



MARY J TREGLIA COMMUNITY HOUSE PRESCHOOL POLICIES

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www.marytreglia.org

Serving children ages 3-5 years' old
Classes are offered Monday – Thursday
Full day option: 8:15 am-3:00 pm
Half day option: 8:15 am-12:15 pm

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to welcome, educate, empower, and advocate for new Siouxland families.

The family is the primary and most fundamental influence on children. Quality preschool services and programs build upon and strengthen the role of the family. These services will be available to children and parents with the intent of strengthening the family's system. A special emphasis is to serve new Siouxland families.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

Mary J Treglia Community House is a non-profit organization serving new Siouxland families. We have regular opening times Monday – Friday. At times there are special events during the week and on weekends. The Community House is open to all persons regardless of race, nationality, religion, political affiliation, disability, gender orientation.

We offer a variety of programs to help new Siouxland families gain independence and self-sufficiency. Our programs include English Language classes at several different levels, acculturation classes, citizenship classes, computer classes, a preschool, family services and immigration legal services. We encourage persons to make appointments to meet with an appropriate staff person to help them with their question or concern.

We charge low fees to make it possible for clients to access our services and at the same time keep our doors open. In certain circumstances we waive the fees. Mary J Treglia Community House is a smoke free environment.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESCHOOL

The philosophy at Mary J Treglia Community House's Preschool is to focus on all areas of development. Primary emphasis is placed on the social emotional development through play, dramatic play, creative play and planned experience, which minimizes competition, encourages successful outcomes, increases self-esteem and encourages cooperation. Studies have shown if a child behaves pro-socially and has a strong self-identity and self-esteem, he or she will achieve in school to his or her ability. We also emphasize a language rich environment to support the development of English language skills, including support for English Language Learners.

Parent Engagement: Parents are the most important teachers for their children. We emphasize parent engagement and communicate and meet regularly with parents to share information about child development and provide positive parenting information, techniques, and strategies to empower families. Besides Parent/Teacher Conferences and one home visit each school year, our preschool offers at least one family engagement activity per year.

Parent Surveys: Each year we collect parent surveys from our new families to help us better understand their vision and goals for their child. What their child likes and dislikes. What they expect from our program and any questions they may have.

License/Accreditation: Our preschool is licensed through DHS, has a QRS rating of 4 and participates in the Sioux City School District Preschool Initiative. This initiative is for 4-year-old students who reside in Iowa.

PRESCHOOL SPECIFIC POLICIES

CURRICULUM

The curriculum framework is based on the Creative Curriculum, GOLD Assessment, the State of Iowa Board of Education Early Learning Standards, and each student's Individual Education Plan – IEP (if applicable). Plans are tailored to meet each individual student's educational needs.

Creative Curriculum Philosophy

At the heart of the Teaching Strategies approach to early childhood education is The Creative Curriculum®, the country's leading scientifically based, comprehensive curriculum for programs serving children from birth to age 5. We believe that curriculum should be integrated with high-quality assessment, professional development, and family connection resources to create a well-rounded program that addresses the needs of early childhood education professionals, children, and their families. The Creative Curriculum® promotes children's social-emotional development and learning in the core areas of literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies. It combines the latest research and the freshest ideas into a forward-thinking approach to learning--one that honors creativity and respects the role that teachers play in making learning exciting and relevant for every child in their classrooms. With The Creative Curriculum®, positive outcomes for all children are promoted, including English-language learners, children with disabilities, and advanced learners. More information on Creative Curriculum can be found at www.teachingstrategies.com.

The Curriculum objectives include the following areas:

Social-emotional, physical (fine motor and gross motor), language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, and arts.

Creative Curriculum Assessment “GOLD” and Parent Involvement

Assessment information is essential for planning and individualizing instruction for young children. The GOLD system supports teachers and promotes appropriate teaching practices that help all children build the foundation they need for school success. Skills measured by GOLD encompass the objectives in all areas of development and learning. The classroom staff observes the children throughout the

daily routine, maintains records for each child and completes the skill level ratings. GOLD checkpoints occur three times each school year. The results are interpreted and used in planning daily activities and determining the needs of each individual child. At least twice a year families will have a conference with the classroom teacher and once a year a home visit where a family report will be shared. This report describes the child's development in the above listed areas. The teaching team meets weekly to share observations and assessment results and uses them in planning teaching practices.

The preschool also administers the Ages & Stages Questionnaire at the beginning and the end of the school year and during the summer session. This tool helps screen young children for developmental delays and determines if further evaluation through special education experts would be beneficial. The preschool works closely with the Northwest Area Education Agency (AEA) with parental permission.

Students who are part of the Preschool Initiative are assessed in literacy and math through IGD.

Family involvement is crucial. During conferences, home visits, and through daily communications, classroom staff seeks information from families about the skills and behaviors their child demonstrates at home. The information gathered from families is used in the assessment process. Teaching staff and families work closely to support each child's development.

ENROLLMENT

The preschool is open for children ages 3 – 5 regardless of race, nationality, religion, political affiliation, disability, gender orientation. Interested parents can visit with the teaching staff to learn about the program. They can request an application form and submit the necessary documents including health and medical forms. Necessary forms include the child's emergency contacts, preference of emergency medical and dental services, specific health and medical needs of a child, authorized persons to pick up, parent authorization of out-of-center activities, and a written emergency plan in case of allergic reaction. Once a child is accepted into the program, parents will receive orientation to the program and sign the parent handbook/policy manual. If there is a wait list, children eligible for the Preschool Initiative, children of low-income families and English Language learners will be given priority.

If a child attends more than one year, parents will have to update the information in their child's file at the beginning of the new school year.

ATTENDANCE

Help your child succeed! We emphasize the habit of good attendance. Educational research shows that daily attendance is linked to academic success. Students who participate in daily activities are more successful in all academic areas. Daily attendance also helps students build positive relationships with other students and adults in the classroom. The Iowa Department of Education monitors student attendance. The goal of the preschool classroom is to maintain 96% attendance. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, you will be required to meet with the preschool director. If there is a wait list and attendance continues to fall below 90% (unless there is a valid reason like an extended illness), the child might lose its space in the preschool program. For children participating in the Preschool Initiative, their space will not be lost but teaching staff and parents will meet to develop a plan on how to improve attendance or they can only attend the hours paid for through the Preschool Initiative.

Daily attendance record listing the times of arrival/departure of the child as well as the person dropping off and picking up will be maintained on the door at the entrance to the school.

PARENT FEE POLICY

Our current weekly fee is \$100.00 for full-day and \$80.00 for half days. Scholarships are available and depend on family income (see below). Sioux City School District Preschool Initiative hours for 4-year-olds residing in Iowa are 8:15am – 11:45am (Tu– Thu) and are free. If the child stays for the rest of the morning or the whole day, fees have to be paid for those hours.

Fees are due at the beginning of the week and have to be paid regardless of whether the child is present or not to reserve their spot. When siblings are enrolled, the second child pays 25% less. If fees are paid for one whole month in advance, the amount will be reduced by 10%.

Scholarships

Scholarship options are (using the Federal Poverty Guidelines FPG):

- Through the Iowa Department of Health – if household income is less than 145% of FPG (plus additional requirements)
- Through SHIP – if household income is less than 200% of FPG
- In certain emergency situations, there might be additional scholarships available.

If fees are not paid

Parents who do not pay at the beginning of the week, receive a reminder notice during the week. If they are one week behind in paying, an official letter will be given to them as well as verbal communication asking what the situation is and trying to find a solution.

If parents have not paid for two full weeks, the child might get excluded from school until the fees are paid. Their space in our preschool will be reserved for a minimum of two additional weeks. If the child is part of the Preschool Initiative, the hours they can attend might get reduced to the Preschool Initiative hours.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Parents or caregivers are required to bring their child to the preschool door or room and have a teacher acknowledge the arrival. Parent or caregivers must notify the preschool staff at a minimum within an hour of child's scheduled arrival time of any absence. If the teacher has not heard from you by 8:15am, they will call you. They also must pick up the child at the end of class time. Only persons that are authorized to drop off and pick up are able to do so. If they are delayed, they need to inform the preschool immediately. Staff will begin contact with guardians 5 minutes after class. In the event that a child is not picked up within 30 minutes after the end of their class, and all attempts to contact the parent/guardian and other emergency contacts have been unsuccessful, the staff will contact the local police.

A court order must be on file for un-authorization of pickup of a parent. When a child is unable to attend, parents need to notify us by phone at the front desk. Upon arrival, staff will complete a visual health assessment of the children.

CHILDREN'S FILES/CONFIDENTIALITY

Each child will have a file with the following forms needed:

- Family information and emergency contact(s)
- Permission for emergency medical and dental services
- Health and medical needs including any prescribed treatments
- Written emergency plan for children with allergies (copy shall accompany child if we leave the premises)
- Physical Examination (Iowa law requires that a current - within 12 months- physical examination signed and dated by child's physician is on file upon enrollment)
- Signed and dated Immunization Certificate
- Parent authorization of persons to whom the child may be released
- Documents of child incidents and accidents
- Parent authorization for attendance at preschool sponsored field trips and non-preschool activities
- Parent permission to take photographs of child and family
- Parent/Teacher Conference and Home Visit reports

Files are confidential and kept in locked cabinets. Parents can have access to their child's file upon request.

HEALTH INFORMATION

CPR/FIRST AID

All regular classroom staff will receive CPR and infant/child or pediatric first aid training and at least one staff member with this training will be present at all times while the class is in session.

A fully equipped first aid kit is readily available and a first aid kit will be taken along when the class goes to the outside play area or on a field trip

CHILD EXCLUSION POLICY

***A child should be temporarily excluded from care when the child's illness causes one or more of the following:**

Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities.

A need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.

An acute change in behavior; lethargy, lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, or a quickly spreading rash.

Fever and behavior change or other signs and symptoms (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea) in infants other than 2 months of age.

A fever is defined as:

For a child older than 2 months, a fever is a temperature that is above 100 degrees F by any method.

Children will be excluded from the center temporarily in the event of a communicable disease.

A communicable disease shall be any condition spread:

- Indirectly through the intestinal tract
- Indirectly through the respiratory system (coughing and sneezing)
- Through direct contact (touching)

Purpose:

- To keep the classroom environment a healthy place for children and staff
- To prevent the spread of disease

Staff will observe children with the following symptoms:

- A. Temperature (above 100 F.)
- B. Nausea, vomiting, or loose stools
- C. Red and/or unusual drainage from eyes
- D. Unusual spots or rashes
- E. Scabies
- F. Ear drainage

Children with any of these symptoms should be sent home as soon as possible. The family will be contacted for pickup and the child will be resting in a quiet area away from the other children and kept comfortable.

Our preschool will provide families with verbal and written notification of communicable diseases.

We work closely with our consulting nurse on any health-related matters.

Families of children who may have been exposed to a child with a communicable disease or reportable condition will be informed about the exposure according to the recommendations of the local health department. Exposures to communicable diseases will be posted by the main classroom door.

CHILDREN MAY RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM WHEN:

- A. Temperature is normal for 24 hours
- B. Vomiting/diarrhea has stopped for 24 hours
- C. Drainage from the eye(s)/ear(s) has cleared/condition has been treated by a physician
- D. Contagious type rashes are cleared (many rashes are not contagious)

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING AND ADMINISTERING MEDICATIONS

I. Some students may need medication to participate in their educational program.

Emergency and non-emergency medication shall be administered when the student's legal guardian and prescribing physician annually provides a signed and dated written statement requesting medication administration at school, and the medication is in the original labeled container, either as dispensed or in the manufacturer's container.

II. Individuals Who Administer Medication

Students who have demonstrated competency in administering their own medication may self-administer their medication with written authorization from their legal guardian and prescribing physician.

A childcare staff member shall not provide medications to a child if the staff member has not completed preservice/orientation training that includes medication administration.

III. Required Documentation

1. A written medication administration record shall be on file at the school, including the following: date; student's name; prescriber or person authorizing administration; medication;

medication dosage; administration time; administration route; signature and title of the person; administering medication; and any unusual circumstances, actions, or omissions.

2. All medications shall be stored in their original containers, with accompanying physician or pharmacist's directions and label intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and the public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.

For every day an authorization for medication is in effect and the child is in attendance, there shall be a notation of administration including the name of the medicine, date, time, dosage given or applied, and the initials of the person administering the medication or the reason the medication was not given.

In case of medications that are administered on an ongoing, long-term basis, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of the prescription.

3. Medication misadministration will be reported immediately to the designated program personnel and parent. Written documentation of the error should be placed in the child's file.

4. The designated personnel will establish a date when unused medication will be sent home with the child, and that date will be provided in writing to the parent through letter. Parents wishing to arrange other options, such as picking up the medication directly, must contact the designated personnel.

IV. Natural/herbal products and nutritional/dietary supplements will not be administered without written documentation from a healthcare provider. Not administering a product and/or supplement in school does not prevent parents from administering it at home or coming to school to administer it themselves.

V. Medication information is confidential information. All medical records are kept under lock separate from other records.

PROCEDURE OF STANDARD PRECAUTIONS TAKEN TO PREVENT CONTACT WITH BODILY FLUIDS

Staff will follow the standard precautions for childcare recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in handling fluid that might contain blood or other body fluids. Standard precautions require treating all blood, fluids that may contain blood or blood products, and other bodily fluids as potentially infectious. The instructions for implementing standard precautions are:

- Spills of body fluids, feces, nasal and eye discharges, saliva, urine and vomit should be cleaned up immediately.
- Use a barrier such as nonporous gloves (e.g., latex or vinyl) or sufficient quantity of paper or cloth to clean it up without hand contact with the spilled material.
- Be careful not to get any of the fluid you are handling in your eyes, nose, mouth or any open sores you may have.
- Clean and disinfect any surfaces, such as countertops and floors, on to which body fluids have been spilled.
- Discard fluid contaminated material in a plastic bag that has been securely sealed.
- Mops used to clean up body fluids should be cleaned, rinsed with a disinfecting solution, wrung as dry as possible, and hung to dry completely.
- Be sure to wash your hands after cleaning any spill.

Reference: *American Academy of Pediatrics, "Model Child Care Health Policies," 4th Edition, 2002, p. 20.*

CLEANING AND SANITIZING

Staff follows a regular cleaning and sanitizing schedule as indicated in the Cleaning and Frequency Table.

INCIDENTS

Parents will be verbally notified on the day of the incident (injury, changes in health status, behavioral concerns). A written report is provided to the parent or guardian and retained into the child's file. Also refer to the Emergency Plan.

HAND WASHING

Staff is required to wash hands upon arrival at the classroom, after bathroom use (whether assisting children or using it themselves) as well as before handling any food during preparation and serving, and after outdoor activities.

Children are required to wash hands upon arrival, after bathroom use, before eating, before and after water play, and after outdoor activity. Proper handwashing process is demonstrated and taught (using liquid soap and running water, rubbing hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds).

ORAL HYGIENE

Our preschool is partnered with i-Smile to offer preventive dental services that include: oral screenings, fluoride varnish, dental sealants, and instructions about how to brush and floss. Families also receive help finding a dentist and making dental appointments through care coordination assistance. Daily toothbrushing will be done following breakfast and lunch with toothbrushes that are not worn or frayed. Promotion of healthy foods to promote oral health will be done per the USDA's Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP). Age-appropriate oral health educational activities will be done throughout the school year. In the event of a dental emergency, parents will be notified by telephone immediately.

TOILETING

Parents are asked about bathroom routines at home. Children are encouraged to use the bathroom independently but are offered help as needed. Good hygiene habits are taught. For children who are not able to use the toilet consistently and wear diapers, staff will check diapers every two hours and change the diaper in/on the designated changing station. When the diaper is wet/soiled, staff will follow the diaper changing procedure posted by the changing station. Diapers will be disposed of in a hands-free garbage can.

ACCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES

Fire drills, tornado drills, and intruder drills will be practiced regularly each month and posted in the classroom near the first aid kit. In the event of a fire, the classroom will evacuate to the park across the street, or to Mary Elizabeth Childcare Center and Preschool (814 Court Street; 712-258-1605), if necessary. In the event of a tornado, the classroom will evacuate to the preschool restroom. Emergency diagrams are posted in each hallway and the classroom. Emergency numbers are posted. Staff is trained annually on emergency procedures.

A phone will be available at all times.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child's dental and medical health care providers are listed in the registration packet and that the written consent for obtaining emergency care is signed. In the event of a mild accident, you will be called and an incident report will be filled out and given to you at pick up. In the event of an emergency, we will call 911 and then we will call you. Your child will be transported by ambulance to the medical facility listed in the registration packet. You will be responsible for the costs of all medical treatment necessary for your child's well-being. If the director is not on site during an emergency, the assistant director/assistant teacher will take over.

To be sure no child is overlooked, staff will always maintain name-to-face recognition by visually identifying children. Staff will perform active supervision searches in all areas of the school wherever children are present. In the event a child goes missing notification of where child was last seen to the following: parent/guardian, local authorities/law enforcement, and HHS Child Abuse Hotline. Completion of an incident report will be done by the staff.

ENSURING CHILDREN'S NUTRITIONAL WELL-BEING

Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks

The preschool will follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Programs (CACFP) guidelines. The program ensures food safety in the meals and snacks that are provided. Food that has expired will be thrown out and program staff will be responsible for ensuring the safety of any food brought from the home. Food items for the preschool will be kept in separate locations (in cupboard and refrigerator) from other food. Menus are posted and available for parents.

Special Diets

For children who have special health care needs, food allergies or special nutritional needs, the child's healthcare provider will send the preschool an individual care plan. For children with special nutritional needs, teaching staff will keep daily documentation of the food that was provided and consumed. The staff will post food allergies in the food preparation area and in an area where food is served to the child. All staff working with children with food allergies or special nutritional needs is informed of the needs and restrictions of the child.

Drinking Water

Clean sanitary drinking water is made available to children throughout the day. No sippy cups or bottles are used.

Liquids and foods that are hotter than 110 degrees Fahrenheit are kept out of the reach of children.

Adults shall not consume hot liquids in childcare areas. They shall keep hot liquids and hot foods out of the reach of the children. Adults shall not place hot liquids and foods at the edge of a counter or table, on a tablecloth that can be yanked down, or while the adult is holding or working with a child. Electrical cords from coffee pots shall not be allowed to hang within the reach of children. Food preparers shall position pot handles toward the back of the stove.

Please do not send food or drink to the preschool with your child.

If there is a time for special treats, the parent is required to talk with the teacher ahead of time to decide what can be done.

Reference: *American Academy of Pediatrics, "Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards", 3rd Edition, Standard 4.6.0.2, p. 183.*

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT CHOKING ON FOOD OR CLASSROOM MATERIALS

Staff shall not offer to children under 4 years of age foods that are implicated in choking incidents (round, hard, small, thick, and sticky, smooth or slippery). Examples of these foods are hot dogs (whole or sliced into rounds), raw carrot rounds, whole grapes, hard candy, nuts, seeds, raw peas, hard pretzels, chips, peanuts, popcorn, marshmallows, spoonful of peanut butter, and chunks of meat larger than can be swallowed whole.

Strangulation hazards are eliminated from the classroom. Strings and cords long enough to encircle a child's neck are not accessible. Window blinds or drapery will not have looped cords. Dramatic play

items with looks or straps will be removed or shortened. If lanyards are used by staff or children, they will be the breakaway type. Parents are asked to remove the drawstrings from all children's clothing. Pacifiers are only used when not attached to anything.

Reference: *American Academy of Pediatrics, "Stepping Stones to Using Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards", 3rd Edition, Standard 4.5.0.10., p.181*

String and cords long enough to encircle a child's neck will not be accessible. Window blinds and draperies will not have looped cords. Tension or tie down devices will be installed as appropriate to hold cords tight. Dramatic play items with handles or straps will be removed or shortened. Ties, scarves, necklaces, and boas for dramatic play will only be used by children when directly supervised. Parents are asked to remove hood and neck strings from all children's clothing. If lanyards are used by older children and/or staff, they will be the break-away type.

SLEEPING/NAPTIME

Children attending full day preschool will have a designated naptime. Each child has their own mat with sheet and blanket. They are stored separately from each other and washed weekly.

CLOTHING

A second change of play clothing is required for all children. Children play with paints and when outside may get dirty. Bathroom accidents can also happen. Play clothing is recommended and all clothing should be comfortable and free of complicated fasteners. Parents are asked to think of the changing weather and dress your child warmly (sweaters, jackets, hats and mittens, etc.) it is much easier to remove an unneeded item than to put on something you don't have. It is helpful to have your child's name in his/her coat and boots to prevent confusion. Parents are asked to check their child's cubby or hook daily for soiled clothing. Children and staff are required to wash hands after bathroom use.

For safety reasons please avoid flip-flops and other loose-fitting shoes. Avoid having students wear jewelry (necklaces, long dangly earrings) they may be lost, broken or present a danger while playing.

OUTDOOR POLICY

Children will go outside daily unless the temperature and/or wind chill is 25 degrees or below, or the heat index is 90 degrees or above, or it rains. Sunscreen (30+ SPF) will be applied on children in the months of May through September. Please provide sufficient coat, hat, mittens, and boots for your child. The staff will try to keep extras on hand. Our program depends on children arriving with all the appropriate clothing for all experiences, indoors and out.

SAFETY POLICY

Supervision of the children is of utmost importance. We always maintain the ratio of 2:18. Staff position themselves to be able to see all children and move towards equipment that may pose a hazard.

Monthly playground inspections are done to prevent any preventable accidents or injuries. We check for missing or broken parts, protrusion of nuts and bolts, rust and chipping or peeling paint, sharp

edges, splinters, rough surfaces, stability of handholds, visible cracks, and wear/deteriorization. If found, the item will be removed from the playground until it is deemed safe for play. Staff is trained by the director on how to identify hazards. Any safety hazards such as broken bottles and toys, discarded cigarettes, and stinging insect nests are cleared prior to the children entering the playground. All playground equipment is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions including anchoring. No other large play equipment is used until it is properly secured. The new soft surface ensures proper fall surfacing is always maintained.

At all times, tobacco, nicotine, electronic cigarettes, and vaping are prohibited inside of the of the program, on the grounds and include any employee's vehicle while at work, and in any vehicle used to transport children. Teachers and staff are prohibited from wearing clothing that smells of smoke when working.

FIELD TRIPS AND NON-CENTER ACTIVITIES/TRANSPORTATION

Parents will sign a permission statement to allow their child to go on field trips throughout the school year. Teaching staff will have a first aid kit as well as a list of the children, their emergency numbers and a cell phone. When transportation is needed, parents will be informed ahead of time when such a field trip will take place. The preschool program will rent a van through Siouxland Regional Transit System (SRTS) that is equipped with seat belts.

POSITIVE GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE

The teaching staff will use positive guidance strategies in guiding children's behavior. Self-regulation involves being able to control impulses by not acting; planning and problem solving, and managing feelings. Children learn how to manage their emotions, control their behaviors. and plan ahead when teachers create a predictable environment and schedule and when teachers are consistent, trustworthy, and respond to each child's strengths and needs.

Staff will promote self-regulation and help children experience the benefits of managing their feelings and behavior through: reflective statements, "I" statements, "when..., then..." statements, modeling specific language, offering choices, redirection, changing the environment, and showing while telling. Reference: *Teaching Strategies, "The Creative Curriculum for Preschool", 6th Edition.*

If a child is showing behavior that is harmful to him-/herself, other children or adults, staff will contact parents via telephone to develop interventions to help the child be successful in the classroom setting. A child can only be suspended for a short time and as a last resort until such a meeting can take place. If a child should need to leave the program, we will help with a supportive transition plan.

Our overall goal is to prepare children for kindergarten. To support this goal, we provide our students guidance and practice in developing social skills. Using The Creative Curriculum and PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) to teach developmentally appropriate social skills. Center Director holds a PBIS certification and actively participates in Professional Development to ensure the entire staff is trained. When a child's behavior affects his/her ability to handle the classroom environment, a meeting with the center team and support staff will occur. The program will support staff when a concern is shared with leadership. The team may be made up of the following people: parent/guardian, teacher, teacher associate, center director, and center consultant. This team will

develop a plan to assist the child. The team may reach out to their District Coach, AEA, or the Child Care Nurse Consultant for guidance on how to support the student.

Teachers and staff expect students to conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age level and maturity and with respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students, teachers, employees, and visitors are expected to treat each other with respect and courtesy so that all may be safe within the school environment. Inappropriate student conduct may cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment, interfere with the rights of others, or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, and visitors on school premises.

These behaviors will be documented in a Behavior Incident Report and kept in their file. This will become part of the student's permanent record. Parents/guardians will be notified when a Behavior Incident Report is written, and the report can be viewed by the parent/guardian at any time by requesting a copy from the center director.

These policies and procedures are communicated with parents and staff via this handbook.

Mary J Treglia Community House Preschool does not use corporal punishment of any kind.

INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

All children should be included in all activities. By being included, children with special needs develop increased social skills and self-esteem; Families of children with special needs gained social support.; Children and families without special needs become more understanding and accepting of differences and disabilities; Providers, teachers, staff learn from working with children, families, and service providers, and develop skills in individualizing care for all children. Our program will work with all available resources to meet the individual needs of children. We will work closely with Sioux City Community School District, teacher coaches, and/or AEA to obtain specialized training to meet the needs of the children. Our program will partner with parents and specialists to support the children. The program will maintain a copy of the child's care plan, if necessary, to implement as required to support meaningful participation.

BITING POLICY

One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and loving learning environment for children. When a biting incident occurs, we take it very seriously and try to find the reason why the child bit and assist the child in developing positive social and emotional skills.

Children will bite for many different reasons. When a child bites another child, we will:

1. Intervene immediately
2. Help the child who was bitten
3. Talk briefly to the child who bit and remove the child from the situation for a brief period of time (to another area of the classroom). We tell the child in a calm but firm voice, "No biting, biting hurts." Or "I do not like it when you bite people. You hurt him/her. S/he's crying."
4. Reinforce positive behaviors
5. Notify parents of all children involved. We will not share the names of the children to protect the privacy of all families.

If the biting continues, we will:

1. Meet with the parents of the child who is biting
2. Assign a person to stay/shadow the child while using all of these techniques; most children resolve the biting behavior. However, should this continue without improvement, we will ask parents to permit referral child to a childcare professional to help with this behavior.

HOLIDAY POLICY

We serve a diverse population from different cultures and faith traditions. Therefore, we will celebrate a variety of holidays in communication with parents. If a family is not able to celebrate a specific holiday because of their beliefs, we will not celebrate this holiday during school hours so no child will have to be excluded.

Families celebrate birthdays in many different ways and some cultures/faith traditions do not celebrate birthdays. Therefore, we will not emphasize birthdays. Parents are asked to talk with the teaching staff before bringing treats to the preschool.

BUILDING

The classroom has 739 sq. feet and can accommodate up to 18 children (minimum of 35 square feet of usable space per child). An outside play area is available. A gym that can be utilized by the preschool if outside play is not possible due to weather.

ACCESS TO THE PRESCHOOL ROOM

The classroom is in the Mary J Treglia Community House building and secured by doors from the rest of the building. The building itself has security doors with monitoring. A sign in/sign out sheet is in place at the front desk for any visitors that included time in/out, name, reason for visit, and contact information. The doors to the preschool classroom are locked during class times to ensure safety. However, parents are invited to visit and participate in activities in the preschool room. Please advise teaching staff before class time. Keep in mind that the presence of a parent may result in changes of children's behaviors in the classroom. We ask that parents keep children's learning and personal needs in mind. Parents are expected to participate in classroom activities. Please refrain from cell phone use and adult conversations. If you have questions regarding your child's learning experience the teaching staff will be happy to meet with you outside of class. Other visitors need permission from the preschool director and/or lead teacher. Parents, volunteers and substitutes receive orientation and sign the confidentiality policy. The classroom has an exit door to the playground.

SUPERVISION

Teachers and staff maintain a minimum of ratio of 2 staff to 10 children at all times. Teachers and staff use active supervision throughout the entire day including play, outdoors, basic care routines, and transitions as well as if we leave the building for field trips and walks. Teachers and staff are trained use a name-to-face recognition by visually identifying each child.

Supervision around water requires teachers and staff to use touch supervision. This is maintained by the supervising adult is within arm's length at all times. Waterplay refers to the use of sensory tables and sprinklers. There are no bodies of water in or around our building.

PARENTS RIGHTS/RESPONSIBILITIES

Each parent with children attending the Mary J Treglia Community House preschool is guaranteed the following rights:

The right to be respected.

The right to be heard.

The right to support in their role as a parent.

The right to be recognized as their child's primary teacher.

The right to reliable, quality child care.

The right to be involved in decisions in their child's program and daily wellbeing.

The right to advocate for their child.

The right to be involved in decision making.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Each child attending the Mary J Treglia Community House Preschool is guaranteed the following rights:

The right to be protected.

The right to feel loved.

The right to feel accepted.

The right to have positive role models.

The right to have a feeling of accomplishment.

The right to feel they belong.

The right to be respected and valued.

The right to feel safe.

The right to learn responsibility for their own actions.

The right to learn self-regulation.

The right to have fun.

STAFFING AND TRAINING

The preschool director and the teacher will have a bachelor's in education degree with preference given to an early childhood education degree. The director will meet all requirements according to Rule 441 IAC 109.6. The Center Director, lead teacher and all other preschool staff (including assistant teachers and aides) will have updated CPR/First AID training, mandatory reporting training, universal precautions training, intentional active supervision (taught by the director), and Chapter 103 training.

Ongoing training will be offered and expected. The director and teacher will participate in Director's Meetings and Professional Development sessions offered through the Sioux City School District/Preschool Initiative respectively. Each staff will have to complete a minimum of 15 hours of continuing education/year in the early childhood education field according to Rule 441 IAC 109.7. Part-time staff will complete the appropriate percentage of this.

Staff orientation will make use of the Iowa QRS *Basic Employee Orientation Checklist Prior to Beginning Work* form (form 470-4307).

The child-staff ratio will be followed at all times during opening hours. At least one person on duty in the center, outdoor play area, or on field trips is over eighteen and has current certification in CPR and first-aid.

Volunteers and substitutes will be at least 16 years old and shall:

- Sign a statement indicating no conviction of any law in any state or record of founded child or dependent abuse
- Sign a statement indicating no communicable disease or other health concern that poses a threat to children
- Sign a statement indicating they have been informed of responsibilities as mandatory reporters

Volunteers and substitutes will undergo the record check process if the person: (1) Is included in meeting the required child/staff ratio. (2) Has direct responsibility for a child or children. (3) Has access to child or children when no other staff is present.

RECORD CHECKS

All classroom staff has to undergo a record check if the person

- Is included in the child/teacher ratio
- has direct responsibility for a child or children
- has access to child or children when no other staff is present

Record checks will be done at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

Criminal history checks are done at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.

A sex offender who has been convicted of an offense against a minor and is required to register with the sex offender registry shall not be present on the property without written permission of the director, except for the time reasonably necessary to transport the offender's own child to and from the preschool. (Rule 109.10(16)d)

MANDATORY REPORTING

According to Iowa laws, anyone who works with children is considered a mandatory reporter and must report any suspicions of child abuse or neglect by families, staff, volunteers or others to the proper authorities.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND MEDICATION

All teaching staff, substitutes and volunteers shall be free of the use of illegal drugs and shall not be under the influence of alcohol or any prescription or non-prescription drug that could impair their ability to function.

APPENDIX

- Staff Training Policy

I have received and reviewed the Mary J Treglia Community House Preschool Handbook:

Parent or Caregiver/Staff Signature Date

Parent or Caregiver/Staff Printed Name Date

APPENDIX – PRESCHOOL STAFF HANDBOOK

ORIENTATION

When new staff is hired, they will receive orientation on preschool policies and licensing requirements within the first 30 days of employment. They will receive a copy of this policy handbook.

All staff members will receive orientation using the *Basic Employee Orientation Checklist Prior to Beginning Work, form 470-4307* in compliance with Iowa QRS. The original will be filed in the employee's file, and copy will be given to the employee.

STAFF FILES

Each staff member will have a file with the following forms needed:

A signed copy of the *DHS Criminal History Record Check, Form B*, that was submitted prior to employment.

A copy of *Request for Child and Dependent Adult Abuse Information*.

Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.

Copies of national criminal history check results.

Any Department-issued documents sent to the center, related to records

Basic Employee Orientation Checklist Prior to Beginning Work, form 470-4307.

Records of required trainings, updated annually.

Current certifications in first aid/CPR, mandatory child abuse reporter training, Chapter 103 training.

Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report, form 470-5152.

Signed confidentiality agreement.

STAFF TRAINING POLICY

- The preschool director and the teacher will have a bachelor in education degree with preference given to an early childhood education degree. The director will meet all requirements according to Rule 441 IAC 109.6. The Center Director, lead teacher and all other preschool staff (including assistant teachers and aides) will have updated CPR/First AID training, mandatory reporting training, universal precautions training, and Chapter 103 training.
- Staff will fulfill the qualification requirements for participating in the Sioux City School Preschool Initiative.
- Only staff with completed Medication Administration Training will administer medication with a note from the child's doctor.
- Ongoing training will be offered and expected. Each staff will have to complete a minimum of 15 hours of continuing education/year in the early childhood education field according to Rule 441 IAC 109.7. Part-time staff will complete the appropriate percentage of this.
- Staff orientation will make use of the Iowa QRS *Basic Employee Orientation Checklist Prior to Beginning Work* form (form 470-4307).
- The child-staff ratio will be followed at all times during opening hours. At least one person on duty in the center, outdoor play area, or on field trips is over eighteen and has current certification in CPR and first-aid.
- Volunteers and substitutes will be at least 16 years old and shall:
 - Sign a statement indicating no conviction of any law in any state or record of founded child or dependent abuse
 - Sign a statement indicating no communicable disease or other health concern that poses a threat to children
 - Sign a statement indicating they have been informed of responsibilities as mandatory reporters

- Volunteers and substitutes will undergo the record check process if the person: (1) Is included in meeting the required child/staff ratio. (2) Has direct responsibility for a child or children. (3) Has access to child or children when no other staff is present.

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

Employees and volunteers will sign a Mary J. Treglia Community House confidentiality agreement prior to entering the preschool classroom. The agreement will be kept on file.

MARY J TREGLIA COMMUNITY HOUSE PERSONNEL POLICIES

Each staff will receive a Personnel Policies binder from the agency regarding general policies as a staff of the agency.