

MAPLE TREE PRE SCHOOL



A GREAT PLACE TO GROW

Parent Handbook

2019-2020

3060 Wilson Ave, Grandville, MI 49418

(616) 534-5465 ext. 114

www.mapletreepreschool.org

Email: mapletreepreschool1979@gmail.com

Admission Criteria:

Three-Year-Old Classes: Must be 3 years old by September 1, 2019.

Four-Year-Old Classes: Must be 4 by December 1, 2019.

Five-Year-Old Classes: Must be 5 by January 1, 2019.

Criteria for Admission: Non-refundable \$50.00 enrollment fee, Completed Health Appraisal Form, Up-to-date Immunization Record, Completed Child Information Card.

Allergies:

Parents of students with food allergies are to provide an Emergency Health Care Plan, medications (EpiPen), and appropriate snack for their child to be kept at school (packaged individually and does not require refrigeration) to eat when birthday treats are off limits.

Attendance:

Please keep your child home if they have had a fever, severe cough, runny nose with thick yellow/green discharge, diarrhea, pink eye, lice, sores on skin such as impetigo, scabies, or ringworm, contagious rashes or vomiting. Students must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. Please call Maple Tree (534-5465 ext. 114) if your child will be absent and the reason (i.e. respiratory vs stomach flu). We report all illnesses to the Kent County Health Department. We will include him/her in our daily prayer time. **See Illness.**

Backpacks:

Please send your child with a backpack able to fit 8.5 x 11" papers. Please make sure your child's name is clearly marked on the backpack. Backpacks are used to send home artwork, notes, etc. **Please let the staff know if you are sending in documents/checks in their backpacks. We do not check the inside of backpacks routinely.**

Bathroom Needs:

Children are expected to care for their bathroom needs without assistance. Hand washing is required after bathroom use. Teachers may help with belts, snaps, etc.

Birthdays Celebrations & Snacks:

We will celebrate each child's special day! You are welcome to provide a classroom treat to make this occasion even more exciting. Please check with your child's teacher regarding food allergy information. Maple Tree is a **peanut free facility**. Please be sure birthday treats do not contain peanuts or peanut oil. **All treats must be purchased.**

Book Orders:

Scholastic book orders will come home throughout the year. Ordering through Scholastic is an inexpensive way to build your home library. Books make great gifts for birthdays, Christmas, and everywhere in between. For every dollar that is spent, we receive bonus points for the classroom. We then can purchase books or other items for the classroom. If ordering online, Maple Tree's class code is P63H2.

Centers:

Maple Tree is divided into different exploratory areas. We use a clothespin system for the 4-yr-old and 5-yr-old classes. Students choose a colored clothespin matching the color of the center in which they want to play. Limiting the number of children in each area of the room avoids overcrowding and allows for sufficient materials and the opportunity for constructive interactions, which reduces opportunities for negative behaviors.

Child Sign In & Sign Out:

Dropping Off Schedule for Outdoor Playground & Classroom:

- Mondays & Tuesdays, the **Wiggle Worms** (M/W am), **Crickets** (T/Th am), & **Fireflies** (M/W pm 4's) will be dropped off to his/her classroom. On Wednesdays & Thursdays, these students will be dropped off at the outdoor playground, weather permitting.
- The **Eager Beavers** (M/W pm 3's) will be dropped off to his/her classroom. They will have outdoor play during class time, weather permitting.
- Mondays & Tuesdays, the **Explorers** (M-Th am Young Fives) will be dropped off at the outdoor playground, weather permitting. On Wednesdays & Thursdays, these students will be dropped off to his/her classroom.
- Friday classes TBA

Dropping Off Classroom Procedure:

- The exterior entrance doors will be unlocked from **8:55-9:10** and **12:25-12:40**.
- Children must be brought into the preschool by an adult. Please wait in the hallway until the preschool door is opened by a teacher.
- Please **drop off your child on time**. If you arrive at any other time you must use the buzzer at the double glass doors on the north side of 1st Reformed Church. One of the office personnel will assist you.
- **Please have whoever is transporting your child fill out your preschooler's arrival time.**
- **Early Drop Off:** Early drop off is available for the morning classes at 8:30 am. There is a daily fee of \$2/day. The doors will be unlocked between 8:30-8:35. **This must be prearranged with your child's teacher.** If early drop off is part of a normal routine, the fee may be included with tuition. If used occasionally, the fee must be paid on that day. Early drop off is **NOT** available on Zoo Day (4's & 5's), Fun & Games Day, or the last week of school.

Picking Up Schedule for Outdoor Playground & Classroom:

- Mondays & Tuesdays, the **Wiggle Worms** (M/W am), **Crickets** (T/Th am), & **Fireflies** (M/W pm 4's) will be picked up at the outdoor playground, weather permitting. On Wednesdays & Thursdays, these students will be picked up from his/her classroom.
- The **Eager Beavers** (M/W pm 3's) will be picked up from his/her classroom. They will have outdoor play during class time, weather permitting.
- Mondays & Tuesdays, the **Explorers** (Y5's) will be picked up from his/her classroom. On Wednesdays & Thursdays, these students will be picked up at the outdoor playground, weather permitting.
- Friday classes TBA

Picking Up Procedure:

- The exterior entrance doors will be unlocked at **11:25** and **2:55**.
- Please have whoever is transporting your child fill out your preschooler's departure time.
- **A child will only be released to persons listed on the Child Information Card.** Please be sure to include the names of all such people when you fill out the card. You may ask to add or delete names any time during the year. If someone will be routinely picking up your child, please write the schedule for your teacher including their contact information.
- **Late Fee:** Please be on time to pick up your child from school. We realize that emergencies and unforeseen circumstances occur on occasion. A child who is picked up late can get anxious and teachers need to be able to count on leaving their job promptly. Please call if you will be picking up your child late. There will not be a fee for the first violation unless the wait is extreme. You will be charged **\$1.00/minute beginning at 11:35 for morning classes and 3:05 for afternoon classes. After 10 minutes, you will be charged \$2.00/minute.** You may pay this fee when you pick up your child or it will be added to your next month's tuition.

Classroom Communication:

Monthly newsletters will be sent home with your child. A note will be posted daily with details of your child's day. Each class has a closed Facebook Page. Teachers will post pictures daily. For volunteering, field trips, conferences, etc., we will be using Sign up Genius via email. Other forms of communication include phone calls, emails, notes, and parent/teacher conferences.

Class Names & Programs Offered:

Crickets 4-yr-olds (T/Th am): Mrs. Johnson & Mrs. Smith

Eager Beavers 3-yr-olds (M/W pm): Mrs. K & Miss Kim

Explorers Young Fives (M-Th am): Mrs. Thompson & Mrs. Wiersma

Fireflies 4-yr-olds (M/W pm): Mrs. Johnson & Mrs. Smith

Friday Friends 4's & 5's (F am): Mrs. K & Mrs. Borda

Scrambled Eggs 4's & 5's (F am): Mrs. Thompson & Mrs. Smith

Wiggle Worms 4-yr-olds (M/W am): Mrs. K & Miss Kim

*All classes and staff are contingent on enrollment numbers and are subject to change.

Conferences:

You will receive a progress report about your child in December. Winter conferences are optional. Individual parent/teacher conferences will be held in March. Feel free to talk with your child's teacher at any time regarding any questions or concerns you may have.

Curriculum:

Our curriculum is made up of planned units of study. Studies of the ocean, birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects are some of the units which are especially enjoyed by students. Units are taught, not only to increase knowledge, but also to demonstrate God's power and diversity in creation. We incorporate *Zoo-phonics*, *Handwriting Without Tears (HWT)* and *Teaching Young Children Using Themes*. We expand our curriculum using various math manipulatives. Art projects, talking and listening, story time, exercises, music and finger plays complete our education focus.

Daily Schedule:

9:00-9:30/12:30-1:00	Arrive: Outdoor Play or Table Time & Centers
9:30-10:00/1:00-1:30	Circle Time: Bible Story & Prayer, Story, etc.
10:00-10:15/1:30-1:45	Table Time, Art & Star Student (Wednesdays/Thursdays)
10:15-11:00/1:45-2:30	Switch Sides: Center Time and/or Lesson
11:00-11:30/2:30-3:00	Outdoor Play & Dismiss
OR	
11:00-11:15/2:30-2:45	Circle Time: Lesson
11:15-11:30/2:45-3:00	Switch Sides: Sing & Dismiss

*Schedule may vary

Discipline:

Staff will use developmentally appropriate, positive methods of discipline which encourage self-control, self-direction, self-esteem, and cooperation. Teachers will set clear rules and guidelines, as well as fair and consistent limits for the children. Teachers will help children resolve conflict through individual attention. Teachers will remind children of rules and re-direct them to different activities. If a conflict cannot be resolved using the above steps, the child will have an individual quiet time at one of our tables. Every effort will be made to meet the needs of each child. If Maple Tree Preschool is not able to meet a child's needs, the director will request placement of the child in a more beneficial program suited to the unique needs of the child.

Documents:

Required documents for orientation or on the 1st Day of School include your child's **Health Appraisal Form**, **Immunization Record**, and the signed and completed **Child Information Card**. If your child has severe allergies, an **Emergency Health Care Plan** is required. Other items needed include the signed **Maple Tree Preschool Parent/Guardian Contract**, the **Maple Tree Preschool Volunteer Supervision & Reporting Plan** (if volunteering), the "Getting to Know My Child" form, and a 4"x6" photo of your family.

Field Trips:

Maple Tree Preschoolers will go on at least 3 field trips each year. Field trips are a creative way to enrich a theme and expand the learning environment. The **4 & 5-yr-old classes** will go to Moelkers Orchards, the Grandville Fire Station, and to John Ball Park Zoo. Parents must transport or arrange transportation for their child. Maple Tree will pay the student's fee for the Apple Orchard. Parents are responsible to pay for zoo prior to the field trip unless they own a zoo membership. This will be prepaid, so parents and children may participate in a discounted group rate.

The **3-yr-old classes** will only go on walking field trips which include walking to the Grandville Fire Station, the Grandville Library, and to Steensta's Royal Dutch Bakery.

Illness:

Please keep your child home if they have had a fever, severe cough, runny nose with thick yellow/green discharge, diarrhea, pink eye, lice, sores on skin such as impetigo, scabies, or ringworm, contagious rashes, or vomiting. Students must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Lice Policy: A child may return to school after treatment and no signs of an active infestation for at least 24 hours. **Rash:** A child may return to school after rash free for 24 hours or with a doctor's note.

See Attendance.

Keeping Information Updated:

For the safety of the child, it is critical that parents update all changes in telephone numbers, emergency numbers, addresses, authorized pickups, and other important information. Please notify Maple Tree as soon as possible if changes occur. Changes must be made in writing.

Licensing Notebook:

Maple Tree's Licensing Notebook is available for parents to view during school hours.

It contains all the licensing inspections and special investigation reports and related corrective action plans (since May 28, 2010). Licensing inspections and special investigation reports from at least the past 2 years are available on the child care licensing website at www.michigan.gov/michildcare.

Notification Plan:

If a child **becomes ill** while at school (fever of 100, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, unusual lethargy) parents will receive a phone call. The child will be separated from the other preschoolers and tended to by a staff member until a parent or emergency contact arrives. If a child **cries continuously** for 10 minutes, parents will be called, and the staff will follow the parent's directive. In the event of a **minor injury** (scrape, small cut, bruise) parents will receive an "Ouch Report" upon pickup. For **major incidents** (head injury, broken bone), parents will be notified immediately by telephone and will receive an "Incident Report." If a parent, guardian, or emergency contact cannot be contacted and the child needs immediate attention, employees will call an ambulance, accompany the child to the hospital, and stay with the child until the parent arrives. **FOR ALL SERIOUS INJURIES, 911 WILL BE CALLED.**

Outdoor Play:

Outdoor play will be included daily in our program, weather permitting. Please send proper clothing for outdoor play. Please do not request that your child stay indoors. Children too sick to go outside should not be at school. Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen and/or insect repellent. Parents must provide sunscreen and/or insect repellent and give permission on the Parent/Guardian Contract for staff to apply. Reasons to cancel outdoor play include inclement weather or if the temperature is below 30 degrees including wind chill.

Pest Management Plan:

Pesticide applications may occur during the year. If so, you will receive advanced notice of these applications through an email and a note sent home with your child.

Philosophy:

We believe that children are an amazing part of God's creation and should be given every opportunity to develop to their fullest the various gifts God has given them. Each child should consider his or her own unique significance in God's world and have a positive mental attitude toward himself/herself and others. Maple Tree is committed to the wondrous task of introducing children to God's world and cooperating with parents in the awesome process of growth and discovery.

Relocation Plan:

If the children need to be relocated due to a fire, other natural or man-made disasters, the preschoolers will be relocated to Grandville Public Library, 4055 Maple St. SW, Grandville, MI 49418. The staff will contact parents by emails, phone calls, and/or texts.

Schedule of Operation:

Preschool begins September 4/5 and ends May 20/21. Morning classes meet from 9:00 am-11:30 am. Afternoon classes meet from 12:30 pm-3:00 pm. Preschool will be closed November 27-29, December 23-January 3, March 4-6, and April 3-10.

School Closings:

Please check the internet at either www.woodtv.com or www.wzzm13.com or check channel 8 or 13 to see if Maple Tree Preschool is closed due to inclement weather. Closings will also be posted on Maple Tree Preschool's main Facebook page.

Staff:

Maple Tree Preschool teachers have bachelor's degrees in education and have been certified by the State of Michigan. All staff is certified in CPR and First Aid. The staff takes at least 16 hours of professional development every year. The staff has been selected for both their nurturing character and for their dedication to Jesus Christ. Each staff member has read and signed a statement verifying that she has never been involved in any abuse or neglect of children. Each staff member has had a comprehensive FBI background check. Staff members are mandated reporters of suspected abuse and neglect.

Teachers: Jodi Johnson, Courtney Kloosterhouse, and Cindi Thompson (Director)

Teacher Assistants: Paige Borda, Joelle Smith, Kim Steenbergen, and Amy Wiersma

Star Students:

Star Students will be the line leader for the week. This student will have the class pet with them during the entire class time for the week. On Wednesday/Thursday, they will have a special time to share with the class his/her choice of Show & Tell, a favorite book, and the "All About Me" form.

Tuition Fees for 2019/2020:

A non-refundable \$50.00 registration fee is required. Tuition may be paid monthly, by semester, or yearly. Acceptable payments include cash, checks, or payments made online. Yearly tuition fees are as follows—2 days: \$828, 3 days: \$1,152, 4 days: \$1,503, 5 days: \$1,809. Additional fees include admission to John Ball Park Zoo. The first payment is due the first week of school. Remaining payments are due the 1st of every month if paying monthly. If paying by semester, the second semester payment is due on January 17. Reminders will be e-mailed, posted in the hallway and in the newsletter. You will not receive a monthly bill.

Volunteers:

Adult volunteers will always be under the direct observation of preschool staff. Volunteers will not be alone with a child. Volunteers will not help a child use the bathroom. Volunteers are mandated reporters of suspected abuse and neglect. Classroom volunteers and chaperones for the fire station field trip must fill out and sign the Volunteer Supervision and Reporting Plan and will have a background check conducted.

Withdrawal Policy:

Every effort will be made to meet the needs of each child. If Maple Tree Preschool is not able to meet a child's needs, the director will request placement of the child in a more beneficial program suited to the unique needs of the child. Reasons for dismissal include excessive biting or aggressiveness and non-payment of fees. If tuition payments become delinquent and remain so after the parents have been notified more than one time, the parents may be asked to withdraw their child from the program. If it becomes necessary for you to withdraw your child from preschool, a written notice must be turned in two weeks in advance. If a two-week notice is not provided, the parent is responsible for the additional two weeks of tuition.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cindi Thompson at mapletreepreschool1979@gmail.com or (616) 534-5469 extension 114. Please note that Cindi teaches classes and will respond as soon as possible.