

GUIDELINES FOR WILDFIRE SMOKE

When a wildfire occurs nearby, the decision to close or evacuate the school is straightforward. However, as we have experienced in recent years, wildfire smoke can affect our community even when a fire is hundreds of miles away. Poor air quality can impact the health of our children and staff and may require adjustments to school operations.

Our priority is to keep our children and teaching staff healthy and safe while working in partnership with our families and community. The following guidelines explain how Storybook Village Preschool uses state-reported air quality data to determine whether the school remains open, modifies outdoor activities, or closes.

AIR QUALITY INDEX LEVELS OF HEALTH CONCERN (WITH NUMERICAL VALUE):

- **GOOD (0 to 50):** No restrictions;
- **MODERATE (51 to 100):**
 - No restrictions for preschoolers (three- to five-year-olds);
 - Toddlers (two-year-olds) will remain indoors, including those with asthma;
- **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS (101 to 150):** All children will remain indoors;
- **UNHEALTHY (151 TO 200):** All children will remain indoors;
- **VERY UNHEALTHY (201 TO 300):** SCHOOL CLOSED
- **HAZARDOUS (301 TO 500):** SCHOOL CLOSED

These guidelines are based on recommendations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including the Air Quality and Outdoor Activity Guidance for Schools and Wildfire Smoke: *A Guide for Public Health Officials*. They are intended to support California schools in making informed decisions during wildfire smoke events.

Storybook Village Preschool will monitor local air quality using reliable air quality tracking tools recommended by county and state agencies.

To help maintain healthy indoor air quality, the classroom is equipped with appropriately sized portable HEPA air purifiers. During periods of poor air quality, teachers will keep doors and windows closed to reduce the amount of outdoor smoke entering the classrooms.