

YALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHILDREN'S CENTER

PRESCHOOL

PARENT HANDBOOK

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“Offering Licensed,
Half-Day and Full-Day Preschool”

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Preschool

Our Preschool program is available for children ages 3 to 5. All students must be completely potty trained prior to admittance (able to pull their pants up and down independently, and be able to fully wipe). For Pre and Post care for preschool children, preschool is included at the same hourly rate.

1. The program is intended to provide quality Preschool services for students ages 3 to 5.
2. Our students will be provided with Kindergarten Readiness skills
3. Preschoolers will develop fine and gross motor skills through hands-on learning
4. Students will be introduced to letters, numbers, shapes, and colors through music and engaged learning.
5. Students will follow a classroom routine.
6. Our preschoolers will develop skills for confidence, responsibility and independence in the classroom
7. Our students will build friendships and gain social skills.

Daily Schedule

The program is open Monday thru Friday on regularly scheduled school days. The program will not operate on vacation days or snow days. **Please read all notes given out by your child's teacher thoroughly and refer to the newsletters sent to your home by the district for days off and special events. A copy of the school calendar can also be obtained at the district's website, www.ypsd.us.**

The **Preschool** program at Avoca Elementary, Farrell-Emmett Elementary, and Yale Elementary will operate Monday thru Friday. All three sites will offer Half-day Preschool from **8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m** and Full-day Preschool from **8:45 am. to 3:30 pm.** Tuition for the Preschool program will be due in advance by the first of each month. If at any time the child is dropped off before 8:40 a.m or picked up after 11:50 a.m., the hourly fee will be charged and must be paid that day. To attend any of these programs, children must be potty trained, able to pull their pants up and down independently, and be able to fully wipe themselves.

Latchkey Care is available daily from **6:00 a.m. to 8:45 am.**(before school) and from **3:30 pm. to 6:00 p.m.**(after school).

Admission Policy

It is necessary to register in advance to attend our programs. To complete registration, the following forms must be completed and provided to the Children's Center:

1. Registration form
2. Nutrition agreement
3. Child information card
4. Good health statement
5. Parent handbook form
6. Transportation agreement
7. Enrollment agreement
8. Copy of Immunizations
9. Physical, dated within 6 months prior to enrollment
10. Discipline Policy

All forms must be filled out and turned in before your child's first day.

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

The following procedures will help to assure that each child is safe and that the wishes of the parents are followed for child-care.

- A parent designee is a person who is at least 16 years old and has a valid ID.
- A note from the parents will be required for all designees that are having persons under the age of 18 dropping off and/or picking up any child. No exceptions will be made.
- A parent or designated person must wait until buses have left the school parking lot before dropping off the child.
- When dropping off a child in the morning, the parent or parent designee must walk the child **into** the Children's Center room in the school and sign them in. Staff will not be responsible for children not signed in. **When picking up a child, the person must be prepared to show ID daily.** When the caregiver in the room is unsure if they recognize the person, even if it is the mother or father, they will require identification. When picking up the child, sign them out before leaving.
- A child will be released **only** to those persons listed on the emergency card. Notes for releasing a child to a person not on the emergency list in the child's file will only be honored for that specific day. Parents may update names on the emergency card as needed.
- Any change to a child's schedule or daily routine must be communicated by the parent. It is the parent's responsibility to contact the childcare center and the main office.

Nap and Rest Time

Yale Public Schools' Children's Centers are required by state licensing to offer a rest time for children up to 6 years of age. According to the licensing rule R400.5106 (4), "A center shall provide each child under school age in attendance for 5 or more continuous hours a day with an opportunity to rest." Cots or mats are provided daily. Parents of children who will be lying down need to bring a fitted sheet to fit a cot (roughly 2'x 4'). Children may bring a blanket and pillow in a bag. Rest items will be sent home at the end of each week to be washed and will need to be brought back at the start of the next school week.

Exclusion Policy

If any child becomes ill during the hours they are present, in Preschool, they will be separated from the group to prevent further spread of the illness to other children. Parents and or emergency contact persons will be contacted and required to immediately pick up the child. The child will be made comfortable and will be adequately supervised until picked up by the parents.



Illness Policy

Parents are asked to please call the center on days when your child is ill, or will be absent for any other reason.

Children may be sent home and may not return to school if:

1. The child has a fever of 100 or higher-(They must be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication in order to return to care)
2. They are vomiting or have diarrhea-(They must be symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication to return to care)
3. The child has an unidentifiable rash (exception: mild diaper rash) must be symptom free or have a doctor's note.
4. The child is in any pain-(must wait 24 hours and symptom free or have a doctor's note)
5. The child has excessive green or yellow discharge from his/her nose
6. **Communicable diseases (such as chicken pox, measles, lice,ringworm, pinkeye, scabies ...ect.) Must have a doctor's note and be symptom free.**

(If on antibiotic they can return after 24 hour after first dose and be symptom free)

Communicable Diseases: R400.8155 (4) - When the center becomes aware of communicable diseases we will notify all parents of children in care, not just parents of children who had direct contact/exposure to the disease. Parents will be notified but not limited to:

- Postings of information in the Parent board in Preschool center
- Sending home written notification to parents
- Emailing parents
- Calling parents

AT ANY TIME A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IS IDENTIFIED THE CHILD WILL NEED A DOCTOR'S CLEARANCE IN ORDER TO RETURN.

Medication Policy

It may be necessary to provide medication to a student during the time the child is in our care. Medication, **prescribed or over-the-counter**, must be administered according to the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services Day Care Licensing Handbook, rule R 400.5113b. Other health and emergency situations may arise which require attention and will be handled according to the guidelines, which follow:

1. Medications ordered one or two times daily should be given at home unless the medication must be given specifically during time periods when the child is in attendance.
2. A medication consent form must be completed and on file at the program before any medication, prescription or over-the-counter, can be administered to a child. Such forms will contain written consent of parent or guardian and the complete instructions of the physician according to the prescription bottle. This includes chapstick, sunscreen, and any ointments.
3. Over the counter medications, cough medicine, pain or fever medication, etc., must have the appropriate dosage for the child's age and/or weight on the package. Only the amount specified on the package will be administered unless otherwise specified by a physician's note.
4. Program staff will not administer any prescription medication not prescribed by a physician.
5. Medication must be in the original pharmaceutical container and labeled with the child's name, medicine name, amount of dosage, date, the time of administration, and the physician's name.
6. Medication is not to be carried by the child on a daily basis. The parent must carry any medication to the childcare program and personally present it to staff. Medication carried to any child care program by the student will be confiscated and given to the parents; this includes ChapStick, lotions, and makeup.
7. The parents are responsible for notifying the staff when medication has been discontinued or changed. The parent is expected to pick up any unused medication.
8. Suntan lotion and bug spray may be brought to any of the child care programs by the parent to be kept at the childcare center the child attends. A form will need to be filled out and signed by the parent annually.

Forms signed by grandparents cannot be accepted unless the grandparent has official guardianship of the child.



Accident Policy and Parent Notification Plan

Should a child become injured or ill while in attendance, parents will be contacted **when** the staff feels medical attention is necessary, by one or more of the following:

- When the center observes changes in the child's health
- A child experiences accidents, or injuries
- When a child experience an incident
- When a child is too ill to remain in the group

How parents will be notified:

- Written injury report they receive at pick up
- Phone call
- Email
- Text message

Notification will occur at pick up time for minor injuries, or incidents such as minor scrapes on knees that only require staff to apply first aid. A completed incident report will be given along with verbal explanation of details.

Notification will occur **immediately** via telephone to parents for serious injuries/incidents. If unable to reach parent the emergency contact person will be contacted immediately for more serious injuries, illnesses, or incidents such as but not limited to head injuries of any kind, injuries requiring medical attention, allergic reactions/rashes, seizures, asthma attacks, unconscious child, fever, vomiting child, or incidents involving lost children, physical discipline of a child by a staff member or volunteer, alleged sexual contact between children or between a child and staff/volunteer.

An accident report form may be completed by the center staff and will be kept on file by the site director. In case of serious injury, the staff will make an immediate attempt to contact a parent or designated person. If the parents cannot be contacted, we will contact the child's physician. If necessary, an ambulance may also be called.

*******Please keep emergency contact numbers up to date. *******

Discipline Policy and Conduct

It is a goal of the program to provide a physically and emotionally secure environment for the children. Standards of individual conduct and interaction with other children will be followed for the well being of all participants in this program. When necessary, corrective action will be fair, consistent, immediate, and appropriate for the development of the child. **The Yale Public Schools Children's Center staff is prohibited at any time from using any form of corporal punishment as a form of discipline for any latchkey or preschool children.** The children's center staff attempts to work through minor issues with the child before informing parents of any concern. For this reason, parents may not always be informed of minor behavior issues that develop. A few simple rules for conduct each child must follow include:

Abuse and Neglect Policy

By law, all child care providers are mandated reporters. If a staff member suspects abuse, she is mandated to report the concern to the director or principal in the Yale Public School Children Centers. Information will be gathered and discussed and the appropriate documents and procedures will be completed as required by the Michigan Child Protection Law, which is stated below.

Under the Michigan Child Protection Law (1975 PA 238), child care providers are legally mandated to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect. Child care providers must report any time they suspect that child abuse and/or neglect has occurred or may be occurring. Mandated reporters are required to report the suspected child abuse and/or neglect immediately. All of our staff have a responsibility to prevent child abuse and neglect of any children involved in our center. Childcare providers, including all employees and volunteers of a center, are mandated reporters:

- If reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect – it **MUST** be reported.
- Immediate oral report by calling (855) 444-3911.
- Written report within 72 hours after the oral report using the form DHS-3200. Resources at: www.michigan.gov/mandatedreporter.
- Take notes of any suspected child abuse or neglect.

All Yale Children Center staff will agree to report suspected child abuse/neglect to protect the children in our care.

Rules of Conduct

1. The child must keep his/her hands to oneself.
2. Children must take care of items in the room, including playthings or work items and leave other children's items alone.
3. Children must show respect for each other and staff.
4. Children must never leave the supervision of the staff.

The following consequences are usual procedures for addressing problems with student conduct:

1. A verbal warning in which the child is warned that his/her behavior is inappropriate and with any necessary explanation.
2. The child is redirected to positive behavior.
3. A child is placed in the "thinking chair" for a brief period of time appropriate for the age of the child to reflect on their actions or choices.
4. A child may be restricted from participating in certain activities.
5. Parents will be given a written notice that their child's behavior could be the cause to terminate the child's enrollment with the program. This is the "first warning."
6. If behavior continues a conference may be called with the parent(s) to discuss persistent unacceptable behavior to determine corrective action. This is considered a "second warning."
7. The third occurrence of any unacceptable behavior will result in the parents being called to pick up the child and the child will be dismissed immediately from all Children's Center programs. The child will not be eligible for re-registration until the start of the following school year. A meeting may be required before re-registering. No credits will be given.

Any child exhibiting behavior, which is dangerous to themselves, other children or staff, will be terminated from the program immediately without the above warnings, and the parent will be contacted to pick up the child immediately.

Breakfast-Snack-Lunch

Preschool will be served **breakfast each day, free of charge**. The breakfast meal meets all nutrition guidelines established by the State of Michigan. Each center will have a set time for breakfast. Items served for breakfast will be from at least two (2) food groups. Examples of breakfast items include: pancakes with milk, cereal with milk and an apple, or bagel with cream cheese. If a child has severe food allergies: we ask that the parents supply the child's breakfast each day. It is safer for a child to bring approved food items from home in these cases.

Lunch may be purchased at school or a sack lunch can be brought from home daily. A lunch schedule is posted at each site. The cost of a lunch from school is **\$3.25** daily. Parents can send any amount over **\$3.25** to be kept in an account for their child to use. The school will let parents know when the amount is used up. When packing a child's lunch, please make sure there is enough for the day and the contents are nutritious. Please inform staff as soon as possible if your child is having a hot or cold lunch. The kitchen needs to know our lunch count by **9:00 a.m.** Children cannot share food with other children in the room. **Candy bars, cookies and cake are not nutritious and are strongly discouraged.** When needed, certain items may be restricted due to student allergies.



Inclement Weather/Emergency Plans

When Yale Public Schools is closed due to building problems or weather conditions, all childcare programs offered within that school will also be closed. If **one** school closes because of a building problem; all the programs within **that particular** school will also be cancelled. **If school is cancelled after children have arrived, the childcare programs are required to close, and the children will need to be picked up according to the emergency plans form submitted to the transportation department and the school office for Latchkey and Preschool Daycare within one hour of call.** All day care and preschool parents will be contacted to pick up their child according to the information card on file for each child. Parents should listen to local radio stations or follow schools on social media for school closing information.

All centers are closed on the following days in accordance with the YPSD calendar.

*Thanksgiving
Christmas Break
Mid-Winter Break
Good Friday
Spring Break
Memorial Day
Summer Break*

The site Directors and Yale Public Schools reserves the right to cancel a day or any program due to low enrollment, room availability, staff absences, or any situation where the school has been deemed unsafe to accept children. Advance notice will be given when possible.

Withdraw Policy

A **written** one-week notice is required when withdrawing your child from the program or when changing the established schedule. Examples when notice is required include, a parent's job change, lay-off, extended illness (parent or child), or a relative staying in the home. Failure to do so will result in the child or children being dropped from the program and their spot being given to another child.

After a two-week period of a child not attending and no communication from the parents, the child is automatically dropped from the program. Upon returning, the registration fee must be paid again and new paperwork must be filled out IF there is room for the child to return.

When notice is given of switching from attending weekly to a drop-in basis, the registration fee does not need to be repaid. The child's paperwork will need to be inspected to make any necessary changes.

All past charges a parent has incurred will need to be paid before the child will be allowed to re-enroll.

******* The Yale Public Schools Children's Centers reserve the right to notify a parent of immediate disenrollment due to unforeseen circumstances.*******

Registration Fee

There is an annual non-refundable registration fee of \$25.00 per child.

There is a minimum of 1 hour per day charge; all fees after that are charged in 15 minutes increments.

PRE AND POST CARE Fee (For Before/After Preschool Care): \$1.19/each 15 minutes

PRESCHOOL HALF DAY SESSION Fee: \$14.25 per scheduled day

PRESCHOOL FULL DAY SESSION Fee: \$ 32.06 per scheduled day

Preschool Costs

Preschool tuition is due the first of every month as follows:

Two days a week (half days): **\$28.50** per scheduled school day **T/TH**

Three days a week (half days): **\$42.75** per scheduled school day **M/W/F**

Full tuition is expected every month according to the center schedule. If payment is not received by the first of the month, the child may not attend until full tuition and a \$15 late fee is paid.

Half-day Preschool is from 8:45-11:45 and Full-day Preschool is from 8:45-3:30. Any additional time will be charged in 15 minute increments.

*Credits will only be given if the center cancels a day due to low enrollment, staff absences or weather. Please listen to your local radio stations, Facebook or Remind 101. If Yale Public Schools are canceled, preschool is also canceled. We will also give credits for illnesses as long as we have verification from a physician. The note must provide dates for the absence as well as a return date.

To discuss questions or concerns about payments please contact the Director of your Children Center.

All fees must be paid by check or money order. **CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**

***Any parent that credits themselves for hours not used, or days not used will be charged a \$15.00 penalty fee. There is a \$20.00 NSF fee for all returned checks**

Parent Relationships and Responsibilities

Cooperative and positive relationships are necessary between parents and childcare staff in order to provide effective childcare. Yale Public Schools will provide qualified and trained staff to assure appropriate care of the children. The following lists of items are parent responsibilities to assure effective program and communication with staff:

1. Complete our required registration forms and provide up-to-date and revised health emergency information when necessary.
2. Meet your financial responsibility according to the schedule and deadline outlined in the parent handbook.
3. Parents or designees must walk their child **into the room**, sign them in and out, and instruct anyone bringing the child to all childcare programs to do the same.
4. Notify the staff in case of illness or communicable diseases.
5. Pick your child up on time each day as scheduled and pay for any time differences.
6. Spend a few minutes on a regular basis talking with staff regarding the activities and development of your child.
7. At any time that you have a concern that is not immediately addressed in a brief conference with staff, call or request a conference with the Director to discuss the concern that you have.
8. Stay informed of developments and updates in the program by reading any notes or newsletters which may be provided to parents.
9. If possible, share any special skills, interests, or talents that you have that may be beneficial to the children.
10. Toys brought from home are not the center's responsibility if they are broken, stolen or lost.
11. Please provide a backpack for your child. A change of clothes suitable for the weather is required and should stay in the backpack. Clothes should always include pants, shirt, underwear, socks and shoes. *Please check the backpack daily for papers and to update clothing.

Goal and Philosophy for the Preschool Program

The goal of Yale Public School Children's Centers is to provide a welcoming, stimulating and nurturing program. We strive to encourage social and developmental learning for all of our students to assure they are ready for a successful school career. Through the use of Creative Curriculum and assessment, we will create a learning environment to fit the needs of every student and family.

We value and respect what each child brings into our classroom. Each child is unique and has their own learning style. We provide a learning environment where students can grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically in the classroom so that they are successful learners. With differentiated instruction we actively engage young minds through the use of manipulatives, hands-on experiences, cooperative-learning opportunities, and inclusion of technology.

When children and families leave our care we hope that they will remember the memories their child created and the growth their child made while in Preschool.. We hope each family knows that we put their child first and created a warm, welcoming environment to fit their needs. We work to create a Preschool environment that encourages love, respect, trust, and growth. We love our families and will ensure that they are our priority.

Preschool Curriculum

- The Preschool program curriculum is based on a combination of the Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Pre-kindergarten from the Michigan State Board of Education, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Michigan Curriculum Framework.
- The curriculum is designed to include experiences related to children's social, emotional, intellectual, language, creative, and physical development with play being a vital part in the early childhood experience.
- During facilitated and monitored play, children learn conflict resolution, cooperative play, communication skills, and can test their changing skills in a way that is relative to their stage of development.



Special Needs Plan

The goal of our program is for all children to engage in the learning opportunities offered regardless of a special need. It is important that every child is able to participate in our learning environment for their educational advancement. We engage each child at their level as we work to include all children. This is important to us because we want to foster each child's intellectual and emotional advancement and well-being. We conduct screenings at least once per year using Ages and Stages, assessments three times a year and observe our students daily.

As we create this environment, we employ support from our counselor, social worker, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, ECSE teacher and Social Emotional Consultant. Our staff is required to complete 2 hours of training per year in topics related to special needs.

When a child with an identified special need joins our program, we consult with the appropriate support staff to create a plan to best accommodate the student. When we identify a student who we believe might have a special need, we contact the ECSE teacher and our assessment team. The parents will be contacted and the child will be invited to an assessment clinic. If a need is identified, the team will create a plan to best meet the child's needs.

We will share information containing typical child development with parents in our newsletters, flyers and Remind 101. With this information, parents will be able to recognize areas which may be a concern. It is important everyone in contact with children understand this process because early intervention is the best method to ensure students are well nurtured to reach their educational potential. By creating an environment where all children feel comfortable, we allow parents to have a peace of mind knowing that we accept each child as they are.

Preschool Schedule

From 8:45 a.m through 11:45 a.m a child will have a mix of free choice time, group time, story time, snack time, large motor time, and work time. During each time the staff in the room will work with children on many skills, including social skills.

An example of a daily schedule for the A. M. session is as follows:

8:45 Arrive and Bathroom
9:00 Large Group
9:15 Small Group (Centers)
9:55 Free Choice
10:25 Recall
10:35 Snack Time
10:50 Outdoor Time
11:35 Story Time
11:45 Dismissal (A. M. Session)

*All times/activities are subject to change depending on center location. Times are also subject to change a little from day to day depending on projects, special events.

Communication skills, following directions, and self-help skills are a vital part of the preschool environment. If parents have questions or concerns, the children's center director will be available to meet in person or communicate over the phone.

Outdoor Play

Staff/child ratios are always met when going outside. Children are restricted from certain equipment when in our center. Children are never left unattended while outside. If a child gets hurt, a staff member will bring that child in while the other gathers up the other children. If a child falls or is severely hurt, staff will follow all precautions as instructed by First Aid training. An incident/accident report will also be filled out and filed with parents, school, and licensing.



Health Care Plan

Yale Public School's believe that your child's health is very important. We strive to keep our rooms clean and safe and make sure all children and staff are in good health when at school.

- We complete a daily health assessment on each child as they come in the door before parents leave if possible, making sure they look and feel healthy.
- Children will need a physical completed by a doctor in the last 6 months before they can come to school.
- Physical evaluations will need to be updated every year for our preschool students and signed by a doctor.
- An Ages and stages questionnaire will be filled out by the parents at the beginning of the school year. The questionnaire will be reviewed so parents and teachers can look at milestones, discuss any concerns and answer questions before preschool begins. This questionnaire will be reviewed with parents again at the end of the school year to review their milestones and accomplishments.
- Immunization records will need to be on file and updated before children can come to school.
- Health updates will be given throughout the school year through newsletters, pamphlets, remind messages, or postings on any communicable disease that could spread fast. We also provide pamphlets/flyers of upcoming parenting classes on health, health workshops. Parents will be informed of any visitor presenting health/safety education to our students.

Hand Washing

As part of our Health Care Plan, Students will wash their hands after they use the bathroom, before snack, after wiping their nose, and after completing an art activity. The following procedures will be used for hand washing:

- Place hands at a comfortable water temperature and apply soap.
- Rub hands together vigorously until a soapy lather appears and continue while singing ABC's.
- Rub under fingernails, between fingers, around nail beds and jewelry, wrists and back of hands.
- Rinse hands under running water until free of soap and dirt. Leave water running while drying hands.
- Dry hands with a clean, disposable paper/single use cloth.
- Turn off the tap with a paper towel.

Handling Bodily Fluids

All staff are trained on how to handle bodily fluids. School procedures will be followed to ensure a safe clean –up and removal of any waste.

- Staff will put on gloves
- Clean up bodily fluid
- Wash area with soap & water, rinse and sanitize
- Wash hands of child
- Dispose of gloves and wash hands

Cleaning and Sanitizing

The following steps are to be followed for cleaning and sanitizing on a daily basis.

- Spray surface area with sanitizing solution
- Wait briefly
- Spray surface area with cleaning solution
- Wipe clean
- Spray surface area with water and wipe clean

Toys are washed weekly and rotated monthly or on an incident basis (a toy/item is placed in a child's mouth etc.), items are cleaned and sanitized.

*Sanitizing solutions are made up of water and soap.

*Cleaning solution is made up of water and bleach.

Controlling Infections

- All universal precautions stated above.
- Bedding will be stored in plastic bags.
- Cots/mats will be washed daily when used by children.
- The room is sprayed down every night with a sanitizing solution.
- Children who have any type of communicable disease/condition will be removed from the center and may return with a doctor's note.
- Children who become ill will be kept away from all other children until they are picked up.
- Hand washing is encouraged often.
- Children are taught to cough/sneeze into the elbow & not hands.
- Staff will wear gloves when handling food.

Health records and immunizations (waivers) have to be up to date.

Resources: Health Care: Health department, hospitals, poison control, Red Cross, Tri Hospital (CPR/First Aid)

