



# Parent Handbook 2022-2023

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# Welcome from Our Pastor

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Soapstone UMC Preschool, a vital ministry that seeks to guide, educate, and nurture children in a Christian environment. Your family and your children are valued by God, our clergy, staff, and congregation.

Soapstone UMC's Church Council has recently established a churchwide 2022-23 ministerial priority of *"reflecting Christ's love by caring for the spiritual, emotional, and material health of children at Soapstone UMC, our community, and the world."* This fall, every one of our 18 committees and councils will set at least one goal that helps us live into this priority.

If you're seeking a spiritual home, we invite you to join our worshiping community on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am or 11 am. You may pick up sensory bags with fidget toys as well as activity binders in the back of our sanctuary as you enter. Danny Peck, our Director of Family Ministries who leads Preschool Chapel, also calls up children for a special message during worship, and afterward, children under five are invited to stay or go to the nursery. We provide nursery services during both services as well as during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45).

Our Happiness Ministry provides various worship services, an egg hunt, and other activities throughout the year tailored especially for children with special needs. Church member, Blair Roberts (bbroberts218@gmail.com), leads a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group that supports women through their parenthood journeys. You can learn about all of these ministries at [soapstoneumc.org](http://soapstoneumc.org).

I continue to pray for you, your preschoolers, and our Preschool. May this year be one of blessing in our life together.

Grace and Peace,

Mitzi

# SOAPSTONE PRESCHOOL STAFF

## 2022-23

### Toddlers

Room #131      Lead Teacher      Peg Feely  
                   Assistant Teacher      Jill Fitzpatrick

### 2 Year Old Classes

Room #133      Lead Teacher      Karen Szani  
                   Assistant Teacher      Rebecca Myers

Room #116      Lead Teacher      Val Moser  
                   Assistant Teacher      Katie Bigler (M/W)  
                   Assistant Teacher      Brooke Barksdale (T/TH)

### 3 Year Old Classes

Room #134	Lead Teacher	Linda Schwarz	Room #135	Lead Teacher	Jennifer Schudlik
	Assistant Teacher	Blair Gooding		Assistant Teacher	Kim Sauls (M/W/F) Vonda Hart (T/TH)

### 4 Year Old Classes

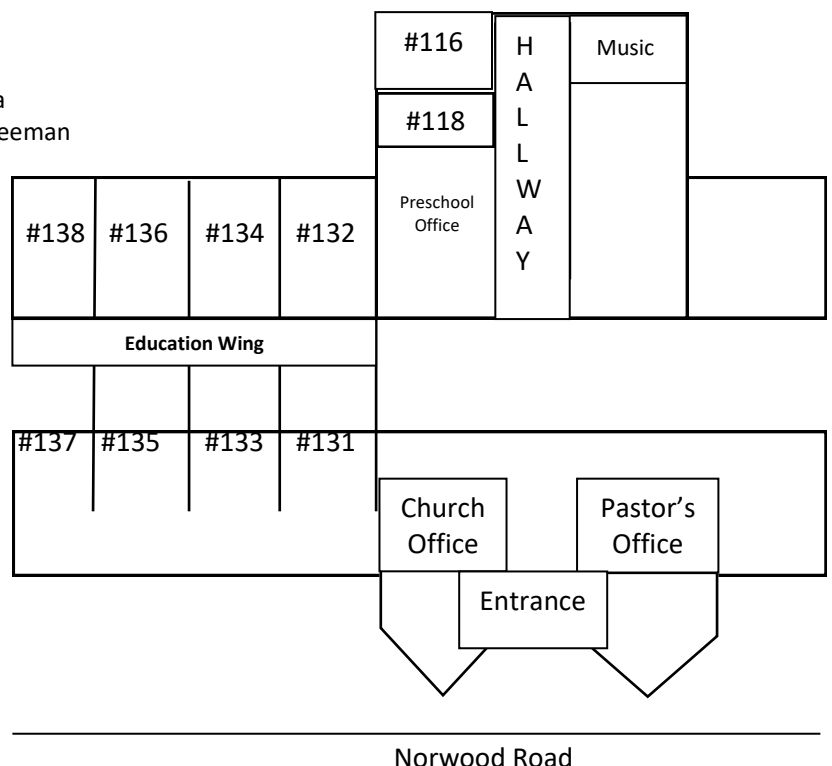
Room #136	Lead Teacher	Elizabeth Uniacke	Room #137	Lead Teacher	Julie Allyn
	Assistant Teacher	Diane Dorfner (M/W/F)		Assistant Teacher	Cheryl McNeil
	Assistant Teacher	Amy Buchan (/TTH)			

Room #138	Lead Teacher	Nancy Landis	Room #132	Lead Teacher	Vicky Fouse
	Assistant Teacher	Tanya Pomkoski		Assistant Teacher	Laura Sheppard

### Transition Kindergarten Class

Room #118      Lead Teacher      Doreen Zanella  
                   Assistant Teacher      Anne Marie Freeman

Music and Movement      Lisa Moser  
 Chapel      Danny Peck  
 Yoga      Tanya Pomkoski  
 Preschool Office Administrator      Mika Scarlett  
 Preschool Director      Jessica Slessman



# GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SOAPSTONE PRESCHOOL

**Mailing Address:** Soapstone Preschool  
12837 Norwood Road  
Raleigh, NC 27613

**Phone Number:** 919-870-7727

**Website:** [soapstoneumc.org/preschool](http://soapstoneumc.org/preschool)

**Email Address:** **Office:** [preschooloffice@soapstoneumc.org](mailto:preschooloffice@soapstoneumc.org)  
**Director (Jessica Slessman):** [jslessman@soapstoneumc.org](mailto:jslessman@soapstoneumc.org)

## **School Hours**

9:15am – 12:45pm

9:15am – 12:15pm (**Toddlers Only – No Lunch**)

## **Late Fees**

\$5 for the first minute, \$1/minute after

Late fees assessed as follows: 12:20pm (Toddlers), 12:50pm (2's), 12:55pm (Carpool)

## **About Soapstone Preschool**

Soapstone Preschool is a ministry of Soapstone United Methodist Church offering genuine love and care to children and families in a safe, nurturing Christian environment. We believe, as Fred Roger's once said, that "play is really the work of childhood". At Soapstone, every child is special, and we strive to teach to the whole child, by helping them grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and mentally. Learning is fostered through age-appropriate learning centers and hands-on activities that encourage positive socialization with teachers and peers. Parent involvement and partnership is welcome and vital to our preschool family.

## **Mission, Vision, and Values**

Our mission is to guide, educate and nurture children in a creative Christian environment. Children will confidently engage in enthusiastic, play-based learning and build meaningful relationships and skills within a loving, joyful, and educational space, filled with Christian love.

# TUITION

- The registration fee is equal to, but not replacing, one month’s tuition. This is a non-refundable fee.
- Tuition is based upon yearly costs determined by the number of days a child attends classes weekly, which are then divided into nine equal payments.

Number of Days per Week	Registration Fee	Monthly Tuition
2 Days (Toddlers)	\$220	\$220
2 Days	\$235	\$235
3 Days	\$300	\$300
4 Days	\$340	\$340
5 Days	\$375	\$375
Transitional Kindergarten	\$380	\$380

- **Tuition Schedule:** Tuition will be due on the monthly schedule as indicated below. You also have the option of making a bulk payment for the First Semester (September – December) that will be due on August 10, 2021, and for the Second Semester (January – April) that will be due on December 10, 2021. **ALL May 2023 Tuition must be paid in May 2022, or, if you register after May 2022, at time of registration.**

## SOAPSTONE PRESCHOOL TUITION SCHEDULE 2022-23

Tuition Due Date:	Tuition for the Month of:
May 10, 2022	May 2023
August 10, 2022	September 2022
September 10, 2022	October 2022
October 10, 2022	November 2022
November 10, 2022	December 2022
December 10, 2022	January 2023
January 10, 2023	February 2023
February 10, 2023	March 2023
March 10, 2023	April 2023

- **Late Tuition Fee:** The preschool will send a friendly reminder if you are late paying your tuition; however, a \$10 late fee will be charged for any tuition payment not received by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Another \$10 fee will be charged for any tuition payment not received by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month. *If you miss 2 monthly tuition payments, your child will be unable to return to school until payment is received or a payment program is set up with the director.*

- **Returned Check Fee:** A \$25 fee will be charged for any returned check.

### **Withdrawal from Preschool**

If a child is withdrawn from the preschool for any reason, the family will be charged tuition through the month in which they withdraw.

- In the case of withdrawal, registration fees are not refundable.
- In the case of withdrawal, pre-paid May tuition will be reimbursed if the family withdraws prior the first of school. Once school begins, pre-paid May tuition is non-refundable.

# DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

## **Morning Arrival**

*Arrival procedures begin at 9:10 am. The time prior to this is for teacher preparation and our morning meeting and devotion.*

## **Parent Drop-Off**

Parents can walk their child to their classroom in the mornings. Parking is available at the front of the church (on the Norwood Road side) or in the back of the church. No parking is allowed near the entrances off Norwood Road on the grassy or concrete areas.

- **Ms. Peg & Ms. Karen:** Enter the Busy Bee Garden and drop your child at the outside doors of the classrooms. (In case of inclement weather, enter through the lobby doors and walk your child to their classroom)
- **All Other Classes:** Adults may enter the lobby doors and walk their child to the classroom.
- *We do ask parents to not cluster around the classroom doors during morning drop-off, as our hallways fill quickly with children.*

## **Carpool Drop-Off**

Carpool drop-off (located on the Old Creedmoor Road side of the church) is used for children in the 3's, 4's, and TK. Please follow the map on page 11 to assure that the traffic will flow smoothly.

**Note:** 2's are also welcome to use carpool if they have an older sibling.

- Use the Norwood Road entrance closest to Old Creedmoor Road. Loop around to back of church to get into line.
- Teachers will unload children on the **passenger** side of the car. Parents are not allowed to exit their vehicle to assist with unloading, as this creates a safety hazard with cars that are entering the carpool lane.
- Children must remain safely in their cars until preschool staff unloads them. We ask that children do not hang out of cars or stand through sunroofs while in the carpool lane.
- Parents may not pull around other cars in the carpool lane to leave the line early.

## **Arrival Notes**

- It is important that your child arrive on time each day. This will help your child adjust more quickly to the routine and develop a habit that will carry into the formal school years.
- Goodbyes are sometimes difficult for both parents and children. Our teachers try to make this a smooth transition for everyone involved. Children usually adjust to the morning separation with a cheerful kiss and confident assurance that you will see them in a little while. If your child is still having a difficult time adjusting after 30 minutes, we will let you know.

## **Afternoon Departure**

**Toddler Classes (12:15pm):** Parents will pick children up by the gate of the Busy Bee Garden in front of the church. In case of inclement weather, parents will pick their Toddlers up in the preschool lobby. Inclement weather dismissals will be communicated to parents by their teachers.

**Toddler Late Fee (\$5 for the first minute, \$1/minute after) will be assessed beginning at 12:20pm.**

### **2's Classes (12:45pm):**

Parents will pick children up by the gate of the Toddler's and 2's playground in the front of the church. In case of inclement weather, parents will pick their 2's up in the preschool lobby. Inclement weather dismissals will be communicated to parents by their teachers.

**2's Late Fee (\$5 for the first minute, \$1/minute after) will be assessed beginning at 12:50pm.**

### **3's/4's/TK Classes (12:45pm):**

Carpool is **mandatory** for all 3's, 4's, and TK children for dismissal. If you have children in both the Toddlers/2's and an older class, please pick up your younger child first. You may then walk over to the carpool line and pick your child up directly from their teacher.

- Use the Norwood Road entrance closest to Old Creedmoor Road. Loop around to back of church to get into line.
- Please hang your family carpool tag from the rearview mirror.
- Teachers will load children on the passenger side of the car. Preschool children are required to have a car seat. Staff is unable to load children into a car that does not have a car seat or booster seat present. We will wait with your child at preschool until an appropriate seat is provided for transport.
- Please do your best to stay in your cars. We ask parents to turn around to strap their child into the carseat. If you need to get out to buckle, we ask you do it very quickly and carefully. For liability reasons, preschool staff is unable to strap children into their car seats/boosters during dismissal.

**Carpool Late Fee (\$5 for the first minute, \$1/minute after) will be assessed beginning at 12:55pm.**

### **Alternate Person Picking up Child**

We **MUST** be made aware if someone other than the parent or authorized adult (as stated on the enrollment form) will be picking up your child. Please give this written information to the teacher. We will not allow your child to leave with another person unless we have this information. If the person picking up your child is unfamiliar to our staff, we will ask for ID to verify their name matches the name we were given. Please make sure the person you ask to pick up your child is aware of this requirement.

Should you fail to put this information in writing, you must call and leave a message with the Director so they can inform the teachers. These measures are very important to the safety and security of every child, as well your child's sense of security.

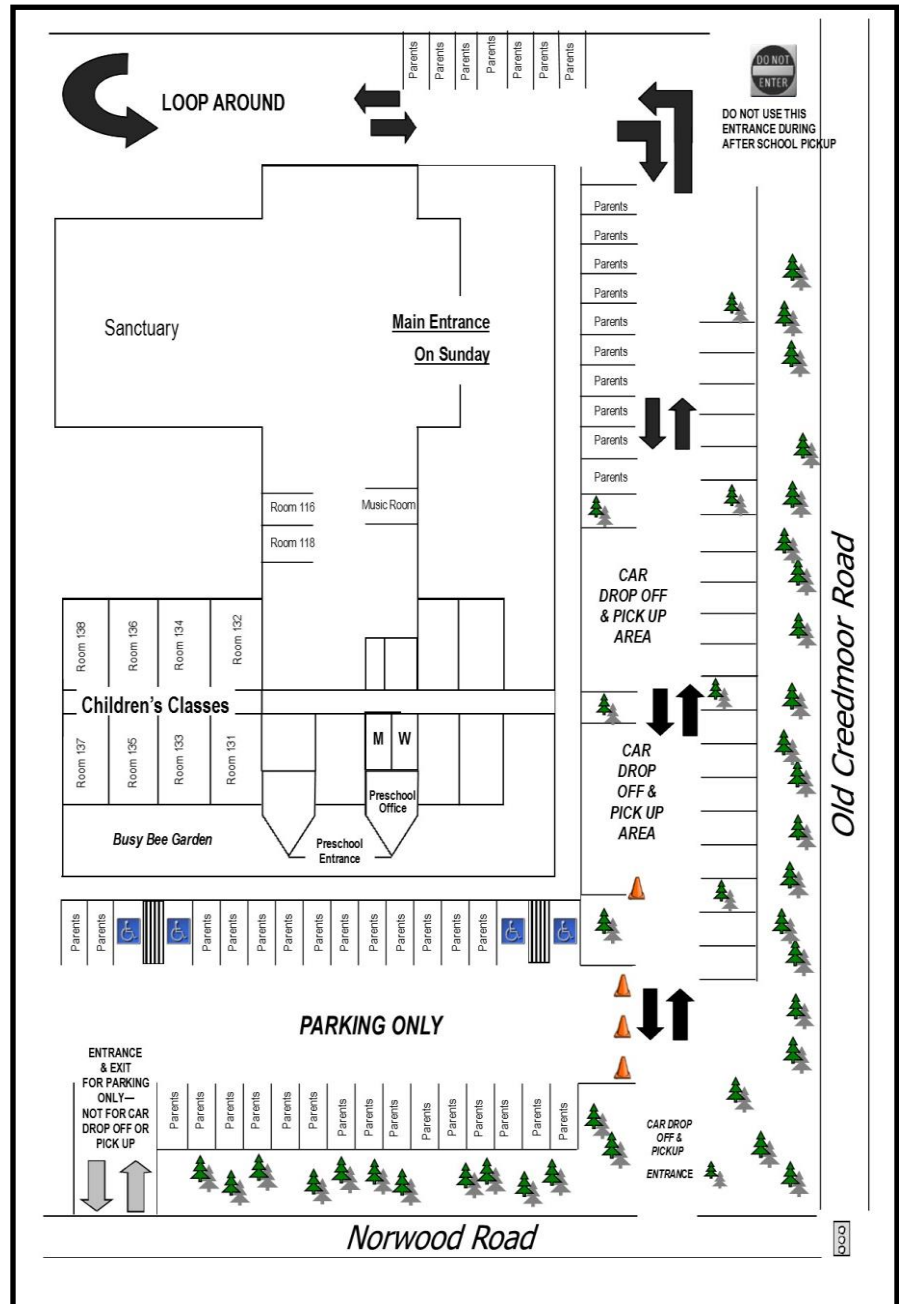
# CARPOOL LINE PROCEDURES

## For Morning Drop off

- Staff will unload children from the **passenger** side of the vehicle only. For safety reasons, please stay in your car and keep the doors closed.
- Please don't allow children to stand in sunroofs and or hang out of windows.
- Cell phone use is not permitted in the carpool line!
- Wait until the cars in front of you have moved. **DO NOT PULL AROUND!**

## For After School Pick up

- Hang your family carpool tag from the rearview mirror.
- Staff will bring children to the car on the **passenger** side.
- Please do your best to stay in your cars. We ask parents to turn around to strap their child into the carseat. If you need to get out to buckle, we ask you to do it very quickly and carefully.
- Wait until the car in front leaves. **DO NOT PULL AROUND.**
- Cell phone use is not permitted in the carpool line!
- Carseats/booster seats must be used.
- If parents need to speak to a teacher, please pull around to the front parking lot to do so.



# WHAT TO BRING/WEAR

## **Clothing**

Clothing for preschool should be comfortable and appropriate for the weather. **We get messy at preschool!** Tennis shoes and approved closed-toe shoes are the most appropriate and safe footwear for children. **Flip-flops, clogs, boots with no tread, sandals, "croc", and jellies are not allowed.**

Each child needs to keep a seasonal change of clothes in their tote bag in case of an accident. Please keep a complete change of clothes including underwear and socks in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. The clothing will need to be changed out according to each season. Please label everything —coats, gloves/mittens, hats, and face masks. Mittens are preferred for all children.

## **Disposable Diapers & Wipes**

All children not potty trained should bring enough disposable diapers or disposable training pants and wipes for the day. Please label diapers. Parents of children in older classes are to communicate with teachers concerning the potty-training progress so that the child's needs are clearly understood.

## **Personal Items**

We do not encourage bringing personal toys unless the teacher has requested them. Please make the teacher aware if there is an item your child wants to share. PLEASE LABEL it when it is brought to school.

## **Preschool Supplies**

Your classroom teacher will provide a monthly sign-up for needed classroom supplies (baby wipes, paper towels, Chlorox wipes, etc.)

## **Tote Bags**

Each child is required to purchase and bring a Soapstone Preschool tote bag to school daily. This bag is for them to carry a change of clothing, their artwork, etc. Please note that children will not necessarily bring home their work every day. Bookbags/Backpacks are not allowed. You'll find a communication clip hanging on their tote bag, which is a visible place to send notes to and from school.

## **Masks**

Unless following an exposure or positive case of COVID (see Health Policy below), masks are optional at Soapstone Preschool.

# SNACK & LUNCH INFORMATION

Children will have a snack and packed lunch each day. Each day, we ask that you please provide the following:

1. Small, simple snack in a labeled container **separate from lunch box.**
2. Nutritious lunch in a **labeled lunch box.**
3. A **labeled** water bottle.

**Teacher will inform parents of food allergies within their classroom and we reserve the right to make a classroom “peanut-free” if there is a child in the classroom with an allergy.**

## **SNACK & LUNCH SUGGESTIONS**

### **MILK PRODUCTS**

Milk – Plain or Chocolate  
Yogurt - Plain or with Fruit  
Cottage Cheese  
Cheese cubes or slices  
Pudding

### **DRINKS**

Water

### **RAW VEGETABLES**

Cucumber slices or sticks  
Celery sticks  
Cherry tomatoes - **cut in half**  
Broccoli flowerets  
Radishes

**Note: No carrots**

### **BREADS AND CEREALS**

Dry cereal - not sugar coated  
Trail mix of raisins and dry cereal, NO nuts  
Crackers – saltine, round, whole grain  
Vanilla wafers  
Popcorn (**3, 4 & 5-year olds**)  
Goldfish  
Graham Crackers  
Pretzels

### **SPECIAL BIRTHDAY SNACKS**

Mini Cupcakes  
Muffins  
Doughnut holes  
Cookies  
Fruit Kabobs

### **PROTEIN**

Turkey roll-ups (or other deli meat)  
Hardboiled eggs  
Cheese  
Greek yogurt  
Edamame

### **FRUITS**

Apple wedges  
Applesauce  
Citrus – orange, clementine, etc.  
Melon – cantaloupe, watermelon  
Raisins  
Grapes - **seedless and cut in half**  
Pears  
Peaches  
Pineapple chunks  
Berries  
Banana

**There are certain items not allowed in the preschool for snack/lunch for safety reasons.**

**Please do not send in the following:**

- **Whole grapes or whole grape tomatoes**
- **Any variety of nut**
- **Carrots**
- **Hot Dogs**
- **Fruit Gummies**
- **Any form of candy**
- **Juice and Soda**

# CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE

Created by Dr. Becky Bailey, an internationally renowned expert in child developmental psychology, Conscious Discipline® is built on the premise of developing discipline *within* children rather than applying discipline *to* them.

Conscious Discipline, an evidence-based discipline approach, can help school staff, teachers, and students create an environment where everyone can develop in a way best for them—including adults!

Conscious Discipline is the only program that integrates classroom management with social-emotional learning, uses everyday events as part of a school's curriculum, and addresses the adult as well as the child.

The method's School Family™ concept, part of the third pyramid stage, defines three essential ingredients for a school's success:

- Increasing the willingness to learn by creating a sense of belonging
- Boosting impulse control internally: a much more effective approach than an external system of punishment and rewards
- Helping children develop and apply sustained attention by reducing stress and encouraging contributions in a caring atmosphere

Research has shown that connections (with people) on the outside develop neural connections on the inside. This is accomplished in the school setting by building a “School Family.” Some of the structures you may begin to see/hear about as we transition to Conscious Discipline® include: Wish Well, Friends and Family Board, We Care Center, Safe Place, Visual Rules, Time Machine, Job Board, Celebrations, Class Meetings. These structures can be adapted for home use as well. More information about this program can be found at [www.consciousdiscipline.com](http://www.consciousdiscipline.com).

# HEALTH PROCEDURES

## 2022-2023 COVID-19 POLICIES

Soapstone Preschool will follow all current guidelines from North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services (ChildCare Strong NC Public Health Toolkit) in regards in COVID-19. We must ask our preschool families to comply with these health policies for the good of your child and the entire preschool community.

## Summary of Current NCDHHS Policies

### SYMPTOMS/EXCLUSIONS FROM PRESCHOOL

If your child or someone in your household is experiencing any of the following below, please keep your child home from school. We will also call you to pick your child up from school if these symptoms develop during the school day.

- Fever (100.4 °F or greater) or Chills
- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion, persistent or discolored runny nose, headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle/Body Aches
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea

**Children or staff who experience any of the above symptoms may return to preschool only with the following:**

- A negative COVID-19 test or a doctor's note **AND**
  - Be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without medication)
  - Have symptoms improving for at least 24 hours

### POSITIVE CASES/EXPOSURES

#### **Important Points:**

- Timeline of Days Definitions:
  - a. Exposure: The last date of exposure is Day 0.
  - b. Positive Cases: Day of symptom onset is Day 0, or, if asymptomatic, Day 0 is the date of the positive test.
- Soapstone Preschool accepts negative results from a PCR test and antigen tests (at-home testing kits) to return to school.

#### **Positive Cases:**

If a child/staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they may return to school when:

- a. They have completed a **5-Day isolation**. The 5-Day timeline starts the day of the first symptoms or the date of the positive test (Day 0).
- b. It has been at least 24-hours without a fever (without medication).
- c. Other symptoms should be improving.

*Child/Staff **must** wear a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days upon return to school.*

### Exposures:

If a child/staff has been exposed to someone with a known case of COVID-19 (including preschool), the child/staff may return to school unless symptoms develop. In addition:

- a. Child/staff **must** wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days post-exposure.
- b. Child/staff should test on Day 5 post-exposure unless they have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

If exposed child/staff develops symptoms, they **must** stay home from school and get tested immediately.

### Classroom Closures

If a classroom has been exposed to COVID, the classroom will remain open as long as 4 or more children and the teachers remain healthy.

## COMMUNICATION

If your child will miss preschool (for any reason), please message your teacher and/or Ms. Jess in Procare or via email. This allows Ms. Jess to communicate your return-to-school plan (if needed) as quickly as possible. If your child becomes sick with COVID-related symptoms at school, we will call you immediately for pick-up. **It is ESSENTIAL that we can reach you, or your emergency contacts, during the preschool hours.**

## **NON-COVID-RELATED HEALTH POLICY INFORMATION**

*Medical history and current immunization record must be on file before any child may attend preschool. **Children with food allergies must have a separate Food Allergy Action Plan on file.***

In addition to COVID, Soapstone Preschool has adopted the following “Recommendations from the Committee on Control of Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics” as our general guidelines for sickness. A child **will not be allowed to attend preschool** when any of the following exist:

- **FEVER:** If you child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, children may not return to school until they are 24-hours fever-free WITHOUT fever-reducing medication.
- **RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS:** (cough, runny nose, sore throat), accompanied by fever.
- **INTESTINAL INFECTION:** (vomiting and/or diarrhea) not associated with changes of diet, or new medication. Children may not return to school until they are 24 hours without vomit and/or diarrhea.
- **STREP THROAT:** Children may NOT return to school until given two doses of an appropriate antibiotic 12 hours apart.
- **RASH:** accompanied by a fever or behavioral changes OR skin infections (impetigo, boils, ringworm)
- **COMMON COLD:** from onset through one week, or if there is a) Runny nose with yellow/green discharge and/or b) persistent cough
- **EYE INFECTIONS:** (pink eye or drainage) – Children must be on medication for a full 24 hours before to returning to school.
- **CROUP**

- **HAND, FOOT, MOUTH:** If your child exhibits bumps or rashes (particularly on their face, around their mouth, hands/feet), they can return to school with a doctor's note and if they have met the following criteria: *fever-free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication), no new blisters/lesions and existing blisters/lesions have closed/begun healing, and children can participate comfortably. This can typically take up to 7 days after symptoms have appeared.*
- **MONKEYPOX:** The preschool will follow guidelines set forth by NC Department of Health and Human Services.
- **OTHER CHILDHOOD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:** If your child is exposed or becomes ill with a communicable disease, such as chicken pox, scarlet fever, mumps, measles, fifth disease, head lice, etc., the director and the child's teacher must be contacted immediately.
- **INFLUENZA** – In cases of influenza, children who test positive for the flu may be prescribed anti-viral medications which shorten the duration of flu symptoms. **However, these medications do not shorten the amount of time a child is contagious, which could be as long as 7 days after onset of symptoms.** Please do not allow your child to return to school until he/she has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, Tamiflu, etc. AND he/she is no longer exhibiting symptoms of the flu. We reserve the right to ask a parent to keep their child home for additional day(s) to keep the flu from spreading in the classroom.

For the protection of your child and others in the preschool, please keep your child at home when he/she exhibits signs of illness or fever. If your child becomes ill during the morning and, in our opinion, should go home, we will contact you by phone and ask that you pick him/her up. Again, for this reason, it is ESSENTIAL that we can always reach you (or your emergency contact person) during school hours.

# Procare

Procare Solutions is Soapstone Preschool's communication, billing, and enrollment tool. We **strongly encourage** you to download the app on your phone for easiest access.

- **Communication:**
  - Ability to message parents and staff as text message or email
    - Allows for classroom, whole school, and staff messaging
    - Text messaging used for emergency-type situations like weather delays and closing, classroom announcements, staff announcements
  - Ability to send customizable newsletters on a weekly basis – whole school and individual classes.
  - Allows teachers to post pictures of children, sent notes to parents, track absences, and send incident reports electronically.
  
- **Billing:**
  - Parents can set up a payment method (ACH draft, credit/debit card) on an auto-draft schedule
  - Parents receive monthly tuition invoices and payment notifications
  - Parents can quickly be charged/pay for a miscellaneous purchase (t-shirt, late fee, etc.)
  - Parents can access their own monthly and tax YTD statements
  - Preschool can easily track tuition, registration, camp, and miscellaneous payments with quick reports.
  
- **Enrollment:**
  - Tracks leads for new school year easily, with tasks/notes/messages to document any interested prospects
  - Automates enrollment process to an online application and for existing parents, online registration fee payment.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THE PARENTS' HELP GUIDE:**



# INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Soapstone Preschool will follow the closings and delays determined by the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) with an occasional exception. Follow radio (101.5 FM), television (WRAL), or online ([www.wcpss.net](http://www.wcpss.net)) for WCPSS closings. We will post on the website, Procure, and Facebook as soon as a decision has been made. Days missed due to inclement weather may be rescheduled. Soapstone Preschool has the option of not making up 3 days per school year.

## **Determination of Closings and Delays**

**Wake County Public School System Closed:** Preschool will be closed if WCPSS closes schools.

**1, 2 or 3-hour delay by Wake County:** Preschool will be delayed 1 hour if WCPSS delays school by 1, 2 or 3 hours. Preschool will open at 10:15am and close at normal time— 12:45pm (12:15pm for Toddlers).

**4 hours early dismissal by Wake County:** Preschool will close at 11:15am.

If the children attend for any portion of a day, that day will be counted as a full day of Preschool.

## **FOR PUBLIC HEALTH/PANDEMIC-RELATED CLOSURES:**

Follow the updates on Procure for any public health related closures.

**Short-Term Closure (2 Weeks or less):** During this time, the preschool will move to a virtual learning platform for each classroom and a re-opening date will be announced. Tuition will still be collected.

**Long-Term Closure:** If the closure extends past two weeks, the Preschool Advisory Committee will determine action steps.

## YOU CAN HELP BY ...

- **Keeping children home when they aren't feeling well!** Remember **The Golden Rule!**
- **Providing preschool supplies for your child.**
- **Dressing your child in comfortable clothes.** We will be busy moving around and doing many art projects throughout the year. For their own safety, children are not allowed to wear crocs, flip-flops or sandals to school. Please keep a labeled change of clothing (socks included) and extra masks in your child's tote bag.
- Download the Procure app on your phone for easy access to class/preschool messages, your child's newsfeed, and bill-pay. Please keep your profile, as well as your child's profile, up-to-date with current information.
- Participating in our annual fundraisers.
- Linking your **Harris Teeter VIC card** to Soapstone  
Must re-link each August; Soapstone Preschool's code is **6147**  
You can link to more than one school!
- Purchasing items through **Scholastic Book Clubs**  
<https://clubs.scholastic.com/>  
**Activation Code XN447**

# PRESCHOOLER BASICS

## Preschoolers are:

- **Creative**—in order to express themselves
- **Curious** about everything—eager to learn
- **Imaginative**—expressing what is uppermost in their minds as they play
- **Imitative**—as they step into the roles of other persons, animals, or objects
- **Active!**
- **Literal-Minded**—in their interpretation of words, thinking in terms of what they have seen and experienced
- **Sensitive**—to their “emotional environments”

## Preschoolers Learn:

- **Through relationships**—with parents, teachers, and other children
- **By doing**—experiencing first-hand
- **Through the senses**—touching, tasting, hearing, feeling, and smelling
- **By repetition**—practicing new skills over and over
- **Through satisfaction**—as they experience success
- **Through play**—the work of the child!

## Preschoolers Need:

- **Love**—unconditionally
- **Acceptance**—to feel respected
- **Trust**—that is developed by adults meeting needs promptly
- **Security**—provided through consistency and familiarity
- **Independence**—to choose among appropriate options and discover his/her unique gifts
- **Guidance**—that patiently and lovingly teaches what is right and wrong

**Parents are often concerned that their children are not learning anything when they are "just playing." However, this is a vital part of your child's learning experience. There are lots of wonderful things learned when they are playing.**

**WHEN YOUR CHILD BUILDS WITH BLOCKS:**

- She learns to use her imagination to create something from her own thinking.
- She has the satisfaction of being able to make something.
- She learns about sizes and shapes, weights and balances, height and depth, smoothness, and roughness.
- She is exercising her body.
- She learns to play with others.

**WHEN YOUR CHILD PAINTS:**

- He is more concerned with the process he is going through than with a finished product. This is how it should be for this stage in his development.
- He learns about colors and how he can use them.
- He learns to use his imagination and transfers his ideas to paper.
- He gets emotional satisfaction from being able to express himself.
- He learns how to use small muscle coordination to handle a brush.
- He learns to make choices and decisions.

**WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS ON THE OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT:**

- She learns how to use her body effectively.
- She experiences joy in achieving a skill.
- She has fun and relaxation found in bodily movement.
- She learns the limitations of her body.
- She learns safety and caution.
- She learns to take turns and to share a piece of equipment.

**WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS IN THE HOUSEKEEPING CORNER:**

- He learns what the roles of mothers and fathers and children are.
- He understands what it feels like to play at being somebody other than himself.
- He learns how to use his imagination.
- He learns how to cooperate with other children.

**WHEN YOUR CHILD MAKES A GIFT OUT OF PAPER AND PASTE:**

- She learns about doing things for others.
- She learns how to use materials like scissors and paste/glue.
- She learns how to use her imagination to make the kind of present she has in mind. Again, the process, not the finished product, is important to her.
- She learns about shapes, sizes, colors, and textures.

**WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS IN THE SAND:**

- He finds it soothing to bury his hands in sand and pour sand in and out of cups, buckets and other containers.
- He is able to relax with these types of media and center his attention on a task.
- He has an opportunity to play alone and not have to compete with other children as with some activities. This is especially important to a child who has trouble getting along with others.
- He has a great opportunity to learn about size and measurement, experimenting with measuring spoons, cups and different sized containers.

- He is not concerned with a final product so he does not find it frustrating.

#### **WHEN YOUR CHILD WORKS WITH PUZZLES:**

- She has an opportunity to work alone or together with other children
- She gains satisfaction in completing a puzzle and builds her self-confidence.
- She has an opportunity to improve her hand eye coordination.
- She will use skills learned in doing puzzles later when she learns to read-putting letters to sounds, making words with letters, and making stories with words.

#### **WHEN YOUR CHILD LISTENS TO STORIES OR LOOKS AT BOOKS:**

- He learns to listen.
- He has an opportunity to increase his vocabulary by hearing new words read to him.
- He learns about different concepts, people and places.
- He learns to enjoy books and reading.
- His mind is stimulated, visualizing the things he is hearing about.

#### **WHEN YOUR CHILD COOKS:**

- She learns to follow directions.
- She stimulates and uses all five senses.
- She learns to recognize colors and shapes from different kinds of foods and kitchen utensils.
- She has an opportunity to use different tools and equipment to improve small muscle coordination.

#### **WHEN YOUR CHILD LISTENS TO MUSIC, SINGS OR DANCES:**

- He learns to appreciate music from different countries, cultures, and time periods.
- He learns to express himself and his ideas.
- He increases his vocabulary.
- He gains satisfaction from participating in an activity that can be fun, physical and/or enriching.

#### **WHEN YOUR CHILD USES MANIPULATIVE ACTIVITIES:**

- She explores new concepts, practices emerging skills, and reinforces skills already mastered.
- She develops fine motor practice.
- She learns about classifying, sorting, predicting, problem solving, and analyzing results.
- She develops her knowledge of the world around her using real objects and concrete examples.
- She learns how to learn.

#### **WHEN YOUR CHILD PLAYS WITH PUPPETS:**

- She is able to verbalize her feelings using words.
- She can begin to understand the feelings of others.
- She can role-play and perhaps find solutions to situations that may disturb her.
- She stretches her imagination.

## **ADDENDUM I: Parent Acknowledgment**

### **General Acknowledgment**

I have read the 2022-23 Soapstone Preschool Parent Handbook and I understand the policies and procedures that have been outlined within.

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Child/Children's Names

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Parent Name

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Date

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Parent Signature