



CUMBERLAND
COUNTY SCHOOLS

WELCOME

TO

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

**Cumberland County Schools
Pre-Kindergarten Department
Information for Parents
2022-2023 School Year**

A CHILD'S EIGHT COMMANDMENTS TO PARENTS

1. My hands are small; please don't expect perfection whenever I make a bed, draw a picture, or throw a ball. My legs are short; please slow down so that I can keep up with you.
2. My eyes have not seen the world as you have; please let me explore safely. Don't restrict me unnecessarily.
3. Housework will always be there. I'm only little for a short time~ please take time to explain things to me about this wonderful world and do so willingly.
4. My feelings are tender; please be sensitive to my needs; don't nag me all day long. (You wouldn't want to be nagged for your inquisitiveness.)
Treat me as you would like to be treated.
5. I need your encouragement to grow. Please go easy on the criticism; remember you can criticize the things I do without criticizing me.
6. Please give me the freedom to make decisions concerning myself. Permit me to fail, so that I can learn from my mistakes. Then someday I'll be prepared to make the kind of decisions life requires.
7. Please don't do things over for me. Somehow that makes me feel that my efforts didn't quite measure up to your expectations. I know it's hard, but please don't try to compare me with my brother or sister.
8. Please don't be afraid to leave for a weekend together. Kids need vacations from parents, just as parents need vacations from kids.

Adapted from Dr. Kevin Leman's *A child's Ten Commandments to Parents*

PRE-KINDERGARTEN GOALS

When a developmentally appropriate environment is provided for young children at home and at school, each child will develop and expand in the following areas.

- Self-worth
- begin to value and respect the physical environment and to assume responsibility within the immediate and personal environment
- in the ability to express, represent, and understand thought, feelings, and experiences of self and others in their personal and immediate environment
- in the ability to make decisions and to solve problems within the immediate and personal environment
- in the capacity to use large and small muscles in the immediate and personal environment
- in the ability to live in harmony with others in the immediate and personal environment

Activities and materials in the pre-kindergarten classroom are planned and organized to promote growth and development of the whole child – physically, cognitively, socially, and emotionally.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Each pre-kindergarten teacher has his/her own way of organizing class time and materials; however, all classes spend the day learning through their play. Each class has a center time, group time, and a rest time on a daily basis. Most classes eat breakfast and lunch in the classroom in a family style manner. A doctor's note is required for children with special diet needs due to food allergies.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Parents and guardians are responsible for seeing that children attend school each day it is in session. When a child returns to school after being absent, **a note stating the reason for the absence, date of absence and parent's signature, must be sent to school. (No note will result in an unexcused absence.)** The note should be sent to school on the day that the child returns to school after the absence. Absences from school will be excused for the following reasons:

- student illness
- religious holiday
- death in the immediate family
- family emergencies.

In an effort to provide a quality pre-kindergarten program that helps prepare children for a smooth transition into kindergarten, it is important that we closely monitor student attendance. Excessive **absences and tardiness may result in the child being dismissed from the program, however, every effort shall be made to maintain the child's enrollment and participation.**

- After three consecutive absences and/or tardies, for any reason, the teacher will contact the parent.
- After six absences and/or tardies, the teacher will schedule a meeting with the parent and a school administrator to discuss the absences/tardies.
- After ten absences and/or tardies, a meeting will be scheduled with the parent, a school administrator and pre-k coordinator to determine the child's future status in the program.

ILLNESS

The following guidelines are for non-COVID related illnesses. We follow the COVID guidelines set by Cumberland County Schools, the local Health Department and State Agencies.

If your child comes to school when he/she is not feeling well, they will be more vulnerable to infection. **It is in the best interest of your child and of the other people at school to keep him/her home when he/she**

is ill. A child needs to be well to be able to participate actively in the program.

Please:

- Keep your child at home if he/she has a fever, bad cold, upset stomach, earache, rash, swollen glands, or a runny nose that is green or yellow.
- If a child is well enough to come to school, **he/she will be expected to go outdoors with his/her classmates, weather permitting.**
- Often children may ask to come to school, even though they are ill. **Although your child may be disappointed, please keep them at home if they are sick.**
- If your child becomes ill while at school and you are called, please cooperate by picking him/her up promptly. We will not call unless your child needs to be at home.
- If your child has prescribed medication, a medication form must be completed by your doctor in order for the school to dispense the medicine. All prescribed medication must be handled through the school office. Classroom teachers are not permitted to dispense medications.
- Pre-kindergarten students should not bring lotions, creams, chapstick, cough drops or hand sanitizer to school.
- A child may not return to school until he/she is fever free without medication for at least 24 hours.

- A child must remain at home after vomiting and/or having diarrhea for at least 24 hours after the last episode and without medication.

It is very important that you provide us updated phone numbers whenever you have a change in your contact numbers.

CLOTHING

Clothing should allow movement and play. Be sure that your child's clothing is –

- comfortable, washable, allows for self-dressing, and self-toileting.
- appropriate for arts and crafts (paint aprons are provided at school)

We get **INVOLVED** in activities and should not have to be too concerned with staying clean. Dresses with ruffles and bows and pants with difficult belts and fastenings should be avoided.

When the weather is cold, always –

- send in mittens or gloves, a hat, and a sweater to layer over clothes. **We go outside every day.**
- provide pants or tights for girls who wear dresses; those little legs get cold without protection.

When it rains, always –

- send in a raincoat
- **please leave umbrellas at home**

Parents are asked to send a change of clothing to school. Place the clothing in a ZipLock bag. Label the clothing and bag with the student's name. The clothes will be kept in the child's individual cubby and will be available for your child to change into in case of accidental soiling or wetting. If your child brings home soiled clothing, **please send another set the next day.**

TRANSPORTATION

Our first concern is the child's safety as he/she travels to and from school.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

Pre-kindergarten students **may be** provided with bus service if they live within the area of a normal bus route. Listed are the duties and responsibilities for riding the bus:

- An adult is required to be at the designated bus stop, on time, in the morning and again to meet the child in the afternoon. Allowing a sibling or another child to meet the bus is not acceptable.
- If an adult fails to meet the bus, the child will be brought back to the school and the parent called (**three failures to meet the child may result in loss of bus privileges**).
- Students are required to sit correctly in their seats, obey the bus driver, and assistant, concerning conduct on the bus. **Inappropriate behavior on the bus may result in loss of bus privileges.**

PARENT TRANSPORTATION

Pre-kindergarten children should be under adult supervision at all times. This includes traveling to and from school and moving to and from the classroom.

- Notify the teacher or teacher assistant that your child has arrived at school.
- If picking up your child early from school, they must be checked out through the front office.
- Your child will be released only to his/her parent or other persons authorized by a parent to pick up the child. **ID is required.**

- Be prompt in picking up your child (follow school bell times). Individual school policies apply.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE PROGRAM

If you are planning to move, please inform the pre-kindergarten teacher of your plans. We appreciate knowing ahead of time that you will be withdrawing from the program.

TRANSFERS

Once a child is placed in a class we are generally unable to transfer the student to another school. If you are anticipating a move, please communicate with your child's teacher.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

If you change your address, phone numbers, or people listed as emergency contacts, please send the information to your child's teacher and the school office immediately. It is important that this information be accurate at all times.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

It is important that we, parents and school personnel, work together to ensure the best possible experiences for your child. Parents are encouraged to volunteer a minimum of **2 hours per semester**.

Volunteer activities include:

- attending parent workshops
- helping with classroom activities
- helping with school activities
- attending PTA meetings

Parents can help their child in school by –

- making sure the **child attends daily and on time**
- attending parents/teacher conferences
- speaking with your child's teacher frequently
- keeping your child's teacher informed of his special interests and needs
- asking about your child's day with specific questions, such as:

“Whom did you play with today?”

“What was in the art center?”

“What choices did you make at playtime?”

“What was your favorite activity today?”

Pre-Kindergarten Cleaning Schedule

Daily:

Sanitize tables/chairs
Sanitize toys
Disinfect sink/toilet
Remove garbage
Sweep floor
Spot clean floors, if any spills
Wipe refrigerator/microwave
Clean water table
Inspect the playground
Vacuum rug(s)

Weekly:

All the above
Wash sheets/blankets
Sanitize cots
Mop floor
Dust furniture

Monthly:

All the above
Defrost refrigerator
Sanitize microwave
Inspect the playground

ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Children live in homes; big homes and small homes, apartments and trailers, cottages and single rooms. **HOME** is where the **FAMILY** is, and children are a part of **FAMILIES**. No other environment is more important. For this reason the home environment should be one in which adults –

- talk with children about everyday experiences
- listen to children and value what children have to say
- participate with children in activities
- read for their own pleasure
- read to children
- show affection for children
- provide for children's health, safety, and well-being
- use everyday experiences such as cooking, playing games, and shopping as learning opportunities for children
- use common materials such as rocks and leaves to help children appreciate the natural environment

In every home there are many ways young children can help, with supervision.

Preparing Meals and Baking

Washing vegetables and fruits; tearing lettuce for salads

Greasing cookie sheets or cake pans

Mixing juices; pouring cereal

Laundry

Pouring detergent

Matching socks; sorting clothes

Putting clothes away; folding washcloths

Cleaning House

Dusting

Polishing

Cleaning the sink

Shopping

Helping to make a list

Finding items on the list at the store

Putting away groceries

Gathering trash

Gathering waste baskets from each room

Replacing new trash bags in baskets

Picking up paper and sticks in the yard

Table Setting

Placing plates and silverware

Setting out napkins

Discipline and Behavior Management

We:

1. DO praise, reward, and encourage the children.
2. DO reason with and set limits for the children.
3. DO model appropriate behavior for the children.
4. DO modify the classroom environment to attempt to prevent problems before they occur.
5. DO listen to the children.
6. DO provide alternatives for inappropriate behavior to the children.
7. DO provide the children with natural and logical consequences of their behaviors.
8. DO treat the children as people and respect their needs, desires, and feelings.
9. DO ignore minor misbehaviors.
10. DO explain things to children on their level.
11. DO use short supervised periods of time-out sparingly.
12. DO stay consistent in our behavior management program.
13. DO use effective guidance and behavior management techniques that focus on a child's development.
14. DO adhere to the [CCS Student Code of Conduct](#), the [CCS Board of Education Policies](#), and [NC Child Care Law and Rules](#).

“Time-Out”

"Time-out" is the removal of a child for a short period of time (3 to 5 minutes) from a situation in which the child is misbehaving and has not responded to other discipline techniques. The "time-out" space, usually a chair, is located away from classroom activity but within the teacher's sight. During "time-out," the child has a chance to think about the misbehavior which led to his/her removal from the group. After a brief interval of no more than 5 minutes, the teacher discusses the incident and appropriate behavior with the child. When the child returns to the group, the incident is over and the child is treated with the same affection and respect shown the other children.

Adapted from original prepared by Elizabeth Wilson, Student, Catawba Valley Technical College

NC Child Care Required Information

The information listed below is required to be presented to parents in licensed child care centers in North Carolina. A signed receipt is required to be placed in your child's student record.

- [CCS No Smoking/Tobacco Use Policy](#)
- Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Trauma Policy
 - [Policy Code: 4301 Authority of School Personnel](#)
 - [Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abuse Policy-DCDEE Sample Edited for Use by CCS](#)
 - CCS doesn't work with students under the age of 3; however, DCDEE still requires CCS to provide information on Shaken Baby Syndrome.

FOURS CAN ... LIST

From 48 to 54 months, some things Fours can do are:

- stand on one foot for ten seconds
- name three shapes
- use many words (more than 1500)
- remember some things seen in a picture or in a group of objects
- ask lots of questions
- test adults limits frequently
- enjoy playing with other children more than playing alone
- walk on a balance beam
- ask for help when needed
- tell what their artwork is
- repeat rhymes, songs, or dances
- get dressed without much help
- jump backward
- try to imitate someone who draws a square
- draw a person with three parts
- know some prepositions, such as *in front of*, *under*, *behind*, or *on top of*
- walk downstairs, alternating feet
- recognize some colors
- catch a bounced ball
- play alone for 20-30 minutes
- know the name of a penny, nickel, dime
- fasten buttons quite well
- eat well with fork, cut easy foods with knife
- usually stay dry through the night
- jump over things
- recognize own name in print

From 54 to 60 months, some things Fours can do are:

- hop on one foot at least five times
- cut out a big circle
- tell you what some words mean
- brush teeth quite well
- draw a person with six parts
- ask permission to use things that belong to others
- do well in small groups of three or four
- lace shoes
- show correct number of objects, up to five
- taunt others by calling names
- play cooperatively in small groups often
- say “I’m sorry” to others
- do a somersault
- behave well in public most of time
- cut and paste simple shapes
- say when a sound is loud or soft
- say whether two words rhyme
- usually manage all toileting skills alone
- use four or five words in a sentence
- count to ten
- recognize a few printed words
- tell on others who do naughty things
- jump over knee-high obstacles with both feet together
- print own name but not clearly
- print a few capital letters