

MAMMOTH-SAN MANUEL Title 1 Preschools

Statement of Services Handbook



**Mammoth Elementary STEM School
111 Duncan Drive
Mammoth, AZ. 520-487-2242 Rooms 13 & 14**

**First Avenue Elementary STEM Preschool
914 W. 1st Avenue
San Manuel, AZ. 520-385-4341 Rooms 14 & 15**

Children must enroll in the preschool program in their home town

Updated 7/2011

**First Avenue Elementary/Mammoth Elementary STEM School
Title I Preschool Program
STATEMENT OF SERVICES FOR PARENTS**

LICENSING

Each school site is classified by the Arizona Department of Health Services as part-time school age child care facilities.

The facilities are regulated by the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Mammoth-San Manuel School District Governing Board.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
400 WEST CONGRESS, SUITE 100
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701 (520) 628-6540

MAMMOTH-SAN MANUEL SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING
BOARD
P.O. BOX 406, SAN MANUEL, ARIZONA 85631 (520) 385-2337

Staff

Mrs. Shawnie Christian is the STEM preschool teacher for the 3yr. & 4 yr. old programs in San Manuel.

Mrs. Yvonne Maestas is the STEM preschool teacher for the 4 yr. old program in Mammoth.

Ms. Joyce McClung is the special needs preschool teacher for both the San Manuel & Mammoth programs.

If you have any questions, please call us at 520-385-4341 extension 115 (Mrs. Christian), extension 114 (Ms. McClung).

Call 520-487-2242 extension 113 for Mrs. Maestas.

QUALIFICATIONS OF STAFF

The preschool teachers are certified by the Arizona State Department of Education and are Highly Qualified Teachers with Early Childhood endorsements. The classroom paraprofessionals have met all Arizona State Department of Education requirements to be in the classroom. Several staff also hold current CPR and First Aid Certificates.

ENROLLMENT

To enroll, the child must be 3 (at First Avenue only) or 4 years old by September 1st of the current school year. A birth certificate and current immunization record are required. You will be notified when a shot update is required. An emergency information card must be completed with current information. Custody papers or court papers must be on file to be honored by the school.

Special Needs Program-Preschool services are available to children on their third birthday if developmental assessment indicates that they have special needs. Special needs services include speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and a special needs individual education program plan.

ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWALS

Please call the office if your child will not be attending school for the day or if there will be a bus change. If you need to withdraw your child from preschool, please contact the office for an official withdrawal form.

If a child has missed 10 consecutive classes without a parent notifying the teacher, that child will be withdrawn from the program and the parent will have to reapply in order for the child to return to preschool.

Attendance

Attendance is very important. You can help your child realize that school is your child's "job". Just like moms and dad have jobs to do. Due to safety concerns please close gates when you enter and leave the school grounds.

SIGN-IN, SIGN OUT

Children must be signed in and out daily. See your site's information for specific regulations. If you or others bring your child late or pick-up your child early, **YOU MUST SIGN THEM IN OR OUT.** A full signature is required, please no initials.

Signing in and out of class:

Parents are asked to bring their children on time for class but no more than 10 minutes before class starts. Students miss instructions and activities if they arrive to school tardy. Students must be signed in and out of class each day. Please walk your child to the classroom at the beginning of each class and if they are not riding a bus home please pick them up at the classroom so that they can also be signed out. If your child does not ride the bus provided, please pick up your child promptly after class. If you are going to be late, please call the preschool to inform the teacher. If you are more than 10 minutes late your child will be taken to the office and can be picked up there. Students that ride the elementary school bus will be signed in/out by the teacher or paraprofessional.

FEES

The Mammoth-San Manuel preschools are funded through Federal Title 1 and Mammoth-San Manuel School funds. The program is free to Mammoth and San Manuel residents; therefore there is no refund.

MEALS

Breakfast and lunch are available to the children. Free or reduced prices are available to those families who qualify. The applications are available in the office and are approved from the cafeteria.

At First Avenue Elementary

Preschoolers may participate in the school breakfast and lunch program. If you wish for your child to eat lunch at school they must be escorted by a parent or other adult and the lunch order must be called into the office by 9:00 A.M.

At Mammoth Elementary STEM School

Preschoolers may participate in the school breakfast and lunch program. If you wish for your child to eat breakfast/lunch at school they must be escorted by a parent or other adult and the lunch order must be called into the office by 9:00 A.M. At Mammoth Elementary students are taken to the cafeteria to participate in the breakfast program if they are enrolled in the A.M. class and to lunch if they are enrolled in the P.M. class.

SNACKS

Please let us know if your child had special requirements or allergies. Please feel free to bring in a healthy state approved snack to share on your child's birthday or on special days. Please notify the teacher in advance so she can plan for the special event. If the snack is a non-state approved sugary item, please send it individually wrapped so it can be sent home.

Nutritious Snacks

The Arizona Department of Education is now regulating what we can and cannot serve as snacks. They are requiring that we provide only low fat and low sugar food. There is a list of approved snacks foods that you will be provided.

DISCIPLINE

Our goal is to help students develop individual responsibility and self discipline through abundant praise and positive reinforcement.

The classroom will have consistent, reasonable rules and set limits for the children. If a child's behavior is out of control (hitting, biting, kicking, leaving the classroom, throwing material, etc.) and staff is concerned the child might injure themselves or others, the child may be sent home for the remainder of the day. A meeting may be scheduled with the parent to discuss a behavior plan, if necessary. Time out from activities will be limited to no more than 3 consecutive minutes after the child has become calm.

If you have a concern about an issue in your child's classroom, please consult the preschool teacher directly to see if the problem can be solved.

Discipline Procedures

Preschool classes need to provide a happy and safe environment where all children can develop confidence and learn responsibility. Discipline is designed to help children recognize and choose to participate in appropriate behaviors.

Classroom Rules:

- No fighting (hitting, biting, pushing or shoving)
- No use of bad words.
- No running in the classroom.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Share with everyone.
- Participate in all whole class activities.
- Take care of toys and materials. Always put toys away after use and never throw them at another child. School toys need to be left at school and not taken home.

When a child is choosing to misbehave the teacher will utilize one of the appropriate procedures:

1. Verbally reinforce children who are choosing appropriate behavior.
2. Use positive directions to tell the child what you would like done.
3. Explain to the child why this particular behavior is not allowed. Assist the child in participating in an acceptable activity.
4. Use verbal reminders for time limitations.
5. Makes sure the child is paying attention to the teacher before she speaks to the child.
6. Verbalize the child's choice of behavior if there is more than one choice.

7. Encourage the child to solve his/her own problems. The child may require guidance from the teacher.
8. If a child is in danger of injuring him/herself or another child, appropriate steps will be taken to avoid any injury.
9. A child will be asked to take a "Time Out" if his/her behavior is not self corrected. This allows the child time to think about appropriate behavior or calm down. The separation period shall be for no longer than three consecutive minutes after the child has regained control.
10. The child will lose his/her daily stamp.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

The preschool teacher will keep parents informed regarding events, policies and general information. If you have any questions concerning your child or classroom activities, please call or come into the preschool at any time.

In order to keep you informed on the month's activities, information will be sent home with the student through a classroom monthly newsletter and through written memos. These are very important for you to read and keep for the month!

If your child is having difficulty separating from you when you bring them to class, please discuss this with the teacher. Often children are upset for only a few minutes after a parent leaves. If you still have concerns after you return home, please call the preschool room to ask how your child has adjusted.

Parents are encouraged to visit and /or volunteer in class as long as it does not continuously distract their child. Please arrange for child care for other siblings. While volunteering you may be asked to help prepare projects, read to children, supervise play, help with classroom parties, lead a group activity, etc. Working with children is very rewarding and we are looking forward to your help.

The biggest thing that we need help with is prepping for projects or activities. Many of our projects include a lot of precut items. If you are interested in helping out by taking things home to be cut out and brought back on your child's next school day, please contact a teacher.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided by the school district on a school bus that meets the requirements of the Department of Transportation for transporting children. The child is to be accompanied to and from the bus stop. The school must be notified of any changes in drop-offs or residence. Children must follow the rules to ride the bus. Stops not on the schedule will not be made. A **written notice** is required for any changes in transportation and a phone call to the office.

When transporting preschoolers home, children are only released to a person that is on the parent's approved list. If there is no approved person at the bus stop to receive the child, the child is transported back to school on the bus.

At the beginning of the school year students riding a bus will have a washable marker color on their hand to help us and the bus driver make sure students are put on the appropriate bus at the end of each day.

At First Avenue Elementary Transportation

Transportation is provided from Avenue B School, the old community center and two stops at the new trailer park.

Mammoth Transportation

Students will be picked up at the official bus stop nearest to their home.

FIELD TRIPS

You will be notified of any field trips. We must have a signed permission slip for your child to go on the field trip. We require a 1 to 3 ratio of adult chaperones to preschool students on a field trip. Only children who are registered in the school's preschool will be allowed to ride the bus to a field trip.

PARTICIPATION

Parents are encouraged to read to their child daily, review the work brought home and encourage them in school. Adult visitors and volunteers are always welcome. Long-term volunteers are required to be fingerprinted by the health department. You must check in at the office when you arrive at school. Please do not bring younger children when you are volunteering.

RECORDS

You have the right to review your child's records at any time. You have the right to have a translation in your native language.

LIABILITY

The district has liability insurance as required by Arizona State Rule R9-5-308.

MEDICATIONS

All medications are to be taken to the school office in the original container and signed-in by the parent. The nurse's office will administer the medicine. Please do not send cough drops or medicine with your child.

ACCIDENT, INJURY OR ILLNESS EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Parents will be notified immediately if their child has a serious accident, is injured seriously or becomes ill. Please keep your emergency card information updated. If you are unavailable, the person listed on the emergency card will be called. If no

one is available, the child will be made comfortable while we continue to try and contact the parent. If a serious injury occurs, 911 will be called. If in the event children are to be sent home, you will be notified.

INSURANCE

If you do not have health insurance for your child, please consider participating in the Arizona free or low-cost health insurance for children called Kids Care. The telephone number for Kids Care is 1-877-764-5437.

CHILD ABUSE

The preschool is mandated by law to report suspected emotional or physical child abuse within 24 hours of observing the child or the abuse.

LABELING

Please label any personal items your child brings to school: extra clothes, back-pack, coats, etc. The preschool is not responsible for items that are broken, lost or stolen. All children need a back-pack to transfer notes and materials to and from school. Please keep a change of clothes in the back-pack if there is any possibility of a toileting accident.

INSPECTIONS

State inspection reports are available at the school for review. Facility Inspection Reports are on file in either of the preschool classrooms. These reports are available for public inspection.

AGE-OUT POLICY

Preschoolers who reach the appropriate chronological age for kindergarten will only be considered for enrollment in preschool by consensus of a team who will determine the impact of such a placement on the student in question. Generally the team will consist of the parent, preschool teacher, kindergarten teacher representative, principal, psychologist, involved services providers, and the Title 1 coordinator. Some factors to consider will include, but not be limited to, current research on

retention, pertinent assessment information, social-economics, and space availability.

Class size

To help keep class sizes small there are two sessions of preschool and a full time classroom paraprofessional. Placement in a given session will be based on the child's needs following an initial developmental screening and location of where they live for the Mammoth students.

Dress

Children enrolled in preschool are not required to wear the school uniform. However it is preferred that they wear closed toe shoes. Flip flops and sandals are difficult for children to wear in the sand and run on the playground. At preschool we paint and sometimes get messy so it is preferred that the children wear play clothes.

Items brought from home

Please do not allow your child to bring any toys or items from home unless it is part of a class activity or show and tell. In this case you will get a note from the teacher informing you of the activity.

Toileting

Toileting is part of the daily routine in a preschool classroom. Therefore children should wear regular underpants to school not diapers or pull-ups. If an accident may occur, please have an extra set of clothing in the backpack.

Preschool Hours

School Year and Hours:

1st Day of Preschool - Monday, August 15, 2011

- AM Session: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
- PM Session Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
12:00 P.M. to 2: 30 P.M.
- Friday morning will be an optional session based on need.

Parents/Guardians will be notified of any special days pre-k classes may be cancelled.

Mammoth-San Manuel District Preschool Programs

PURPOSE

The purpose of preschool is to provide appropriate experiences that contribute to each child's intellectual, social, emotional, and creative growth. Preschool should provide children with a happy and relaxed atmosphere conducive to gaining self-confidence, creativity and responsibility.

S.T.E.M. Approach

As soon as a child begins to speak, the questions begin. Why? What? When? How? Making observations, asking questions, and pursuing investigations are essential to a child's understanding of the world. The questions continue as a child grows & becomes a student building oral vocabulary, develop reading readiness, and fuel literacy development.

Early S.T.E.M. learning happens without worksheets and drills, but it does not happen on its own. Young children need S.T.E.M. concepts presented thoughtfully and systematically, yet in a way that also respects their concrete thinking and their need to learn by exploring hands-on materials.

Play is an important aspect of intellectual, social, and motor growth in a preschool child. Preschool children also need to be provided with ample play time to allow them to develop their natural creative abilities. Children will be involved in play activities that are sometimes child-initiated and sometimes teacher directed. Through play, the children will develop the prerequisite skills needed to be successful in kindergarten and throughout their future school years.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum that is followed in preschool is state approved and research based. It includes social/emotional development, physical development, cognitive development and language development (listening/speaking and reading/writing). The Arizona Early Childhood Education Standards are also followed.

The curriculum includes the Creative Curriculum for Preschool and Handwriting without Tears. Just as the elementary program has a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) emphasis, the preschool also follows this curriculum guideline.

It is the role of the preschool teacher to help each child develop to their social, emotional, and academic potential. The preschool teacher provides a positive and enriching environment for her students. The teacher is available for a short time before and after each class period. Parent-teacher conferences are held at the request of the family or teacher. Please call the office if you need to make an appointment.

Hands-On Learning

Hands-on exploration promotes the development of problem solving skills, recognition of cause and effect, and organizing and classifying. These explorations lay the foundation for learning science, technology, engineering, and math concepts. In early childhood it is essential that learning activities be hands-on, child-driven, authentic, and active. Developmentally, young children learn and understand best from what they can see, touch, feel, and manipulate. Children

will be encouraged to explore, have fun, and get their hands dirty!

Library

Students will be going to the library once a week to have a story read to them. Preschool students are not allowed to check out books although parents are allowed to check out up to five books at a time for their child. This can be done before or after school.

Please return this portion to your child's teacher.

I have read and understand the information in the Mammoth-San Manuel Preschool Statement of Services Handbook and the First Avenue Elementary/Mammoth Elementary STEM School Preschool Information Packet which includes discipline procedures from Mrs. Greer, Mrs. Maestas, Teacher Joyce and Mrs. Christian.

Parent Name: _____

Phone and email: _____

Parent of: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

I have a question or comment:

Mrs. Maestas, Ms. McClung, or Mrs. Christian will call you as soon as possible to answer your question.