

Lewiston Little Tigers



Pre-K Parent Handbook

Lewiston Tigers Pre-Kindergarten

Lewiston Consolidated Schools

District No. 69, Pawnee County

306 Tiger Avenue

Lewiston, NE 68380

Phone: (402)865-4675

Pre-Kindergarten Staff

- Mr. Rick Kentfield - Superintendent
 - Mrs. Juli Smith - Principal
 - Mrs. Pandora Worthey - Preschool Teacher/Gold Administrator
 - Ms. Keri Rasby - Preschool Teacher
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- The Lewiston Pre-Kindergarten is under the umbrella of the District No. 69 Public School. All policies set forth by District no. 69 Board of Education in the district's handbook are also in effect for the pre-kindergarten.
 - The additional guidelines set forth in this handbook are solely for the Lewiston pre-kindergarten and address issues that only pertain to pre-kindergarten students.
 - Lewiston pre-kindergarten pre-registration is open to all potty trained 3 and 4 year old children. Each classroom may include up to 20 children. Entrance criterion is as follows:
 1. Children who are 3 or 4 years of age by July 31st of the current year and reside within the Lewiston School District.
 2. Children who are 3 or 4 years of age by July 31st of the current year and reside outside of the Lewiston School District.
 - 2a. Family of a Lewiston Consolidated School employee
 - 2b. Sibling of an option enrolled K-12 student
 - 2c. Date of birth (oldest to youngest)

**Not all students of preschool age are ready for the school environment. Lewiston Schools reserves the right to determine student readiness at the beginning of the year or any time after the school year has started*

Lewiston Pre-Kindergarten Philosophy

Lewiston Consolidated Schools, the parent district of Lewiston Little Tigers Pre-Kindergarten, acknowledges and respects the uniqueness of each child. It also supports the belief that a child's strong sense of self esteem comes from experiencing success within an age appropriate environment enhanced by a rich, stimulating curriculum. The curriculum engages children's learning in all developmental areas, while at the same time allowing for individual differences in learning styles and encouraging creativity through a variety of play-based experiences.

Our overall goals for the children enrolled in Lewiston pre-kindergarten are:

1. A strong sense of self-confidence
2. Development of the whole child.
3. Development of social emotional skills.

Specifically these goals include:

Development of Self-Confidence and Self-Esteem

- Positive identity and self respect
- Trust of others and in his/herself
- Empowerment to make choices and show initiative
- Expressing creativity
- Willingness to try new experiences
- Expressing needs, feelings, and ideas in an appropriate manner

Development of the Whole Child

- Communication skills
- Language development
- Physical skills
- Intellectual abilities/Cognitive skills
- Creativity

Development of Social Emotional Skills

- Problem solving and conflict resolution
- Cooperating in play and work
- Developing trust in peers and adults
- Belonging to and participating in groups
- Learning to take turns and to share
- Becoming both a leader and a follower
- Expressing feelings to peers and adults appropriately
- Developing good listening skills
- Making friends, being friends, and sharing friends.

The Values and Goals We Use to Implement Our Philosophy

- Maintain a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment.
- Respect children's uniqueness and recognize and celebrate their individual differences.
- Create a trusting and predictable environment.
- Development of an environment that says "yes" to exploring and experimenting, discovering, having fun with friends, and being a child.
- Emphasis on the "process" (which is the immersion in the "doing") rather than the "product"
- Use of positive language.
- Modeling of empathy and compassion.
- Encourage children to take risks so they can experience new successes.
- Help children learn to make choices and develop responsibility for those choices.
- Keep a sense of humor and create laughter.
- Provide a child centered program which comes from a blend of the interests of the children together with a successfully planned and organized facility and use of our adopted curriculum *World of Wonders and Learning Without Tears*.
- Continually cultivate curriculum which is updated and revised to ensure a variety of developmentally appropriate experiences for children.

Curriculum and Assessment

We have adopted the *World of Wonders* curriculum for our 4 year old preschool program. It aligns with the curriculum used by the elementary school. This curriculum is a comprehensive tool and addresses the whole child. They will supplement with *Handwriting Without Tears*. The 3 year olds will use *Learning without Tears* and supplement the curriculum with thematic components.

Assessments are submitted to the state through Teaching Strategies Gold. This includes objectives in social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science & technology, social studies, the arts, and English language acquisition (for learners whose primary language is not English). Outcomes will be reported during our advisory committee meeting, and released in the summer to our Board.

Within the framework of our curriculum your child will be exposed to a variety of experiences. Some of these may include but are not limited to:

- Field trips, both walking and driving to other locations.
- A sufficient amount of outdoor time.
- Immersion in literature, in a variety of formats.
- Group time, both large and small group settings.
- Math, Pre-reading, Pre-writing, reading, writing.
- Other experiences based on student interest.

The Lewiston Little Tigers Pre-Kindergarten will follow their own calendar which will be provided for you. We will have the same days off as the district calendar with some extra days built in for required training and environmental enrichment.

Specials

Preschool allows time for special activities, such as Art, Music, and Library, which are taught by the elementary special teachers. These activities will take place periodically within or outside of the classroom and offer further enrichment to the program by exposing students to concepts that will be built on later in elementary school.

Due to the extended outdoor play requirements of preschool, PE objectives are met during outdoor play time, and not during a set PE time with the PE teacher.

Kindergarten Transition

During the last semester of Pre-K4, students will begin transition plans including practicing lunch in the cafeteria, and specials (PE, music, art, etc.) in their corresponding elementary environments. This enables students to acclimate to new environments, rules, and procedures to ease the transition process in Kindergarten.

Parent Concerns and Contacting the Teacher

We know that your Pre-Kindergartener does not necessarily make the most reliable messenger and that 3 and 4 year olds get things mixed up easily. If this happens PLEASE don't hesitate to let us know if you have any concerns or questions.

First of all, if there is anything you need to know about something involving your child that day you will hear from the teacher, via a call (possibly in the evening), an email or a short note. This would include things like a minor injury (involving more than a band aid), behavior issues, concerns about a situation that involved your child, etc.

If you wish to visit with the teacher about something concerning your child in depth, it would be best to call her when class is not in session and you can set up a time to come in that works for everyone or visit on the phone.

The pickup and drop off times each day are quite busy and the teacher's focus needs to be on the students during that time, she will not be able to give you the time and attention you need during this time.

Signed Release for Pictures and Videos of Your Child

Pictures (digital) and videos of our students, activities, and classroom will be taken and used for various projects from time to time.

You will be given a permission form allowing your child's picture to be taken and to be used in a variety of ways (both public and in the classroom) projects. Please return the permission form to the school as soon as possible.

Child Pick up Authorization

You will be required to fill out a paper listing the person(s) that you authorize the school to release your child to. Your child will never be released to someone not on that list unless we receive a signed note from you giving your permission.

If the staff does not know the person who is picking up your child, that person will be asked to show identification. If there is any question, you will be called. PLEASE call the school ahead of time when your child's daily routine changes. We take the safety of your child very seriously and good communication between home and school makes this much easier for the staff.

Bringing Items and Pets to School From Home

Children need to leave personal toys/items at home unless special arrangements have been made with the teacher. Blankets for nap time are an exception, as some children have special blankets to help them sleep. If a blanket is not brought from home, your child will be provided a blanket to use at school. If bringing a pet, please make arrangements with the teacher so she can clear it with administration.

Mid-Day Pick Up and Drop Offs

Please be considerate of the rest of the class and schedule your mid-day pick-ups and drop-offs before or after our scheduled rest time.

Field Trips

The pre-kindergarten students will have field trips to various points of interest throughout the year. A permission slip with trip information will be sent home in advance of each outing planned. Please sign and return this slip promptly.

Families may be invited to participate. Details concerning family member transportation and meal options will be provided based on the field trip schedule.

Clothing

Your child will spend a great deal of each day on the floor inside, playing outside, and just being very active. Please dress your child for this type of activity each day.

Please label all of your children's clothing that can be removed such as: hats, mittens, boots, sweatshirts, coats, etc.

We will play outside each day unless there is precipitation falling or the temperature is dangerously cold. Your child will need snow boots that he/she can easily pull on and off, shoes to change back into, warm clothing, hats and mittens when winter arrives. We would ask that you send some type of jacket each day in fall and spring so your child is prepared for outdoor time.

Toilet Issues

Your child must be toilet trained when they begin class. Pull-up pants are not appropriate. The only exception to this policy is if a child has an identified handicap or special need that he/she is receiving district services for that interferes with the toilet training process.

We know accidents happen to all children. With this in mind, we would ask that you send an extra change of clothes to be kept in his/her cubby at school. The wet clothing will be sent home in a plastic bag in your child's backpack. Please replace the change of clothes the following day.

Behavioral Expectations and Pyramid Model

Our Early Childhood Classrooms have implemented the Pyramid Model for setting behavioral expectations.

The basis of the Pyramid Model is that children learn best in the context of their relationships with other people in their lives. Because their relationships with peers and teachers influence how children feel about school and how they learn, the social climate in the classroom is critically important.

Shared expectations are the basis for meaningful interactions in the classroom. Lewiston has set forth the following expectations for interactions in their classrooms:

Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Safe

In addition to the expectations, each classroom has a set of rules that align with the school expectations. Students are taught the rules and expectations along with strategies to help solve problems in an appropriate way.

Teaching young children requires a lot of patience, as they often need to be reminded about rules and guidelines. Each behavior expectation is clearly stated and your child will be helped to follow the rules through modeling and practicing acceptable choices. Most guidance will take the form of redirection and helping the child but his /her own feelings into words instead of actions.

The Pyramid Model includes families in decision making processes for issues with student behavior. Data is collected on problem behaviors and every effort will be made to help the student be successful in the classroom environment with his/her peers. You will be notified of ongoing persistent behavioral issues.

Examples of unacceptable behavior would include: hitting, kicking, throwing objects, defiance, abuse of materials or school facilities. If your child is not responsive to teacher and or administrator interventions or poses a threat to other students we will contact you to help make a plan for your student's success.

A successful Pre-K experience is necessary to be considered for option enrollment within the Lewiston Consolidated School District.

Immunizations:

State law requires that students in the 3-5 year old age group enrolled in a school based program have the following immunizations prior to attending. You will need to provide the following immunization information when you enroll your child.

- **4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine**
- **3 doses of Polio vaccine**
- **3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine**
- **1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age**
- **1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted.**
- **4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age**

When Should You Keep Your Child Home?

Please do not send your child to school if they appear to be sick. Also we request that you **do not send your child to school for 24 hours AFTER he/she has had a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. Your child must be symptom free without medication for 24 hours. Students can be sent home if sick at the school's discretion.**

For your own child's protection as well as other children and the staff, you will need to ***keep your child home if he/she has any of the following:***

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Unexplained rashes
- Discharge from eyes, ears, or severe nasal drainage
- Sore throat
- Severe cough
- Head lice

In case of a contagious disease please contact your child's teacher immediately. If your child contracts any of the following, notification is necessary: Strep throat, influenza, pink eye, or any easily transmitted childhood sickness.

We will do our best to help prevent the spread of infections, but we must be informed to do so.

Please allow your child to return to school only after he/she is well enough to participate in all activities both indoors and outdoors.

Request and Reminders–Wrapping It Up

- Complete all forms and return them before your child begins pre-kindergarten.
- Keep the pre-kindergarten staff informed of any phone number/contact information changes.
- If your child is sick please let the school office know and keep him/her home until symptom free without medication for 24 hours.
- There will be no Pre-K on early dismissal days.

This parent handbook has given you a great deal of information to help you know what to expect as you prepare to send your child to school. There will be, without a doubt, questions that arise that are not covered in here. We will be happy to talk over any of those questions with you at any time.

Now we begin the important journey of instilling in your child a wish to learn, a sense of delight in each new discovery, and a growing confidence in him/herself as a learner.