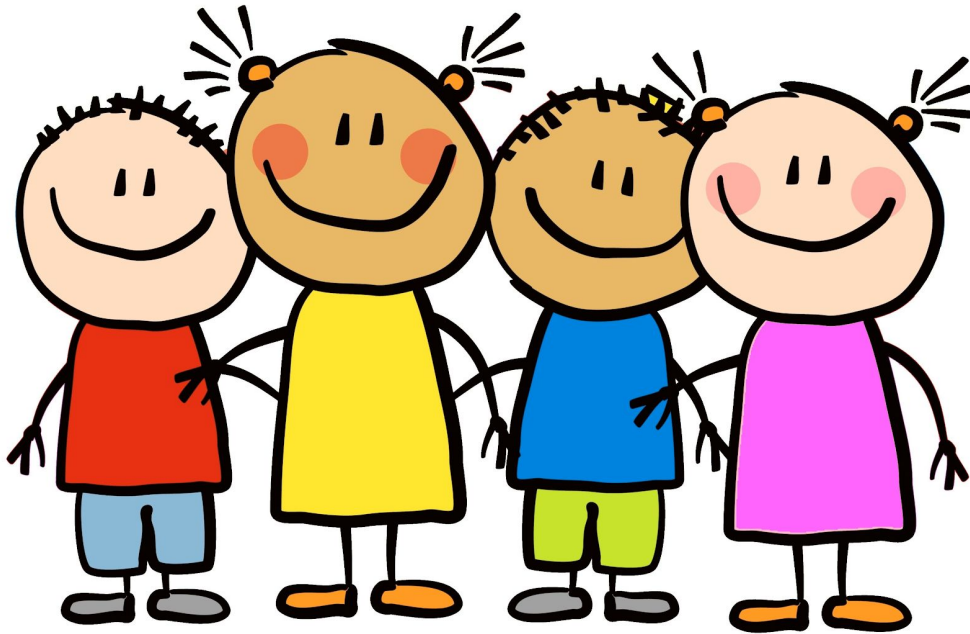


Wesclin CUSD #3  
Preschool For All  
Program Handbook



Welcome to Preschool  
2020-2021

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## Qualification

Your child has qualified for the Preschool For All (Pre-Kindergarten) Program by going through a screening process in the following areas:

1. Cognitive skills
2. Fine and gross motor skills
3. Speech and language skills
4. Social and emotional behavior
5. Vision and hearing
6. Home and health factors

Preschool for All is a free program for students who qualify. Wesclin currently offers 3 classrooms of 20 students each.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Wesclin Preschool for All Program is to initiate a program of learning experiences for three, four, and five year old children and their parents. Wesclin PFA will also provide remediation for any intellectual, social, or emotional deficits the child may exhibit in an effort to positively influence future academic and social/emotional success in school.

## School Dates and Times

The PreK program operates Monday through Friday on the Wesclin School District's calendar. PreK is not in attendance on district early dismissal days.

AM Class: 8:00 am - 10:30 am

PM Class: 11:45 am - 2:15 pm

## School Records

In order to attend PreK, your child must have the following documents on file at school:

1. Illinois School Physical must be completed within 30 days of enrollment
2. Birth Certificate - must be the original issues by the state, not the certificate with footprints from the hospital
3. Proof of Residency within Wesclin CUSD #3
4. Proof of Income

## Health Policy

- Do not send if your child **has a fever over 100 degrees**. Do not send until he/she has been free of fever for 24 hours **WITHOUT THE USE OF MEDICATION**, such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen.
- Do not send if your child is **vomiting or has diarrhea**. Do not send until your child has been vomit and diarrhea free for 24 hours.
- Do not send if your child has a **rash** of unexplained origin with accompanying symptoms (such as fever, headache, swollen glands), until he/she has been seen and diagnosed by a doctor.
- Do not send if your child has an **uncontrollable cough**, or is coughing up **yellow/green phlegm**, or has **shortness of breath**.
- Do not send if your child has been diagnosed with **strep throat** until he/she has been taking antibiotics for 24 hours.
- Do not send if your child has **pink or red eyes** that have **white or yellow drainage** and has accompanying symptoms (such as fever, headache, swollen glands), until he/she has been seen by a doctor and is cleared to return to school.
- Do not send if your child has **chicken pox** for a minimum of five days or until all pox are dry and scabbed over.
- Students who are excluded from school for lice or nits must be cleared by the district nurse or building principal prior to returning to school.

If your child becomes sick while at school, we will contact you immediately so that you can make arrangements to pick up your child.

## McKinney – Vento Homeless Education Program

If you are currently homeless and need information regarding enrolling in school and the services provided under the McKinney – Vento Act, please contact your school office to find out how to contact the district social worker. Assistance and support for homeless families includes: educational organizations and schools, food bank and meal programs, local service organizations, family shelters, medical services, and others.

## Transportation

If you are providing transportation for your child, it is important that your child is on time for the start of class and is picked up on time.

If your child is not going to be in attendance, please be sure to call the school office at 618-224-9411 to report the absence. Or you can notify the teacher if you know ahead of time. If you do not call about the absence, the school secretary will contact you to check on your child for safety reasons.

If someone will be picking up your child that is not authorized, please contact the teacher ahead of time.

## Bus Transportation

PreK busing is provided door-to-door when possible. Please be flexible with timing and understand that routes are more difficult to stay on an exact schedule when a bus is making 12 - 20 stops during the route.

Guidelines to ensure the best possible service and safety for our students:

- Parents need to have a consistent pick-up and drop-off point (Example: pick-up at home and drop-off at sitter).
- If a change is necessary, you must contact the school office in advance to set up the change at 618-224-9411.
- Please remember that any change in busing affects all of the other students riding that bus.
- Your bus driver will give you an approximate pick-up and drop-off time. Please be ready 10 minutes before pick-up time as routes can vary day-to-day. The driver is only allowed to wait a minimal amount of time before carrying on with the route.
- Your child must be dropped off with an adult. The driver will not leave your child at your front door or with a person that is not authorized ahead of time.
- If the parent or sitter is not home at time of drop-off, a second attempt will be made. If nobody answers at the second attempt, the child will be brought back to school and you will have to arrange to pick the child up from school.
- If your child is not going to ride the bus due to illness or other reasons, please contact the driver or the school office to let them know not to pick up the child that day.

## Field Trips

Field trips are a very important part of your child's education. In order to assure proper safety for the children, we would like to have one adult for every two children that attend the field trip. The adult attending does not have to be the parent or guardian, but does have to be a responsible adult over the age of 18 (grandparent, aunt/uncle, older sibling, close family friend).

During field trips, we ask that you make arrangements for your other children to stay at home. This is a special activity for you to participate with your prek child.

Busing will be provided for field trips. Students must ride the bus both ways. Parents are invited to ride the bus or drive their own cars.

You will receive a permission slip for each field trip that we plan. Please be sure to sign and return, indicating if your child will participate and how many adults will attend.

## Classroom Limits

We will use a consistent, positive behavior management plan in the classroom. The structure of classroom activities will encourage appropriate behavior. Positive reinforcement such as verbal praise, smiles, and stickers will be used. Our classroom limits are stated in a positive manner.

They are as follows:

- Use an inside voice
- Use walking feet
- Be a friend by using kind words and actions

Young children are eager to please and help each other follow the rules. Should disruptive behavior occur, the child would be removed from the activity for a period of 3-5 minutes, according to their age. During this time, the child would have an opportunity to calm down, watch successful play, and if necessary, listen to a positive statement of expectation from the teacher. Your child will be encouraged to talk about, and act out through role-play, feelings such as anger, sadness, etc. There are occasions where we may need to confer with you and perhaps other resource people to design a more specific plan for treating misbehavior. All discipline will be handled by the teaching staff.

## Expulsion and Suspension

It is the policy of the Wesclin CUSD#3 Preschool For All Program, and in compliance with the Illinois State Board of Education Early Childhood Block Grant, that no preschooler shall be expelled or suspended from preschool. When children are excluded from learning environments by being suspended or expelled, they miss valuable educational opportunities and are at a greater risk of disengagement and diminished educational opportunities. Our teachers and staff are trained and experienced in implementing a wide variety of positive behavior modification strategies to help each child have a successful preschool experience.

## Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged to participate in the following activities:

- Parent Teacher Conferences in October
- Be sure to keep your child's physical and immunizations up to date
- Read and respond to newsletters, teacher notes, phone calls, and social media updates
- Volunteer to work in your child's classroom
- Participate in Family Fun Days - typically held on mornings of district early dismissal days
- Parent Engagement Nights
- Meetings with teachers whenever needed to develop educational goals for your child and discuss progress
- Attend field trips

Tips for Parent Volunteers:

- Participate as requested by the teacher and children.
- Be a positive role model.
- Observe how the teacher interacts with the children and then move around the room and participate as you become more comfortable.
- Join in during music time, singing and clapping along with students.
- When interacting with children, get down on their level. Sit on the floor or at a table with them.
- Read books to children when they ask, if you are comfortable doing so.
- Provide children with opportunities to solve problems and settle disputes among themselves before jumping in and doing it for them.
- Assist children with coats and backpacks at dismissal.
- Play with the children during gross motor time.
- RELAX and enjoy yourself. We want this to be a pleasurable experience for your and your child.

## Supplies

Preschool For All is a state-funded grant program and all supplies are provided.

We only ask that your child bring:

- an extra change of clothes in case of bathroom accidents, spills, and art messes
- a small backpack (we will provide one if needed)
  - Please check your child's backpack every day. Important information will be sent home frequently and your child's success in school depends on your involvement. Please return any necessary papers in a timely manner.
  - Bringing toys and items from home is discouraged. These items will remain in your child's backpack during school. If your child needs to bring something during the first few weeks of school for a sense of security, please help us remind them that we will keep them in the bookbag during school.
- Pull-ups, diapers, and wipes if your child is not toilet trained

## Labels

Please label everything your child brings to school - jackets, coats, gloves, hats, scarves, backpacks, extra sets of clothing.

## Clothing - things to think about:

- Messy Supplies - During class we will be using markers, glue, paint, and many other messy ingredients. We do have art smocks, but washable play clothes are suggested for school.
- Weather - We do go outside whenever the weather is appropriate, so dress your child accordingly.
- Dresses - Please have your child wear shorts under any skirts and dresses. Children crawl, swing, climb, jump, and sit on the floor.
- Shoes - Tennis shoes are necessary for preschool. They are safer than flip-flops or sandals for practicing gross motor skills.
- Bathroom - Consider what your child can handle when using the restroom. Please don't send your child in clothing with buttons, buckles, zippers, snaps, and belts that are frustrating for them. We will help students learn these skills, but also want them to feel confident in their independence.



## Snacks

Your child will be provided daily with a nutritious snack and milk or water.

If you wish to send a special treat to celebrate your child's birthday, please contact your child's teacher in advance to set that up. Only store-bought items are allowed; no homemade snacks.

Be sure your child's teacher is aware of any food allergies your child may have.

## Progress Reports

Our PreK teachers use a program called Teaching Strategies Gold to keep track of student progress. Progress reports are available to parents in October, February, and May.

Parent / Teacher Conferences are officially held in October. Parents can request to meet with teachers at any other time during the school year to discuss student progress.

## Kindergarten Transition Plan

Kindergarten Registration Night is held at both New Baden Elementary and Trenton Elementary during the months of April/May. All preschool families are informed of the dates, times, and locations by flyer, email, newsletter, teacher app communication, newspaper, and community signs. Parents bring their future kindergarten child to this event. Parents fill out paperwork for registration while students go through three stations that help acclimate them to Kindergarten. They meet Kindergarten teachers and other building faculty while playing games and enjoying a snack.

Preschool teachers communicate with all district Kindergarten teachers about placement for the following year. Preschool teachers are able to share information about student progress and student relationships that is helpful for their success in Kindergarten.

In August, both New Baden Elementary and Trenton Elementary host Kindergarten Orientation Night. Parents learn important information from teachers about Kindergarten expectations. Students are able to socialize with each other through organized games and then will meet the teacher and explore the classroom in preparation for the first day of school.