

# Preschool ABC'S

## A is for...

**Arrival:** Children may arrive at school between 7:30 and 8:00 am. A parent or an older sibling must walk each child into the classroom each morning. We begin our day at 8 am.

**Art:** Your child will participate in many messy projects. Because accidents do happen, please dress your child in play clothes.

**Attendance:** For optimal growth and progress, please be sure that your child comes to school on time each day. If your child is sick, or will be coming in late, please email your child's teacher.

## B is for...

**Birthdays:** We will be celebrating birthdays/half birthdays in preschool. Every attempt is made to have your child be the "snack person" on the day we will be celebrating.

**Book Orders:** Approximately once a month we will send home a Scholastic book order form. We encourage you to order online to help us earn FREE books for our classrooms.

## C is for...

**Circle Time:** Our large group meeting time each morning is called circle time. It is a time where we all gather on the carpet to talk about our day, say the pledge and morning prayer, learn new concepts, and more.

**Clothing:** Please be sure that your child comes to school in play appropriate clothing. For safety reasons, tennis shoes or closed toe/heel shoes should be worn at all times. When girls are wearing dresses or skirts, please have them wear shorts underneath.

**Conferences:** Parent teacher conferences for preschool will be held in February. (This is separate from the rest of the school.) If you have any concerns about your child at any point in the year, please contact your child's teacher.

## D is for...

Dismissal: Teachers will walk their classes out to the preschool lot for 11:00 dismissal, and to the tree in front of church for 2:45 dismissal.

## E is for...

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!: Want to know what your child is up to while he/she is at school? Check out your teacher's classroom bulletin board on Fast Direct to see weekly plans, pictures, and more! Want to keep up with what is happening in the entire school? Weekly newsletters are posted on Fast Direct every Wednesday.

## F is for...

Field Trips: We will have one field trip in the fall. Each child must be accompanied by a parent, and we will meet at the destination.

Fun: Our #1 goal in preschool is that your child has fun while learning!

## G is for...

Good-byes: Goodbyes may be hard, especially at the beginning of the year. It is best if you give one last hug or kiss and leave.

## H is for...

Home: Please spend some time at home reinforcing what we are working on at school. Work on things like coloring inside the lines, cutting with scissors, writing his/her name, counting items, and recognizing letters of the alphabet.

## I is for...

Illness: Please do not send your child to school if he/she has a fever, diarrhea, or is vomiting. When your child has been fever free and has not vomited for 24 hours, he/she may return to school. Should your child become ill at school, you will be contacted to come and pick him/her up.

## J is for...

Journals: Your child will be working on his/her journal every school day. In their journals, students will learn to write their names, illustrate pictures, and eventually begin to write about their pictures.

## K is for...

Kindness: Kindness will be stressed at all times. Teachers will use kind words and tones as a model for children. Students are expected to be kind and respectful at all times.

## L is for...

Learning Centers: Every day your child will participate in learning centers. They will be working in different areas in the classroom independently, in small groups, or one-on-one with a teacher to practice skills and work toward curriculum goals.

Library: Students will go to the library once a week for story time with our librarian, Mrs. Walsh.

Lunch: If your child is enrolled in full day preschool, he/she will be eating lunch in the classroom at approximately 11:30 am. Preschool students may bring their lunch or purchase the grab-and-go option from the school cafeteria. Money can be deposited on to your child's meal card, and will be deducted upon use.

## M is for...

Math: We will be learning many math concepts throughout the year including: counting, numerals, patterns, graphing, colors, shapes, and measuring.

Music: We will have music once a week with our music teacher Mr. Liebmann. There will be lots of music and movement activities that take place in our classroom as well.

## N is for...

Nurse: Our school nurse is available to help with preschool boo boos and needs.

## O is for...

Outside: We will have lots of opportunities to play and learn outside, weather permitting. Please be sure that your child comes to school dressed for the weather.

## P is for...

Parties: We will have four parties throughout the year: Halloween, Christmas, Valentines Day and Easter. Dates and times will be given at the beginning of the year. Each family will be asked to assist with one party.

Prayer: We begin and end each day with a simple prayer at the preschool level. We pray at snack time and lunch time as well.

Picture Day: We will have two picture days each year: fall and spring. If picture day falls on a day your child does not attend school, then he/she will be photographed on retake day.

PE: Once a week we will have PE class in the school gymnasium.

## Q is for...

Questions: If you have any questions or concerns during the year, please contact your child's teacher by email or phone.

## R is for...

Reading: Please make time for reading with your child every day! Reading to your child is very important to your child's literacy development. We will be doing lots of reading each day at school as well.

Religion: Religion is an important part of every day in preschool. We use the *God Made the World* early childhood series by Loyola Press to nurture and enrich the faith and spiritual lives of our students.

Report Cards: Preschoolers will receive two report cards; one in February and the other in May. Your child's teacher will contact you at other times during the year should there be any concerns. Feel free to

contact your child's teacher at any time to check on his/her progress.

**Rest Time:** If your child is enrolled in full day preschool, he/she will have rest time in the classroom each day. Each child will be expected to lie quietly during this time, while relaxing music is playing in the background.

**Restroom:** All preschoolers must be potty trained before the beginning of the school year. Students will be expected to come to school in underwear. Accidents do happen, so please send a full set of extra clothes (including socks, as they too get wet!) in a ziploc bag. We will keep this in the classroom so we have it should the need arise.

## S is for...

**Snack:** We will have snack time each day. The students will take turns bringing the snack for the entire class, and a schedule for this will be given to you at the beginning of the year. Healthy snacks are encouraged.

**Spanish:** We will have Spanish class each week with Senorita Conley.

## T is for...

**Toys:** Please leave all toys and stuffed animals at home. Not only are they a distraction in the classroom, they can also get lost or become damaged.

## U is for...

**Understanding:** We understand that each child is special and unique, and comes to us with different strengths, needs and abilities. We understand these differences, and work to move each child forward.

## V is for...

**Volunteers:** We welcome and appreciate all of our volunteers! A room parent for each classroom will be recruited at the beginning of the year. In addition, each family will be asked to help out with one of our

classroom parties. Watch the school newsletter for many more opportunities to volunteer at SMMA.

Virtues: Each child will receive a t-shirt that is part of our school wide Virtue Program. Students are encouraged to wear this shirt on the first Tuesday/Wednesday of the month.

## W is for...

Writing: It is important to encourage your preschooler to write! Preschool writing takes many different forms. It may look like scribbles, pictures, random letters, or words. Encourage your child to read what he/she has written.

## Y is for...

Yearbook: Yearbook pictures will be taken in the fall. Order forms for purchasing yearbooks will be sent home later in the year.

## Z is for...

Zzzzzz's: Sleep is very important in a young child's life. A consistent routine of ten to twelve hours of sleep every night will help your child have successful school days.