

Mrs. Preston's Polka Dots Frequently Asked Questions

What time should I bring my child?

Preschool is open from 8:05 to 8:30 for drop-off and sign in. Please park and enter through the double side doors, just to the left of the main doors of the school. You will walk your child to our class and sign in. Mrs. Hatcher will open the side doors at 8:00. After signing in, hand your child their backpack and lunch box at the door and allow them the joy of being responsible for their own things. Please exit through the door you entered. After 8:30, parents will need to park in the front parking lot, enter through the front doors of the school, sign in at the office, walk your child to our classroom and sign them in.

When is dismissal?

Mrs. Hatcher will open the side door at 12:25 for dismissal. Please park, then meet us inside at our classroom door for sign out and pick up. Our room is used for afterschool care, which means the time we have to prepare the room for your child the next day is brief. In addition, the hallways are congested with parents and children at that time of day. Please help us at dismissal by staying in the hall rather than coming into the classroom and exiting promptly. Please exit through the door you entered.

What if I need to come to school at other times?

For security reasons, our backdoor is always locked. During school hours parents are expected to enter the building through the front door of the school and sign in at the office before proceeding to the preschool wing.

We are a little nervous about drop off. Help!

We strongly encourage you to make drop off quick and simple. A quick hug and a kiss at the door is best. Long goodbyes only

make things harder for you both. If a child is feeling sad, my assistant and I have lots of experience with handling their emotions. Let us take care of it. We got it!

What about lunch?

We eat lunch at 10:30. You may put money into your child's lunch account if you wish for your child to buy a tray lunch at school. A link on our website or a visit to Ms. Cindy in the cafeteria will get you started. The cost is \$2.35. Your child may purchase milk or water to go with a packed lunch from home. The cost is \$0.60. Our assistant will help your child prepare their tray. If you send in a bag lunch, please heat items at home if possible and send to school in a thermos. I-can-open-it-by-myself containers please. No canned drinks. A large bottled water or Gatorade is too much for a preschooler to handle. Keep those at home please.

What about snacks?

We will have a light snack at the end of every day. To simplify, your child will be asked to bring in snack for the entire class once a month. A snack calendar will be sent home at the beginning of the month and will be posted on our website. **Healthy snacks please and clear liquids only**. Suggestions? Grapes, strawberries, cutie oranges, pretzels, cheese cubes, already popped popcorn, vanilla wafers, goldfish crackers, small boxes of raisins, individual pudding packs with graham crackers, cheez-its, granola bars, yogurt tubes, veggie straws. I will alert you to any allergies we may have in our class at the beginning of the year.

Do you have show and tell in preschool?

Yes! Your show and tell day will be the same as your snack day! Help your child be prepared to give the class three clues about their item. No expensive or breakable items please.

What are your thoughts on discipline?

In preschool, we redirect, redirect, redirect! If a child continues to make a bad choice, they will be asked to sit in the “think about it” spot for a few minutes. The teacher and child will have a brief conversation afterward to discuss making better choices. Repeated misbehavior will be communicated to parents as needed. In the event of a severe behavior incident, your child may be asked to spend time in Mrs. Hatcher's office.

At our center, we realize that childhood is a journey, not a destination, and that preschool is a place to learn about how to get along with others. We believe that discipline should be about guiding.

What do you do in preschool?

For lots of information about our daily schedule, our learning center objectives, links to our favorite authors, copies of the snack calendar and monthly newsletter, an updated sight word list, plus much more, I invite you to visit our class website:

www.lakeridgeeclc.weebly.com. Click on the Preston's Polka Dots link at the top of the page.

How can I help?

- Check the wishing tree posted outside the classroom door for items that we need for our classroom.
- Contribute your talents by sewing costumes for the dress-up center, making scented play-doh, or crafting something out of wood for our block center. See me for ideas.
- Sign up to help with class parties, field trips and special days like Field Day.

- Think of us when you're cleaning out your craft closet, your playroom, or even your garage. We LOVE gently used items and leftover parts and pieces!
- Turn in box tops for education to help raise money for our school.
- Communicate with us about your child's health, their needs, their joys, their concerns. We will do the same.
- Check your child's backpack daily for important news, snack calendars, stunning artwork and more!

What is the best way to reach you, Mrs. Preston?

I keep my cell phone near my desk every day. I check it at lunch for parent texts. You may reach me at 676-6032. Watch for important messages and friendly reminders via text from me as well. My e-mail is prestonk@jcschools.org. To call the school directly, you can reach Mrs. Hatcher at 610-6036. I am happy to conference with you. Let me know if you are ever interested.