

Noah's Ark Preschool Newsletter

August 2021

We encourage communication!

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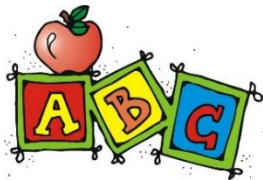
Communication

Most communication will be via email or via the monthly newsletter/calendar.

It is vital that you read the newsletter and calendar each month.

You will also get a weekly email containing the specific activities we will complete.

(This replaces last year's parent/guardian communication board in the hallway.)



Teacher Names

Please refer to us as Ms. Shannon and Ms. Megan. 😊

Sunscreen

We will go outside when possible. If you would like your child to wear sunscreen, please apply it before school. The teachers will not apply sunscreen to the children.

Welcome!

Welcome to an exciting school year at Noah's Ark Preschool! We are looking forward to a great year filled with lots of fun and learning! This newsletter contains some basic information about preschool. More detailed information is in the Noah's Ark Preschool Parent Handbook, and you will receive another newsletter and a September calendar on the first day of school.

Show & Tell

The children in the 4 & 5 year old class will take turns taking home the Show and Tell bag. Please return the bag on the next session day of preschool. On the child's turn, he or she shall place **three items** from home in the bag. These items can be favorite toys, pictures, favorite movies, or other items important to the child. **Weapons, simulated weapons, or items relative to violent activity are not allowed for Show and Tell.** The items must fit inside the bag. Since we count the items as a class, please make sure your child brings exactly three items for Show and Tell. The child will share his or her items during Show and Tell time, and the items will be sent home on the same day.

Extra Clothes

In case of accidents or spills, please keep an extra set of clothes in your child's backpack at all times. The best way to do this is to place the items in a large Ziploc bag in the child's backpack.

Please include the following items and update them as seasons change and as your child grows:

Shirt

Socks

Pants

Underwear

Food from Home/Birthday Treats

Children may (but are not required to) bring individually, prepackaged snacks to share with the class on their birthdays.

These items will be sent home for parental approval and cannot be served at snacktime.

We ask that parents not send foods that require refrigeration, cupcakes, or cakes for birthdays.

Great birthday treats include individually, prepackaged fruit snacks, Goldfish crackers, Ritz Bitz Crackers, etc. All other foods will be provided by the preschool. In any other circumstances, food from home—including gum and candy—will not be allowed. To help eliminate the possibility of food being prepared in an unsanitary environment and to eliminate allergic reactions from unlabeled packages, no homemade treats are allowed.

We will celebrate summer birthdays in May. Your child will be assigned a day to celebrate and may bring treats on that day.



Website

Please visit the Noah's Ark Preschool website for additional information!

puccllemars.com

Tuition

Monthly tuition is due on or around the 15th of each month to pay for services to be received the following month. Example: tuition paid on November 15 will pay for December's preschool sessions. Payments may be submitted to the Director via cash or a check payable to Noah's Ark Preschool. Parents may also submit payments using the blue box located on top of the lockers in the hallway. The Director does not have cash on hand to make change, so please try to pay the exact amount due.

If paying in cash, please place the money in an envelope labeled with your name and the dollar amount. If paying by check, there is no need to put it in an envelope since your name is on your check. 😊

No allowances will be made for absenteeism due to illness, snow days, denial to attend field trips, family vacations, etc. Because preschool dismisses for summer vacation during the middle of May, tuition for May (due in mid-April) is half the typical monthly cost.



Curriculum

3-4 Year Olds

Rules & Procedures (Early-September)

"Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" (Early-September)

Colors Unit (Mid-September – Mid-February)

Shapes Unit (Mid-February – April)

4-5 Year Olds

Rules & Procedures (Early-September)

"Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" (Early-September)

Learning Without Tears Intro (Mid-September)

Intro to the Alphabet (Late-September)

Friend of the Day (Late September – Late October)

Alphabet Unit (November-April)

All of the other objectives listed in the Parent Handbook will be covered in large group, small group, and individual activities throughout the year or within the children's play.

First Days of School

Monday & Wednesday AM Class:
Wednesday September 1

Tuesday & Thursday AM Class:
Thursday September 2

Monday – Thursday PM Class:
Wednesday September 1

Facebook

Noah's Ark Preschool has a Facebook page! We created this page not only to promote enrollment at Noah's Ark but also to keep parents of students informed of upcoming events, fun activities we have completed, and other information pertinent to Noah's Ark. While we will always send home notes and calendars to keep you informed, the Facebook page serves as a constant communication tool between parents and the Director. No pictures of the children or any information about specific children shall appear on the Facebook page without your consent. Please "like" Noah's Ark Preschool on Facebook at www.facebook.com/noahsarkpreschoollemars!



Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL: Morning classes begin at 8:30, and afternoon classes begin at 12:30. The school door opens at 8:25 and 12:25 and will be locked until these times. We will place a colored door hanger on the doorknob after unlocking the door. Since the outside door is very heavy and is difficult for children to open, parents **must** walk their children into the building. Arrival time is also a great time to communicate with the Director and to make any necessary payments. Please help your children place their belongings in their lockers. The 3-4 year olds must remove their crayon from their locker in the hallway and place it in their pocket on the classroom door. **Arrival is expected between 8:25 & 8:30 / 12:25 & 12:30. Please be sure to bring your children to preschool on time!**

DEPARTURE: Morning preschool dismisses at 11:00, and afternoon preschool dismisses at 3:00. Parents or authorized pickups must get out of their vehicles and pick up the children near the preschool door. Please walk up to the door so the children don't run to you. For the children's safety, they are not allowed to leave until they have received permission from a teacher.



Assessments & Conferences

We will conduct assessments of the children two times per year to assess their progress. Assessments are based on the Noah's Ark Preschool objectives and on the preschool early learning standards. We will conduct assessments at the beginning of the year so we can understand each child's needs. The second assessments will be in April. We will conduct parent-teacher conferences in October and in April but are happy to discuss children's progress or concerns/questions you have at any time.

For additional information, please see the Noah's Ark Preschool Parent Handbook. If any questions arise, please feel free to contact us at

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DISCIPLINE POLICY

Classroom Rules

Noah's Ark Preschool has six classroom rules which will be introduced to the children at the beginning of the school year and reviewed regularly. Each rule has an action that accompanies it. The actions help the children learn and retain the rules.

Our Rules:

1. Nice Hands
2. Kind Words
- 3) Walking Feet
- 4) Quiet Voices
- 5) Listening Ears
- 6) Clean Room

Be a Buddy, Not a Bully

We want our classroom to be a small community built on mutual respect. Early in the year, we will discuss "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" to encourage children to be kind to one another and to speak up when someone is doing something unkind or unsafe. We will review often.

Philosophy on Discipline

Positive modeling and positive reinforcement are used by the Noah's Ark staff to point out good behaviors. Redirection is used to focus attention on desired behaviors. We desire to take advantage of "teachable moments" to teach and reinforce positive behavior.

Conflict Management

If there is a conflict between children, the teachers will intervene and ask the children questions about the occurrence and about their feelings. After listening to both/all children's explanations, the teacher will help the children resolve the conflict using conversation and while discussing children's feelings and cause and effect.

Behavior Management

If a child is misbehaving, the Noah's Ark staff will redirect the child to a positive behavior and/or give the child a verbal warning. If the behavior continues, the teacher will remove one popsicle stick—beginning with a plain-colored stick—from the child's behavior pocket on the wall. Each child has 3 sticks to start each day: two plain sticks and one colored stick. The colored stick is the "prize stick."

If a child loses all three sticks, he/she does not receive a prize that day. Prizes are small tokens children can work toward. Examples of prizes include ONE sticker, ONE Skittle, or ONE M&M.

For additional information about our Behavior Policy, please see the Parent Handbook.

Separation

Separation can be very difficult for children and parents. To make the transition easier, we ask parents to make their departure as quickly as possible in the hallway. Wish your child a fun day and explain that you will return soon. The child will settle into the routine very quickly and will have a great time at school.



Can You Lend a Hand?

If you are ever interested in donating supplies to Noah's Ark Preschool, please see the "Can You Lend a Hand?" board to the left of the classroom doors!

Backpacks

Please have your child bring a backpack to school each day. Standard size backpacks work best.

All other supplies and snacks are provided by the preschool.

If you ever have payments or paperwork to turn in, please hand it to a teacher or place it in the blue payment box or tray on top of the lockers. **We do not go through the kids' backpacks, and they pack them independently at the end of the day.**



Screenings

With your permission, your child will have several screenings throughout the school year.

- Hearing
- Vision
- Speech
- Dental (4 & 5 year olds only)

Each screening is free!

Outdoor Area

Thanks to a GENEROUS donation from the Le Mars United Way, Noah's Ark Preschool has a brand new outdoor play area!

Resources

If at any time, your family experiences hardship and needs assistance, please understand that as early childhood educators, we have many connections with professionals and agencies that desire to help families in various ways.

Any information will be kept confidential.

A list of some available resources can be found on our website.

Pucclemars.com

Covid-19

Noah's Ark Preschool is licensed by the Department of Human Services. We will adhere to their guidelines concerning Covid-19.

At this time, wearing masks is optional. If you choose for your child to wear a mask to school, the teachers will do their best to assist the child in keeping the mask on correctly and keeping it clean. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to supply clean, intact masks. Children will remove their masks during snack time.

Noah's Ark Preschool reserves the right to change their Covid-19 procedures at any time, and parents/guardians will be notified of any changes.

Water Bottle

Please send a small water bottle (filled with water) with your child each day.