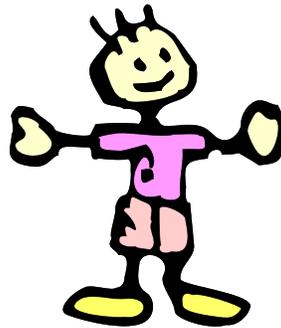


**GILBERT CREEK  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
LITTLE LEARNERS HANDBOOK**



**Early Childhood Services  
A Program of Southern Oregon Educational Service District**

## Welcome to Gilbert Creek Child Development Center

AM Preschool Session	9:00 - 11:45 AM
PM Preschool Session	1:15 - 4:00 PM
Little Learners	8:30 – 10:15 AM



Your child, \_\_\_\_\_, preschool schedule is:

Days: Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Classroom: Purple Red

### If your child is not coming to school:

If your child will not be coming to school, please give us a call. If your child is out due to something contagious (e.g. strep, chickenpox, lice) please let us know. We have one number (956-2059) that you can call to reach anyone working for SOESD Early Childhood Services, including the preschool classrooms. The phone is answered by our office staff.

Traci Evans, Preschool Teacher Red Classroom  
Julie Moffett, Preschool Teacher Purple Classroom  
Debbie Lippolis, Little Learners Teacher



## Tidbits

(or our way of helping you and yours adjust to the ins and outs)

- \*\*\* Arrival and departure time is very important to your young child and to us. Please bring your child to group right at the starting time. If you come early, we are still preparing for the group and are unable to give you our full attention. Please pick your child up promptly. When young children see other parents arriving and not their own, they become anxious and sometimes will cry for their parent. If you find yourself unable to pick up your child on time, it is very helpful to us if you would call (956-2059) and let us know. That way we can reassure your child and ourselves that you are coming.
- \*\*\* Because hand washing prevents the spread of germs, we ask that your child stop at the sink and wash their hands before entering play in the classroom. We wash again prior to snack and after playing outdoors.
- \*\*\* We understand how challenging it can be to bring your child into class if you have other children in the car with you. We would be happy to help by meeting you at your car and walking your child in for you. If you would like this help, let us know.
- \*\*\* Some families like to celebrate their child's birthday by bringing treats to class. Let us know when you will do this and please bring only store purchased items. This is a Health Department guideline. We keep candles handy and will joyfully sing a round of "Happy Birthday" during snack.



## WHEN TO KEEP CHILDREN HOME FROM SCHOOL

Keep your child home from school if s/he:

1. cannot fully participate in all classroom activities, including outside time.
2. has green mucus draining from the nose.
3. has any fever.
4. has diarrhea.
5. is or has been vomiting.
6. has a stomach ache.
7. any draining sore or wound.
8. has a sore throat.
9. complains of being sick.

**ILLNESS:** If you have any doubt whether or not to send your child to school, please call your classroom teacher for clarification. Your child will be sent home from school in suspected cases of communicable diseases such as:

1. Chicken pox
2. Impetigo
3. Lice
4. Scabies
5. Severe colds/sore throat
6. Rash of unknown cause
7. Pink eye (conjunctivitis)

If you suspect your child has any of the above and s/he has been at school, please notify your child's teacher so s/he can observe for symptoms in other students.

Several health reminders to promote healthy students at school:

1. Rest – Your child needs 10-12 hours of sleep every night.
2. Diet – Breakfast is important; it provides your child with needed nutrition and energy.
3. Hygiene – Encourage (a) daily bathing (b) frequent shampooing (c) clean clothing.
4. Clothing – Make sure your child has proper clothing for the weather:
  - a. coat and hat for cold, rainy weather.
  - b. lighter clothing for warmer spring days.

(Information adapted from Josephine County Health Department, Phyllis Gentry, R.N.)





## PLAY AND ITS VALUE

Play is a very important experience for the young, growing child. They need to have the freedom to try new activities and be encouraged to use their own creative ideas and talents. Through play the child has the chance to learn new skills, and they develop a better understanding of their own feelings. They have the chance to really “feel” what it is like when they “play” being a mommy or daddy. They may be expressing a very real fear of their own when they shape a tiger out of clay and try to scare other children with it. By permitting children to play freely in a setting of security and acceptance, adults help them to deal with their own concerns in a healthy way.

We need to realize that not all children “know” how to play. For some it is a difficult task and they need patience and understanding, as well as helpful suggestions. Often what may seem like a fight, or unnecessary roughness may be a “play bid” - “I want to play with you, but I don’t know how to get started”. A helpful adult can step in and give concrete ideas for play - “Why don’t you help John build a new house”, or “Here is the girl next door who has come to visit. Can she come in your house?” Helping children work out their problems with each other, as well as letting them handle things on their own, is a very necessary part of getting along with people other than family.

It is important that the child has the chance to try a variety of things. In toddler group, areas are set up which encourage certain types of play. For example, with blocks they can build towns and cities; with playing with dolls they learn various family roles; when using art materials they have the chance to see what happens when they mix certain paints together; and, of course, outside they can practice large muscle skills. All of these play experiences can be encouraged at home, too.

Play is the child’s chance to practice living! Adults need to carefully guide children through the necessary stages of fantasy to an awareness of real life. We need not worry if a particular type of play lasts too long, or it begins at a “wrong” age, or whether it is too early or too late. Each child is quite different and they may need to try different things at different times - not all children need to play the same way at the same time. A child should be praised for what they have done and encouraged to try the new.





## Early Childhood Services Policy on Emergency Closures

Emergency closures are listed on the following websites:

Southern Oregon ESD: [www.soesd.k12.or.us](http://www.soesd.k12.or.us)

Grants Pass School District 7: [www.grantspass.k12.or.us](http://www.grantspass.k12.or.us)

and announced on KAJO 1270 AM (476-6608)

### *Weather related closures*

During times of inclement weather when the Grants Pass School District No. 7 calls for a closure, Early Childhood Services will also be closed. No classes or home visits will occur. If District 7 should call a delayed start due to weather, morning programs will not operate, but afternoon preschool sessions will continue as scheduled.

If Three Rivers School District calls a delayed start or closure, on a day when District 7 Schools and ECS programs remain open, parents who normally rely on Three Rivers transportation will need to provide their own transportation in order for their child to attend programs.

If Three Rivers School District (First Student) transports your child, the bus must be able to deliver your child directly to your home or be able to stop safely at the end of your driveway and have someone there ready to receive your child. If neither of these scenarios occur then your child will be returned to school, and you will need to pick up your child at school. Please be aware of this when you are deciding whether or not to send your child to school during inclement weather.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call your school district transportation center or Early Childhood Services.

Early Childhood Services	956-2059
District 7 Transportation	474-5785
Three Rivers (First Student) Transportation	476-7733

### *Other closures*

There may be occasions when it becomes necessary to close an individual site due to mechanical failures, problems with heating or cooling systems etc. The Early Childhood Services Supervisor would announce such a closure after consultation with the SOESD Superintendent and direct the staff as to how to proceed. If the closure occurs while children are present, parents may be required to arrange for transportation to return children home. In such a case, you or your emergency contact will be notified by phone. Thank you for your cooperation. Your child's safety is our primary concern.