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4700 Grover Avenue, Austin, TX 78756

Community Handbook

Schedule

Colores Spanish Immersion Preschool is open on Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm. We follow our school calendar available on our website. Our academic year runs from October through the end of June. Our daily schedule is designed to offer consistency as well as flexibility to serve the interest of children.

9 a.m. - 9:15- *Arrival*

9:15 - 9:45- *Circle time*: We sing songs, listen to music, recite poems and talk about letters, numbers, shapes, days of the week, months of the year, the weather, seasons, holidays, traditions, current events, and more!

9:45 - 10 *Snack*

10:00- 11:00 *Outside play and exploration*: We play with and talk about our environment that surrounds us.

11:00 - 11:20 *Activity exploration*: Students choose to work individually, in groups or a teacher guides a whole group activity related to our monthly unit of study (arts, crafts, singing, dancing).

11:20 - 11:40 *Reading*: We read books or listen to poems or music and discuss what we learned from the book, poems, music, and more!

11:40 - 12:00 *Lunch*

12:00- 12:30 *Free Play*: A time for children to explore, create, and imagine through open-ended play. They choose from a variety of materials and toys that encourage creativity, independence, and social interaction.

12:30 - 12:45 *Socio-emotional Learning*: Children have time to work on topics such as emotions, personal space and respect as part of Colores **Socio-Emotional** approach. We do this through books, talks or didactic activities. We also take some time to summarize what we learned during the day.

12:45 - 1 p.m. *Dismissal*

Licensing

Colores Spanish Immersion Preschool is an approved licensed childcare center by the Texas Health and Human Services. You may access the Minimum Standard Rules for Licensed Child Care Centers at www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_care. We have a printed copy of our most recent licensing inspection report at school. You may contact the local Licensing office at 512-834-3426 or www.dfps.state.tx.us

Enrollment Procedures

A child is considered enrolled at Colores Spanish Immersion Preschool when parent(s) turn in the Enrollment Form, Health Forms, last page of this Community Handbook signed, tuition deposit and fees. Parents will be notified of policy changes at the beginning of each new school year, if any. Parents are welcome to review and discuss with Thracy, our director and teacher, any questions or concerns about the policies and procedures of the Colores Preschool community.

Health Forms

Prior to the first day of school, Colores Preschool must have your child's completed statement of good health from her pediatrician and immunization records. Your child will be unable to attend school until all health information is complete and current. If your child is 4 years old or older, please provide the most recent hearing and vision screening results.

Immunizations

At Colores Preschool, the health and safety of our children and staff are a top priority. To help protect our community from vaccine-preventable diseases, we recommend that all teachers receive an annual influenza (flu) vaccine. In addition, we follow health and safety procedures—such as the use of protective equipment (gloves, masks, etc.) when needed—to reduce the spread of illness at school.

Please note: Our program **does accept** vaccination exceptions as permitted by Texas state regulations. However, due to recent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable illnesses in our region, we strongly encourage all families to keep their children up to date on immunizations to help safeguard the health of our entire community.

Medicine

Colores Spanish Immersion Preschool will not administer medications to children for common illnesses. Children with allergies must have their physician directives or prescribed action plan, Allergy Action Plan or Anaphylaxis Action plan in their file prior to the student's enrollment. If

medication is used to counteract a reaction, Colores Preschool must have those medications with written instructions on how/when to use such treatments by the child's first day of school.

Illness Policy

State licensing mandates that a child with any of the following symptoms be isolated and the parent(s) notified and asked to remove the child from the school as soon as possible:

- Measured temperature greater than 99.6 F
- Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool per day)
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Severe cough
- Unusual yellow color to skin or eyes
- Skin or eye lesions or rashes that are severe, weeping, or pus-filled
- Stiff neck and headache with one or more of the symptoms listed above
- Difficult breathing or wheezing
- Complaints of severe pain
- Thick, green mucus that continues to flow throughout the day

If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please observe them closely before sending them to school and risking the health of other children. Children **must be free from symptoms 24 hours** before returning to school. If your child develops any of these symptoms while at school, you will be called immediately. If a child has mild cold symptoms that do not impair his/her functioning, the child may remain in the classroom and the parent(s) notified when they pick up their child. If your child is diagnosed with any communicable disease (chicken pox, whooping cough, fifth disease, pink eye, covid, etc.) or head lice, please report this to us as soon as possible.

Injuries and Medical Emergencies

If your child receives a *boo boo* while at school, we will send home a copy of the incident report with your child. If a more serious injury occurs requiring immediate medical attention, parent(s) and the emergency medical personnel will be notified immediately. Children will be escorted to Dell Children's Hospital. All injuries requiring medical attention must be reported to the Texas Health and Human Services.

Emergency Preparedness Plan

Emergency evacuation and relocation plan

In an emergency situation (such as fire, gas leak, natural disaster, health emergency), all children will be relocated from First Unitarian Church of Austin (4700 Grover Avenue, Austin, TX 78756) by Colores Preschool staff to the Texas Health Credit Union on 4800 Grover Ave, Austin, TX 78756.

Sheltering or lock-down plan

In an emergency that requires the children and staff to temporarily take shelter within the classroom (such as tornado, volatile person on premises, endangering person in the area), staff will direct all children to sit down together under a table inside the administrative office in the church.

In an emergency, a teacher will take the clipboard containing the list of children with parents' phone numbers and authorization for emergency care for each child. Each family will be called as soon as possible. Teachers will communicate with local authorities, parents and licensing through cell phones. Teachers will continue to care for the children until each child is released.

As soon as the evacuation, relocation or sheltering/lock-down is lifted, children will be reunified with their parents.

Under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1000 feet of a licensed childcare center is a gang-free zone, where criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to harsher penalties.

Communication

We will be happy to speak with you by phone before and after school. Email is a great way to reach out as well. If there is a family emergency that requires you to reach us 9:00-1:00, please send a text message to **737-218-2105**. We can also set up an appointment to chat in person.

At the beginning of each month, we send a quick email to parents about what we will be learning during that month. This information usually is a list of **Spanish vocabulary** words that we will be using and practicing at school, the selected book for our Socio-Emotional Learning portion of the day, important dates and events.

Discipline

Our goal at Colores Spanish Immersion Preschool is to facilitate an environment that encourages the development of your child's inner discipline. Along the path to inner discipline, children

often need help ascertaining what behaviors are acceptable. Our golden rule will always be to treat others and our environment as you would want to be treated. It is of utmost importance that the adults at Colores Spanish Immersion Preschool move and always speak gracefully and respectfully. We want to work our hardest to always model the actions we wish to see in the children. We will help children learn how to resolve conflicts with others in an appropriate and respectful manner. We will remain focused upon the positive behaviors, redirect those behaviors which are unacceptable, and develop a cooperative agreement with the child to ensure his experience at Colores Preschool is a positive one.

Separation

In many cases, children's entry into our learning community represents the first occasion they spend a significant amount of time away from their families. For all children and parents, it is bound to be a time of excitement and stress: a new beginning! We would like to offer a few suggestions to make the transition a smooth and pleasant one.

Toys and items from home

We understand some days children want to share their new toys with their friends and teacher, however, in order to make sure these will not cause any distraction with our daily routines, we ask you to refrain from sending toys to school.

Before School Starts

Make a short and informal visit to the school. Drive through the neighborhood so that your child can become comfortable with the setting. Keep discussions about school casual and positive. If you think your child may have difficulty separating, do not allude to it in front of your kiddo. If separation may be an issue, please discuss it with us so that extra visits and meetings can be arranged. The more familiar the child is with the new setting, the more comfortable the child will be.

On the First Day

Make sure your goodbye is loving and brief. Do not sneak out without a goodbye. Suggest that your child draw or create a picture that she could take home and share with you after school. Create a goodbye routine with your child, this will help them feel safe and in control of the situation. Before coming to school, remind the child of what is going to happen and that you

always will be back to get him. Make sure you pick up your child on time. Anxiety can build up if a child feels forgotten.

If you feel concerned about how your child is coping with the transition, you may call Thracy at 737-218-2105 during the day to inquire about how your little one is doing. Our staff will be happy to give you updates as to how your child is coping.

When talking with your child, avoid leading to questions that focus on the negative aspects of the separation, such as: *“Did you miss me?” “Were you sad all day?”* Instead, you might want to ask, *“Who did you eat lunch with?” “What songs did you sing?” “What did you have for a snack?”* Do not hesitate to discuss any concerns you may have with us. Remember, some children take longer to adjust to new situations than others.

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival will be between 9 and 9:15 a.m. After all children have arrived, we will lock our front door at the latest at 9:30 a.m. each school day. If you plan on arriving at school later than 9:30 one day, please notify us in advance. Upon entering the classroom children will place their lunchbox in the cabinet near the door and start working on an activity of their choice.

Dismissal will occur between 12:45 and 1 p.m. Please be prompt. If you plan on being a few minutes late, a phone call or text message is always appreciated.

Sign In/Out Procedures

A clipboard with all children’s names will be on top of the lunch box cabinet. The teachers will sign up for your child’s arrival each day. At the end of each day, the teachers will sign up to your child at the time s/he was picked up.

Drop-in Days

We offer drop-in days for the children that attend Colores Preschool 2 or 3 days a week. If a child is already enrolled, they can come on another day of the week that we are open. We offer drop-in days for siblings or friends that desire to visit a school for a day. More information about drop-in fees is on our webpage.

Release of Children

No child will be released to unauthorized people. Authorized people must be indicated on the enrollment form. If your child needs to be picked up by someone who is not indicated on your child’s enrollment form, you must indicate in writing (email is accepted) the name and phone

number of the person who will be picking up your child prior to dismissal. At dismissal, to verify identification, Colores Preschool will request to see the adult's driver's license number and license plate number. The top priority is your child's safety and well-being.

Snack and Water

Please pack a small snack in your child's lunchbox for his mid-morning snack. Also, please send a reusable bottle or sippy cup for water with your child. Please label it with your child's name. It is optional for you to decide to keep the bottle at school at all times or if you wish to, we will send it home every day, just let us know what your preference might be.

Lunch

Children bring their lunches from home. Please pack lunches in reusable, easy to open containers. The children are encouraged to peel fruits and open containers for themselves. They also learn to offer help to one another and to request, accept, and decline help as needed. All leftovers will be packed up into your child's lunch box. These leftovers will guide you as to how much and what your child is eating. Once you have gauged how much and what your child will eat for lunch, remember to observe for growing appetites and adjust as necessary. Please refrain from sending sweets, artificially flavored and overly processed foods. (Colores Preschool is not responsible for the nutritional value of the meals provided by parents or for meeting the child's daily food needs.)

Clothing

Children should be dressed in comfortable clothes that she can easily put on and take off in the bathroom. Soft pants with an elastic waist are easy for your child to manipulate and provide comfort in the many positions your child will be working/playing in throughout the morning. We appreciate simple, comfortable and manageable items. Also, please consider that clothes worn to school may become stained from our different art and craft activities or while playing and exploring outside.

Soft-soled, practical shoes allow for a maximum range of safe movement. Tennis shoes, leather oxfords, and sandals which firmly buckle to your child's foot are all appropriate. Please save flip-flops, crocs, and clogs for other "special" times. Please make sure your child has **a full set of clothing** (shirt, bottom, underpants, socks) appropriate for the current season at school at all times. **Please label** your child's clothing with his or her initials or name.

We will be enjoying the outdoors year-round. Take this into consideration as your child gets dressed each morning. Please help them to choose clothes that they will be comfortable in – even when outside. Cool dresses and shorts in the heat, layers when it's chilly, a hat and warm

jacket if it's cold, a raincoat (and rain boots) if it's rainy. You may keep umbrellas home as they are cumbersome for the young child to manage. If your child wears a **hat** in the summer to play outside, please send a hat to school. Please label your child's hat with his initials or name. If your child wears sunscreen or bug spray to play outside, please apply it at home before coming to school. We can reapply sunscreen or bug spray as necessary if you send the sunscreen or bug spray (labeled with your child's name) to school.

Toileting

We will support your endeavors to promote your child's toilet independence. If your child has not yet mastered toileting, please make sure your child always has diapers at school. If your child is trained but is still having an occasional accident, you may want to have her wearing training underwear (still cloth underwear, just thicker providing more absorbency). Throughout the morning, we will observe your child and offer her the opportunity to use the restroom. If your child urinates or has a bowel movement in her clothes, we will work with your child to change her clothing and store away her wet or soiled items to take home. We will allow her to be as much a part of the process as possible which may mean that she participates in flushing the toilet, undressing, placing her wet clothes in a plastic bag, wiping herself (with necessary supervision and assistance from us) and then putting on dry clothes. Remember, potty training is a process, and every child has its own rhythm. Commonly, children who are part of a community with other children recognize what other children and adults are modeling, and they want to participate and mimic those same behaviors. It's only natural to strive for independence! Thus, they become eager to learn such major feats as toilet training.

Severe Weather

If the weather gets icy and Austin Independent School District cancels classes, then Colores Preschool will also be closed. If AISD will operate on a 2-hour delay, then Colores Preschool will open at 10 a.m. We will try to notify you as soon as possible in case of bad weather cancellation or delay.

Visitors and Observations

Parents and community members are welcome to observe at Colores Spanish Immersion Preschool. Parents are welcome to visit at any time to observe their child, our operation and program activities without having to set up an appointment.

Colores Preschool encourages parent participation and welcomes community building activities. We will have several opportunities throughout the year for parents to lend a hand. We will email bulletins periodically that keep families updated with holiday festivities, community nights, get-togethers, playdates, etc.

Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are important milestones in the lives of children. We celebrate each child's birthday in a way that is special for both the child and the parents. We will schedule your child's birthday celebration on his birthday or on a day closest to his birthday. Parents of the birthday child may bring a small snack for the class to enjoy, for example: mini muffins, homemade cookies, bread, etc. Parents may choose to serve the snack in the morning or after lunch.

Withdrawal from the Program

Parents wishing to withdraw their child must provide a statement in writing (email is fine) at least **30 days** prior to the discontinuation of this service.

Report Abuse or Neglect

Call the Abuse Hotline **1-800-252-5400** toll-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, nationwide. Make your report through the secure web site and you will receive a response within 24 hours www.txabusehotline.org Colores Preschool teachers receive required annual training in prevention, recognition and procedures for reporting child abuse or neglect. Colores Preschool is happy to coordinate with appropriate community organizations. We are committed to increasing employee and parent awareness of prevention techniques and issues regarding child abuse and neglect, including warning signs that a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect and factors indicating a child is at risk for abuse or neglect.

Fees and Payment Policy

The salaries, supplies and administrative expenses of Colores Spanish Immersion Preschool are supported entirely by fees. Tuition payments are due by the 5th of each month. The child will not be allowed to attend if the required enrollment forms are not entirely completed and returned to Colores Preschool by the day the child is scheduled to start school. A child may be discharged for non-payment of fees. Please refer to the Enrollment Agreement for all details regarding fees and responsibilities.

There is no discount for days your child does not attend Colores Preschool due to illness, vacation or other trips outside of the regular school closings. If you take vacation outside the times that Colores is closed, your paid tuition will hold your child's space until you return.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____
of _____ acknowledge receipt of, and agree to abide by
all rules, policies, and standards contained in this Colores Community Handbook.
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) also agree to abide by any additional rules, policies, and standards issued

from time to time by Colores Preschool, to protect and safeguard, in its sole discretion, the well-being and safety of the children in its care.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date