

Barrington Park District Preschool



A Wonderful Place to Grow

Parent Handbook 2023-2024

Updated 8/30/23

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Barrington Park District Preschool Community. We are excited that you have chosen us to be a part of your child's educational future. Since 1988, the Barrington Park District Preschool has provided a nurturing environment where children can play, learn and grow together. We hope that the information in this handbook will be useful as we start the new preschool year. Please read through the handbook and feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to a great year getting to know you and your child.

**Thank You,
Barrington Park District Preschool Staff**

Classroom	Day	Time	Teachers
Mini's "Purple"	Mon./Wed.	9:00am - 11:00am	Ms. Adriana & Ms. Karissa
Mini's "Orange"	Tue./Thu.	9:00am - 11:00am	Ms. Adriana & Ms. Erika
3's "Green"	Tue./Thu.	9:00am - 11:30am	Ms. Emily & Ms. Karissa
3's "Blue"	Tue./Thu.	9:00am - 11:30am	Ms. Kim R. & Ms. Barb
Pre-K "Yellow"	M/W/F	9:00am - 11:30am	Ms. Kim R. & Ms. Emily
Pre-K "Red"	Mon. - Thu.	9:00am - 12:00pm	Ms. Tammy & Ms. Jodi
Explorer Enrichment Series	Fri.	9:00am - 11:30am	Ms. Tammy & Ms. Jodi
Preschool Sampler	Tue./Thu.	12:30pm - 2:30pm	Ms. Kim R. & Ms. Karissa

Lunch Bunch runs from after school until 12:30 and Extended Day goes until 2:00pm.

Preschool Director

Kim Sweeney

Office: 847-304-5294 (Absence Line)

Email: ksweeney@barringtonparkdistrict.org

PHILOSOPHY

We are dedicated to enhancing the development of children through research-based curriculum and hands-on activities. Learning through play is the key to our curriculum which incorporates the Illinois Learning Standards developed by the State Board of Education. Our program focuses on the whole child. At BPD Preschool we provide an atmosphere that will encourage children to develop a positive, confident self image, respect others, feel safe within the school environment and promote learning and developmental growth.

PREPARING FOR PRESCHOOL

On the first day of class, parents must provide each of the following:

- Backpack that can hold full sized paper (8 1/2 x 11) and a folder.
- Snack (peanut & tree nut free).
- Water Bottle
- "Close Toed Shoes." Preferably gym shoes. Please no flip flops, boots or dress shoes.
- If registered for Lunch Bunch: a lunch with food they are able to eat on their own
- Clothes and outerwear (if necessary) that are appropriate for the weather. We go outside daily unless there is inclement weather.
- Completed "Student Profile Sheet" (if not already submitted at the Meet & Greet Picnic)
- If your child requires medication (i.e. Epi Pen, Benadryl, etc.) a "Medical Authorization Form" and the medication to be left in the classroom with the child's name, dosage, etc. See Form for more info.

STAFF

There are two teachers in every classroom. Some classrooms might also have 1:1 aides. Every preschool teacher is professionally qualified and dedicated to the education and development of each child enrolled in the program. Teachers keep current in teaching methods through training and attendance at educational seminars throughout the year. All teachers are certified in Red Cross CPR and First Aid.

SCIENCE (S.T.E.M.)

The more the young child knows and understands about his world, the more independent and confident he can become. The classroom plan encourages the child to ask questions, to look for answers, and to be aware of what is going on around him. The science table shows him that his interests are important to others. Experiments, pets and growing plants give them new experiences to think about and new words to try out.

SENSORY

Play experiences with sensory materials are important for the young child. A child needs to feel that he can control and manage his world. Pouring water and shaping sand help him to have this feeling. Using different mediums, the child experiments without fear of making mistakes. Examples of sensory mediums are oatmeal, cornmeal, water, sand, play dough, etc.

TABLE ACTIVITIES (MANIPULATIVES)

Table activities and manipulatives allow a child to test himself at problem solving. Matching games let him test his growing ability to see that certain things go together. Puzzles and pegboards give the child practice in coordinating his hand and eye movements. Number games help the child learn what numbers really stand for by giving him objects to count and handle.

BLOCK BUILDING

The block building center is a place where children learn scientific concepts firsthand. Generalizations about balance, gravity and space are understood long before their names enter the child's vocabulary. Even more importantly, block building furthers the growth of scientific thinking involving inquiry, invention, and discovery.

OUTDOOR PLAY

An important part of children's growth and development happens during outside play. Our playgrounds are a great place to develop large motor skills! Whether it is looking for insects, watching the change of the seasons or experiencing how things work, outdoor exploration is a great way to extend the curriculum.

We will go outside DAILY. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather.

Weather changes often, dressing your child in layers will allow your child to be prepared for the changes. All children go outside with the class. Adding a sweater or sweatshirt in case the day is cool is a good idea. A light jacket is important for cooler days. Hats and mittens are required for the winter months. Please label items with your child's name.

If there is inclement weather (lightening, heavy rain or snow) we will move our outdoor play time to the Gym or Multi-Purpose Room where we will have age appropriate activities set-up.

FACILITY

We offer 3 classrooms, a large motor room, gym and a fenced-in playground dedicated to the preschool program. Our rooms remain surely locked during school hours. Each classroom has a bathroom with a child-size toilet and sink. All patrons must enter and exit through the main doors at the front of the F&RC and not the side doors. The side doors are locked at all times for security purposes.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum is research based and reflects the Illinois State Standards for Early Learning. It is taught using the developmentally appropriate practices established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The preschool program includes both group and individual activities throughout the day that are play based. Meaningful play encourages curiosity, discovery and problem solving. In our classrooms, you will find busy, happy children engaged in math, art, science, literacy, music and small motor activities. Our school uses the Jolly Phonics© program with all classes to help children learn letter sounds. Jolly Phonics© is a systematic, sequential, phonics program (also used by School District 220) designed to teach children to read and write. It teaches the letter sounds in an enjoyable, multisensory way. We follow the Illinois Early Learning Standards and the State of Illinois DCFS guidelines.

CENTERS

Our curriculum is designed to accommodate maturational differences in children through the use of centers. Centers enable children to make choices and learn through active exploration of the materials available combined with interaction with their peers and adults. Centers provide experiences with such cognitive skills as differentiation, classification, seriation and other basic thought processes. We provide small and large group activities so that children learn to develop social skills like waiting for one's turn, sharing, listening to others, and verbalizing their feelings and knowledge of the world around them. Time is also provided for large motor skills, group times, music and stories.

DRAMATIC PLAY

The dramatic play center provides the necessary equipment for role playing. It helps stimulate the imagination and aids in the development of language skills. It also plays an important role in the development of empathy.

ART

The art center is a place where children can express themselves using a variety of media. The young child's main concern is the process of their art, not the product. They are free to explore their creativity at their own level of learning.

LIBRARY

Children learn the value of reading through many happy experiences with books. They find that books give them pleasure and information. Their language grows. They begin to tell stories themselves—sometimes using the flannel board or puppets. They learn that pictures have meaning and that they are able to use pictures to help them tell a story. Through these activities, the children are getting ready to read for themselves.

DROP OFF /PICK UP & SIGNING IN/OUT

Both will take place at the door to the classroom. There will be a teacher at the door to help assist the child into the classroom. Please no parents, caregivers or siblings in the room. Please be patient as this process will take some time the first few days since it is the first time going to school and/or being away from mom or dad for many of our students. As soon as students enter the classroom a teacher will assist them with washing their hands and putting their belongings in their assigned locker.

Please be prompt when picking up your child, there will be a \$10 late fee charged for every 15 minutes . You will be required to sign a late pick-up form. Payment for late pick-up must be paid at the time of pick-up. If late pick-up becomes habitual, your child will be dismissed from the program.

In case of emergency, please call the front desk at 847-381-0687.

SIGN-N & OUT: There will be a table outside of each classroom where each child can be sign-in and out by the adult dropping them off or picking them up. Please list all other adults who may pick-up your child on the "Student Profile" worksheet. If someone is picking-up for the first time and the teaches do not know them, they will be asked to show a picture ID. This is for the safety of your child.

SEPARATION & MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

The transition from home to school is a major one for both you and your child. As a parent, you want to help your child enter the outside world as confidently and happily as possible. Many children worry about being separated from their parents when school begins. All children experience a degree of separation anxiety as they come and go from the security of home and the family they love and trust, and it's quite healthy for them to do so. Still, we try to think of ways to comfort them while they're in school. At the beginning of the year, "Meet the Teacher" allows parent(s) and child to meet the teachers and share information. If a child has trouble separating, parent and teachers work together to develop a plan to promote independence.

If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning or weekend please email the Director, Kim Sweeney or pull a teacher aside at drop off. Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let the teachers know your child may need extra time, patience, help and a lot of love during the day. As always, we are a TEAM and we want to help your child thrive in school.

CLOTHING

We ask that children be dressed as comfortably as possible. Simple play clothes are best. We will use a wide variety of art materials that tend to get messy, and children enjoy themselves more if they don't have to worry about their clothing. Please make sure your child's clothing does not hinder his/her ability to take care of his/her bathroom needs (i.e. button pants, etc.). We recommend gym shoes with no-skid soles for your child's safety. To avoid confusion and loss, all removable clothing should be marked with your child's name. The Barrington Park District is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Each student must bring a zip lock bag of clothes (top, bottom, socks and underwear) that will be kept at the school incase they have an accident, get wet, etc.

BATHROOM USE

All children must be fully toilet trained and tend to their own bathroom needs. **No pull-ups or diapers** are allowed, except for Mini's Preschool. Each classroom has a child's sized toilet and sink and teachers will give constant reminders and bathroom breaks. If your child has an accident, we will give them their bag of spare clothes to change. Consistent incidents will indicate that your child is not fully toilet trained and he or she may be removed from the program until such time that he or she has achieved this requirement.

SNACK TIME

- **All children (except Mini's) must bring their own snack and water bottle to preschool daily.**
- Preschool provides snack for Mini's which will be goldfish or Cheerios.
- **Please pack only ONE snack item and place it in the front pocket or side pocket of your child's backpack so it can easily be grabbed. Please do NOT put it in their lunch container if they are in Lunch Bunch.**
- **All preschools rooms are peanut/tree nut free environment and all snack must be peanut/tree nut free. Please check the packaging to make sure the item does NOT contain peanuts/tree nuts OR is made in a facility with peanuts/tree nuts.**
- **Sample Snack Items:** prepackaged crackers (goldfish, teddy grahams, etc.), fruit/veggies, pretzels, yogurt pouch, etc. that can be eaten within the 15 minute snack period. Please do not send more than one snack

BIRTHDAYS

We will celebrate your child's birthday on the school day that is closest to their actual birthday. Your child may bring a non-edible item to pass out to the class at the end of the day (optional). Birthday party invitations may only be sent home during class if the ENTIRE CLASS is invited.

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTERS/NOTES

Special days, items to be brought to class and other important information will be included in a monthly newsletter that will go home in backpacks and will also be emailed. Important reminders will be posted on the table at sign-in and out.

CLASSROOM DIRECTORY

Included in the *Student Emergency Form/Profile* packet is a permission form to include your contact information in the class directly. Please mark *yes* or *no* on this form and include the information (cell phone, email, etc.) that would like shared in the directory. This information will be only be available to students within your child's individual classroom.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Your child will receive Scholastic Book Club flyers a few times during the year. If you are interested in ordering please return the order form by the date marked on the back. Don't forget to include your child's name.

PRESCHOOL CLOSINGS

Preschool may be cancelled due to inclement weather during the school year. We follow the Barrington School District 220 weather guidelines. If the school district is closed due to inclement weather the BPD Preschool will also be closed.

For up-to-date information on school closing, you may call the Barrington Park District Weather HOTLINE at (847) 268-2268, or you may listen to the local radio or TV stations. You may also check our website: www.barringtonparkdistrict.org.

LUNCH BUNCH & EXTENDED DAY

(Not available for Mini's Preschool)

Lunch Bunch extends the day to 12:30pm and Extended Day goes until 2:00pm. It adds extra socialization and enrichments to children enrolled in Preschool. You can sign-up for a discounted monthly fee (part of your monthly tuition) or you can sign-up and pay on a daily "drop-in" basis as needed. Forms are located on the wall outside of each preschool classroom. For more information on this please contact Kim Sweeney.

HEALTH/ILLNESS POLICY

For the protection of all children and staff, we are unable to accept a child who appears ill. The teaching staff has the right to refuse admittance of a child who appears to be too ill to attend on a given day. If you are in doubt about your child's health, please keep him or her home and notify the Preschool Director prior to your child's usual time of arrival. If your child has a communicable disease, please notify the teacher or Preschool Director.

A few guidelines to follow in determining whether you should keep your child home are:

- Children who need medication (fever reducer or decongestant) prior to the start of class should not attend school.
- Children who have vomited prior to the start of class should not attend school.
- Children should be free of diarrhea for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- Children should be free of an elevated temperature for 24 hours before returning to school.
- A rash may be a sign of many illnesses, such as scarlet fever or chicken pox. A rash or spots may cover the entire body or may appear in only one area. Do not send a child with a rash to school until your doctor has said that is safe to do so.
- If constant or green/yellow mucus is coming from your child's nose please keep your child home.
- If medication is prescribed, children should be on antibiotics for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to class to insure they are no longer contagious.

If your child develops a rash, fever or other signs of illness while at school we will contact the parent/guardian first. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, staff will contact persons listed on the student's authorization pick-up form. Students must be picked up promptly when sick.

COVID-19 POLICY

If your child or a family member within your household test positive for or are in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 please keep your child home from school and contact the Preschool Director, Kim Sweeney immediately. The Barrington Park District follows all current CDC, IDPH and Lake County Health Department guidelines and protocols and will follow-up accordingly.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Head lice, strep, ringworm, impetigo, hand/mouth/foot disease, conjunctivitis.

If your child is diagnosed with any communicable disease, please notify the Preschool Director. The Barrington Park District has firm guidelines that must be followed before your child may return to preschool. If your child is exposed to a communicable disease, such as the ones listed above, a notice will be sent home with the children.

ABSENT POLICY

Please call the Preschool Director, Kim Sweeney at 847-304-5294 if your child is going to be absent and leave a message with your child's name, classroom, date(s) of absences and reason for the absence.

Please do not email because teachers do not have access to the email at all times.

MEDICATION

In order for medication to be administered the following must be received:

- If your child requires medication or any kind of treatment (i.e. epi pen) during school hours, this must be discussed with the Preschool Director and a "Medication Authorization" packet must be completed.

ALLERGIES

IF YOUR CHILD HAS A SEVERE ALLERGY PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY. If your child has an Epi-Pen we will need a doctor's order with the Epi-pen that you leave at Preschool along with the "Authorization to Administer Medication" form which can be downloaded off our website or emailed directly to you from the Preschool Director.

INJURY

For any child who is injured and requires more than basic first aid, the following steps will be taken:

1. Attempt to contact parent/guardian.
2. Attempt to contact emergency contacts listed on emergency form.
3. If necessary, the child will be transported to the nearest hospital by ambulance, accompanied by a staff member.

The Barrington Park District does not provide accident insurance or medical insurance to its participants.

STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

Teachers assess each child's development through observation and one-on-one interaction. Teachers will be looking at the child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. All one-on-one assessments are done through play during the preschool day using familiar materials the children use in the classroom. The teachers use the information gained through assessments to guide curriculum and lesson planning. Parents are informed about their child's learning and development at least twice a year either verbally, written or by work samples. Parents are encouraged to use this information to reinforce these developing skills at home and praise their child's accomplishments.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Teachers act as advocates for you and your child. The earlier a delay or disability is identified, the better the change that intervention services may help a child reach his or her potential. Your child's teacher can provide you with valuable resources. A teacher may need additional information on how to best meet your child's needs. In this instance, the teacher will request that you contact School District 220 for a professional evaluation. This professional will then confer with both you and the teachers.

ADA & SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Barrington Park District participates in a cooperative agreement with the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA). The BPD will work with your family if your child requires special accommodations while attending the program. Please contact the Preschool Director for more information

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Personal belongings such as toys, game-boys, trading card, stuffed animals, and etc. may not be brought to the Preschool Program. The Preschool program staff will not be liable for lost or stolen items.

BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Staff will make every effort to assist children in correcting any unacceptable behavior through re-direction, reminders of expected conduct and parent conference. Staff will help your child develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own behavior based on four overall rules:

- A child may not disturb or hurt others, verbally or physically.
- A child may not damage school or park district equipment.
- A child may not place themselves and / or others in dangerous situations.
- A child must respect and follow staff direction.

If unacceptable behavior continues, the staff will implement the following:

- Talk to the parent or guardian concerning continued behavior problems.
- Write and present parent with an incident or discipline report.
- On the occurrence of a third incident or discipline report the child will be suspended from the program. Length of suspension will be at the discretion of the supervisor.
- A meeting with the parent(s), instructor(s) and supervisor(s) will be required to discuss if the child will be returning to the program.
- If upon return, the child's unacceptable behavior continues and a fourth incident/discipline report is written, the child will not be allowed to continue attending the program.

The Preschool Director and the Barrington Park District reserves the right to review each situation on an individual bases and may eliminate steps depending on the severity of the incident.

ADULT RULES OF CONDUCT

Any parent/guardian or authorized person who displays any one of the following behaviors will not longer be allowed at the site:

- Physical abuse: shaking, grabbing, hitting, pushing, etc.
- Verbal abuse, including inappropriate language or threats
- Use or possession of alcohol or illegal substance
- Smoking on premises

TUITION

- Tuition is based on the total number of school days and then divided into 9 equal payments. Fees are *not* based on a specific number of school days in a particular month.
- All tuition is charged monthly (September 2023 - May 2024) via EFT on the **10th of each month** (or next business day if the 10th falls on a weekend or holiday).
- If you need to update your credit card please see the front desk or Preschool Director for an EFT Update Form.
- For a complete list of fees please visit www.barringtonparkdistrict.org/preschool.
- Late fee of **\$25.00 will be assessed if tuition payment is overdue 15 days (credit card declines)**.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

ATTENDANCE LINE/EMAIL:

Please call and leave a message or email when your child will not be in attendance.

Phone: (847) 304-5294

Email: ksweeney@barringtonparkdistrict.org

Kim Sweeney
Preschool Director

Phone: (847) 304-5294

Email: ksweeney@barringtonparkdistrict.org

BPD Front Desk:

Phone: (847) 381-0687

Weather Hotline:

Phone: (847) 268-2268

BPD Website:

Website: www.barringtonparkdistrict.org

Teacher Contact Info: Please note that teachers do not have individual email addresses. Please email Kim Sweeney for communication or ask your teacher at drop off or pick up if you would like to schedule a meeting with them.

MISC. INFORMATION:

What did you do at Preschool Today?

It is sometimes frustrating for parents when young children have difficulty recalling and describing what they did at school. Children are active and busy the entire time and they sometimes lack the words to tell others about their activities. By the time you pick them up, they have moved onto other things. Here are a few tips to encourage conversation.

Ask specific questions such as:

- “What book did you read at story time?”
- “What did you do at the art table today?”
- “Tell me about the drawing in your backpack.”
- “What was the letter of the day today?”
- “What song did you sing today?”
- “What game did you play during active time today?”
- “Who did you play with today?”

Avoid general questions like:

- “What happened at school today?”
- “How was school?”

PICTURES ON HOME ROOM APP:

To help parents know what their children do at school each week the Park District is also using the app called “Homeroom.” This app allows us to upload photos safely to private classroom albums that only parents and teachers can see, away from social media and the internet. You will receive a link from Kim Sweeney via email inviting you to join the private classroom. We will post pictures weekly. You will need to download the free app on your iPhone or Android device. If you have any questions please contact Kim Sweeney.

