

PROJECT EARLY PRESCHOOL
HANDBOOK
2021-2022



BURRELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
16 MORSE STREET
FOXBOROUGH, MA.
02035



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the Foxborough Public Schools, Project Early Preschool Program. Project Early Preschool consists of two integrated language based preschool classrooms offering two and a half hour sessions (morning/afternoon) of integrated preschool learning experiences, two, three and four days per week. Integrated programming brings children who are typically developing and children with learning differences together as partners in learning, at their own individual development level. A third classroom is designed for children with disabilities who present with higher levels of need and who require more intensive instruction and support. Integration is provided for children in this classroom with a smaller number of peers, as appropriate, depending on the individual needs of each student.

Project Early Preschool follows the Massachusetts Curriculum Standards along with curriculum that enhances and maximizes learning for all children. Highly qualified, experienced staff work together to promote growth in the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development of all students. Experiences and activities are presented in an exciting, multi-sensory, multi-modality, and developmentally appropriate approach to learning. Project Early Preschool provides a safe, accepting, and nurturing environment. All students participate in a variety of small and large group activities, where learning is facilitated and scaffolded by experienced classroom teachers, assistants, and therapists, (OT, PT, Speech/Language Therapist) through play.

The Foxborough Public School District believes that working in partnership with families is essential to the growth and development of all students. We value your input, support, and participation in your child's educational experience. We encourage home/school information sharing and collaboration. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive school year.

Again, WELCOME TO PROJECT EARLY PRESCHOOL!!!!

Regards,

Dianna Parr

Dianna Parr
Prek Coordinator/Special Educator
Phone: 508-543-1605 ext. 52110
Email: parrd@foxborough.k12.ma.us

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Program Descriptions

Project Early Preschool Programs are located at the Burrell Elementary School, 16 Morse Street, in Foxborough. The program is designed to provide rich learning experiences that will promote solid foundation of preschool skills for all children. Learning is maximized through developmentally appropriate, multi-sensory, hands-on approach, to skill acquisition in language-based classrooms. Areas of focus include: social/emotional skills, cognitive skills, language skills, motor skills, as well as building self-regulation, problem solving, and attention skills.

Integrated Classroom Dynamics:

Each integrated classroom has a capacity of 16 children consisting of 8 children who have a disability and 8 peer models, selected via a lottery each spring.

Each classroom has a highly qualified experienced staff consisting of a certified/licensed special education/early childhood education teacher and 2 educational assistants.

Classroom Offerings:

- Rich curriculum that supports growth in physical, social/emotional, cognitive, and language skills
- Progress monitoring through observation, informal assessment, and data collection
- Small/large group instruction
- Highly structured routines and schedules accompanied by visual supports
- Music & movement activities
- Teacher designed games and materials to support a variety of learning styles
- Concept development
- Home/school communication and participation
- Parent conferences
- In class support from speech/language therapist, occupational therapist, and physical therapist

Sub Separate Classroom Dynamics:

This classroom serves children who have disabilities with high level of need, in a small student to high teacher ratio. The primary focus of this program is to develop the foundational skills necessary for children to be successful at school, at home and in the community. This program provides a “jump start” for students with higher level of instruction and skill development. Our goal is for all students to work toward participating successfully in the Project Early Integrated classrooms as their skill sets improve. Learning is maximized in the classroom

with the use of the principles of ABA as its primary approach to learning, high staff to student ratio, as well as through opportunities for individual and small group instruction. The curriculum is adapted and used as appropriate to facilitate skill building in the areas of social/emotional development, physical development, cognitive development, and language development.

This classroom has a maximum of 9 students with staffing patterns to support the individual needs of each student. Programming is flexible and can include half day, full day, and can include integration.

Classroom Offerings:

- Curriculum that focuses on independence, skill acquisition in all areas of development including: functional play, life skills, self-help skills, behavior, attention and communication
- Individualized curriculum utilizing multiple opportunities for practice and repetition of skills to provide mastery and generalization
- Concept development through real life opportunities and experiences to facilitate understanding of the world around us
- Individualized behavior plans to increase pro social behavior and interaction across environments
- Progress monitoring through observation, informal assessment, and data collection
- Individual/small group/whole group instruction
- Clear, consistent expectations
- Total communication approach to learning
- Visual support/picture schedules/social stories
- Learning through multiple modalities including music and movement
- Teacher designed materials and adapted books
- Home/school communication and participation
- Support from SLP, OT, PT both in and/or out of the classroom setting
- Principles of ABA including but not limited to discrete trial

Preschool Screening

The Foxborough Public Schools offer free screening for children ages 3-4 residing in Foxboro who may have speech/language, motor, social/emotional, or cognitive learning challenges. Parents who have questions or concerns about any area of their child's development are encouraged to contact, Dianna Parr, Prek Coordinator (508-543-1605 or parrd@foxborough.k12.ma.us) for a screening. Preschool screenings are held monthly and by appointment only.



Preschool Sessions: Days and Times

Morning Sessions 9:00-11:30 AM
(Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs)

Afternoon Sessions 12:30-3:00 PM
(Mon/Wed/Fri, Tues/Thurs, or M/T/Th/F)

Special Education/Related Service Providers Contact Information

Speech/Language Therapist
Cathy Mulcahy
Phone: 508-543-1605
Email: mulcahyc@foxborough.k12.ma.us

Occupational Therapist
Abby Lagerval
Phone: 508-543-1605
Email: lagerval@foxborough.k12.ma.us

Physical Therapist
Lisa MacDonnell
Phone: 508-543-1605
Email: macdonnell@foxborough.k12.ma.us

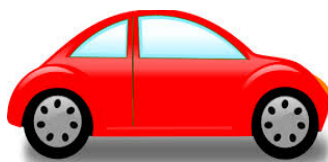
Classroom Teacher Contact Information

Room 122 Morning Sessions
Stephanie Woods
508-543-1605 ext. 52122
woodss@foxborough.k12.ma.us

Room 122 Afternoon Sessions
Classroom Teacher: Dianna Parr
508-543-1605 ext. 52122
parrd@foxborough.k12.ma.us

Room 120 Morning/Afternoon Sessions
Classroom Teacher: Elisabeth Beane
508-543-1605 ext. 52120
beanee@foxborough.k12.ma.us

Room 121 Morning/Afternoon Sessions
Classroom Teacher: Stephanie Whitehouse
508-543-1605 ext. 52121
whitehouses@foxborough.k12.ma.us



Arrival and Departure

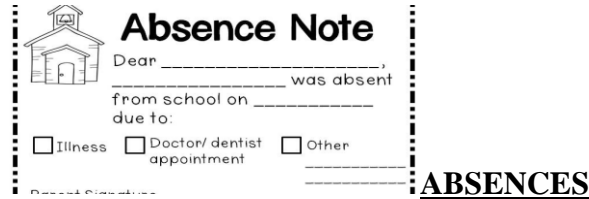
Foxborough Public Schools **does not provide transportation** to preschoolers entering through the lottery system. Parents/Guardians must transport their children to and from preschool. Always notify your classroom teacher, in writing, if anyone other than you (baby sitter, grandparent, car pool), will be picking up your child from school. All vehicles are expected to have an appropriate car/booster seat for children riding in them.

All preschoolers will enter/exit the Burrell School at the of back of the Burrell School, via the driveway on Cocasset Street. Project Early Preschool uses a “LIVE” drop off and “LIVE” pickup procedure. As you enter the back driveway, please remain in line along the righthand side of the driveway. **PLEASE DO NOT PULL UP TO THE Preschool ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING** upon your arrival. The space in front of the building is strictly for school buses. Please wait in your car upon your arrival. A staff member will assist your child in/out of your vehicle and walk them to the classroom waiting area. Please help keep children safe and the drop off smooth by remaining in your car at all times. When entering/exiting the Burrell School Preschool driveway, please use extreme caution, drive slowly, and do not pass any school bus in the driveway that is displaying its red stop sign!

Building Safety

To ensure the safety of all children and staff at school all outside doors are locked and secured throughout the school day. Please arrive on time to provide a smooth transition to and from school for your child. If you are late arriving to school or picking up from school, please park in the lot in front of the building and proceed to the main office. Remember late arrivals can make it difficult for children to enter the group confidently. Early dismissals are sometimes unavoidable due to doctor appointments, dentist visits, etc. Please remember that continual early

dismissals and late arrivals disrupt the classroom flow. Our sessions begin at 9:00 AM and 12:30 PM end at 11:30 AM and 3:00 PM each day. To ensure minimal disruptions and smooth transitions for all, please be prompt on both arrival and departure.



The form is titled "Absence Note" and features a small drawing of a schoolhouse. It contains the following text: "Dear _____, _____ was absent from school on _____ due to:" followed by three checkboxes: "Illness", "Doctor/ dentist appointment", and "Other". At the bottom, there is a line for "Parent Signature". To the right of the form, the word "ABSENCES" is written in a bold, underlined font.

It is important to report your child’s absence from preschool. If your child will not be attending school on his/her regularly scheduled session, please call the Burrell School at 508-543-1605, and let us know.



Health and School Exclusion Policy

To help prevent serious illness and meet the federal standards, all children are required to have all the recommended inoculations. Prior to your child’s first day of school, we must have a current Massachusetts School Health Record form, completed by your child’s pediatrician, a copy of your child’s birth certificate, and a copy of their lead screening results. **No child will be allowed to start school without all of these required health forms submitted.**

If your child becomes ill/hurt during the school day, the school nurse will assess your child and will call you. Please be sure all contact phone numbers, including cell phone numbers are current and accurate. At times, you may be asked to pick up your child and if you can’t be reached, the nurse will call on of the people that you have designated on the emergency for.

School Nurse: Nicole Quin 508-543-1605 or quinn@foxborough.k12.ma.us

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL POLICY

Parents are asked through the School Handbook and health notices at the beginning of each school year to keep a child home from school if they exhibit ANY of the following:

- Fever above 100 degrees, vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- Contagious symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, frequent productive cough, nasal discharge, or red draining eyes
- Undiagnosed rash or skin eruption
- Head lice
- Overall inability to productively participate in regular school activities
- Covid-19 symptoms or positive test results



School Cancellation

In the event of severe weather, Project Early Preschool will be cancelled whenever the Foxborough Public Schools are canceled. Families will be notified of school closings via the Connect Ed. Telephone message/email message from Amy Berdos, Superintendent of Schools. In addition, school closings will also be announced by local news stations and on the FPS homepage. In the event of a delayed opening, morning preschool sessions will be cancelled.



Home/School Communication

Home/school communication is an essential component in the partnership between teachers and families. All teachers can be contacted via email, phone, or classroom communication folders. Please see the teacher contact page for your child's teacher's contact information. Communication folders will be provided to each family and will be used to share information in an ongoing manner. Folders should be carried to and from school each day via your child's backpack. Individual parent/teacher conferences are held in November. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher throughout the school year to discuss concerns, share information, and ask questions.



Birthdays

We welcome the opportunity to acknowledge each child's birthday by decorating/wearing a crown, carrying out special jobs in the classroom, singing happy birthday, sharing a favorite book, etc. Please do not send in any food items for birthday celebrations. Some of our children have life threatening allergies.



Daily Preschool Supplies

Appropriate Dress:

- Preschoolers should be dressed in casual comfortable, weather appropriate, “play” clothes. For optimal participation in the preschool experience, children should wear sneakers and clothes that allow them to play and learn without the worry of getting dirty or making a mess.

Extra Clothes:

- Diapers/pullups should be sent in the backpack for those not yet toilet trained.
- Preschoolers should bring a complete set of clothing, to remain in their backpack, daily in case of any unexpected accident (toileting, spills, falls, wet feet, etc.).
- Preschoolers should dress for the weather. Outdoor play is an important aspect of your child’s day. Please send your child with the weather appropriate gear (raincoats, boots, sweatshirts, jackets, snow pants/snow boots, mittens, hats, etc.)
- A you know, New England weather changes quickly. Layers are best. Please plan accordingly.

Backpack:

- Preschoolers need a backpack to carry to and from school each day. Please choose a size that can accommodate the extra clothes, personal items, notebook, art projects, and a lunch box. In this case **BIGGER is BETTER!**

Snack:

- Preschoolers need a healthy snack or two and a drink. Please do not send in food that needs to be prepared or heated. Please check the labels on your child’s snack packages. **Peanut free please!** Remember your child is at school for 2 and a half hours. They do not need a meal. Please have a good breakfast or lunch prior to arriving at school.

Health and Safety:

- Please send your child to school wearing a face mask that will cover both his/her nose and mouth.



Tuition payments are due at the beginning of each month. Bills/Statements are sent out from the Administrative Offices at the Igo School. Monthly payments remain the same regardless of your child's attendance. The monthly rates are based on the school year and take into consideration holidays, school vacation weeks, and professional development days. All billing questions should be directed to:

Pam McCauley
508-543-1660
mccauleyp@foxborough.k12.ma.us

Families experiencing financial difficulties are urged to fill out a reduced tuition application by contacting Pam McCauley at the number or email listed above.

Rates for the 2021-2022 school year are as follows:

Two ½ day sessions per week: \$1300.00 yearly
Three ½ day sessions per week: \$1800.00 yearly
Four ½ day sessions per week: \$2300.00n yearly

Please make all checks payable to Foxborough Public Schools and mail payments to:
Foxborough Public Schools
60 South Street
Foxboro, MA 02035
Attn: Pam McCauley

