

SEASIDE HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Department of Early Childhood Education
PRESCHOOL HANDBOOK



Hugh J Boyd, Jr. Elementary School
1200 Bay Blvd.
Seaside Heights, New Jersey 08721
Tel: (732) 793-8485



Dawn Henninger, M.Ed.
Preschool Instructional Coach
Preschool Intervention & Referral Specialist
Community & Parent Involvement Specialist

The Preschool Team



Superintendent of Schools	Dr. James Roselli
Principal of Hugh J Boyd, Jr. Elementary School	Christopher Raichle
Business Administrator	Tyler Verga
Preschool Supervisor	Amy Coppinger
PIRS (Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist) Preschool Instructional Coach Community & Parent Involvement Specialist	Dawn Henninger
Case Manager	Jackie Wilhelm
Social Worker	Kaelin Cardone
School Nurse	Mary McClatchey
Preschool Teachers	Suzanne Heagen Melissa Magenheim Brianna Rosal Shannon Van Cora

Preschool Enrollment Process

The school will publicly display a **Preschool Interest Survey** during the months of December & January via fliers, website, social media and marquee.

Once the Interest Survey closes at the end of January Hugh J Boyd, Jr. Elementary School will inform parents that they have a place in the program.

During the month of March Hugh J Boyd, Jr. Elementary School will hold appointment only Preschool Registration:

[Registration Packet- English](#)

[Registration Packet- Spanish](#)

Marketing will again take place in April/May where the **Preschool Interest Survey** will be reopened.

During the month of June Hugh J Boyd, Jr. Elementary School will hold appointment only Preschool Registration:

[Registration Packet- English](#)

[Registration Packet- Spanish](#)

At this time there is not a need for a lottery. The purpose of a lottery would be to allow all families equal access to the Preschool Program. Families currently enrolled in the Preschool Program will automatically roll over to the following year's preschool classes.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is essential to a pupil's success in school. Preschool students will be required to adhere to Hugh J Boyd, Jr. Elementary School Attendance Policy. Absences are monitored by the school secretary. While absence from school due to illness is necessary, unnecessary absences should be kept to a minimum. Absences impact students' social and emotional well being, ability to establish routines and impact further academic success. The school calendar is included in the registration packet to assist in planning vacations so that your child may not miss a critical part of their education. **Under New Jersey State Regulations the only absences considered excused are religious holidays.**

Following 3 consecutive absences the teacher will reach out to the family with a phone call. After 5 consecutive absences the Community & Parent Specialist will reach out to the family via a home visit or phone call.

Health & Safety Policy

Each year the school nurse will complete a basic health assessment of each preschool student. The nurse will take the students height, weight and blood pressure, an eye and hearing exam will also be administered in addition to a basic dental assessment. These exams will take place in the fall and be concluded by Thanksgiving break. The nurse will then administer any referrals that may be needed. If you do not wish for your child to participate we ask that you email the Community & Parent Involvement Specialist, dhenninger@sshsschool.org .

Report Cards

Students will receive 3 Report Cards throughout the duration of the school year. Report cards will be distributed on paper in the students folders at the end of each marking period.

Important Items to Bring

Each day we encourage students to bring:

Full sized backpack Folder Snack & Water Lunch (if they are not purchasing school lunch)

Items to be kept in the classroom:

Change of clothes Diapers and wipes if needed for changing

Weekly students will need rest time items:

Crib sheet and small blanket OR Sleeping bag OR 2 small blankets- These rest items will be sent home at the end of each week to be laundered and returned at the start of the following week.



Additional Daily Information:

Each day students will be going outdoors unless there is active precipitation. Please be sure to dress students appropriately for the weather (hat, gloves, scarf in the winter-sunblock applied at home on our warm sunny days).

Students will be participating in gross motor activities daily- closed toed shoes are strongly recommended especially with the new mulch on the playground and ride on toys.



A Day in Preschool Sample Schedule

Time	Activity
8:40 - 8:55	Arrival, Unpack, Bathroom/Handwashing
8:55 - 9:05	Breakfast, Fine Motor
9:05 - 9:10	Clean up, Transition
9:10 - 9:30	Large Group
9:30 - 9:35	Transition (coats)
9:35 - 10:35	Centers
10:35 - 10:45	Clean up/Transition
10:45 - 11:20	Gross Motor Movement
11:20 - 11:30	Transition/Handwashing
11:30 - 11:45	Read Aloud
11:45 - 11:55	Handwashing
11:55 - 12:20	Lunch
12:20 - 12:30	Clean up, Handwashing, Bathroom
12:30 - 1:30	Rest/Nap
1:30 - 1:45	Clean up, bathroom
1:45 - 2:05	Music and Movement
2:05 - 2:10	Transition
2:10 - 2:30	Small Group
2:30 - 2:45	Snack
2:45 - 2:50	PM Meeting
2:50 - 2:55	Pack up, Coats, Backpacks
3:00pm	Dismissal

Self Help Skills

Preschool is a time for students to become ready for the rest of their school career. We will work on promoting an environment of independence where students feel safe to try their best. **Self help skills that will be promoted:**

Pulling up and down their own clothing Asking for help Zipping

Toileting Hand Washing Opening their lunch/snack items

Wiping their noses Catching their coughs

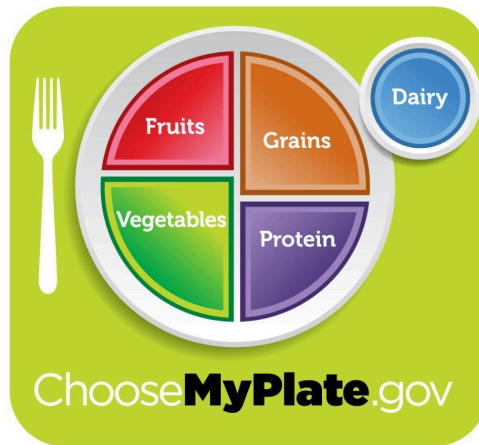
Handwashing

Students will be washing their hands often throughout the day to decrease the spread of germs and increase self help skills. They will be using soap and washing for 20 seconds each time they wash their hands.



Healthy Eating

In preschool students will learn to make healthy choices following the USDA guidelines- only white low fat/nonfat milk will be offered while in school. Please avoid packing foods that are common choking hazards (popcorn). All grapes, hot dogs, and carrots should be cut in $\frac{1}{2}$.



Food group	2 year olds	3 year olds	4 and 5 year olds	What counts as:
Fruits 	1 cup	1 - 1½ cups	1 - 1½ cups	½ cup of fruit? ½ cup mashed, sliced, or chopped fruit ½ cup 100% fruit juice ½ medium banana 4-5 large strawberries
Vegetables 	1 cup	1½ cups	1½ - 2 cups	½ cup of veggies? ½ cup mashed, sliced, or chopped vegetables 1 cup raw leafy greens ½ cup vegetable juice 1 small ear of corn
Grains Make half your grains whole 	3 ounces	4 - 5 ounces	4 - 5 ounces	1 ounce of grains? 1 slice bread 1 cup ready-to-eat cereal flakes ½ cup cooked rice or pasta 1 tortilla (6" across)
Protein Foods 	2 ounces	3 - 4 ounces	3 - 5 ounces	1 ounce of protein foods? 1 ounce cooked meat, poultry, or seafood 1 egg 1 Tablespoon peanut butter ¼ cup cooked beans or peas (kidney, pinto, lentils)
Dairy Choose low-fat or fat-free 	2 cups	2 cups	2½ cups	½ cup of dairy? ½ cup milk 4 ounces yogurt ¾ ounce cheese 1 string cheese

Curriculum

The Preschool Program at Hugh J Boyd Jr., Elementary School will utilize the New Jersey State approved *Creative Curriculum*. This curriculum consists of objectives which are aligned with the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards 2014. Creative Curriculum is project based learning where students investigate a topic of learning in depth over the course of 4- 6 weeks. Children learn through creative, hands-on, play based learning with research based learning opportunities to incorporate language, literacy, mathematics and social emotional learning.

Below is a list of studies the students may have access too:

The Beginning of the Year Study

Trees

Balls

Buildings

Boxes Bread

Cameras

Clothes

Exercise

Gardening

Insects

Light

Music

Pets

Roads

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Sand Signs Wheels

Simple Machines

Tubes & Tunnels

Water

Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Social Skills and Learning

Social Skills are the base of preschool learning and school readiness skills. We will be using the Pyramid Model which is a framework of evidence based practices for promoting young children's healthy social and emotional development in early care and education systems. The Tier Framework provides universal support to all children to promote wellness, targeted services to those who need more support, and ensures intensive services to those who need them. Social skills will be taught through:

Teacher and peer modeling Books Role Play Puppet Shows Social Stories

The 3 main areas of social skills that will be taught are: Friendship Skills, Emotional Literacy & Competencies and Problem Solving.



How to Ask your child about their day

Which center did you play in?

Who did you play with?

What made you happy today?

What made you sad today?

Did you listen to a story?

Tell me about the story.

Did you go outside?

Who did you play with outside?

What did you like doing outside?

Did anything make you laugh today?

Preschool Intervention & Referral Team (PIRT)

The Preschool Intervention and Referral Team (PIRT) is a multidisciplinary team of teachers and specialists who work together to promote positive behavior practices as well as strategies which support high levels of inclusion of students in the general education setting. As early childhood professionals, we recognize that preschool is often a student's first experience outside of the home and this formative time in their lives calls for support and time to adjust.

The primary purpose of PIRT is to provide support and suggest interventions to preschool staff so all children can succeed in an inclusive education setting. PIRT provides learning, social, speech, and language, motor and/or behavioral support through observations, ongoing records, screening, interviews and other informal assessments. As such, PIRT supports teachers with the implementation of strategies and accommodations for students exhibiting difficulties with learning or behaviors with the goal of providing "each child the opportunity to access the preschool learning environment with the individualized supports needed for the child to succeed" (NJDOE).

Through a well-executed plan and data collection PIRT monitors student progress to assure fidelity and success of implementation. If interventions are fully implemented without success, a Child Study Team (CST) referral may be warranted. PIRT meetings will begin following the administration of the ESI- R after the first 6 - 8 weeks a general education student begins the program. A parent questionnaire will be provided at registration for all parents to fill out. As required by the New Jersey Department of Education, our program screens children for possible development and instructional needs. Your child will be screened by their classroom teacher using the Early Inventory Screening- Revised (ESI-R). This screening tool will help your child's teacher in learning more about various aspects of your child's development and instructional needs. This screening does not determine readiness for kindergarten. The Preschool Intervention & Referral Specialist will share the outcome of this screening with you.

