

HAYSBORO



Community Preschool

PARENT HANDBOOK

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1. Preschool Program Information

Goals and Teaching Philosophy

Our goal is to provide a safe and enriched learning environment for three and four year olds to practice appropriate social, emotional, physical and intellectual skills. Our program includes activity centre play, shared time, stories, songs and music, games, movement activities and outdoor play, art and crafts, and sharing a snack. Supplementary activities that appear throughout the year might involve art, music, nature or science themes (e.g., growing a plant).

Our program balances structure and free play by following a consistent routine of activities while encouraging children to choose freely between a range of activity centres or non-directed play.

Participation in a variety of learning opportunities allows for individual development in several areas:

- *Social skills* such as getting along, sharing, and taking turns are learned and practiced at circle time, snack and playtime.
- *Emotional skills* such as empathy and expressing feelings are ongoing as children interact with peers, teachers, and toys.
- *Gross motor skills* including running, jumping, balance and coordination. Outdoor play and gym times provide fun opportunities for gross motor development.
- *Fine motor skills* - using hands and fingers to make things happen - are practiced during crafts and at building and manipulative centres.
- *Intellectual/thinking skills* such as learning routines, recognizing their name, counting, sorting colours, shapes and vocabulary are stimulated during circle time and through play at centres.

Parent-Run Preschool

Haysboro Community Preschool is a **parent participation** preschool program serving Haysboro and surrounding communities. We rely on your involvement to succeed!

“Parent Participation” means:

- Each class is run by teachers and a parent volunteer (the VIP child’s volunteer), this achieves a 6:1 adult to child ratio required by our registering/regulatory body.
- Parents, family members, or caregivers (18 years and older) are responsible for volunteering in the classroom, attending biannual toy cleanings, helping maintain the playground, and supporting our teachers by serving on our Parent Council.
- Classroom volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and may be a parent, grandparent, babysitter, or other family member or friend. All volunteers must complete a PIC (Police

Information Check) that is stored on file by the HCA Administrator. Two PIC fees are included with your child's registration. Please have your PIC completed and sent to the HCA Administrator by October 1, 2023. Police checks are valid for 5 years so only need to be completed the first year your child attends preschool at the Haysboro Community Preschool.

License and Accreditation

Haysboro Community Preschool is a licensed program operating under the province of Alberta Social Care Facilities Licensing Act and Regulations located at Calgary Rocky View Multi-Service Team. We maintain current accreditation by (Alberta Health & Safety). Our teachers hold permanent teaching certificates in the province of Alberta.

General Information

We hold a **Parent Orientation night in September**. The 2023-2024 parent night is Thursday, September 5th, 2024, 7:00 PM in person. Open house for students is set for Friday, September 6, 2024.

This meeting will cover details of the program, opening procedures, parent volunteering, and a chance for you to ask questions.

The first day of class for your child will be Monday or Tuesday, September 9th & 10th. These first classes will be staggered entries. Half the class will attend for the first hour and the other half will attend the second hour. You will receive an email with this information. This will be a chance to let your child(ren) meet the teachers and see the classroom. Full classes begin September 11, 2024.

2. Class Schedule and Calendar

Class Times

Class	Program	Time	Age requirement
3 year old AM	Tues & Thurs	8:45 – 11:00 am	Age 3 by Dec 31 of school year enrolled in
4 year old AM	Mon, Wed & Fri	8:45 – 11:00 am	Age 4 by Dec 31 of school year enrolled in
(3 & 4 year old PM)	Tues & Thurs	12:45 - 3:00 pm	Age 3 by Dec 31 of school year enrolled in
(4 year old PM)	Mon & Wed	12:45 - 3:00 pm	Age 4 by Dec 31 of school year enrolled in

General Class Schedule

Time	Activity	Teacher Job	Volunteer Job
8:45	Greeting and arrival	Welcome	Set up craft
9:00	Circle time	Circle time	Support teacher
9:15	Playtime in activity centres and crafts	Supervise	Craft table
10:00	Clean up, games and songs, snack	Teacher led	Clear craft/ prepare snack
10:45	Outdoor play	Dress kids/supervise	Help dress kids
11:00	Home time		Clean up snack

Class Calendar

Special Dates	Dates
Truth and Reconciliation Day	Monday, September 30
Thanksgiving	Monday, October 14
November PD Day	Friday, November 8
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 11
Last day of class before winter break	Thursday, Dec. 12 or Friday, Dec. 13
Winter break	Monday, December 16 to Sunday, January 5
After winter break classes resume	Monday, Jan. 6
Teachers convention	Thursday, February 13 & Friday, February 14
Family day	Monday, February 17
Spring break	Friday, March 21 – Sunday, April 6
Good Friday	Friday, April 18
Easter Monday	Monday, April 21
May PD Day	Friday, May 16
Victoria Day	Monday, May 19
Last day of class (party during class time)	Thursday, June 12 or Friday, June 13

Note: All holidays coincide with the Calgary Board of Education traditional calendar (<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/registration/calendars/Pages/default.aspx>). The exception is that preschool will have an extra week off in December and will end early in June.

3. Fees and Fundraising

The preschool funding comes from both our tuition fees and funds allocated by the Haysboro Community Association. Tuition fees are set by the Haysboro Community Association Board. Small fundraisers might be held throughout the year to raise funds for new equipment and books.

3 Year Old Program or 4 Year Old Afternoon (2 classes/week)

Monthly Installment Plan – \$79.50/month

(Total Tuition \$154.50 - \$75 Affordability Grant = \$79.50)

- 1 payment of \$189.50 (\$60 Registration fee, \$50 Supply fee and \$79.50 June 2025 tuition deposit) due at time of registration **AND**
- 9 payments (etransfer or PAD) of \$79.50 1st of each month, for the months of September 2024 through May 2025

Single Payment Plan – \$715.50

(Total Tuition \$154.50/month - \$75 Affordability Grant/month = \$79.50/month x 9 months = \$715.50)

- 1 payment of \$189.50 (\$60 Registration fee, \$50 Supply fee and \$79.50 June 2025 tuition deposit) due at time of registration **AND**
 - 1 payment of \$732.67 (credit card) September 9, 2024 (with 2.4% credit card fee) **OR**
 - 1 payment of \$715.50 if paid by cheque or EFT dated September 9, 2024. Cheques made payable to Haysboro Community Association

4 Year Old Program (3 classes/week)

Monthly Installment Plan – \$146.45/month

(Total Tuition \$221.45 - \$75 Affordability Grant = \$146.45)

- 1 payment of \$256.45 (\$60 Registration fee, \$50 Supply fee and \$146.45 June 2025 tuition deposit) due at time of registration **AND**
- 9 payments of \$146.45 (etransfer or PAD) paid 1st of each month, for the months of September 2024 through May 2025

Single Payment Plan – \$1318.05

(Tuition \$221.45/month - \$75 Affordability Grant/month = \$146.45/month x 9 months = \$1318.05)

- 1 payment of \$256.45 (\$60 Registration fee, \$50 Supply fee and \$146.45 June 2025 tuition deposit) due at time of registration **AND**
 - 1 payment of \$1349.68 (credit card) September 9, 2024 (with 2.4% credit card fee) **OR**
 - 1 payment of \$1318.05 if paid by cheque or EFT dated September 9, 2024. Cheques made payable to Haysboro Community Association

***Please note: If your are applying for additional individual family subsidies from the Government of Alberta please plan to pay monthly**

Late Payment Policy

Dishonoured cheques or missed payments

- If families miss a payment, they must contact the HCA Administrator to submit a payment within the first 10 days of the month. If two months of payments are missed the child's registration will be cancelled
- Dishonoured cheques will incur a fee of \$40.00 per incident. If two dishonoured cheques are received we will require cash payments for the remaining program fees.
- Family accounts must be in good standing in order for future registrations to proceed. If a family is in arrears at September start, the child will not attend class and registration will be cancelled.
- HCA Administration will send reminder emails for late payments

Financial Assistance

If you are unable to pay all or a portion of the program fees due to adverse financial circumstances, please speak with our program teachers to discuss potential support options that might be available to your family. Government subsidy information can be found at:

<http://humanservices.alberta.ca/financial-support/15104.html>

Withdrawal from Program

The \$60 registration fee and \$50 supply fee are non-refundable.

Our **Refund Policy** requires that:

- Written notice of withdrawal is received by the registrar one full calendar month before the withdrawal occurs. Prepaid fees for June will then be refunded.
- If written notice is not provided one full calendar month in advance, prepaid fees for June will not be refunded and we reserve the right to process a tuition payment for an additional month.
- If you have paid for the entire year, you will receive a refund for the months not attended after withdrawal.
- There will be no tuition refunds for the months of April, May and June for withdrawals made after March 1, 2025 (even with advance notice).

4. Classroom Policies

1. We ask that children be dressed in comfortable **play clothes** for school. We will be crawling on the floor, painting, and going outside on a daily basis. Please make sure that they are dressed appropriately for any weather, as we will only stay inside on extremely inclement days. This means hats, mitts, coats, snow pants, boots, rain gear or whatever else you would use at home.
2. All children are required to have **indoor shoes**. This is necessary for fire regulations and safety. These are to be brought to preschool and taken home after each class in the child's backpack.
3. All children must bring a **healthy snack** and a **full water bottle** each day. Our classroom is **nut safe** at all times. Please read the labels of any products that have been purchased before sending them for snack. If you are unsure about a product, please bring the packaging to school and we can look at it together.
4. Parents of children with food allergies and/or special diets are asked to provide written instructions of their specific needs.
5. Children need to keep a **change of clothes** in their backpack. This is for any accidents, potty, paint or otherwise.
6. Any child requiring **medication** (Epipen, Inhalers etc.) MUST provide the teacher with the appropriate medication to be left at the school at all times and submit a permission form giving the teachers permission to administer the medication. A copy of this form will be provided by the teachers.
7. All children should be **toilet trained** to enter preschool. Please talk to your teacher with any concerns or in case of special medical circumstances. We understand that children starting preschool are at different stages. If necessary please send your child to preschool wearing a pull-up.
8. A parent council member or a teacher will contact parents by email if classes are to be cancelled for any reason.
9. If you are unable to pick up your child, we require **written permission** for someone else to do so. This permission must include: the first and last name, phone number and address of the person in case of emergency.
10. **Volunteers** are required to assist in the classroom on a rotational basis (on your child's VIP day). You will be notified about this responsibility at least 2 weeks before required.

5. Procedures

Drop Off

1. Complete daily health check before coming to preschool. If your child has any illness symptoms please keep them home. Please advise the preschool if your child will not be attending, by text, email or phone call.
2. Children and caregivers will enter the building through the skate room door.
3. Caregivers will help their child remove outside shoes and jackets and help put on inside shoes. Each child is given hoola-hoop for day-use to store their outdoor wear and shoes.
4. The teacher will have the attendance sheet on a clipboard available at drop-off and pick-up for caregivers to sign the child in and out.
5. If possible, your child will enter the classroom on their own. If they are not able to, you may enter with them.
6. The skate room doors will be locked between 9AM and 11AM. Please contact the teachers at the provided contact number if you arrive when the doors are locked.

Pick Up

1. Weather and time permitting, there will be outdoor playtime at the end of class. The teachers and the volunteers are responsible for getting the children dressed in their outdoor wear. However, to encourage a timely exit, volunteer help is always appreciated.
2. Again, at pick-up the child must be signed out by the caregiver.
3. There is a “take-home” box the teacher will bring to the outdoor playtime. You can find missing items in the take home bin.
4. If the class is not outside at pick-up time, please enter the building through the skate door to pick up your child.

VIP Days

Students, on a rotational basis (about once every 4-6 weeks, depending on class size), are the VIP for the day. The VIP child is invited to sit in a special seat at circle time and share a **photo** of a special toy from home. (Teachers can print photos if necessary).

Your child will have a leadership role on their VIP day. Two frequent jobs they have are line leader and getting to choose the snack time story. The VIP schedule will be published monthly.

On VIP day your family is responsible for classroom volunteers. Please see above for volunteer requirements.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MAKE YOUR VIP DAY

Should you be unable to attend one of your parent volunteer days, you are responsible to arrange for an alternate volunteer. Families will receive a contact list to help with this. Please also inform the teacher.

Volunteer Duties

Duties are posted on the wall in the classroom.

- Review the discipline policy (see section “6. Discipline Policy”) before attending your VIP day.
- Help set up craft.
- Check rotational toy cleaning schedule in the kitchen for cleaning duties. Sign log book.
- Help or run the craft, and clean up the craft
- Help with toy clean up.
- Clean tables for snack
- Help with hand washing in the bathroom. **Whenever possible the teacher will help the children use the washroom.**
- Help supervise snack
- Clear table/wipe table.
- Put up stools/sweep the floor after snack.
- Help children with getting dressed for outside play.
- Help supervise children at the park if necessary.

6. Discipline Policy

We are committed to a model that believes children at this age need a safe environment in which to develop and practice a set of personal and interpersonal skills that will become a foundation for future success. With this in mind, the main emphasis of our discipline policy is to develop these skills through prevention and teaching interventions. The following lists will outline these strategies.

Prevention Strategies

- Set a good example.
- Meet each child at their developmental level.
- Plan ahead and anticipate possible problems.
- Create smooth transitions between activities.
- Provide an organized and well thought out classroom space.
- Use positive encouragement.
- Set and maintain clear limits.
- Use age appropriate language.
- Encourage actions that are appropriate.
- Explain and use natural consequences.
- Make sure students understand consequences that have been instilled by the teacher.
- Only offer a choice when there is a choice available.
- Use wait time to give the student time to choose an appropriate response.
- Ignore minor incidents.
- Teach self-talk to enable students to work towards solving their own conflicts.
- Deal with the present, not the past.
- Always provide an opportunity for help from an adult.

Intervention Strategies

- Stay calm and focused.
- Get down to the child's level.
- Label feelings when possible, e.g., happy, frustrated, angry, sad.
- Be sure to identify the behavior as a problem, not the child.
- Redirect and distract where possible.
- Offer alternate activities.
- Provide explicit instruction on strategies that promote self-regulation (e.g. breathing, zones of regulation).

Quiet Time

- Quiet time would only be used in situations that have become repetitive or where a child is harming his/herself, others or property in the class.
- It would be used as a tool to help children regain control and move toward an appropriate solution.
- It will not be used as a threat and instead will be thought of and discussed as some “time away”
- If at all possible, the child should be able to decide when they are ready to return to the group.
- Teacher-directed quiet time shall not exceed 5 minutes in length.
- The time following the child’s return should be used to discuss what has happened and generate alternatives for the future.

Corporal Punishment

At **NO** time will corporal punishment be used in the classroom. This extends to a child’s parent/guardian as well as teaching staff.

Adults will also refrain from using harsh or degrading measures and language, isolating a child, or withholding food, shelter or safety.

All teachers, aides and caregivers will be given a copy of this policy. It must be read before becoming part of the classroom. It will be the teacher’s responsibility to make sure that it is understood and to answer any questions.

All parents will receive a copy of the policy as part of the parent handbook that will be available on the haysboro.org website and distributed to all parents via email.

7. Illness Policy

Our illness policy comes from the Provincial Preschool Guidelines.

8. Parent Council

Council Role

The council is composed of parent volunteers who, in collaboration with the teachers, run the preschool program. The group meets approximately four times per year (October, January, April, June). Involvement ranges from taking on a specific job to providing input at meetings.

Current Council

Here are the roles and current council members filling the role for this school year.

Council Position	Current Council Member
Teachers	Allison Rau Dobson – msallison@haysboro.org Paula Hillman - mspaula@haysboro.org Laura Armstrong - mslaura@haysboro.org
Chairperson	Julie Christenson – preschool@haysboro.org
Registrar	preschoolregistrar@haysboro.org
Social Media/Advertising	Diana Pittman
Secretary	
Toy Cleaning Organizer	
Volunteer Coordinator	

We welcome you to join us at whatever capacity suits you! Parents are welcome to attend council meetings.

9. Preschool Office

Office Administrator: Diane Ward: 403-253-1563
Tuesday or Thursday 10:00 – 3:00 or by appointment
e-mail: info@haysboro.org
<http://www.haysboro.org>