



SACO PRE-K

For all students who turn four years of age on or before October 15, 2019.

Visit sacoschools.org to pre-register

Child Ratios and Maximum Group Size

A major responsibility of the staff is to ensure the health and safety of each child entrusted to our care. Children will be supervised at all time and staff will be alert to the safety needs of children to anticipate possible hazards and take precautionary action and preventive measures. The program is to have a maximum of 16 students per classroom with one lead teacher an assistant teacher present at all times.

Hours and Days of Operation

Full-Day Program - The program will operate Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 AM to 2:15 PM. Wednesday we have an abbreviated schedule of 8:00AM to 1:15PM.

Half-Day Program Morning Session - The program will operate Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 8:00AM to 10:45AM. On Wednesday we have an abbreviated schedule of 8:00AM to 10:30AM.

Half-Day Afternoon Session- The program will operate Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11:30AM to 2:15PM. On Wednesday we have an abbreviated schedule of 10:45AM to 1:15PM.

The abbreviated Wednesday schedule, is a district wide initiative to provide teachers much needed professional development time for continuous educational improvement.

The program follows the Saco School Department school calendar.

Meals and Snacks

Students will have the option to get meals from the Saco School Nutrition program. This program provides breakfast/morning snack and lunch/afternoon snack.. These meals meet all nutritional guidelines required by licensing. Meals are provided in a family-style dining format to promote sharing, conversation and healthy eating habits. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to build social skills. Participation will be strongly encouraged. Please let us know if your child cannot eat certain foods due to allergies or religious beliefs.

Toileting routine

Children will be encouraged to use the bathroom frequently throughout the day. They will be offered times to go upon arrival, before and after meals and snacks, before and after rest times transitions to specials, and before and after outside time. This means bathroom breaks will occur roughly every hour. Toileting routines will fluctuate depending on the needs of the child for example children who are fully toilet trained will not be encouraged to attend the bathroom as often as a child who is just beginning to learn how to use the toilet. Staff will strive for independence in the toileting routine however, they will assist children where necessary. Additionally, any individual toilet routine for children will be determined by the teacher and the child's parent/guardian.

Transportation

Parents will have the option to drop off and pick up their children. Parents will need to accompany their child to the classroom to meet the teacher . All Pre-K buses are equipped with harnesses and a bus aide will be present to help children. Transportation needs are still being evaluated at this time. More information will be forthcoming.

Outdoor Play

Research has shown there are numerous health and education benefits when children have daily outdoor experiences. It is also a state licensure requirement that we offer outdoor play daily weather permitting. We will limit the amount of time children spend outside if temperatures are very warm or very cold. Children will not be taken outside when the temperature (wind chill and heat index factored in) is below 15 degrees or above 90 degrees. If the situation requires we will also adjust outdoor time due to rain, threatening weather etc. On days that outdoor activities are not available we will be providing extra gross motor play indoor including obstacle courses, active games such as Simon-says and extended music and movement. Because we do try to go outside whenever possible we ask that parents please supply

Daily Schedules

Routine is an important component to provide structure and stability in young children's life. We offer two program formats to best accommodate the needs of our students and families. The following is a model schedule for each of our program formats. However, we also provide flexibility in our schedule to adapt when necessary. This schedule meets licensing requirements for play, outside time and rest times.

Full Day Schedule Example

- Arrival/Table top Centers
- Breakfast
- Circle time
- Freeplay
- Centers
- Outside
- Lunch
- Rest
- Music and movement
- Centers
- Freeplay
- Snack
- Art
- Outside
- Goodbye Circle

Half Day Schedule Example

- Arrival/Tabletop Centers
- Breakfast/Afternoon snack
- Circle
- Freeplay
- Centers
- Outside/Snack
- Art
- Music and Movement
- Goodbye Circle

Academic Program Philosophy and Goals

The purpose of this program is to provide preschool age children with critical early experience to ensure academic, social and professional achievement. Through a developmentally appropriate curriculum we offer high quality early care that will embrace, engage and empower all young children to meet their maximum potential. We utilize a play-based emergent curriculum to provide hands-on learning to foster children's physical, emotional and social well-being. The program is inclusive built on the philosophy that all children can learn. Through a collaborative format we foster a meaningful relationship with students and families. Our highly qualified, caring educators work to maintain an inclusive classroom for all students. Whether a child is showing signs of special needs, has a diagnosis, is an advanced learner or anything in between our teachers work with you to create an appropriate learning environment founded in the balance of direct instruction through research-based practices and most importantly...play! We recognize families are the experts of their children. Through a collaborative format, we foster a meaningful relationship with students and families applying your expertise of your child to our academic planning. We understand our students are your young ones and strive to maintain an open-door program to allow families to engage, collaborate and experience the joys of early education. Our child centered approach supports our mission to provide all students with access to high quality teaching, rigorous learning opportunities and prepare students for a global society. We actively apply the Maine Early Learning Standards and value the development of the whole child.

**A complete parent handbook will be available in the coming months.
For questions, please contact Jen Partridge at jpartridge@sacoschools.org**