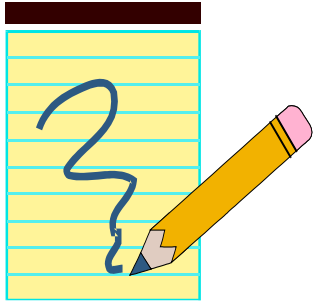




REDDING

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
(P.I.E.)

PRESCHOOL PARENT Handbook
2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR



CURRICULUM

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."
Chinese Proverb

The PIE preschool program curriculum is based on developmentally appropriate practices in accordance with the *Connecticut Preschool Benchmarks*. It is built on the belief that children learn by doing. The children are actively involved in exploration and discovery, with a hands-on approach to learning. The daily routines are highly structured, consistent, and predictable to maximize the learning potential of each child. During a typical day at the PIE preschool, there are small and large group lessons, art activities, sensory activities, music and movement activities, dramatic play, block building activities, and readiness activities. Every part of the preschool day is considered a "teachable moment." Therefore, learning happens throughout all activities, all day. Whether a child is seated at a teacher-directed lesson or cleaning up after playtime, learning is happening. When learning is meaningful and embedded in their daily experiences, children grow and develop. This year we will be using the *Creative Curriculum for Early Childhood* in conjunction with the *Connecticut Preschool Benchmarks*. This curriculum focuses on three major developmental areas encompassing a child's social-emotional, cognitive and physical needs.

Social-emotional development includes building a child's self-esteem, exhibiting a positive attitude toward life, and demonstrating cooperative pro-social behavior. Cognitive development involves acquiring learning and problem solving skills, expanding on logical thinking skills, and acquiring concepts and information leading to a fuller understanding of the immediate world. Physical development involves enhancing gross motor skills and fine motor development. Fine motor development includes enhancing eye-hand coordination and using small muscles with writing and drawing tools. Gross motor development focuses on large muscle movement such as running and jumping.

Preschool units of study include: Self-Concept, Community Helpers, Transportation, Animals, Science and Nature Study, Families, Nutrition, Holidays, Friendship, Feelings, and Seasons. Building social skills is a dynamic and challenging process at this age. As children move throughout their day, they learn to share, play cooperatively, negotiate and solve problems, and express their feelings in appropriate ways.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM HOURS

Preschool class hours are 8:20 to 1:20 daily. Hours for the PreK class are 8:10 - 12:40 on Mondays, short days meet from 8:10 - 1:20 and your child's long days are 8:10 - 2:40. Please be prompt with both dropping off your child in the morning and picking up your child in the afternoon. Changes in the daily routine can be disruptive to your child and others. If you are delayed at pick-up time, please call the Special Services office. Your child will be brought to the office to wait for you. You will have to enter the school through the Main Entrance and report to the security desk.

ABSENCES

***** NEW!!! *****

Please call the Safe Child Line at (203) 938-8567, then press #1 to inform us of your child's absence.

Please leave a message stating the reason for your child's absence or notify us if you will be tardy.

CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL

All school closings and delayed opening announcements in the event of inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances are broadcast on the following stations:

WLAD (AM 800)

WEZN (FM 99.9)

WTIC (AM 1080)

WVIT (Channel 30)

WINE/WRKI (AM 940/FM 95.1)

WICC (AM 600)

WMMM (AM 1260)

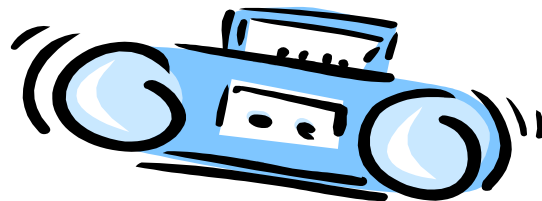
WTNH (Channel 8)

Cablevision (Channel 12)

In most cases, these stations will have information by 6:00 AM. Please do not call the school or the radio station, as phone lines must remain open.

School closing information can also be accessed at the er9.org website.

On days there is a delayed opening, the students should follow Redding Elementary School's delayed opening procedures of a 90-minute delay - the delay start time for Preschool is 9:50 AM. On days there is an early dismissal all RES students, including Preschool students will be dismissed at 12:40.



CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS/PARENT PARTICIPATION

The families of the children in our preschool are an integral part of the preschool program. There is an open-door policy at the preschool. We only ask that parents or other family members make visitation arrangements with one of the preschool staff at least a day before the anticipated visit. This communication will allow the staff to control the number of visitors that may be attending on any given day. The role a family member takes when he/she enters the classroom is up to them. Parents are welcome to sit back and observe, assist in a center activity, or facilitate a lesson based on a special talent or skill they possess. Best practice in education tells us that children reach their greatest potential when schools and families work together.

All visitors to the preschool must sign-in and sign-out at the main office and obtain a visitor's pass before going to their child's classroom. Exterior doors will be locked during the school day. Access to the building will be via the main entrance by the main office only.

CLOTHES

We encourage children to explore, create, and experience learning through a variety of activities. Please keep this in mind when you dress your child for school. Some projects can be messy!

Children will play outdoors for recess whenever possible. Please be sure they are dressed appropriately for each season. Please dress your child in sneakers or shoes - **NO** flip-flops or sandals! In the winter, boots, snow pants, hats, and gloves are necessary.

Please label all of your child's belongings, i.e. coats, jackets, hats, sweaters, etc.

It is important to provide an extra set of clothing to be left at school for your child. Bathroom accidents and spills can occur during the day, which would require your child to change outfits. The clothes will be returned at the end of the school year. You may wish to change the set of "extra clothes" to coincide with the season. The extra clothes can either be kept in your child's backpack or in the classroom. The classroom teacher will coordinate this process with parents.

If your child is still in diapers or pull-ups, please provide the diapers, pull-ups and wipes. We will assist and encourage potty training. Please dress your child in clothing that can help him or her be as self-sufficient as possible, especially for "bathrooming". Clothing that is easy to pull up and down is best.

Preschool Staff 2011-2012

Administration

Brian Farrell - Director of Special Services

Cheryl Freeston - Supervisor of Special Services

Teachers

Susanne Karl

Assistants: Shannon Cormier
Ann Masciarelli

Kristina Weihing - Special Education Teacher

Melissa Feige - Long Term Substitute

Assistants: Darlene Rovegno
Karen Bellino

Laura Santos - Special Education Teacher

Assistants: Eileen Lalor
Sophronia Kelly

Support Staff

Adelia Eddy - Speech Pathologist

Dana Montefusco - Speech Pathologist

Debbie Grockowski - Occupational Therapist

Sammi Gureasko-Moore - School Psychologist

Kristin Miller - School Social Worker

Pat Kowalinski - Physical Therapy

Colleen McLeod - School Nurse

Jodi Mazaleski - Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Just Playing

(Original Author Unknown)

When I'm building in the block room.
Please don't say I'm "Just Playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play,
About balance, I may be an architect someday.

When I'm getting all dressed up.
Setting the table, caring for the babies,
Don't get the idea I'm "Just Playing."
I may be a mother or father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint,
Or standing at an easel, or molding and shaping clay,
Please don't let me hear you say, "He is Just Playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I just might be a teacher someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or some "playing" at my school,
Please don't feel the time is wasted in "play."
For you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate.
I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,
Please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is "Just Play."
I'm learning to follow directions and see the differences.
I may be a cook someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run and move my body,
Please don't say I'm "Just Playing."
For, you see, I'm learning how my body works.
I may be a doctor, nurse, or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school today,
And I say, "I just played."
Please don't misunderstand me.
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work.
I'm preparing for tomorrow.

Today, I am a child and my work is play.

Philosophy Statement

In the Redding Partners In Education (PIE) Preschool Program, we believe that a developmentally appropriate, play-based preschool classroom can be adapted to meet the needs of all children. Our preschool is a fun and happy place to which children, parents and staff members look forward to coming. Our preschool is a healthy and safe environment. We believe in the benefits of educational inclusion for all children.

Preschool is the foundation for future learning. Teaching starts with the child's interests and builds from there. In our preschool, we teach skills that are functional, developmentally appropriate and can be generalized across settings. A rich preschool environment promotes spontaneous communication, social interaction, and cognitive and physical development.

Our teaching approach is flexible and encompasses a wide variety of educational strategies. Learning occurs in one-to-one, small group and large group instructional settings. Decisions about teaching strategies, locations and structures are data-based and use input from all team members. We work together in a respectful way to establish, goals, settings and strategies for each child.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

"Children need limits with independence, roots, and wings."

Thomas Lickona

Program History

The PIE Preschool program was initiated to support students between the ages of 3- and 5-years with identified special education needs. Later the program adopted a reverse mainstreaming philosophy, which included children with and without identified disabilities. In accordance with current research relating to best practice in early childhood education and special education, the Redding Public Schools implemented a fully inclusive model in the year 2000. We strive to maintain the best possible ratio of typically developing students to students with special needs. The benefits for all children are wonderful! Together, children learn and grow, each sharing their unique talents and qualities as children first and foremost.

Program Design

The preschool classes are staffed by certified special education teachers, certified early childhood educators, and paraprofessionals. In conjunction with these staff, a speech and language pathologist (SLP), occupational therapist (OT), school psychologist, social worker, and physical therapist (PT) work with students in and out of the classroom.

An SLP works both within the classroom setting as well as within small groups outside the classroom with children who need assistance with expressive, receptive, and social pragmatic language skills. The SLP focuses on facilitating peer interactions, language stimulation, increasing play skills, and improving oral-motor skills.

OT and PT are related services for students who are eligible for special education, ages 3 through 21 who require "developmental, corrective, and other supportive services to benefit from special education."

In addition, through consultation with the PreK teachers, the OT and PT support the development of fine motor, gross motor and sensory processing skills of all students.

Guidelines/Policies

Selection Procedures

Students with special education needs are placed first in accordance with their individualized educational plans (IEP).

Tuition Students: Tuition students are selected by lottery in January for the upcoming school year. Number of placements vary from year to year pending anticipated enrollment of students with special needs, returning students and siblings. Requests for number of days per week are honored when possible as space permits.

Policy for returning students: Parents are provided a request form for desired number of days, ranking preferences from highest to lowest. Again, requests are honored as possible, but not guaranteed.

Siblings: Siblings of students currently enrolled in the preschool program or of former PIE students in kindergarten are eligible for 40% of the available spaces. If the number of siblings exceeds the 40% of available spaces, a sibling lottery will be held. If a child is not selected through the sibling lottery, he or she will not be eligible for the general lottery.

New students must be 3-years old by October 15 of the upcoming school year. We accept children who are ages 3- or 4-years. At the discretion of the classroom teacher and/or the PPT, a child may be recommended for an additional year in the preschool program. However, it is our expectation that students eligible for kindergarten will be transitioning to kindergarten with their peers.

Health Policy

The school nurse will notify parents when a child's temperature is 100 degrees or more, so they can pick up their child. Students must remain home until they are fever free (normal temperature) without Tylenol for 24-hours prior to their return to school. Due to the age of children, if vomiting and/or diarrhea occur, the school nurse will contact parents and

strongly recommend that their child be picked up at school and remain home until they are symptom free for 24-hours. If your child has special health care needs, please notify the school nurse. Please refer to the school health policy available on the RES website.

Tuition

Tuition rates for two-, three- and five-day programs are established annually by the Redding Board of Education. Tuition increases generally correspond with increases in the Redding Public Schools budget.

Summer Program

Our summer program is a 5-week program, typically running Monday through Thursday from 9AM to 12PM. A limited number of spaces for our existing students are usually available. A separate application for these spaces will be distributed in April. If there are more applicants than available spaces, a lottery will be held. Tuition increases will correspond with increases in the Redding Public Schools budget.

Student Pick-Up

If someone other than a parent will be picking up your child, a written note from the parent is necessary and should be given to the classroom teacher at morning drop-off.

Please do NOT call the office during the day with changes.

If someone else will routinely be picking up your child, please provide written authorization in the form of a permanent note to your child's teacher.