

Pioneer Preschool Parent Handbook



Pioneer Preschool

27 Ryan Road, Shelby, OH 44875

Telephone: 419-342-1101

Website - <https://www.pctc.k12.oh.us/>



A.M. and P.M PRESCHOOL Lead Teacher
Ms. Roberts 419-342-1101 Ext. 42601

Preschool Parent Coordinator
Ellen Zaebst 419-342-1101 Ext. 42600

Junior and Senior Instructor
Ms. Meisse 419-347-7744 Ext. 42761

Updated August 2023

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Program Philosophy

Early Childhood Education

The Preschool program at Pioneer Career and Technology Center is planned with a curriculum emphasizing the physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development of the child as he or she passes through predictable and sequential stages of development. The name of our curriculum is “Creative Curriculum.”

Child-directed, teacher-supported exploration and learning experiences are designed so that each child can construct knowledge at his or her own developmental level and pace. His or her needs, interests, and abilities are met through active and quiet play.

The program promotes kindness, curiosity, cooperation, resourcefulness, affection, and joy to the children of various ages, races, creeds, and socio-economic backgrounds.

The program emphasizes the importance of safety for all children. Children need to feel safe and secure in their environment.

Integrated programming allows all children, typically developing and children with disabilities, to gain a broader perspective of the real world. Children engage in a variety of opportunities and experiences as they interact with peers in the environment.

Parents are considered an integral part of the learning experience. They are encouraged to be active participants in their child’s educational program.

An appraisal of each child’s progress will be implemented so that individual needs can be addressed and an intervention can be provided when necessary.

Goals and Purposes

The program is structured to provide the guidance necessary to assist each child in developing:

1. Independence, creativity, self-reliance, and self-control.
2. Freedom in experimenting with and using equipment and materials designed for each child’s developmental needs.
3. Social relationships such as sharing and respecting rights and properties of others.
4. Awareness and curiosity of themselves, their family, and their relationship in the world through planned activities and experiences.
5. An appreciation of self and others.
6. Respect of adult relationships outside the immediate family.
7. A variety of experiences in art, music, literature, science, social studies, math, sign language, language arts, and Spanish as appropriate for each child’s developmental progress.
8. A growing vocabulary.
9. Satisfactory and acceptable ways to cope with fears and anxieties.
10. Increased motor coordination of large and small muscles.

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Vision Statement

The Pioneer Preschool and Childcare staff strives to inspire curiosity, independence and a life-long love of learning to help children become members of our community and the world. We will provide a nurturing and play-based environment that fosters all aspects of children's growth and development including problem-solving skills, empathy and respect, independence, language, social development, self-esteem and confidence.

Mission Statement

Our mission at Pioneer Preschool and Childcare is to empower children by offering them opportunities to make good decisions and solve problems in a developmentally appropriate environment which fosters individual needs. By offering an integrated curriculum, it is our goal that each child will develop a positive outlook towards school, a better appreciation of the world around them and acquire a life-long love for learning.



Discrimination Clause

It is unlawful for Pioneer to discriminate in the enrollment of children upon the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Pioneer Preschool and Childcare Fee Policy

Preschool Morning Class

Teacher: Ms. Roberts Jr. /Sr. Instructor: Ms. Meisse
8:30-11:10 A.M.

Pick-up time is 11:00

5 days per week with snack
\$100.00 per month

Preschool Afternoon Class

Teacher: Ms. Roberts Jr. /Sr. Instructor: Ms. Meisse
11:45-2:25 P.M.

Pick-up time is 2:15

5 days per week with snack
\$100.00 per month

Financial Assistance will be available to those who qualify.

Must be 4 years of age on or before October 1st to be eligible for financial assistance

Preschool All Day

(Offered to Pioneer Employees)

All Day Preschool 7:30-3:30pm \$300 a month

Breakfast, Lunch and Snack will be provided to all day preschoolers.

****All preschool children must enroll 5 days per week.***

****All preschool children must be potty trained***

****All preschool children must be 3 yrs. old on or before
August 1 and not eligible for kindergarten***

****Note:*** A non-refundable registration fee of \$10.00 per child will be required of all Preschool, Infant and Toddler parent at time of registration. If registration fee is not collected at registration, it will be added to the parent's first month's bill.

The registration fee will be waived for families that are at 100% grant assistance (preschool only).

Discounts Available:

2nd sibling- 10% Discount on the total bill per family

3rd sibling or more- 15% Discount max on the total bill per family

(Cannot be combined with any other discounts)

These discounts apply to the Infant, Toddler and Preschool Classes.

Payment Policy

All families will be billed once a month. Families will receive a bill on the first day we are in session for the month. The bill is to be paid in full by the tenth of every month.

This policy is to include Co-Payment families (Job and Family Services) and (Grant Assistance), and Self Pay or Full Pay parents. **If your payment is not received prior to the 20th of the month, there will be a late fee of \$30 applied to your next month's bill and your bill will be submitted to the board office for collections.**

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Note: If you have multiple children in our center, those families will be billed under one account. Therefore your invoice will show the balance of all children. We will not split up payments and specify which child your payment will go on, as the whole bill must be paid by the tenth of every month. **If your payment is not received prior to the 20th of the month, there will be a late fee of \$30 applied to your next month's bill and your bill will be submitted to the board office for collections.**

Job and Family Services Payments: If you are receiving Job and Family Services and your child reaches the maximum number of allotted absences and goes over the allotted 10 days in a specific billing period, the parent will be billed the rate per day until the next cycle of allotted absences begins.

Last Month Billing for the School Year

With the month of May being our last official billing month of the school year, I want to remind all parents that you will be billed for the entire month. You are more than welcome to have your child here until the last day we are open for the school year. In the event that you choose to withdrawal prior to the last day of the last month, please be advised that you will still be billed for the entire month. All bills are due prior to your child's last day. For example, if you choose to have your child's last day be May 12 for example then your entire bill will be due on or before your child's last day. In the event that your financial obligations are not met prior to your child's last day, your remaining balance will be turned over to the board office for collections.

Payment Schedule

All payments are due the tenth of every month. We accept check, money order, credit, or debit. You may also call into the distribution center at Pioneer to make a credit or debit payment at 419 347-7744 ext 42931. Please tell them your child is a preschooler and how much you owe. If you pay your payment by check or money order and bring it into the center, your payment should be placed in a sealed envelope with your child's name and should be placed in the yellow payment box by the preschool entrance. **Please do not leave payments in your child's folder or hand your child's payment to a high school student or their teacher.** All checks and money orders should be made payable to "Pioneer." You may pay in advance if you wish. If your check is returned for nonsufficient funds, your account will be debited electronically for both face amount and returned check fee (\$30).

PLEASE KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS FOR TAX PURPOSES!
Our Tax I.D. is 34-097-1791.

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Enrollment, Placement and Attendance Policy

Registration

Parents may register their child by calling or e-mailing the center Director. There are different options regarding tuition, therefore the director will speak with you regarding your options and which option best fits your family. A child entering Pioneer Preschool must be three years of age on or before August 1st of the school. Our preschool program operates on a grant from the Ohio Department of Education. Financial assistance is available to families whose child is 4 years old by October 1st and meet the income eligibility requirements. Income eligibility is based upon our centers sliding scale fee schedule. Pioneer Preschool also partners with Ohio Jobs and Family Services to provide families with possible financial assistance which is also based upon income. All spots are based upon a first come first serve basis. In order to hold a spot or enroll a child, the child must meet all the eligibility requirements in order to be given a spot in the program.

Enrollment

Pioneer Preschool and Childcare is a licensed Ohio Department of Education center. All children must have a current application (done annually) and copy of their birth certificate. Additionally, all children 6 weeks – preschool are also required to have on file an updated physical (done annually), and immunization record. **If a child starts the year with an existing physical, an updated one must be received within 13 months from the date on the current physical in order for the child to be in attendance at school.** Every child must have a current immunization record on file. Below is a list of required paperwork that must be submitted to the center prior to your child's first day of enrollment.

Admission Documents

A Non-refundable registration fee of \$10.00 is required when you sign your child up for preschool. All paper work listed below must be filled out and provided on or before your child's first day and be kept up-to-date for your child to remain enrolled in our center. A mandatory parent meeting is required before your child's first day.

- *Application *Eligibility Screening Tool *Emergency Medical/Grant Consent
- * Parent Interest Survey *Physical Form *Child's Individual Goal Sheet
- *Pickup Authorization/Center Roster/Photo Release
- *Application for Financial Assistance *A copy of your child's actual birth certificate
- *Permit For Screening/In-House Field Trip Permit
- *A copy of your child's immunization records *Documentation of Receipt of Policies

If there is any change in your address, phone number or any other information, please provide us with your new information.

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Absences and Scheduled Days

You must pay for all scheduled days. If your child is absent for any reason, you will be charged for those days. There will be **No credits for holidays, weather related delays, snow days, days your child is absent, or days the center is closed** due to the fact that rates have been calculated into the monthly rate.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is a critical factor in the success of your child's early childhood experience. The program reserves the right to terminate early childhood services based on the unsatisfactory attendance record of any student. A child will lose his/her spot if he/she is absent 5 consecutive days without notifying the Lead Teacher. If your child is absent 5 days consecutively and the preschool staff have contacted you at least twice with no response, a letter will be sent to the child's home address stating the child has been withdrawal from the program. If a child has chronic absences and the director has contacted the parents to discuss attendance and a child continues to have chronic absences, the director will inform parents in writing that the child has been withdrawn from the program. The only exception is if prior arrangements are made with the Director and payment has been made. If your child will be absent, **please call the attendance call off line at 419-342-1101 and press the number for your child's classroom teacher** to let us know your child will be absent for the day and a reason is always appreciated. We will not keep a child on our roster that does not attend the center weekly.

Withdrawal Procedure

Parents wishing to withdraw their child(ren) may do so at any time. A one week notice, in writing is appreciated and a withdrawal form is required. All payment obligations must be paid in full prior to your child's last day. In the event that your financial obligations are not met, your remaining balance will be turned over to the board office for collections.

Late Pick-Up Procedure

There will be a late pick up fee of \$10.00 per every half hour. This fee applies to any fraction of the half hour. Any morning child departing after 11:10 A.M. will be charged. Any afternoon child departing after 2:25 P.M. will be charged. Any all day student picked up after 3:30pm will be charged.

Children's Records

****All records must be kept up-to-date according to ODE standards.**

The children's records shall be confidential to anyone outside the Early Childhood area.

1. The immunization records of the center shall be subject to review by a health department representative for disease outbreak purposes. The immunization record for each child shall be maintained in a format that requires recording the specific day, month, and year of each dose of each vaccine that has been received.

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2. Information shall be reviewed and updated by the parent or guardian as needed.

Staff/ Child Ratio Requirements

The Early Childhood program shall provide staff members or ECE students to give care and supervision to children. There shall be at least one staff member or student caring for:

1. every 8 preschool children ages 30 months-3 years
2. every 12 preschool children (3 years old).
3. every 14 preschool children (4 or 5 years old).

Custody Agreements

If there is custody issues involved with your child, you must provide the center with court papers indicating who has permission to pick up the child. The center may not deny a parent access to their child without proper documentation.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS).

We encourage positive behavior and work on “Catching kids doing well.” PBIS is a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes in school communities while preventing problem behavior. The key attributes of PBIS include preventive activities, data-based decision making, and a problem solving orientation. Pioneer Preschool and Childcare recognizes the necessity of creating an atmosphere that is conducive to the individual child’s development and achievement. The program encourages the respect for the dignity of each individual. The tone of discipline shall be positive and founded upon the purposeful development of self-discipline. Positive redirection will be used daily to handle difficult situations.

Varied behavior problems require differing methods of disciplinary action. Staff members will strive at all times to employ the techniques of developmental self-discipline. A child who is disturbing others may be re-directed by a staff member to involvement in another activity. If it becomes necessary, a disruptive child may be separated from the group. A staff member will discuss with the child acceptable group behavior and the reason for the child’s temporary exclusion from the group. The child will be welcomed back into the group when he/she feels ready to maintain acceptable group behavior.

The center will not employ corporal punishment, physical restraints, or unattended isolation from the classroom as disciplinary techniques. No disciplinary action by design will mentally harass, humiliate, frighten, or shame a child. At no time will a child be disciplined for failure to eat or toileting accidents.

Non-compliant behavior will be dealt with and redirecting or the “better-choice” strategies will be used. Parents will be contacted for a meeting and a plan of action will be devised. The Catalysts Life Center of Mansfield or another agency will be utilized as a resource if necessary and services will be created for the child and family if necessary. Teachers are taught and encouraged to use positive guidance techniques when speaking to the children.

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Pick-Up and Drop-Off Procedures

Release of Child from the Center

In order for a child to be released from Pioneer Preschool to any person including parents, persons must be on the Pick-up Authorization form. Please ask a staff member if you need to add someone to your pick up form.

You will need to list: child's name, date, name, address, and phone number of person taking the child, relationship of this person to the child (friend or relative) and signature authorizing the center to release your child to this person.

***Anyone other than the parent must be 18yrs of age to pick up**

***Phone calls or written notes for transportation changes will not be accepted**

If you do not provide this information, we will not release your child until we receive some type of permission from you. You will be required to bring your child into the preschool classroom each day for drop off and pick up.

PIN Numbers

Each person you list on your child's pick-up form will have a PIN number that he/she will use to electronically sign your child in and out for the day. The staff may not give out your PIN number to another person on the list. PIN numbers can be found on the Procare app and should be given to the pickup persons by the parent. The person picking up must know their PIN number when coming to pick-up. Please be sure to also carry your ID with you at all times. Please do not share your PIN number as each person must use their own PIN number.

The electronically sign in/sign out procedure is a legal document and needs to contain complete names and times. **It is not permitted for you to sign your child in and out at the same time you sign your child in.**

Staff will check ID's of anyone they do not recognize. Please let people know about this ahead of time so they bring a picture ID and they are not offended. Staff will not release children to anyone, including parents, who appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Emergency contacts will be called to transport the child home. Police will be notified if necessary.

Parking

The ECE parking lot is used for dropping off and picking up children only. There are designated parking areas along the grass and playground gate marked for parents picking up/dropping off their children. Please be sure to use these spaces, as preschool drop off/pick up times can be very hectic in the parking lot. Please close the gate when entering and exiting the center for the safety of the children. **Please go slow when entering and exiting the drop off/pick-up area. Also you must have a valid handicap sticker visible in your car in order to park in the marked handicap places.**

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Open Door Policy

We have an open door policy as required by ODE licensure regulation. However, when observing, please use the observation room (located in the foyer). Please make an appointment to meet with our parent coordinator or the director if you feel that is necessary. To have discussions with the director during preschool time, the focus needs to be maintained on the education of your child and their classmates. Ms. Roberts can be reached by phone, extension 42601. You may need to leave a message on the voice mail. Your call is important, but extended conversation cannot take place during preschool time. Parents of preschool children are encouraged to observe their child in the preschool setting. A twenty-four hour notice of intent to observe is requested because of the small size, but not required.

Outdoor Policy

The Early Childhood program shall include in its daily schedule, an outdoor play period for children. Children will be taken outside as long as the temperature and/or wind chill is above 25 degrees F and at or below 90 degrees and at the discretion of the staff. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. Children will remain inside during inclement weather. Children will be asked to wear coats/jackets according to the discretion of the staff. Infants will be taken out at the discretion of the staff.

Snow Day Policy

Pioneer preschool program will be open unless you hear that Pioneer is closed as announced on the radio. Please listen to WMFD for weather information.

If Pioneer is on a delay, there will be no morning preschool. PM preschool will operate on normal time unless Pioneer closes for the day.

All day students will be permitted to arrive at 9:30am on a delay (this is only to Pioneer employees children)

Dress Code Policy

Shoes should fit securely on your child's feet. **Flip-flops, shoes with no backs to them, open toe, and sandal shoes are not permitted. Boots are not considered safe playground shoes. Tennis shoes are the best! This is for your child's safety on the playground and in the classroom.** For the safety of your child, please refrain from allowing your child to wear hoop earrings at school. Please dress your child comfortably as they will be playing in paint, water, and outside activities. We ask that girls wear shorts under any skirt or dress.

Parent Conferences

A pre-conference will be conducted by the parent coordinator if requested by the parent.

A minimum of two parent conferences with an Early Childhood staff member will be offered each school year. We will contact you to set up an appointment during conference time. The parent teacher conferences are optional.

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Transportation and Field Trips

The safety plan for transportation of children by vehicle away from the center on field trips, special outings, or routine trips is as follows:

- A. All children must wear their preschool t-shirts for all field trips.
- B. Staff members are present at all times to meet the adult/child ratio.
- C. A staff member trained in First Aid will be available on each trip.
- D. An approved First Aid Kit will be available on each trip.
- E. Emergency medical forms for each child will be taken.
- F. A class roster will be taken and attendance checked as children board the bus to and returning from field trips.
- G. Parents must sign a Field Trip Permit form prior to each field trip.

Field Trip Information

Preschool field trip t-shirts are our identification on field trips and must be worn in order for your child to attend a field trip. These shirts will be given out on the first field trip day. Dates of trips will be in your monthly newsletters.

As you know, we are a training facility for high school students. One of the areas of training for the high school students is procedures for field trips. We want our high school students to be well trained in field trip procedures as they enter the work force and go on to teach in the Early Childhood field. Due to the vast number of high school students attending the field trips with us, parent participation on field trips will be at the discretion of the staff for example medical or individual needs that a child may require.

We encourage parents to allow their child to go with the ECE staff and students so that the high school students are given that learning opportunity and your child has the opportunity to engage in all the things the other children are involved in such as riding the bus, having a high school partner just like their friends and exploring with their preschool friends. If you decide you don't want your child to attend the field trip, other arrangements will need to be made for your child's school day as the center will not be open and the trip is considered your child's school day. Throughout the school year, Pioneer Preschool welcomes your involvement in your child's education and we have many events where parents can engage in their child's learning! We are excited and look forward to seeing you at these events.

We encourage you to visit our classroom, and observe all of your child's artwork. We encourage the children to take ownership of their space, and they would love to share it with you. This is an excellent opportunity for you to talk with the staff and to see what great activities your child has been doing!



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Referrals

Pioneer Preschool and Childcare provides on-going screenings and assessments for every child in the infant, toddler, and preschool program. Based on the results of the screenings and/or assessments, your child may be referred to Help Me Grow (2 years and under), or the school district (PreK) in which you currently reside for further screenings and/or assessments. Infant, Toddler and Preschool families will receive an IDEA booklet that will provide you with additional information regarding these services.

Snacks

The center shall serve each AM and PM child in attendance a snack which provides nutritional value. A “nutritious snack” means a snack which contains at least two foods from one of the four basic food groups. Parents do not need to bring in snacks. Pioneer will provide all snacks.

Breakfast and Lunch

The center will serve a grade “A” lunch which consists of at least one half of the child's recommended daily dietary allowances from the Pioneer cafeteria each day for the children enrolled in all day care only (pioneer employees children only). Each classroom will have their time slot for mealtimes. It is the responsibility of the parents to have their child here prior to the end of each mealtime. Current menus of the entire month will be sent home. The food prepared shall be in the quantities reflecting the developmental stage of the child and the recommendation of Pioneer’s nutritionist and the USDA nutritional standards. Food preparation records are maintained by the center. One supplement is served each day-this consists of juice or milk, fruit or vegetable, cheese or bread product. In case of special diets where an entire food group needs to be eliminated for a child, parents need to provide a doctor's statement, and /or a written waiver indicating the special needs for a menu adjustment.

Halloween

Please dress your child in an appropriate Halloween costume. **No masks or face paint.** We will “trick or treat” throughout the school building. Trick or treating will not take place during the week of high school OGT testing.

Christmas

Your child will be participating in a Christmas program. All family members and friends are invited to attend. The Christmas program will be held in December and more information will follow later in the school year.

Birthdays

If you want to bring in something for your child’s birthday, please call or talk to the teacher ahead of time to make arrangements with your child’s teacher. Please, **no candy, gum, or suckers!** We encourage you to provide healthy snacks! You must adhere to the class allergies and please do not provide items that a class student may have an allergy to. You will need to send enough treats to cover the preschoolers and you may include high

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school students if you wish. Please see Ms. Roberts for the appropriate number of snacks. **All snacks/food brought into the center for a birthday or holiday celebration must be store bought and pre-packaged. No home-made goodies will be accepted.**

Personal invitations to any party should be mailed. Please do not send invitations to school for your child to pass out unless you are inviting all of the preschool children. Mailing invitations eliminates hurt feelings for those that are not invited. Also please refrain from making play date plans/arrangements in the center at pick up/drop off time. Please make these arrangements outside the school day. This eliminates hurt feelings.

Cell Phone Use Policy

Cell phone use is not permitted in the Pioneer Early Childhood Education Center (including the playground). Parents, please complete your calls before entering the center or wait until you have exited the center. To protect the privacy of all our children, this policy also includes taking pictures. Pictures can only be taken of your own child and no other child should be in the background of your picture. Please note that Pioneer cannot be responsible for pictures families take at special events such as parent events, Christmas program, Thanksgiving events, graduation and other special events. Pioneer is not responsible for the pictures that families post on social media.

Emergency Procedures

Tornado Drill Procedures

Pioneer is required to have tornado drills during tornado season. During such drills, preschoolers will be directed to a designated area. They will be instructed to sit and cover their heads. They will remain there quietly until the “all clear” signal is given.

Fire Drill Procedures

Pioneer is required to have regular fire drills. Preschoolers will be escorted by Pioneer staff and students to the grass line across the parking lot directly in back of the playground area. They will return upon the “all clear” signal. Fire drill procedures and exit routes are posted on the wall in the preschool room.

Safety Care Plan

In the event of a needed evacuation from the ECE lab where it is not necessary for the whole school to evacuate the building, we have a safety plan in place. This plan allows us to evacuate the lab to another lab in the building or to the playground until our lab can be assessed and determined safe for the children to re-enter the lab. All staff and students are trained on all emergency procedures.

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What If I am picking up/dropping off during a drill?

In the event that you come to pick-up your child or drop-off your child and the center is dark, please remain in your car until further instructions as a safety drill may be taking place. In the event that you're picking up or dropping off during a fire drill, you'll need to participate and follow the procedures as all others are for the drill.



Safety of Children

1. Early Childhood staff members shall be responsible for the safety of the children.
2. Pioneer's safety policy includes the following regulations:
 - A. No child shall be left alone or unsupervised.
 - B. There will be immediate access at all times to a working telephone.
 - C. A fire emergency and weather alert plan is made known to the teachers. The plan shall include a diagram showing evacuation routes which are posted on the wall in each room.
 - D. A tornado drill, during tornado season, shall be held in accordance with the Pioneer schedule.
 - E. A child care staff member shall immediately notify the administrator of the center who in turn would notify the local public children's services agency when the child care staff member suspects that a child has been abused or neglected.
 - F. When an accident or injury occurs the center shall complete an incident report and send it to the parent the same day as the accident or injury.
 - G. The use of aerosols shall be prohibited when children are in attendance at the center.

Children must stay with ECE staff members for all drills

First Aid, Communicable Disease, Child Abuse

All of the Preschool and Childcare staff has been trained in American Red Cross First Aid and CPR; in prevention, recognition, and management of communicable diseases; and in recognition of child abuse, which are approved by the State Department of Health and the State Department of Education. All staff members are required to update these as certifications expire as.

A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be immediately isolated from other children and parents called to pick-up. Decisions regarding whether the child should be discharged immediately or at some other time during the day shall be determined by the director and the parent or guardian. The child, while isolated at the program, shall be carefully watched for symptoms of this rule as well as the following:

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Please do not send your child to school if he/she displays any of the following symptoms:

1. Diarrhea (3 or more abnormally loose stool within a twenty-four hour period.)
2. Severe coughing, causing the child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound.
3. Difficult or rapid breathing.
4. Yellowish skin or eyes.
5. Redness of the eye or eyelid, thick and purulent (pus) eye discharge, matted eyelashes, burning, itching or eye pain;
6. Temperature of one hundred degrees Fahrenheit taken by auxiliary (arm pit) method when in combination with any other sign of illness.
7. Untreated infected skin patch(es).
8. Unusually dark urine and/or grey or white stool.
9. Stiff neck with an elevated temperature; or
10. Evidence of untreated lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestation
11. Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
12. Vomiting more than one time or when accompanied by any other sign or symptom of illness.



Policy of Management of Communicable Disease

A child shall not return to the center until being symptom-free for a 24-hour period.

A child will be readmitted to the Center after the 24 hour period if he/she obtains written permission from a physician or if the Child Care staff observes no signs of a communicable disease. Your child is expected to participate in all school activities including all outside trips and activities. Parents will be informed of possible exposure to communicable diseases through an individual memo sent home with each child. The school nurse will also be available for the preschool children.

***If a child is sent home for any reason from school at any time during the school day, the child must be out of school the next day for the complete school day.** It is important to always have a back-up babysitter in place in the event that these situations may arise.

*Please report any important communicable diseases such as chicken pox, strep, lice, etc. It is not necessary to report colds. If your child will be absent, please call the preschool parent coordinator or lead teacher to let us know your child will be absent for the day and a reason is always appreciated.

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Medical and Dental Emergency Plan

- A. First Aid kits are located in the Preschool, Infant and Toddler rooms. The kits are clearly marked with a red cross.
- B. Emergency telephone numbers for the fire department, hospital, poison control center, Children Protection Agency, sheriff department, and emergency squad are located next to each telephone.
- C. Each child's medical record is located in the office. Each teacher will be informed of children who possess special health needs.
- D. The name and phone number of the child's dentist is kept in his/her folder in the office.
- E. Medical and Dental Emergency plans are posted in the Child Care hallway and beside the preschool entrance door.

Families Receiving Medicaid

Pioneer Preschool and Childcare is a licensed ODE childcare and Preschool program. We are required to provide all families with Medicaid information regarding early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment. Attached to your enrollment application will contain a handout with this information.

Policy Regarding Isolation

A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be immediately isolated from other children. Decisions regarding parent pick-up shall be determined by the preschool and childcare staff. The child, while isolated at the center, shall be carefully watched for symptoms.

- 1. Unusual spots or rashes
- 2. Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing
- 3. Elevated temperature
- 4. Vomiting
- 5. Evidence of lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestation

The Pioneer Early Childhood Center follows the Ohio Department of Health "Child Day Care Communicable Disease Chart" for appropriate management of suspected illnesses. The chart is posted on the wall.

A child isolated due to suspected communicable disease shall be:

- 1. Cared for in a room or portion of a room not being used for other types of child care.
- 2. Within sight and hearing of an adult at all times. No child shall ever be left alone or unsupervised.
- 3. Made comfortable and provided with a crib/cot. All linens and blankets used by the ill child shall be laundered before being used by another child. After use, the crib/cot shall be disinfected with an appropriate germicidal agent, or if soiled with blood, feces, vomit, or other body fluids, the crib/cot shall be cleaned with soap and water and then disinfected with appropriate germicidal agent.

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4. Observed carefully for worsening condition.
5. Discharged to parent, guardian, or person designated by the parent or guardian as soon as practicable.

Lice and Bed Bug Policy

In the event that a situation takes place involving lice or bed bugs, a child with any of these signs or symptoms shall be immediately isolated and discharged to his parent or guardian: Evidence of lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestation. Each case will be handled individually and action will be taken as necessary.

Administration of Medications or Special Diets

Parents must provide the necessary paperwork for any chronic, physical problems, health concerns, change in diet or modified diet. The center must have a signed medical statement from the child's physician stating the condition and form of treatment while here at school. The center will provide parents a copy of the Medication Administration form and an Emergency Care Plan for this reason.

- A. If your child requires medication, please administer the medication before their preschool class begins or after you pick up your child. ECE staff and/or the school nurse will NOT administer medication to students during the preschool hours unless it is required at a time that cannot be given before or after preschool hours.
- B. If your child has an emergency medication that must be kept at school such as an inhaler or Epi-Pen, you must fill out the "medication administration form" and an "Emergency Care Plan in order for your child to be given any kind of medicine while at school. A doctor must sign this form if it is a prescription.
- C. Any medication needing to be refrigerated must be taken to the clinic. All medication must be labeled with the child's name and will be administered by school nurse or parent of said child. (Daycare children only)
- D. Parents need to let the Center know of any food allergies or modified diet for any reason. Any child with food allergies requiring a special diet must bring in a note from a physician stating which foods are required/to be avoided and an "Emergency Care Plan" form and "Emergency Medical Form will need to be filled out.

Communicating with You!

You will receive daily communication through the use of your child's daily folder he/she is to bring to school every day. The preschool lead teacher will provide you with a weekly newsletter as to the theme of the week. The Parent Coordinator will send home a newsletter every month. It will contain important dates, scheduled closings, and other information. Please remember to give this important information to sitters or other family members who may need it.

[Type here]

In your child's folder is a daily communication log. The lead teacher will occasionally write in the log something that is important for you to know and you can also write notes to the teacher using this log!!

*Please send personal correspondence in a sealed envelope or call in to the center. The student teachers are not to send notes regarding your child unless signed by us. Please let us know if this happens.

First Day **For your child's first day he/she will need to:**

1. Bring a complete set of clothes in a Ziploc bag. Put your child's name on the clothing and bag. (Shirt, Pants, Socks, Underwear)

- Should your child have an accident, we will use your child's extra set of clothes. Please wash these clothes and return them to us as soon as possible so that your child has an extra set in his/her cubby.

2. Bring payment in an envelope. Please place your payment in the yellow payment box located by the preschool door. If you are paying with a check, it is not necessary to place it in an envelope but please write your child's name on the "memo" line.

3. Bring your child's folder: send it every day.

General Information

1. No bottles, pacifiers, security blankets or pull ups are permitted in our center for children enrolled in our preschool.

2. Please label all clothing, including coats, hats, mittens, sweaters, etc. Remember several children may have items that look alike.

3. As we all know, children will sometimes think of some pretty strange stories to tell. If something your child tells you makes you uncomfortable or concerned, please come to us. Please do not call other parents. We won't necessarily believe everything your child tells us, and we hope you will extend us the same courtesy. Our high school students are not to discuss other children or teachers. If you have any problems, please call.

4. Children are not permitted to have gum while at school.

5. Please encourage children to leave their toys (Cars, baby dolls, toys, purses ect) at home. Each child will have the opportunity to be the "Star of The Week" once during the school year which is the time to share their favorite things from home.

[Type here]

Plan to inform parents of ombudsman

Parents are asked to contact the preschool director, Ms. Roberts, and lead teacher at 419-347-7744, if there are any questions or concerns regarding their child's participation in the preschool program. In addition, Pioneer provides a Program Supervisor, who serves as an Ombudsman and may be contacted at 419-347-7744, ext. 42204.

The State Department of Education Early Childhood/Preschool Assistant Director may be reached at 614-466-0224.

Developmentally Appropriate Activities

The Child Care program provides developmentally appropriate activities for children from birth to five years.

Preschool:

Centers:

Science Area—materials are available for children to experiment with nature and his/her environment.

Block Area—large and small blocks for building and stacking, pipes, large and small Lincoln Logs, tinker toys, blocks of various shapes and colors.

Reading Center—books, puppets, puzzles, records, quiet games.

Sensory Table—with food coloring and/or dish detergent for bubbles, rice, macaroni, beans, pudding, oatmeal, etc. A large variety of water table toys are available for stirring, mixing, measuring, etc.

Dramatic Play Area—dramatic play.

Gross Motor Activity—slide, climber, snap wall, bowling, bean bag toss, hopscotch, trampoline, basketball, etc.

Painting Area—tempera, water colors, finger paint.

Table Top Activity—quiet games, coloring, cutting, etc.

Language and Prewriting—story writing, letter recognition, increase language and vocabulary skills

Individual Work—one or two children work with one teacher on specific skills.

Large group—Pledge, calendar, weather, songs, finger plays, poems, thematic facts, Spanish, and sign language words.

Art—both structured and unstructured.

Group Motor—develops gross motor skills—relays, obstacle courses, music involving gross motor skills (Hokey Pokey, etc.), music and movement

Small Group Learning Activities—children are divided into small groups and presented activities in math, science, social studies, language development, reading readiness, sensory skills, or motor skills, writing readiness.

Game or Outside Play—inside game is only for inclement weather.

Computer Time—children receive readiness and language development skills on computers each day.

[Type here]



Covid-19 Accommodations If Needed

The following provides accommodations for Pioneer Preschool and Childcare to reopen while also implementing measures to reduce the risk of exposure and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We will follow Pioneer Career and Technology's Restart/Reopening Plan in addition to all ODE Preschool and Childcare guidelines.

Ratios: The Childcare/Preschool will operate under child to staff ratios and maximum group size according to ODE and Governor Orders, Health Department Mandates and best practices.

Pick-up/Drop off:

- *Parents/Caregivers when safe to do so should wear a mask for pick-up and drop-off.
 - *Parents will pick-up/drop off one at a time in the preschool foyer and scan a barcode using their own device to sign their child into school.
 - *Parents will wait on a chalk made smile face outside of the foyer until they are able to pick-up/drop off in the foyer one at a time.
 - *Children will submit to a "temperature check" upon arrival each day.
 - *Children will wash their hands upon arrival and prior to leaving the center.
- If any individual has a fever of 100 degrees or higher or parent states they have any listed symptoms, they may not enter the facility.
- *A single employee will escort children to and from their classroom.
 - *Maintain maximum physical distance from one another whenever possible.

We will follow Pioneer Career and Technology's Health Care Plan of Closing or Reopening in the event this occurs. Covid-19 rules and/or accommodations could change depending on health department recommendations. More detailed information will be given as it comes and if needed.



THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING PIONEER!

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING A GREAT
YEAR WITH YOUR CHILD!**