school bus to school, teaching staff will go to each bus as it arrives to greet and assist the student off the bus. At dismissal, teaching staff will accompany each student to the bus and assist the student onto the bus.

When all children have arrived, teaching staff will walk the children to the classroom where the preschool teacher will record attendance for the day. Throughout the day each time children transition from one location to another, i.e. classroom to outdoor, the teacher will be responsible for counting the number of children whenever leaving one area and when arriving at another to confirm the safe whereabouts of every child at all times. **QPPS 10.9**

### **Transportation**

The West Fork Community Schools will provide school bus transportation for 4-5 year old preschoolers to and from school if enrolled in a full day program. 3 year old students and 4 year old preschoolers in a half day program will be provided school bus transportation to school. 3 year old preschoolers that attend daycares on a bus route will have the option of transportation at the end of the day for an extra fee. Parents or legal guardians may request transportation at enrollment, indicating the pick up and drop off address, the name of the responsible person at that address, and emergency contact information for all parties involved. Parents or legal guardians are asked to keep their information current by reporting changes to the preschool teacher or elementary school secretary. All information will be updated at least quarterly by teaching staff.

For children who have special needs for transportation, the facility will use a plan based on a functional assessment of the child's needs related to transportation that is filled out by the child's physician. This plan will address special equipment, staffing and care in the vehicle during transport. Any accommodations indicated in the child's Individualized Educational Program will be implemented as described.

### **Field Trips**

An important learning opportunity can take place in the form of a field trip that is relevant and reinforces what has been taught in the classroom. The West Fork school buses are used for these field trips. Parents will be informed of each field trip through a newsletter and signs posted in the classroom well in advance. A parent or legal guardian must sign an informed consent form for trips for each child before each trip. Adult family members are asked to volunteer to go on these trips to provide increased supervision and adult/child ratios. A notice posting the dates, time of departure, time of return, and the destination location will be posted prominently at least 48 hours before the field trip. Each child will be assigned to an adult for every part of the trip. Before every trip, the teaching staff will instruct children and all adults using the bus about the 10-foot danger zone around the vehicle where the driver cannot see.

During the field trip, all children will wear identifying information. A first aid kit, emergency contact information, and emergency transport authorization information for the children in the group will be taken on all trips. Children will be counted periodically while on a field trip. Children may only use a public restroom if they are accompanied by a staff member. Children will never be left alone in a vehicle or unsupervised by an adult.

## **Attendance**

Students who are enrolled for classes in the West Fork Schools are expected to be in school for the full session and are expected to be punctual in their arrival and departure. Regular attendance is required by state and federal laws and is an important factor in a student's education (Iowa Code, chapter 299). Students are not expected to be absent any more than is necessary for health reasons or appointments. Irregular attendance interferes with the progress of your child and others as teachers find themselves taking class time to repeat information and make adjustments for those students who have been absent. Please call the elementary office with the reason for an absence no later than 8:30 A.M. For safety's sake, if a student is absent without notification, the school secretary/teaching staff will attempt to contact the family to verify the child's absence from school. School contact: Rockwell – 641-822-3234

West Fork Schools provide adequate vacation periods throughout the school year and summer, however, if it is an absolute necessity your child/children miss a day or must accompany the family for an extended period of time, school work missed for that known absence must be made up ahead of time. The only exception to this policy will be at the discretion of the teacher; it may be necessary that the student make up some work when they return. (This is at the teacher's discretion, not the student or parent.) The school must be notified of any known absences as soon as possible so arrangements can be made for makeup work to be completed. Under no circumstances will any makeup work extend past a time limit determined by the principal. Generally speaking, that limit will be one day for each day absent.

## **Attendance and Truancy Intervention**

Truancy – **Board Policy 501.10R1** Truancy Excessive absenteeism is any unexcused absence beyond eight days or class meetings per semester. In order to monitor excessive absenteeism, letters will be sent home after 5 absences each quarter.

When a student has **10 unexcused or excused absences** from school or a class time during a given semester, the student's parent will be contacted to discuss student's attendance, make-up time necessary and how to prevent any further absences and a reminder of the Compulsory Education Law.

When a student has **15 unexcused or excused absences from school** during a given semester, the student's parent will be contacted to discuss the student's attendance, the make-up time necessary and a letter may be sent based on the Compulsory Education Law to the Franklin County/Cerro Gordo County Attorney's office.

## **Ethics and Confidentiality**

Staff follow an important code of ethics to guide their involvement with children and families. It is essential to protect the confidentiality of all information concerning children and their families. Maintaining a professional attitude includes being responsive to the needs of children and their families while balancing the need for confidentiality. Children are people who deserve respect. One way we demonstrate this respect is to refrain from talking about the children in their presence unless the child is part of the conversation and to refrain from labeling a child negatively or positively. No information about any particular child shall be shared with another child's parent. We continually strive to model such qualities as patience, tolerance, cooperation, acceptance, understanding of others, and enthusiasm for children as well as for other adults.

## **Children's Records**

Student records containing personally identifiable information, except for directory information, are confidential. Only persons, including employees, who have a legitimate educational interest are allowed to access a student's records without the parent's permission. Parents may access, request amendments to, and copy their child's records during regular office hours. Parents may also file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they feel their rights regarding their child's records have been violated. For a complete copy of the school district's policy on student records or the procedure for filing a complaint, contact the board secretary in the administration office.

Parents or guardians will be asked to sign a release of information form should they or the school request information be shared with another agency, stating to whom the information is to be released, the reason or purpose for the release of information, when it expires, and ways the parents can withdraw permission if they choose to do so.

## **VI. FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

### **Grievance Policy**

Open and honest communication between families and the preschool program is an essential component of a high quality early childhood program. We want you to be confident that your child is being well cared for and is having a quality experience. If there is ever a time you have a concern regarding your child, we want to encourage you to address your concern to your child's teacher. If additional help is needed, either party may ask for the assistance from the Elementary Principal. **QPPS 7.5**

If you have a concern regarding some aspect of the program or policy, please contact the Elementary Principal who is the program administrator for the preschool. If you remain dissatisfied, you may contact the Superintendent of the West Fork Community School District.

As part of our program assessment, in the spring of each year, we also provide you with a family questionnaire to evaluate our program. This information helps us to assess how the program is meeting the needs of families and children, as well as to identify strengths and weaknesses.

Teachers and administrators use a variety of formal and informal ways to become acquainted with and learn from families about their family structure and their preferred means of child-rearing practices and communication; and information about their socioeconomic, linguistic, racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds as they wish to share. Families are surveyed in enrollment paperwork and through other questionnaires during the year regarding their family, beliefs, and preferences. Home visits are conducted at the beginning of the school year. Family teacher conferences are held in both the fall and spring semesters, as well as when either party requests. At least one Family Night is held during the year.

West Fork Preschool values the time spent talking and interacting with families and developing strong, reciprocal relationships. As the teacher learns from the families' expertise regarding their child's interests, approaches to learning, and developmental needs, goals for your child's growth and development can be incorporated into ongoing classroom planning. Families are encouraged to share any concerns, preferences or questions with the preschool teacher or administration at any time.

Although in-person daily contact cannot be replaced, preschool staff also rely on notes home, emails, phone calls, newsletters, and bulletin boards as alternative means to establish and maintain open, two-way communication.

It is the policy of the West Fork Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race,

national origin, creed, age, marital status, or physical disability in its education programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title VI or VIII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The school district will, to the extent possible, provide full opportunities for meaningful participation of the families with children with limited English proficiency, families with children with disabilities, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats on request, and, to the extent possible, in a language families understand.

The school district believes that families should be supported in making decisions about services that their children may need. The teaching staff will provide information to families about available community resources and assist as requested in helping the family make connections.

### **Transitions**

Home-school connections are crucial to the transition to kindergarten or any other program, such as special education. The child's family provides the consistency and continuity necessary for a young child to be successful. Making a change from one program to another can sometimes be difficult for a young child whether the transition is within the same building or in another location. Teaching staff will partner with the family to make the transition as smooth as possible by connecting family members with the next program's staff. Preschool staff will provide information about enrollment policies and procedures, program options, and arrange for a classroom visit whenever possible. **QPPS 7.7**

## **VII. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

West Fork Community Preschool is committed to promoting wellness and to safeguard the health and safety of children and adults who participate in our program. In order to provide a safe and secure environment for every child and adult, we follow guidelines required by the Quality Preschool Program Standards, regulatory agencies and pediatric authorities in the field.

### **Health and Immunization Certificates**

Before entering or on the first day of school, health records that document the dates of service shall be submitted that show the child is current for routine screening tests and immunizations according to the schedule recommended and published by the American Academy of Pediatrics. **QPPS 5.1**

When a child is overdue for any routine health services, parents, legal guardians, or both provide evidence of an appointment for those services before the child's entry into the program and as a condition of remaining enrolled in the program, except for immunization for which parents are using religious/medical exemption.

### **Health and Safety Records**

Health and safety information collected from families will be maintained on file for each child in the school nurse's office. Files are kept current by updating as needed, but at least quarterly. The content of the file is confidential, but is immediately available to administrators or teaching staff who have consent from a parent or legal guardian for access to records; the child's parent or legal guardian; and regulatory authorities, upon request.

Child Health and Safety Records will include:

1. Current information about any health insurance coverage required for treatment in an emergency;
2. Results of health examination, showing up-to-date immunizations and screening tests with an indication of normal or abnormal results and any follow-up required for abnormal results;

3. Current emergency contact information for each child, that is kept up to date by a specified method during the year;
4. Names of individuals authorized by the family to have access to health information about the child;
5. Instructions for any of the child's special health needs such as allergies or chronic illness (e.g., asthma, hearing or vision impairments, feeding needs, neuromuscular conditions, urinary or other ongoing health problems, seizures, diabetes);
6. Individual emergency care plans for children with known medical or developmental problems or other conditions that might require special care in an emergency (allergy, asthma, seizures, orthopedic or sensory problems, and other chronic conditions; conditions that require regular medication or technology support; and
7. Supporting evidence for cases in which a child is under-immunized because of a medical condition (documented by a licensed health professional) or the family's beliefs. Staff implement a plan to exclude the child promptly if a vaccine-preventable disease to which children are susceptible occurs in the program.

**QPPS 5.1, 10.8**

**General Health and Safety Guidelines**

- All staff must be alert to the health of each child, known allergies, or special medical conditions.
- Under the supervision of the preschool teacher, all 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 for hand washing, using disinfectant, and following universal precautions to prevent infections.
- All staff are familiar with evacuation routes and procedures.
- All teaching staff complete "Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens" annually.
- At least one staff member who has a certificate of satisfactory completion of pediatric first-aid training, including managing a blocked airway and providing rescue breathing for infants and children, is always present with each group of children. When a child in the group has a special health condition that might require CPR, one staff person who has successfully completed training in CPR is present in the program at all times. **QPPS 5.2**

**Illness Policy and Exclusion of Sick Children**

For the health and safety of all the children, it is mandatory that sick children not be brought to school. If your child has any of the following symptoms during the night, he or she will not be admitted the following morning for the safety of the other children.

- fever greater than 100 degrees F
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- pink eyes with drainage
- cough with congestion and excessive nasal discharge

The center's established policy for an ill child's return:

- Fever free for 24 hours, without the help of Tylenol, Ibuprofen etc.

- Chicken pox: one week after onset (or when lesions are crusted)
- Strep throat: 24 hours after initial medication
- Vomiting/Diarrhea: 24 hours after last episode
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye): 24 hours after initial medication or when without drainage
- See district's Return to Learn Plan for any COVID related illness

Upon arrival at school, each child is observed by teaching staff for signs of illness or injury that could affect the child's ability to participate comfortably in the daily activities. Children will be excluded when a child is not able to participate comfortably; if the illness requires more care than staff are able to provide without compromising the needs of the other children in the group; or if keeping the child at school poses an increased risk to the child or to other children or adults with whom the child will come in contact.

When a child develops signs of an illness during their day at preschool, parents, legal guardians, or other person authorized by the parent will be notified immediately to pick up the child. For this reason, please be sure that we have current, accurate phone numbers for you, your authorized emergency contact person and your child's pediatrician. In the meantime, we will provide the child a place to rest until the parent, legal guardian or designated person arrives under the supervision of someone familiar with the child. If the child is suspected of having a contagious disease, then until she or he can be picked up, the child is located where new individuals will not be exposed.

### **Reporting Communicable Diseases**

Staff and teachers provide information to families verbally and in writing about any unusual level or type of communicable disease to which their child was exposed, signs and symptoms of the disease, mode of transmission, period of communicability, and control measures that are being implemented at the program and that the families should implement at home. The program has documentation that it has cooperative arrangements with local health authorities and has, at least annually, made contact with those authorities to keep current on relevant health information and to arrange for obtaining advice when outbreaks of communicable disease occur. The school district, through partnerships with county health agencies will communicate with families when necessary. **QPPS 5.3**

### **Medication Policies and Procedures**

**Policy:** 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 medicine outside preschool hours cannot be made. Whenever possible, the first dose of medication should be given at home to see if the child has any type of reaction. **QPPS 5.8**

**Procedure:** The school nurse coordinates and/or administers medication during school hours only if the parent or legal guardian has provided written consent and the medication is available in an original labeled prescription or manufacturer's container that is child-resistant. Any other person who would administer medication has specific training and a written performance evaluation, updated annually by a health professional on the practice of the five right practices of medication administration: (1) verifying that the right child receives the (2) right medication (3) in the right dose (4) at the right time (5) by the right method with documentation of each right each time the medication is given. Medication errors will be controlled by checking and recording these five right practices each time medication is given. Should a medication error occur, the Regional Poison Control Center and the child's parents will be contacted immediately. The incident will be documented in the child's record at the school.

For prescription medications, parents or legal guardians will provide the school with the medication in the original, child-resistant container that is labeled by a pharmacist with the child's name, the name and

strength of the medication; the date the prescription was filled; the name of the health care provider who wrote the prescription; the medication's expiration date; and administration, storage, and disposal instructions.

For over-the-counter medications, parents or legal guardians will provide the medication in a child-resistant container. The medication will be labeled with the child's first and last names; specific, legible instructions for administration and storage supplied by the manufacturer; and the name of the health care provider who recommended the medication for the child.

Instructions for the dose, time, method to be used, and duration of administration will be provided to the school nurse in writing (by a signed note or a prescription label) or dictated over the telephone by a physician or other person legally authorized to prescribe medication. This requirement applies both to prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Medications will be kept at the temperature recommended for that type of medication, in a sturdy, child-resistant container that is locked and prevents spillage in the nurse's office.

Medication will not be used beyond the date of expiration on the container or beyond any expiration of the instructions provided by the physician or other person legally permitted to prescribe medication. Instructions which state that the medication may be used whenever needed will be renewed by the physician at least annually.

A medication log will be maintained by the health staff to record the instructions for giving the medication, consent obtained from the parent or legal guardian, amount, the time of administration, and the person who administered each dose of medication. Spills, reactions, and refusal to take medication will be noted on this log.

### **Cleaning and Sanitization**

The facility will be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. When a spill occurs, the area will be made inaccessible to children and the area will be cleaned immediately.

Toys that have been placed in a child's mouth or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretion or excretion will be removed immediately and disinfected after they are cleaned with soap and water. This also applies to other surfaces in the classroom. Toys and surfaces will be disinfected using a non-toxic solution of one tablespoon household bleach to one quart of tap water made fresh daily or a comparable commercial product called Glad-Lather. To disinfect, the surfaces will be sprayed until glossy. The bleach solution will be left on for at least 2 minutes before it is wiped off with a clean paper towel, or it may be allowed to air dry. Machine washable cloth toys that have been placed in a child's mouth or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretion or excretion must be laundered before another child's use. Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used.

Staff will be trained in cleaning techniques, proper use of protective barriers such as gloves, proper handling and disposal of contaminated materials, and information required by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration about the use of any chemical agents.

Facility cleaning requiring potentially hazardous chemicals will be scheduled when children are not present to minimize exposure of the children. All cleaning products will be used as directed by the manufacturer's label. Non Toxic substances will be used whenever possible. **QPPS 5.18-5.19**

## **Water activities**

We have a water table in the classroom for children to stand and play with their hands in the water. During water play children are involved in active experiences with science and math concepts. Children with sores on their hands are not allowed to participate with others in the water table to ensure that no infectious diseases are spread. Children are not allowed to drink the water during water play activities. When the activity period is complete, the water table is drained and refilled with fresh water before a new group of children comes to participate. Outdoor water play is limited to tubs and buckets or containers as well as the water table. We do not participate in swimming pool activities. Staff supervise all children by sight and sound in all areas with access to water in tubs, buckets, and water tables. **QPPS 5.7**

## **Snacks/Foods and Nutrition**

Attitudes about food develop early in life. The food children eat affects their well-being, their physical growth, their ability to learn, and their overall behavior. We have an opportunity to help children learn about foods, to enjoy a variety of foods from their own culture and others, and to help them begin to appreciate that their bodies need to be strong, flexible, and healthy. Eating moderately, eating a variety of foods, and eating in a relaxed atmosphere are healthy habits for young children to form. **QPPS 5.9- 5.17**

Four and five year old children may choose to have breakfast before class begins. In the afternoon children are served a snack at a regularly scheduled time. Two food groups will be represented at each snack time as outlined in USDA guidelines. All menus are kept on file with the district Nutrition Department. The preschool serves a wide variety of nutritional snacks, and encourages children to expand their tastes by at least trying a portion of the food offered.

All food is prepared, served, and stored in accordance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) guidelines. Clean, sanitary drinking water is made available to children throughout the day. Staff discards any foods with expired dates. Foods that are hotter than 110 degrees Fahrenheit are kept out of children's reach. Foods requiring refrigeration will be kept cold until served.

For each child with special health care needs, food allergies, or special nutrition needs, the child's health care provider should provide the program in an individualized care plan prepared in consultation with family members and specialists involved in the child's care. Children with food allergies shall be protected from contact with the problem food. With family consent, the program posts information about the child's allergies in the food preparation area and in areas of the facility the child uses to serve as a visual reminder to all adults who interact with the child during the day. Program staff will keep a daily record documenting the type and quantity of food a child consumes when any child with a disability has special feeding needs and provide parents with that information.

High risk foods, often involved in choking incidents, will not be served. For children younger than four years, these include hotdogs, whole or sliced into rounds; whole grapes; nuts; popcorn; raw peas and hard pretzels; spoonfuls of peanut butter; or chunks of raw carrots or meat larger than can be swallowed whole.

The school district does not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, and will not withhold food or beverages as a punishment, nor will teaching staff ever threaten to withhold food as a form of discipline.

## **Hand Washing Practices**

Frequent hand washing is key to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Teachers teach children how to wash their hands effectively. Posters of children using proper hand washing procedures are placed by each sink. The program follows these practices regarding hand washing:



- Staff members and those children who are developmentally able to learn personal hygiene are taught hand-washing procedures and are periodically monitored.
- Hand washing is required by all staff, volunteers, and children when hand washing reduces the risk of transmission of infectious diseases to themselves and to others.
- Staff assist children with hand washing as needed to successfully complete the task.

Children and adults wash their hands:

- upon arrival for the day;
- after diapering or using the toilet (use of wet wipes is acceptable for infants);
- after handling body fluids (e.g., blowing or wiping a nose, coughing on a hand, or any touching of mucus, blood or vomit);
- before meals and snacks, preparing or serving food, or handling any raw food that requires cooking (e.g., meat, eggs, poultry);
- after playing in water that that is shared by two or more people;
- after handling pets and other animals or any materials such as sand, dirt, or surfaces that might be contaminated by contact with animals; and

Adults also wash their hands

- before and after feeding a child;
- before and after administering medication;
- after assisting a child with toileting; and
- after handling garbage or cleaning.

Proper hand-washing procedures are followed by adults and children and include

- using liquid soap and running water;
- rubbing hands vigorously for at least 10 seconds, including back of hands, wrists, between fingers, under and around any jewelry, and under fingernails; rinsing well; drying hands with a paper towel, or a dryer; and avoiding touching the faucet with just-washed hands (e.g., by using a paper towel to turn off water).

Except when handling blood or body fluids that might contain blood (when wearing gloves is required), wearing gloves is an optional supplement, but not a substitute, for hand washing in any situation listed above.

- Staff must wear gloves when contamination with blood may occur.
- Staff do not use hand-washing sinks for bathing children or removing smeared fecal material.

In situations where sinks are used for both food preparation and other purposes, staff clean and sanitize the sinks before using them to prepare food.

## **QPPS 5.6**

### **First Aid Kit**

A first aid kit is located in the preschool classroom next to the door. It is inaccessible to children, but readily available for adult use. It is fully equipped according to guidance from Healthy Child Care Iowa. Following each use of the First Aid kit, the contents will be inspected and missing or used items replaced immediately. The First Aid kit will be inspected monthly. The first aid kit is taken to the outdoor play areas as well as on field trips and outings away from the site. **QPPS 9.12**

### **Fire Safety**

A fire extinguisher is installed in the preschool classroom with a tag indicating its annual service date. The fire alarm system is serviced annually. Smoke detectors, fire alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors are tested monthly. A written log of testing dates and battery changes is maintained and available upon request. Fire drills are conducted monthly and recorded on a log. **QPPS 9.13**

### **Medical Emergencies and Notification of Accidents or Incidents**

The West Fork Community School District has in place a “Safety Procedures Booklet” that describes the following situations and procedures to follow:

- Emergency phone numbers
- Fire procedures
- Utility Failures (electric power failure, water line break, gas line break)
- Severe weather
- Bomb threats
- Physical Threats/Armed Intruder
- Evacuations
- Crisis Intervention Plan, Crisis Intervention Steps, and Media Procedures
- Accidental Injury or Illness procedures for life threatening and non-life threatening situations
- School crisis team members and a checklist to use
- List of CPR/First Aid experienced persons in each building

This booklet will be posted by the telephone and included in the first aid kit. The booklet will be reviewed by each staff member at the beginning of each school year and when changes are made to it.

In the event that your child receives a minor, non-life threatening injury during their time at preschool, our teacher will assess the situation and apply first aid as needed. Minor cuts and scrapes will be treated with soap and water and bumps will be treated by applying ice to the injured area. Any incident or injuries will be documented on an “Injury and Illness” form and a copy will be given to the parent within 24 hours of the incident.

All staff will have immediate access to a device that allows them to summon help in an emergency. The telephone numbers of the Fire Department, Police Department, Hospital, and Poison Control will be posted by each phone with an outside line. Emergency contact information for each child and staff member will be kept readily available. The list of emergency telephone numbers, and copies of emergency contact information and authorization for emergency transport will be taken along anytime children leave the facility in the care of facility staff.

Emergency phone numbers will be updated at least quarterly. Emergency phone numbers will be verified by calling the numbers to make sure a responsive, designated person is available. **QPPS 10.10**

### **Inclement Weather**

In most situations, we will attempt to run a two hour morning delay in the case of extreme fog or winter weather. During the afternoons, we will attempt to dismiss classes at 2:00 p.m. like we do on our scheduled early outs unless the situation warrants an earlier release. Please sign up for our "Iowa Gov Delivery" system or monitor one of the local media stations on days that weather could impact a regular school schedule.

1. There is a link to sign up for "Iowa Gov Delivery" on the district webpage found at [www.westforkschool.org](http://www.westforkschool.org) . Individuals can elect to receive a text message or email notification if the schedule will be altered. From this website, you can also sign up for Remind messages through the Remind App.
2. Television notifications will be made to KIMT Channel 3 in Mason City
3. Radio notifications will be sent to KLMJ (104.9) in Hampton, three eagles Broadcasting in Mason City (106.1, 102.7, AM1300, etc.) and the North Iowa Broadcasting stations in Mason City (103.7, 98.7, etc.)
4. A notice will also be sent out on the district facebook site after the other notifications are made.

### **Protection From Hazards and Environmental Health**

Program staff protect children and adults from hazards, including electrical shock, burns, or scalding, slipping, tripping, or falling. Floor coverings are secured to keep staff and children from tripping.

The preschool classroom building has been tested for lead, radon, radiation, asbestos, fiberglass, and other hazards that could impact children's health with documentation on file. Well water is tested on a regular basis by the city water department. Custodial staff maintain the building's heating, cooling, and ventilation systems in compliance with national standards for facility use by children.

The program maintains facilities so they are free from harmful animals, insect pests, and poisonous plants. Pesticides and herbicides, if used, are applied according to the manufacturer's instructions when children are not at the facility and in a manner that prevents skin contact, inhalation, and other exposure to children. The program uses the techniques known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) so that the least hazardous means are used to control pests and unwanted vegetation. **QPPS 9.11**

### **Tobacco Free Facility**

In compliance with the Iowa Smokefree Air Act of 2008, West Fork Community School District buildings and grounds are smoke free. A "No Smoking" sign meeting the law's requirements is posted at the entrance to the building to inform people that they are entering a non-smoking place. No smoking is allowed on the school grounds or within sight of any children. **QPPS 9.15**

### **Child Protection Policies**

The health and well being of every child in our care is of the utmost importance and the protection of children is our responsibility. An applicant or volunteer for temporary or permanent employment with the preschool program involves direct interaction with or the opportunity to interact and associate with children must execute and submit an affidavit of clearance from any and all crimes against a child or families. In addition no person with a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect will come in contact with children in the program or have responsibility for children.

The program has written school board policy for reporting child abuse and neglect as well as procedures in place that comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws. The policy includes requirements for staff to report all suspected incidents of child abuse, neglect, or both by families, staff, volunteers, or

others to the appropriate local agencies. Staff who report suspicions of child abuse or neglect where they work are immune from discharge, retaliation, or other disciplinary action for that reason alone unless it is proven that the report is malicious. All teaching staff complete “Mandatory Reporter: Child and Dependent Adult Abuse” at least every five years and within six months of employment.

The school district does not tolerate employees physically, or sexually abusing or harassing students. Students who are physically or sexually abused or harassed by an employee should notify their parents, legal guardians, teacher, principal, or another employee. The Iowa Department of Education has established a two-step procedure for investigating allegations of physical or sexual abuse of students by employees. That procedure requires the school district to designate an independent investigator to look into the allegations. The school district has designated Ashley Flatebo at 641-822-3234. The alternate investigator is Jen Schmidt and may be reached at 641-822-3234.

### **QPPS 10.6-10.7**

### **Substance Abuse**

Persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be permitted on the premises of the West Fork Community School District. At no time will children be released to a person under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

### **Volunteers**

Parents, friends, grandparents, and other adults are encouraged to take an active part in the educational process of the children. Please contact the teacher, the elementary principal, or our office secretary if you would like to be a school volunteer. We have a volunteer job description that defines the role and responsibilities of a volunteer. For safety’s sake, if a volunteer will be working with children, he/she will be expected to execute and submit an affidavit of clearance from any and all crimes against a child or families. In addition no person with a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect will come in contact with children in the program or have responsibility for children. If a volunteer works more than 40 hours per month with children, he/she will also need to provide a current health assessment, not more than one year old.

## **VIII. Staff**

### **General Information**

The West Fork Community School district has written personnel policies that define the roles and responsibilities, qualifications, and specialized training required of staff and volunteer positions. The policies outline nondiscriminatory hiring procedures and policies for staff evaluation. Policies detail job descriptions for each position, including reporting relationships; salary scales with increments based on professional qualification, length of employment, and performance evaluation; benefits; and resignation, termination, and grievance procedures. Personnel policies provide for incentives based on participation in professional development opportunities. The policies are provided to each employee upon hiring.

Hiring procedures include completion of the following checks: criminal-record check, free from history of substantiated child abuse or neglect check, education credentials, verification of age, completion of high school or GED, personal references and a current health assessment. **QPPS 10.11-10.12**

### **Health Assessment**

The preschool program maintains current health information from documented health assessments for all paid preschool staff and for all volunteers who work more than 40 hours per month and have contact with children. A current health assessment (not more than one-year-old) is received by the program before an

employee starts work or before a volunteer has contact with children. The health assessment is updated every two years. Documented health assessments include:

- Capacities and limitations that may affect job performance
- Documentation by a licensed health professional of TB skin testing using the Mantoux method and showing the employee to be free from active TB disease. For those who have a positive TB skin test and who develop a persistent cough or unexpected fever, immediate assessment by a licensed physician is required. For those who have increased risk of TB according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), documentation is required annually by a licensed health professional showing that the employee is free from active TB disease.

Confidential personnel files, including applications with record of experience, transcripts of education, health-assessment records, documentation of ongoing professional development, and results of performance evaluation, are kept in a locked filing cabinet in the Superintendent's office.

### **Orientation**

Employees must know their role and duties. New preschool teaching staff will be required to participate in an initial orientation program that introduces them to fundamental aspects of the program operation including:

- Program philosophy, mission, and goals;
- Expectations for ethical conduct;
- Individual needs of children they will be teaching or caring for;
- Accepted guidance and classroom management techniques;
- Daily activities and routines of the program;
- Program curriculum;
- Child abuse and reporting procedures;
- Program policies and procedures;
- Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards and Criteria;
- Regulatory requirements.

Follow-up training expands on the initial orientations.

The employee's immediate supervisor should provide the new employee with a review of the employee's responsibilities and duties. The superintendent will explain payroll procedures, employee benefit programs and accompanying forms to the employee. Regular employees ineligible for the school district's group health plan will be given information regarding where they can obtain health care or health care insurance. **QPPS 6.1**

### **Staff development activities**

Personnel policies provide for incentives based on participation in professional development opportunities. All teaching staff continuously strengthen their leadership skills and relationships with others and work to improve the conditions of children and families within their programs, the local community, and beyond. Teaching staff are encouraged to participate in informal and formal ways in

local, state, or regional public-awareness activities. They may join an early childhood group or organization, attend meetings, or share information with others both at and outside the program.

#### **QPPS 6.4**

Teaching staff will be informed of professional development activities provided by Child Care Resource and Referral, and the Area Education Agency. Staff are expected to attend all staff training and meetings throughout the year. Training will focus on early childhood topics relevant to the program and community and staff will have the opportunity to work as individuals or in their PLC (Professional Learning Communities) on content relevant to their program area.

#### **Evaluation and Professional Growth Plan**

All staff are evaluated at least annually by an appropriate supervisor. Staff also evaluate and improve their own performance based on ongoing reflections and feedback from supervisors, peers, and families. From this, they develop an annual individualized professional development plan with their supervisor and use it to inform their continuous professional development. **QPPS 6.6, 10.14**

#### **Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse**

In compliance with *Chapter 232.67* of the Code of Iowa, employees of any licensed facility which serves child, including our school, are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse. Child abuse is defined in *Chapter 235A, Section 2 of the Code of Iowa* as “any non-accidental physical injury suffered by a child as the result of the acts of omissions of the child's parents, guardians, or other persons legally responsible for the child.” It is the responsibility of the Department of Human Services to make any further investigation should such a situation arise.

#### **Notification of Student Records**

The West Fork Schools collect and maintain records on each student in order to facilitate instruction, guidance, and the educational progress of the student. Parents of students under 18 years of age and students over 18 may exercise the opportunity to review educational records of the student, to obtain copies, and to write a response to material in the records, to challenge the content of the record on grounds of inappropriateness or inaccuracy, or an invasion of privacy, and to have records explained. Parents and students who have complaints regarding the Education Rights and Privacy Act should address correspondence to the Family Education rights and Privacy Act Office at the Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

#### **Notice of Special Education Rights**

When your child has been referred for special education services, federal and state laws give you certain rights. Some of these are:

The right to be contacted and told what the school plans to do about your child’s educational program. This must be done before your child is tested or placed in a program.

You have the right to consent. This means the school must have your permission prior to placing your child in a special education program.

The right to a full evaluation of your child’s needs. If you don’t agree with the school’s findings, you may request an outside evaluation.

The right to see your child’s records kept at school.

The right to privacy of information. With a few exceptions, no one may see your child’s record without your permission, given in writing. Exceptions are people such as your child’s teacher, or other school officials engaged in planning your child’s educational program.

The right, as much as possible, to have your child in classes with children who are not in special education programs.

The right to be involved in the development of your child's IEP (Individual Education Program).  
The right to have someone present to help you in the development of your child's IEP. This could be another parent, a teacher, a lawyer, or an advocate.  
The right to appeal decisions made by the school regarding your child's diagnosis or placement.  
If you desire additional information, please contact your child's principal.

### **Public Law 94-142**

Public Law 94-142 requires schools to maintain an active program for seeking children with special needs from birth to age 21, and provide them with an appropriate special education program.

If you have a child or know of someone who has a child that may have special needs, there is help readily available. Your public school and the Central Rivers AEA work together to determine a child's needs, and find the right service programs to satisfy those needs.

If you have any questions about your child's development, contact the school at 822-3234 or the Central Rivers AEA at 1-800-392-6640.

### **Chemical Right to Know**

The Chemical Right to Know Law requires that all schools in the nation prepare a list of chemicals that are known to be present in their buildings and to maintain material safety data sheets on them. The law further states that all chemicals are to be appropriately labeled, storage areas are to be posted for the hazardous chemicals, and employees that work with the chemicals are to be trained in the safe handling of these chemicals. The school is also to acquaint the local fire department with the location of hazardous chemicals in the school. If you want to know what chemicals are used in the school and where they are stored, please contact the Superintendent at 641-822-3234.

### **Asbestos (AHERA Information Letter)**

Asbestos is an issue we have been dealing with for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (referred to as AHERA), was enacted by Congress. AHERA was enacted to determine the extent of and develop solutions for any problems schools may have with asbestos.

To give you some background, asbestos has been used as a building material for many years. It is a naturally occurring mineral that is mined in Canada, South Africa, and Russia. Asbestos' properties make it an ideal building material for insulating, sound absorption, decorative plasters, fireproofing, and a variety of miscellaneous uses. There have been 3,000 different products made using asbestos materials. EPA began action to limit uses of asbestos products in 1973 and most uses of asbestos products as building products were banned in 1978.

Our facilities were inspected in June 1997 by a certified asbestos inspector, as required by AHERA. The inspector located, sampled, and rated the condition and hazard potential of all materials in our facilities suspected of containing asbestos. The inspection and laboratory analysis records were turned over to a professional, certified to develop asbestos management plans.

The Management Planner has developed an asbestos management plan for our facilities which includes, this information letter, education and training of our employees, and a set of plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos containing materials, re-inspecting, and for regular surveillance of the asbestos containing materials.

A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for your inspection in the Superintendent's administrative offices during regular office hours.

We have been implementing the Asbestos Management Plan. We are intent on not only complying with, but exceeding federal, state, and local regulations in this area. We plan on taking whatever steps are necessary to ensure our students and employees have a healthy, safe environment in which to learn and work.

## **Open Enrollment**

Parents and guardians are required to send formal notification, on forms prescribed by the Department of Education, to the receiving district of their intent to enroll a child in another PUBLIC school district. 1 of the school year preceding the school year for which the enrollment is to start.

In most cases the parent/guardian is responsible for transporting the pupil without reimbursement to and from a point on a regular school bus route of the receiving school district. However, parents/guardians of open enrolled students whose income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend. A provision grants that when the two school districts agree to allow it, a bus from the non-resident district may enter the resident district to pick up the open enrollment student.

A request under this law is for a period of not less than one year. A student who attends a grade in grades ten through twelve in a school district other than the district of residence is not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic contests and athletic competition during the first ninety days of enrollment. This provision is designed to stop or slow down athletic recruitment.

If a child, for which a request to transfer has been filed with the receiving district has been suspended or expelled in the district of residence, the receiving district named in the request may refuse the request to transfer until the child has been reinstated in the district of residence. This is designed to keep a student in poor standing from transferring, thus causing a burden on a receiving district.

If you have any questions concerning this law, please contact the Superintendent's office at 822-3234 in Rockwell.

## **Appendix A IQ4K Policies**

### Environment:

#### *Supervision:*

Before children arrive at school, the preschool teacher will complete the following daily safety checklist indoor and outdoor:

- Staff clean and sanitize toilet seats, toilet handles, toilet bowls, doorknobs, or cubicle handles and floors either daily or immediately if visibly soiled. Staff clean and sanitize potty chairs, if in use, after each child's use.
- All safety plugs and electric outlets covered, heat/AC, water temperature, and toilets, etc. in working order. Floor coverings are secured to keep staff and children from tripping or slipping.
- All cleaning supplies/poisons out of children reach and are stored properly.
- Classroom and materials checked for cleanliness/broken parts, etc. including playground.
- Supplies checked - first aid kit, latex gloves, soap, paper towels, etc.
- Daily monitoring of the environment - spills, sand, etc. Other serious problems will be reported to the head custodian.
- Upon arrival, each child is observed by the teacher for signs of illness or injury that could affect the child's ability to participate in the daily activities.

No child will be left unsupervised while attending preschool. Staff will supervise primarily by sight. Supervision for short intervals by sound is permissible as long as teachers check every two to three



minutes on children who are out-of-sight (e.g. those who can use the toilet independently, who are in the library area, etc.) School-age children should be within sight or hearing at all times. Teachers should not be on one floor level of the building, while children are on another floor or room. Ratios should remain the same whether inside or outside. Active supervision looks like staff positioning themselves so they can see all children, promoting a safe environment and preventing injuries, scanning and counting the children, listening, anticipating children's behavior, and engaging and redirecting children's behavior. Staff is trained through Passport to Early Childhood Education and this is reviewed each year.

School-age children should be permitted to participate in activities off the premises with appropriate adult supervision and with written approval by a parent/guardian and by the caregiver. Caregivers/teachers should regularly count children (name to face on a scheduled basis, at every transition, and whenever leaving one area and arriving at another), going indoors or outdoors, to confirm the safe whereabouts of every child at all times. Additionally, they must be able to state how many children are in their care at all times.

Developmentally appropriate child:staff ratios should be met during all hours of operation, including indoor and outdoor play and field trips, and safety precautions for specific areas and equipment should be followed. While West Fork Preschool is not located near any bodies of water, the preschool classrooms utilize a water table at different times throughout the year. Supervision will be constant and active when any child is near water activities. The supervising adult will be within an arm's length providing touch supervision, which would include the attention of an adult who is supervising children of any age will be focused on the child and the adult will not be engaged in other distracting activities.

*Playground Equipment Stability and Fall Surfacing & Inspection:*

West Fork has daily opportunities for outdoor play as the weather permits and provided the weather air quality and environmental safety conditions do not pose a threat. This allows children the opportunity to develop their large muscle skills, get exercise, and be active. Sometimes we spend longer getting bundled up than we spend outside. We use the Child Care Weather Watch guidelines produced by Healthy Child Care Iowa to determine if the Wind Chill Factor or Heat Index is safe for outdoor play.

In cases when we cannot go outside (due to weather conditions) children are given the opportunity to use indoor equipment for similar activities inside and are supervised at the same level as outdoor equipment. For example, gymnasium spaces are utilized for gross motor activities.

There are areas on the playground for children to be in the shade and still be active. We encourage you to bring a hat or other clothing for your child to wear as another protection from the sun. Sunscreen or sunblock with UVB and UVA protection of SPF 15 or higher will be applied to your child's exposed skin (only with your written parental permission to do so). We will also use an insect repellent containing DEET(only with your written permission) no more than once a day to protect your child from insect bites when the public health authorities recommend its use.

Program staff will complete the National Program for Playground Safety's Suggested General Maintenance Checklist on a monthly basis. Inspections include recalled or hazard warnings on equipment, broken equipment, and equipment in poor repair that requires immediate attention. Daily safety checks on the playground by playground supervisors include looking for safety hazards such as broken bottles and toys, discarded cigarettes, stinging insect nests, and packed surfacing under frequently used equipment like swings and slides. Staff are trained through the Passport through Early Childhood

Education Modules and this is reviewed each year. The required depth is 9 inches for our wood mulch playground surface.

Report forms should be used to record the results of the annual audits of the indoor and outdoor play areas and monthly maintenance inspections of play equipment and surfaces. Corrective actions taken to eliminate hazards and reduce the risk of injury should be included in the reports. The forms should be filed in the facility's master file and included in the reports and state desk audits. The forms should be filed in the facility's master file as well as in CASA. The forms should be reviewed by the facility annually. The facility should maintain all information and records pertaining to the manufacture, installation, and regular inspection of facility equipment. No second-hand equipment should be used in areas occupied by children, unless all pertinent data, including checking for recalls and the manufacturer's instructions, can be obtained from the previous owner or from the manufacturer. All equipment should meet ASTM International (ASTM) standards.

*Missing Child:*

The West Fork Community School District has in place a "Safety Procedures Booklet" that describes the following situations and procedures to follow:

- Emergency phone numbers
- Fire procedures
- Utility Failures (electric power failure, water line break, gas line break)
- Severe weather
- Bomb threats
- Physical Threats/Armed Intruder
- Evacuations
- Missing Child/Kidnapping
- Crisis Intervention Plan, Crisis Intervention Steps, and Media Procedures
- Accidental Injury or Illness procedures for life threatening and non-life threatening situations
- School crisis team members and a checklist to use
- List of CPR/First Aid experienced persons in each building

Found on page 20 of the Emergency Action Plan booklet, the details of communication with police will come from the principal and/or superintendent of the school district. When a child is lost or missing, the staff member's first responsibility is to notify the school administrator. The administrator will collect pertinent information, as listed in the Emergency Action Plan booklet, for communication with police:

- a. Full name of child
- b. age of child
- c. description of child
- d. description of assailant(s), including what they were wearing and any vehicle used
- e. Parent/Guardian's name

Staff will be assigned a backup caregiver/staff member in the case of an emergency situation and staff

needing to be pulled away to ensure that staff:child ratios are maintained. The assignments will be updated annually to ensure the staff changes are addressed. The administration will contact parent/guardian(s) and will work with law enforcement to ensure that the situation remains calm and is handled appropriately. Paperwork will be collected with registration documentation that will include emergency contact information, as well as dental and medical, which will be stored in cumulative folders for quick and easy access. All reports made by the district will be in conjunction with local law enforcement.

As a building, we are always set in a Level 1: Lockout which has procedures used to protect the building occupants from potential dangers from outside the building as a preventative measure. In a Level 1, the perimeter doors are locked. As part of our supervision policy, no child will be left unsupervised while attending preschool. Staff will supervise primarily by sight. Supervision for short intervals by sound is permissible as long as teachers check every two to three minutes on children who are out-of-sight (e.g. those who can use the toilet independently, who are in the library area, etc.) School-age children should be within sight or hearing at all times. Teachers should not be on one floor level of the building, while children are on another floor or room. Ratios should remain the same whether inside or outside. Active supervision looks like staff positioning themselves so they can see all children, promoting a safe environment and preventing injuries, scanning and counting the children, listening, anticipating children's behavior, and engaging and redirecting children's behavior.

While transitioning to different parts of the schedule, any fieldtrips, and the playground, staff will utilize name to face attendance to ensure that all students are present. Active supervision and head counts will continue throughout the activities the children are engaged in.

This booklet will be posted by the telephone and included in the first aid kit. The booklet will be reviewed by each staff member at the beginning of each school year and when changes are made to it.

All staff will have immediate access to a device that allows them to summon help in an emergency. The telephone numbers of the Fire Department, Police Department, Hospital, and Poison Control will be posted by each phone with an outside line. Emergency contact information for each child and staff member will be kept readily available. The list of emergency telephone numbers, and copies of emergency contact information and authorization for emergency transport will be taken along anytime children leave the facility in the care of facility staff.

Emergency phone numbers will be updated at least quarterly. Emergency phone numbers will be verified by calling the numbers to make sure a responsive, designated person is available.

Emergency plans for West Fork Rockwell Campus can be found in the following handbook and have been reviewed as a staff:

[Emergency Action Plan](#)

*Strangulation Prevention:*

Strings and cords long enough to encircle a child's neck will not be accessible to children in preschool. Miniblinds and venetian blinds should not have looped cords. Vertical blinds, continuous looped blinds, and drapery cords should have tension or tie-down devices to hold the cords tight. Inner cord stops should be installed. Shoulder straps on guitars and chin straps on hats should be removed. Straps/handles on purses/bags used for dramatic play should be shortened. Ties, scarves, necklaces, and boas used for dramatic play by children three years and over should be supervised. Lanyards on staff are break-away,

students do not use them in the preschool program. Pacifiers are not used in the preschool program as well.

*Sign-in/Sign-out:*

All motor vehicle transportation provided by parents, legal guardians or others designated by parents or legal guardians will include the use of age-appropriate, and size-appropriate seat restraints.

When bringing your child to school, we ask that you park your car in the parking lot. Please hold your child's hand as you bring your child to the preschool door to decrease the possibility of an accident. Parents or legal guardians must either accompany children to the classroom at the beginning of the day or leave their child in the care of one of the teaching staff. No child will be permitted to leave the building without an adult.

Other than parents or legal guardians, only persons with prior written authorization (Parent Consent Form) will be allowed to pick up a child from the school. Anyone who is unfamiliar to teaching staff, including authorized individuals, will be asked to present photo identification before a child is released to them.

In the interest of students' safety, parents/guardians/authorized individuals are requested to report directly to the office when picking up their child rather than going to the child's classroom. Likewise, when a student returns to the building following an absence during the school day, the adult should stop in the office and sign the child in. When signing in or signing out a student, you will be required to put your child's name, relationship to student, reason for coming or leaving, contact number, and recorded time in and out. The visitor log is kept and can be referenced if needed for any emergencies and to monitor adults within the building.

If your child rides the school bus to school, teaching staff will go to each bus as it arrives to greet and assist the student off the bus. At dismissal, teaching staff will accompany each student to the bus and assist the student onto the bus.

When all children have arrived, teaching staff will walk the children to the classroom where the preschool teacher will record attendance for the day. Throughout the day each time children transition from one location to another, i.e. classroom to outdoor, the teacher will be responsible for counting the number of children whenever leaving one area and when arriving at another to confirm the safe whereabouts of every child at all times.

If your child is absent and there is no communication with the school, you will be contacted by the school for a reason for absence that morning.

*Technology:*

West Fork's preschool program prioritizes physical activity and increased personal social interactions and engagement during the school day. It is important to our program that young children have active social interactions with both adults and children. Media use can distract children (and adults), limit conversations and play, and reduce healthy physical activity, increasing the risk for overweight and obesity. Media should be turned off when not in use since background media can be distracting, and reduce social engagement and learning as overuse of media can also be associated with problem behavior, limit-setting, and emotional and behavioral self-regulation; therefore, caregivers/teachers should avoid using media to calm a child down.

West Fork utilizes a ClearTouch board to provide visuals and teach music with skills in small portions throughout the day. These portions include physical activity through movement while also providing instructional opportunities. Staff utilizes technology to document progress and to communicate to families through Seesaw to allow a glimpse into the classroom.

#### Teaching and Learning:

##### *Discipline/Behavior:*

Teaching staff will equitably use positive guidance, redirection, and planning ahead to prevent problems. They will encourage appropriate behavior through the use of consistent clear rules, and involving children in problem solving to foster the child's own ability to become self disciplined. Where the child understands words, discipline will be explained to the child before and at the time of any disciplinary action. Teaching staff will encourage children to respect other people, to be fair, respect, property and learn to be responsible for their actions. 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.

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

Teaching staff will guide children to develop self-regulation and orderly conduct in relationship to peers and adults. Staff utilizes the curriculum *Second Step Early Learning* to teach consistent lessons that focus on five major themes: skills for learning, empathy, emotion management, friendship skills and problem solving, and transitioning to Kindergarten. 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 intervention that supports the child's inclusion and success.

Aggressive physical behavior toward staff or children is unacceptable. Teaching staff will intervene immediately when a child becomes physically aggressive to protect all of the children and encourage more acceptable behavior.

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.

The program does not, and will not, employ any of the following disciplinary procedures:

1. harsh or abusive tone of voice with the children nor make threats or derogatory remarks.

2. physical punishment, including spanking, hitting, shaking, or grabbing.
3. any punishment that would humiliate, frighten, or subject a child to neglect.
4. withhold nor threaten to withhold food as a form of discipline.

This policy will be shared with families each year as part of the preschool handbook and is also available on the West Fork school website to access at all times.

All policies are adapted from the following two resources as part of preschool programming and state requirements:

- IQPPS Early Childhood Standards
- Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards and Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs: Fourth Edition