

Hancock County Early Learning Center

Mission Statement:

Hancock County Early Learning Center's visions and values are to provide all families with an environment full of wonderful beginnings for your child's Educational, Social and Developmental needs. We have developed our school from a sincere love for all children and the desire to help in their development into the world.

Philosophy:

- The child's environment will be centered on security, comfort, trust and love, these are a child's foundation for quality educational and social growth and will enhance a child's self-esteem.
- We strive to continuously create an atmosphere in which a child always feels at home.
- Be consistent with a child. Present the positive, this will ensure trust in your actions.
- We will instill pride in learning, pride in one's self and pride in others.
- All children are treated as individuals. A child who is secure in their abilities will always succeed.
- Communication will include an open door policy. It is a crucial basic policy for all parents, staff and children to succeed.
- Creativity is an important part of a child's development, we encourage and assist in each child's creativity and will never stifle the child.
- Adopt a happy, healthy environment and you will create a happy healthy child.

Communication on Philosophy:

Hancock County Early Learning Center has adopted this policy to ensure understanding between staff and families. Communication is the key to everyday life and we trust in our ability to provide all our philosophies to the everyday experiences each child will face.

Our purpose is to provide an environment that is safe and conducive to good health and happiness, where children can assemble, work and play together while being guided toward a wonderful future.

Staff:

Angela Rasnic, Coordinator

Marsha Drinnon, Administrative Assistant

Randy Mitchell-SRO

Daisy Greene, Pre-K Teacher

Joyce Nichols, Assistant

Emily Seals, Pre-K Teacher

Sharon Sizemore, Assistant

Emily Gibson, Pre-K Teacher

Deb Dixon, Assistant

Katie Burke, Special Education Teacher

Reagan Nichols, Special Education Assistant

Chelsey Sutton, Special Education Assistant

Kristie Lamb, TEIS Lead Teacher

Tara Sams, TEIS Assistant

Whitney Bolden, TEIS Lead Assistant

Vision:

Hancock County Early Learning Center is part of Hancock County School System. The classroom environment is a comfortable, warm, and busy place where children can feel secure yet challenged for learning. Children in this setting are valued as unique, competent individuals with a desire to learn. Each child has time to choose what, how, and when they want to learn with the guidance of a teacher that is sensitive to the personal, developmental, academic, creative, social and emotional needs of each child.

Children learn through the use of hands-on activities, experimenting with their environment, discovering, playing, problem-solving and direct teaching. The actual environment is child-sized, with lots of room for movement and with a variety of noise levels.

In order for children to manipulate, explore, experiment, try out different roles, problem solve, order, organize, and interact with other children and adults, it is important that the physical environment be set up in a way best suited to meet these needs. Learning centers provide activities that are open-ended, multi-level and self-correcting, and promote an atmosphere conducive to individual differences and varying areas in the classroom that enhance social, emotional, cognitive and physical growth in a child-centered environment.

History:

Hancock County Early Learning Center has worked hard to create a challenging, safe, and rewarding environment for our students. Led by dedicated staff and teachers and supported by a long tradition of parental involvement, we've been able to achieve our goals of providing superior educational and developmental opportunities for our students, and having a positive impact on the surrounding community.

Curriculum & Instruction:

Hancock County Early Learning Center works hard to surpass the academic guidelines established by the Tennessee Department of Education by providing a challenging and engaging curriculum for our students. Connect4Learning is utilized with the 3-4 year old classrooms.

Hancock County Early Learning Center follows Tennessee State and Hancock County District guidelines. The school district has adopted content standards and assessments. These assessments allow teachers, students and parents to see where individuals are in reaching and/or exceeding District Standards. The measures will determine whether the student has successfully learned grade level standards. The results of these measures will enable teachers to teach to your child's individual needs and strengths.

Hancock County Early Learning Center School Policies and Procedures

Our policies play a critical role in helping every student achieve the highest level of academic success and providing a safe, respectful environment for all members of the Hancock County Early Learning Center School community. It's important for every member of the school community to read and understand current policies.

Transportation:

All students who are four years of age can be transported on the same buses as the elementary, middle and high schoolers. If you are interested in your child riding one of these buses, please let your child's teacher know. If your child's rides the bus, you will be required to sign your child on the bus each morning and off the bus each afternoon. Siblings cannot sign preschool children on and off the bus unless he or she is 18 years old. If your child will not stay seated on the bus, he or she may not be allowed to ride.

Attendance and Absences:

Your child's attendance patterns often have a direct link with achievement. Frequent absences hurt academic performance. Absences are considered excused for the following reasons:

1. The child is hospitalized;
2. The child is incapacitated due to a serious injury;
3. The child contracts a communicable disease;
4. The child has other ongoing health related ailments which temporarily prevent attendance (such as asthma);
5. There is a death in the family;
6. Limited medical/dental/therapy appointments (these should be made outside of school hours unless absolutely necessary); and
7. Other reasons as approved by site-level administrator.

Custody:

In order to assist us with protecting the rights of you and your child, please provide the center with any court documents that are relevant to visitation and rights of parents.

Schedule:

If schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Early Learning Center will follow the same schedule as the Hancock County School System. All parents need to have a weather pick up plan in case of an unexpected closing during the school day.

The Daily Schedule:

-The daily routine consists of stories, meeting circle time, music and movement, group singing, art, structured lessons, and supervised play. The program will emphasize reading and number readiness.

-Each child will be provided breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack.

-Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school unless a teacher has a Show and Tell Day.

-No guns or knives (real or toys) are to be brought to school.

Arrival:

All students need to arrive at the center by 8:15. This will give all students time to eat breakfast and begin their day of instruction by 8:30. If your child does not eat breakfast at school, he/she will still need to arrive by 8:15. Students that arrive at the center later than 8:15 will not be able to stay for the day. There will be no exceptions.

Release of Children:

Children will be released to a designated person in accordance with the child's release plan. The program will verify identity of the authorized person by requiring presentation of a photo identification. At the time of release, if the authorized person's behavior might place the child/children at immediate risk, the child will not be released and the Sheriff's Department or School Resource Officer will be contacted. The person to whom the child is released to must sign the child out of the program.

Departure:

Students who do not lay down for nap/rest need to be picked up by 2:00. All children must be picked up by 3:00. All children must be signed out beside of office before leaving for the day.

Classroom Rules, Rewards, and Consequences for PreK Classrooms:

Rules

1. Looking Eyes
2. Listening Ears
3. Quiet Voices
4. Walking Feet
5. Helping Hands

Rewards

1. Stickers
2. Stamps
3. Treasure Box

Consequences

When a student breaks a rule:

First time: Warning

Second time: Lose 2 minutes of free time

Third time: Lose 3 minutes of free time

Fourth time: Lose 4 minutes of free time and talk with parents.

Teacher's Classroom Rules, Rewards, and Consequences may vary slightly in each classroom. Teachers will provide you with these variations. Time out will be used when necessary and according to age.

Classroom Guidelines:

Backpack:

Please send a backpack to school each day with a change of clothes, because there will be accidents, such as spills. There will be many things that the teachers send home throughout the year and it helps if your child has a backpack that will hold these things. Please check your child's backpack daily for work, teacher notes etc. Please label your child's backpack with his or her name.

Clothing/Coats/Jackets:

Our preschool program is one that is marked by its high degree of activity and child engagement. Clothing that provides freedom to learn and play is very important. In preschool, dressing for success means providing clothing that is easy for the child to manage and which can protect from harm in play. It is possible that your child may come home with evidence of his or her activity, including dirt from the playground or paint from art activities.

Please write your child's name on all coats, jackets, backpacks, etc. Many times students have coats that are the same and this will help the teachers to identify the one that belongs to your child.

Visitor Policy:

Visitors must report to the office in order to sign in.

Communication:

CONTACTING YOUR CHILD:

If it becomes necessary to deliver a message to you child during the school day, please call 423-733-1762. Please make arrangements for lunch, car pools, babysitting, etc., with your child BEFORE s/he leaves for school in the morning. In the event of an emergency or change of plans, the office staff will relay messages to your child's teacher. Please do not ask the office staff to contact your child or interrupt a class for messages that are not critical. We begin loading buses at 2:40 each day. If there is a change in your child's transportation/pick up, please call the center no later than 2:00.

Emergency Forms:

Emergency forms will be completed for each child as part of the school enrollment packet at the beginning of the school year. During the school year, please send a note immediately if there are any changes to the emergency information, address, phone numbers, and/or change of responsible contacts. Unfortunately, your child is the one who will suffer if injuries or illnesses occur and we are unable to reach anyone.

Health Policies:

Communicable Disease Policy:

Should a child arrive ill or become ill (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) while at the center, the parent will be required to make arrangements for transportation home. If the child becomes ill while at school, he or she cannot return within the same day. The child must be well a full 24 hours before returning to school.

If your child or an immediate family member tests positive for COVID19, please let your child's teacher know. Please follow guidelines from Hancock County Schools and the ETSU School Based Health Clinic. Should a HCELC student test positive, he or she will need written permission in order to return to school.

For other communicable diseases (including but not limited to those listed below) a doctor's slip stating when the child may return to school is required.

- Mumps
- Measles
- Roseola (Measles that infants get; high fever followed by a red rash)
- Strep Throat
- Scarlet Fever
- Chicken Pox
- Impetigo (caused by strep germ; open sores and yellowish crusts)
- Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis) (yellow discharge from the eyes causing eyes to crust)
- Whooping Cough (Pertussis) (caused by bacteria; high fever and extremely deep, heavy cough)
- Spinal Meningitis (high fever and stiff neck; inflammation of the spinal column)
- Scabies (contagious itch caused by a mite)
- Fifth Disease (caused by a virus, high fever and looks like one cheek is very chapped)
- Pin or Tape Worms (caused by coming in contact with soil containing animal wastes)
- Ring Worm (caused by a fungus; large round blotches with a dark ring around the outer edge)
- Influenza
- Lice - Should a child/adult be found to have head or body lice, proof of treatment will be necessary before the child/adult may return to the center.

Hancock County Early Learning Center reserves the right to change or add to these policies to handle any situation, illness or disease not specifically covered. This is to protect both participant and staff.

Illness or Accident at School:

In case of an accident requiring the services of a doctor, we request that parents' keep us informed of any changes of address or phone numbers. We will make every effort to contact a parent before the child is taken to a doctor. If it is necessary for a student to go home because of illness, contagious health problem, or injury, the parent or person listed on the emergency card (if the parent cannot be contacted) will be requested to pick the child up in the office. Please remember that we cannot keep a seriously ill child at school. In the event of a serious illness or accident, Hancock County Early Learning personnel will:

1. Contact parents when possible.
2. Contact other authorized persons listed on the child's emergency card, if possible.
3. In extreme emergencies, an ambulance will be called, and the child will be taken directly to the hospital. The parents will be contacted.
4. We will keep an Authorization to Consent to Treatment of a Minor signed by you at the school. This allows the hospital to treat life threatening and non-life-threatening conditions, i.e., x-rays, sutures, etc.

As you can see, it is ESSENTIAL that contact numbers be CURRENT so parents or their designated caregiver can be contacted immediately for decisions regarding illness or injury. If parents have special requests for the emergency plan for their child, they should contact the school office.

If your child has had vomiting, diarrhea, or a temperature, he or she cannot return to school until **24 hours** after the last incidence of vomiting/diarrhea, or his or her fever breaks without medication.

Immunization Record and Physical:

Current law requires all children to be immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, mumps and German measles, prior to entering a classroom. The center must keep record of your child's immunizations, as well as, a current physical. Pupils may be exempt from these rules for medical or religious reasons. In these cases, a physician's statement or a waiver is required.

Medication Policy:

Over the counter medication will not be administered by staff of Hancock County Early Learning Center. Prescription medication must be brought to the center in its original bottle. Permission to administer medication and written instructions must be provided by parents. Prescription medicine will only be given if the bottle dictates it to be administered during school hours when a parent cannot be present to administer the medicine. Parents will give their children any medication that is necessary when parent is present.

Student Medication:

Medical treatment is the responsibility of the parent and the family physician. Medications are rarely given at school. The parent is urged to work with the physician to plan a medication schedule for non-school hours. If it is an absolute necessity that medication be given at school:

1. We MUST have the original bottle from the pharmacy with directions on the label.
2. A signed release from the parents for the school to assist in administering medication.
3. Medication must be in a pharmacy container, labeled with the student's name; the name of the medication; proper dosage and instructions; name of the prescribing physician; name of the pharmacy or manufacturer who dispensed the medication.

We will not administer over the counter medication to any student.

Health Services

Hancock County Early Learning Center's students have the opportunity to utilize the Elementary School Based Health Clinic. This clinic is run through ETSU college of Nursing, call 423-733-2121 for more information.

Exclusion from School for Health Reasons:

State law requires that children be excluded from school for the following reasons:

1. Contagious health problem.
2. Lack of immunizations except when having a waiver.
3. Children with head lice will be excluded from school until the hair has been treated. (Parents must provide proof of treatment).
4. Due to the expulsion policy.

Lunch, Breakfast and Snacks:

As part of the health movement in our state, Hancock County Early Learning Center School joins the State Department of Education in stressing the need for healthy kids. The center will provide breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. If you choose to send any of these, please see that your child comes to school with a good, nutritional breakfast, lunch, or snack. We discourage sending sweet treats with your child for snack and encourage you to send "brain food"...fruit, cheese, vegetables, and complex grains. It is important that you and your child communicate about lunches and snacks so that your child does not waste food and is able to have good nutritious food to help sustain concentration during the school day.

Celebration Days:

Parties will be held once a month. Your child's teacher will let you know the dates. Any food items sent to the parties must be pre-packaged. We are not allowed to serve homemade items.

Family Engagement

Family involvement at the Hancock County Early Learning Center is a very important part of your child's education. Through connection with the family each child receives a complete, developmentally appropriate, learning experience. While connecting school with home, this reinforces the development of cognitive learning, gross/fine motor skills, language development, social/emotional development, and self-help skills. These connections are a very important part of learning. We encourage families to be involved with their child's learning by providing weekly newsletters, send home activities, participation activities within the classroom, parent/teacher conferences, and volunteers.

Family engagement will include but not be limited to the following:

- Children and families will be introduced before the first day of school. Families will tour the facility, meet the classroom teacher, learn about the personal safety curriculum, and complete paperwork for the classroom teacher.
- The center will help ease the transition to Kindergarten by doing the following with students and families:
 - Discussing the children's emotions about moving to Kindergarten
 - Reading books about Kindergarten
 - Brainstorming Ideas about Kindergarten
 - Take home activities about Kindergarten
 - Assistance with the screening process
 - Teachers attending Kindergarten Orientation with the families
- One-on-one family consultation with school guidance counselors as needed.
- Parenting skills training as needed.
- Quarterly Parent involvement opportunities.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences in the fall and spring.
- Opportunity for extended day program for VPK students (2:00-3:00).
- Opportunity for extended year for students going into Kindergarten (21st CCLC summer program if available)
- Participation in the family survey distributed by the Tennessee Department of Education. (Voluntary Pre-K Program only)

Conferences and Progress Reports:

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS: Home/school communication is extremely important, particularly in regard to student performance. We feel that the teacher and parent share joint responsibility for this communication.

Parent/Teacher Communication:

1. Back to School Meet and Greet: This is a day set aside for parents to familiarize themselves with their child's classroom and school. Classrooms are open to explain the curriculum that will be undertaken by the students during the school year. Age-appropriate developmental level, classroom expectations, classroom daily schedule, discipline and homework policies will be discussed.
2. Conferences will be scheduled for all parents of each child. This will be done once in the fall and another time in the spring. This is a very important opportunity for you to discuss your child's academic and social growth with the teacher. If the scheduled time is inconvenient for you, please contact the school to reschedule.
3. TEIS students will have 6 month and annual reviews, as well as, conversations at drop off and pick up.

Informal reporting may take place any time. Please check with the teacher any time you have questions or concerns. It may save time if you call to make an appointment with the teacher ahead of time.

These policies are subject to change as the need arises. Participants will be notified of all changes.