



Appendix D

Preschool Level Information and Rules

Plymouth Early Childhood Center: “an inclusive preschool”

We would like to welcome you and your child to the inclusive developmental preschool program. In order to assist in your preparation for the school experience, we have included some information to help familiarize you with our program and its components. The Plymouth Early Childhood Center offers two sessions, a 2.5 hour morning session and a 2.5-hour afternoon session for 2, 3, or 4 days per week; serving children with individual educational plans and children from the community. Some students, due to the nature of their disability, attend school for a full-day program from 9:15-3:15, four days per week. The Plymouth Early Childhood Center supports the philosophy of inclusive education to which the Plymouth Public Schools are committed. Our inclusive education seeks to provide meaningful education to the range of students in our communities by drawing strength from their diversity”. Following are some shared common beliefs:

- all children have a right to be educated within their home community with their peers.
- children should participate at the same time in shared educational experiences

Multidisciplinary Model

The program also incorporates the Multidisciplinary approach to teaching. The teachers and therapists work cooperatively, sharing individual expertise and responsibility in providing developmental activities within the classroom. The specialist’s service each child according to his/her individual needs. Our approach is based on an educational rather than a clinical model of early childhood development. In an *educational model*, children learn in a more natural and meaningful environment. The Program provides training for parents by participating in school-based therapies and parent workshops. Parent Training is provided as required by the needs of the individual student.

Classroom Model

The developmental approach to early learning encourages children to be active learners by exploring both people and materials in their environment. The daily schedule is a predictable routine that allows children to feel secure and comfortable and helps them to follow directions and participate independently, functionally, and effectively in activities.

Circle Time

Children and staff anticipate the daily routine and review past activities. The children share “news”, sing, and engage in finger plays and movement exercises, and share a story.

Experiential Play

Child-directed play is an important learning tool for all young children. At various times in the day, the children may choose from any of the learning centers and the activities. Depending on the day and theme, these centers include arts and crafts, painting, sand and water table, dress-up, housekeeping, blocks, puzzles, writing, listening, books, games and science centers, creative arts, sensory experiences.

Social/Emotional

The program supports and encourages positive self-esteem and social behaviors.

Modeling appropriate behaviors and role-playing social situations encourages children to be sensitive to a diverse population.

Language Group

Activities are taught cooperatively with the Speech and Language Pathologist to develop your child's listening skills and ability to understand and use language effectively.

Music and Movement

Involves movement and rhythm activities, listening, and memory skills in addition to using both large and small muscle coordination.

Sensory Integration

Sensory integration is provided in the context of play in order to motivate the child to work on skills that build muscle tone, perception, attention, and coordination. Suspended equipment, seating cushions, weighted blankets, and a variety of textures are provided on a daily basis.

Motor Activities

Large muscle equipment (hippity hops, scooter board, and platform swing) facilitated to development of balance, strength, and coordination.

Snacks

The children should bring a healthy snack to school each day. Snack is a valuable learning part of our day. The children engage in conversation with their peers during this experience and develop independent skills in opening their containers and cleaning up when the snack is over. Children are encouraged to use appropriate table manners.

Nutrition and Health Guidelines for Snacks

We encourage parents to send children with healthy and nutritious snack foods. Some suggestions include:

- Cheese
- low sugar cereal
- pretzels
- fruits
- saltines
- granola
- breadsticks
- peanut butter
- fruit juice
- carrot sticks.

Outdoor Play

Each day, weather permitting, the children are taken outside. It is during this time that the children have the greatest opportunity for gross motor development.

Clothing Considerations

Early learning is active and often very messy. Preschool is fun and often unpredictable and children should wear casual and comfortable clothes. Loose clothing that allows children to dress themselves is a good choice (sweat suits, elastic waist pants, etc.). Layering clothes in winter (a tee shirt under a sweatshirt) allows us to adjust a child's clothing as classroom conditions warrant. During the winter months, hats, mittens, and a warm jacket are essential. Throughout the school year, we will have opportunities for events both indoors and outdoors that may require specific clothing considerations. This may include snow pants and boots. The classroom teacher will inform you prior to these events. If your child wears boots, please send sneakers or indoor shoes for the child to wear while in class.

- For safety purposes, we encourage students to wear appropriate footwear (closed-toe, with a back) in order to engage in all play activities.
- Please label all items your child brings to school.
- Please send a **complete change of clothing**, including underwear, socks, pants, and a shirt.

Diapers or Pull-ups for Children Not Yet Toilet Trained

For children in diapers or pull-ups, please provide the diapers and wipes. For hygiene reasons, we ask you to use disposables. Please send a full box for use only on your child. When your child moves into training pants, we need several pairs on hand.

Please keep the staff informed when you begin or change any toilet-training routine so we can be consistent at school.

Home-School Newsletters and Notebooks

Our teachers send weekly classroom newsletters to tell you about our “theme” and related activities, songs, recipes. Teachers also send occasional notes, and emails. We like parents to send notes too, to tell us about things that happen to their child outside of school. It helps us to have special things to talk with your child about, particularly if your child has delayed language or speech. If you would like to speak to a staff member, please call and leave a message in the office and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Inclusionary Model of Therapies

The Plymouth Early Childhood Center uses classroom-based therapies. These practices include documented research to support the use of specialized equipment and modifications within the classroom environment. These practices are supported by the Motor and Speech Therapists and carried over within the classroom by both therapists and classroom staff.

The following is a list of some of the equipment that is used in the classroom:

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|-----------------|---------------------|
| ▶ Move n' Sit | ▶ Trampoline |
| ▶ Wedges | ▶ Weighted Vest |
| ▶ Cube Chairs | ▶ Weighted Blankets |
| ▶ Massager | ▶ Platform Swings |
| ▶ Therapy balls | ▶ Net Swings |

- ▶ Body Socks
- ▶ Scooter boards
- ▶ Leg/Ankle/Wrist/Waist Belts

Inclusive Preschool Tuition

Our tuition covers supplies, materials, professional development, parent training, and special events. Children with special needs are services by state and federal law at no cost to parents

Inclusive Preschool Tuition Rate

One Child	\$12.50/session
Second Child	\$6.25/session

- Tuition is payable monthly.
- NO DEDUCTIONS FOR CHILD ABSENCES.
- Our tuition is not based on individual daily attendance. For example, if your child is absent due to illness or family vacation, tuition is still charged on those days. Tuition is determined by adding the number of days a program is in session for the year then dividing the total into 8 on equal monthly payments. You do NOT PAY for school vacation (Thanksgiving, December-February-April) or legal holidays when school is not in session.
- Please make checks payable to: ***“Town of Plymouth”***
- Tuition Assistance: Available on a confidential basis from the Preschool Director if your family meets the qualifications.

Parent Drop-off and Parking

The Plymouth Early Childhood Center has its own parent drop-off in the rear of Plymouth Intermediate on School. As you arrive on campus to drop off your child, we ask that you drive to the back of the school in a counterclockwise manner. Please be mindful of those spots that are reserved for preschool parents and those that are reserved for buses.

