



## *Elm Park Preschool*

### Parent Handbook

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of Elm Park Preschool is to prepare young children academically, emotionally, socially and physically upon entering the Poway Unified School District while at the same time encouraging a love of learning in a secure, friendly, and nurturing environment. At Elm Park we teach to the whole child, with an emphasis on nurturing the child's spirit and building character development.

## PHILOSOPHY

At Elm Park we believe that children learn best when they are safe and comfortable. Although we encourage academics and strive to prepare children for the PUSD, we also realize that establishing a love of learning in preschool will lay the foundation for a lifetime of successful learning. Children inherently love learning and when comfortable, they will naturally seek knowledge. We understand that children develop at different rates and have different learning styles therefore, we present lessons in a variety of modalities.

## EDUCATIONAL GOALS

The primary educational goals of Elm Park include:

1. To provide each child with the opportunity to develop emotionally, socially, academically, and physically.
2. To encourage sharing and respect for others.
3. To nurture each child's abilities while providing them with the developmental skills that are necessary for success.
4. To provide a fun, challenging and creative environment which encourages exploration and develops a love for learning.

## SCHOOL POLICIES

### ADMITTANCE

Elm Park Preschool serves children who are between the ages of 2 and Kindergarten. Prior to admittance, a tour is encouraged so we can have the opportunity to meet you and your child. We will utilize this time to introduce our school, the curriculum we use and your child's possible teacher. We can discuss your child's developmental progress and his/her needs so we can create goals to assist your child's success while in our program and beyond.

The following forms are needed for enrollment at Elm Park Preschool: Identification and Emergency Information (LIC 700), Child's Preadmission Health form (LIC 702), Physician's report (LIC 701), Immunization records, Consent for medical treatment (LIC 627), Admission agreement,

Notification of parents' rights (LIC 995), and children's rights (LIC 613A). Students with medication that need to be administered will also need to have an "Authorization for dispensing medication" on file. All the forms are linked to our website under the "enrollment" tab.

Should you decide to enroll your child, please complete and return the Admissions Agreement with a \$100, non-refundable deposit to save a position for your child. This deposit will be applied towards your first tuition payment.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Elm Park is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM until 5:30 PM. Half Day Program is from 8:00am-12:00pm. Elm Park Preschool serves children between the ages of 2 and Kindergarten.

## ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

It is required by law that upon arriving and departing each child must be signed in and out of school. Parents will be required to sign their child in and out on the Brightwheel app for iPhones and Androids. This requires opening the app, scanning the barcode, then inputting the unique 4-digit code for each parent (each parent will be given a unique code). If parents don't have access to the app, parents can sign in with the director's app or their child's teacher's app. If for some reason the app is unavailable, a sign in/sign out sheet will be available for parents to sign their child in or out with a FULL SIGNATURE AND THE TIME. Parents/guardians dropping off need to make contact with the staff upon drop off, and the drop off person must stay until the child is "accepted". Children may only be picked up by an adult who has been listed on the identification and emergency form. Anyone other than the primary person listed on the form will be required to show identification. Any person that is not listed on the identification and emergency form will not be given permission to leave with the child.

Children will be inspected for illness upon arrival. Students with obvious symptoms of fever, vomiting, lethargy, etc. will not be admitted to the center. If your child has been exposed to a contagious disease or has been sick, please make sure that a doctor has approved of your child's remittance.

Parents/guardians are responsible to provide transportation for their children to and from our facility. Elm Park will not be responsible for transporting children. Parents/guardians are responsible to notify the pre-school if transportation is late. After 5 minutes a late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be charged to the monthly tuition account.

## ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

Please notify the Elm Park staff if your child will be absent or tardy. Also, if sick, please notify the staff of symptoms of your child's illness. If your child has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or signs of a contagious disease, we would like to know as this may help us assess trends in illnesses. Please give us 30 days' notice if you plan to withdraw your child from our program. Elm Park will not refund tuition for unused attendance days, or for students who are withdrawn from the program without 30 days' notice.

## HOLIDAYS/VACATION

Elm Park follows the Poway Unified School District academic calendar. All public-school holidays will be observed. Continuity is important for young children, so summer programs will be offered. Curriculum in the summer will be slightly lighter and the children will have more unstructured time for art, play, music, and exploration.



## TUITION AND FEES

### Tuition Schedule

Program Age Group	Time	5 Days *Monthly Rate for 10 months	3 days *Monthly Rate for 10 months	Annual Material Fee	Registration Fee *One-time Fee
Preschool Full-time Program (3-5 yr. old)	7:30am-5:30pm (up to 10 hrs/day)	\$900/month	\$594/month	\$150 for 5 Days \$100 for 3 Days	\$100
Preschool Part-time Program (3-5 yr. old)	8:00am-12:00pm (4 hrs/day)	\$522/month	\$367/month	\$150 for 5 Days \$100 for 3 Days	\$100
Toddler Full-time ONLY (2-3 yr. old OR not potty trained)	7:30am-5:30pm (up to 10 hrs/day)	\$972/month	\$648/month	\$150 for 5 Days \$100 for 3 Days	\$100

#### Hours:

Part-Time Schedule: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
 Preschool Full-Day Schedule 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Tuition for the first month, registration fee, and materials fees are due before the student's start date. Please attach to application. Tuition is paid on a monthly basis and is due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. A late fee of \$20 will be due if the tuition is not paid by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

In order to save your child's position, please complete our Admission Agreement and return it with a \$100, non-refundable deposit. This deposit will be applied towards your child's first tuition payment. Please make checks payable to, Elm Park Preschool Academy.



## COMMUNICATION

We strive to have open and positive communication with our parents. The Brightwheel App will be our main source of communication. In this app you will be informed with your child's schedule, monthly snack menu, activities, progress, fees and other paperwork that you may need to follow-up on. It also includes a messaging system between you and your child's teacher and the school. In addition, the office and each classroom have established a parent board for parents to check out while dropping off their children. Here you can find updates and information about our program and curriculum for the week. Information and student projects will be sent home on a daily/weekly basis. The children will have a classroom file that contains info to go home every day. Please feel free to speak to us about any problems that your child may be experiencing at school or at home. Whether letting us know about an issue at home or school, we want to hear the good and the bad so we can better serve your family.

All personnel within our school will communicate with the children in a positive way. Children will be spoken to with a respectful tone of voice and adults will show encouragement and a positive attitude toward the children.



## GENERAL POLICIES

### SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

7:30	Arrival and Free Choice
9:00	Morning Circle
9:15	AM Snack
9:45	Large Group
10:00	Small Group Table Activities/Free Choice
10:45	Clean Up/Bathroom
11:00	Morning Outside Play
11:45	Handwashing/Bathroom
12:00	Lunch Bunch
12:30	Bathroom/Bedding/Nap Time
2:00	Wake Up, Bedding, Bathrooming
2:15	PM Snack
2:30	Afternoon Outside Play

3:30

Inside Play/Afternoon Art Activity/Free Choice

4:30-5:30

Departure

## CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT

Elm Park Preschool uses Mother Goose as part of their curriculum to support the PUSD kindergarten academic readiness expectation. We also incorporate Zoo-phonics for phonemic awareness, pre-writing, pre-reading, and spelling skills. Zoo-phonics is aligned with the California state standards and uses a playful format to teach sequential, developmental, and age-appropriate content. Pre-reading and writing, art, math, science, music, drama, social studies, cooking/nutrition, and physical education are all taught phonemically with this all-encompassing program.

Some of the skills we introduce at preschool include:

- Literacy – We focus on language development by singing, rhyming, understanding and learning sounds (letters and beginning sounds), identifying letters of the alphabet, writing and pre-writing activities.
- Printing - We use a portion of the “Handwriting Without Tears” method and encourage the children to progress from scribbles to letter-like symbols to printing of their name, while allowing children to develop at their own rate. We start by building their small motor development to strengthen their grasp to prepare them for their holding and grasping skills.
- Mathematics – We focus on rote counting, number recognition, one-to-one correspondence, identifying basic shapes, sorting, classifying, and patterning.
- Science – Lots of exploration, predictions, cause and effect activities, understanding body parts and the five senses, awareness of the natural world and living things.

The children will also be exposed to learning activities through centers. Here they will have the opportunity for independent and cooperative play. They will have freedom to make decisions fostering their independence, creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Formal & informal assessments will be completed throughout the year. These assessments will include skills that children are expected to develop in various areas. Teachers may maintain a portfolio for each child and these records may be in the form of observations, checklists, and portfolio items. When necessary, children will be recommended for evaluations for determining the placement of a child. Children who do not exhibit age-appropriate skills in any area may be recommended for further professional evaluation.

## MEALS

A mid-morning snack is served daily between 9-9:30am with two food groups being represented (see below). An example of snack includes: juice and crackers, cheese stick and carrots, milk and apples, etc. Parents may pack a snack for their child, but please keep in mind that we are a junk food free site. Please refrain from sending candy, sweets, gum, or excessively sugary foods. All children staying for lunch bunch are expected to bring a lunch. Again, please pack a healthy lunch with a protein source, fruits and veggies, and a small treat if you like. Lunch will be served daily at 12:00 PM.

BREADS/CEREAL	VEGETABLES & FRUITS	MILK PRODUCTS
Cheese crackers, Muffins, Graham crackers, Cereal, Bagels, Pumpkin bread, Banana bread, Fruit bars  *Serving size: ¼ cup or 12 grams	Carrots, Celery, Raisins, Melon balls, Orange wedges, Bananas, Apples, Dried fruit, Other fresh fruit, Canned fruit  *Serving size: approximately ½ cup	Cheese slices, Frozen Yogurt, Yogurt, Pudding  *Serving size: approximately ½ cup

**Sample weekly menu:**

- Monday- carrots (1/2 cup) and goldfish crackers (1/4 cup)
- Tuesday- cut grapes (1/2 cup) and banana bread (1/2 slice)
- Wednesday- raisins (1/2 cup) and bagels (1/2 slice)
- Thursday- celery (1/2 cup) and animal crackers (1/4 cup)
- Friday- bananas (1/2 cup) and muffins (1/2 serving)

Please help us avoid choking by cutting hotdogs, grapes, or other common choking foods into smaller bite-size pieces when packing your child’s lunch or snack.

**REST TIME**

All students who stay for lunch bunch will participate in a rest time from approximately 12:30pm until 2:00pm. The children will get comfortable on a school provided cot with a blanket and sheet (crib sheet) from home. Bedding needs to be taken home weekly for washing. The children can bring a special sleeping buddy if they like, and calming music will play while they rest.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Your child’s birthday is a special day. We enjoy being a part of your child’s birthday celebration. You are welcome to bring a treat to share. We appreciate knowing ahead of time if you plan on bringing a special snack so we can coordinate the details with you. We also encourage you to participate in the celebration by reading your child’s favorite book, or perhaps telling a story about your child as a baby.

**FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips will be planned by the individual teachers and approved by the director. Field trips forms must be completed prior to the field trip date. All forms need a parent’s signature; phone calls can not be substituted for this. Volunteers are always needed for field trips. Parent drivers are required to sign a release form and provide driver’s license and insurance verification.

**PERSONAL ITEMS**

All personal items should be labeled with the child’s name. Elm Park is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items. If your child is missing a personal item, please check lost and found. If your child is having a hard time separating from an item from home, he/she may bring the item to

school. Please encourage children to leave toys at home, but if they need to bring it, encourage them to leave it in their “home sack”. Toys that encourage violence are never allowed at school.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### MEDICATIONS

Children are not permitted to carry and take medication by themselves. The director or classroom teacher will administer all medications. Medication will be given to your child:

1. If it is a prescription medication- over the counter medication will not be given.
2. If the medication is in the original container with the medication label on it.
3. If the parent has signed the medication dispersal sheet (This sheet must be signed daily).

### SUNSCREEN

should be applied by the parent before the child is brought to school. A staff member can apply sunscreen in the afternoon. However, a form authorizing staff to apply a topical ointment must be filled out by the parent.

### MEDICAL RECORDS

Parent/guardians are required by law to complete a health assessment, health history, and immunization form for their child before admission to the school. All children enrolled must have up-to-date shots, for a complete list of necessary shots, please visit the following website: <http://www.shotsforschool.org/child-care/>. Each child must have a physical examination signed by a physician within 30 days of enrollment. No child may attend Elm Park without a proper medical file completed.

\* Parents should notify the director and teacher of any special medical conditions that their child may have especially allergies, asthma, diabetes, etc.

### SICKNESS & DISEASE

If your child shows signs of an illness, please be sure to keep him/her at home for the well being of both your child and the other children. The following is a list of symptoms to guide you in deciding if your child should attend school. Your child should not attend if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- A temperature 100 degrees or higher orally
- Any undiagnosed rash
- Diarrhea- runny, watery, or bloody stools.
- Vomiting- two or more times in a 24-hour period OR once with other symptoms
- Sore throat with fever and swollen glands
- Sever coughing- child gets red or blue in face or makes a high pitched whooping sound while coughing
- Pink eye and or eye discharge- thick mucus or pus draining from the eye
- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Unusual irritability or lethargy



- Difficulty breathing
- Mouth sores

For any of the above symptom children will be allowed to return to school after 24 hours of being symptom free. Children sent home from school with vomiting, diarrhea, or fever must be free of these symptoms for a full 24 hours before returning to school. Our teachers check each child daily for symptoms of colds, fatigue, and contagious disease. You will be called to pick up your child if he/she shows signs of illness. In the event where you can not be reached, we will notify the next person on your emergency contact sheet.

## COVID

Parents must agree to the following coronavirus restrictions-

- Children will be screened at the door and children with a fever above 100 degrees F will not be admitted.
- Parents will need to bring their own pens for sign-in/sign-out.
- Children found to develop a fever during the day or feel sick will be quarantined, in this situation, I will pick up my child as soon as possible.
- My child will use hand sanitizer during the day (in addition to washing hands).
- I will set my child up for success by dressing them in potty friendly clothing and easy-open lunch items. (Each time a teacher needs to help a child with toileting or opening food, they will need to wash hands before and after each "help", please keep that in mind).
- I understand that we are in a pandemic and I do not hold Elm Park Preschool responsible for any illnesses that my child may contract at Elm Park Preschool.
- I will keep my child home if they have a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, or other signs of illness within the last 24 hours. Please let the center know if anyone in your house has experienced these symptoms or if anyone in your family has been exposed to any one with suspected or confirmed COVID19 cases.

FYI- The following coronavirus safety precautions will be in place at Elm Park...

- Children will be kept in the same group with no interaction between groups for the day. Lunch bunch is considered a separate and independent group. If outside equipment is shared, it will be sanitized between groups.
- Parents will sign in daily with their own pens, please drop off quickly and email teachers with questions or concerns. Only students will be allowed to enter the buildings, at drop off, families are asked to maintain a 6-foot distance from other Elm Park families.
- Groups will be brought outside as much as possible to learn & play, children from the same household will be kept in the same groups as much as possible.
- Social distancing- we always teach the children to stay in their own "bubbles" and we will continue to enforce this. If you are worried about exposure, consider having your child wearing a hat with a shield, these can be found on Amazon.
- All staff and students will have their temperatures taken daily to ensure that temps are below 100 degrees F.
- Children will be prompted to wash their hands when appropriate throughout the day (as usual). Children will be encouraged to cover sneezes and coughs (as usual).
- Toys, bathroom fixtures, door handles, etc. will be sanitized continuously.
- Quiet time rest mats will be spaced 6 feet apart, children will be spaced out while eating, sitting every other seat.
- Any confirmed or suspected cases of coronavirus or major illness will be reported to all families immediately.

## INJURIES

Minor injuries, such as scratches and bumps, will be reported to parents on an "Ouch Report" via Brightwheel. It will give a description of what happened and how we took care of it. In the event of more serious injuries, such as cuts, sprains and/or broken bones, the child will be made comfortable and the parents will be called. Should a major and/or life-threatening injury occur, paramedics will be called immediately, and the parents will be notified. Please keep the office informed in writing of any changes to your emergency contact information.

## FIRE DRILLS & EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Fire drills will occur once a month during the year and disaster drills will occur 2 times yearly to help prepare the children in the case of a real emergency. Disaster drills include earthquake and

lock down drills. Children will learn about exiting safely, staying together, and learn about safety in general. In the event of a medical or dental emergency, Elm Park will contact Pomerado Hospital or dial 911.

In the event of an emergency, the children will be kept at the Elm Park Preschool. Parents should make every effort to pick up their children as quickly as possible. If we need to evacuate the preschool, our secondary emergency location is the Poway Public Library located at 13137 Poway Road, Poway, CA. In addition, parents (and/or their insurance) are responsible for coverage should there be a dental or medical emergency.

#### SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

Students will be assessed prior to enrollment. If students require additional help, we will do whatever we can to accommodate each student. If we find that we are unable to meet the needs of a student, we will help families access resources like the YMCA and Poway Unified School District.



#### STUDENT CONDUCT

##### GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN- Code of Conduct

1. Children will show an attitude of respect to adults and classmates.
2. Children will respect all school and other student's property.
3. Children will always keep their hands to themselves and use their words.
4. Children will take responsibility for their actions.

#### DRESS CODE

Children should come to school wearing appropriate clothing and the clothing should be appropriate for the weather conditions. Children will play outside unless the weather is stormy, so they will almost always be outside on a daily basis. Please have your child wear socks and closed toe shoes for safety on the playground. Also, keeping children in simple clothing helps them use the toilet independently. Parents will be asked to bring a back-up outfit in case of an emergency.

#### DISCIPLINE STATEMENT

The teacher will deal with inappropriate behavior through positive reinforcement. It will focus on guiding the child toward making good choices. Teachers will model appropriate behaviors and positively redirect children away from situations in which they are misbehaving by providing alternative choices. Teachers are responsible to teach children how to solve problems without violence and in a way that is beneficial for that individual child as well as for the whole class.

Teachers may use:

1. Verbal praise and encouragement
2. Reward charts
3. Class reward system

The goal of disciplinary actions is to help children to recognize their limitations and to make appropriate choices. If a child is not cooperating with the efforts of the teacher the teacher may use:

1. Redirection or take a break
2. Note to parents

### 3. Parent conference

#### NO CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS ALLOWED

Children shall not be subjected to corporal or unusual punishments that are punitive in nature. This includes interference with functions of daily living including eating, sleeping or toileting or withholding of needs. Children will not be restrained or locked in.

When necessary, the classroom teacher and/or the program director will meet with parents to discuss alternate ways of discipline and rewards for a child. After attempting various behavior modification techniques (if there is not improvement in the situation) the site supervisor/director will contact outside resources to assist both the school and family. If no improvement is noticed after bringing in outside resources and behavior continues to be disruptive and/or harmful in the school setting, this will serve as “grounds for dismissal”.



#### SECURITY

##### VISITORS

You are always welcome to visit your child at school. Volunteers will be asked to sign in and out. Please keep in mind how your child will react to a visit and be mindful of structured academic times. If you are visiting, please jump in as a volunteer and become involved in the activity.

##### VOLUNTEERS

**\*\*During the COVID pandemic, visitors will not be allowed on campus. Please see the director if you have any questions. Volunteers are welcome at Elm Park. All volunteers will be required to sign in and out and fill out a volunteer application. Volunteers will be asked to get Department of Justice fingerprint clearance. Volunteers need the following immunizations before working with children- measles, pertussis, and influenza. They will also need TB clearance.**

Parents are encouraged to volunteer or even to come in and share a talent. If you paint, play a musical instrument, or have some other unique talent to share please let us know. We are happy to have parents come in to read books, help with field trips, assist in office help, participate in classroom parties, etc.

##### RIGHTS OF LICENSING AGENCY

Elm Park Preschool is licensed through Community Child Care Licensing. As our licensing body, Community Care Licensing has the authority to inspect our facilities at any time. They randomly inspect facilities, review files, and can even interview children. We welcome their visits and assure you that information viewed is kept confidential. Please see Notification of Parents Rights upon Enrollment.