



Seattle
Parks & Recreation



ASSOCIATED
RECREATION
COUNCIL

A program by the
Associated Recreation Council
in partnership with
Seattle Parks and Recreation

arcseattle.org

RECREATION PRESCHOOL 2025-2026



FAMILY HANDBOOK



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OVERVIEW OF RECREATION PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

WELCOME

Thank you for choosing our Recreation Preschool Program! Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR), in partnership with the Associated Recreation Council (ARC), is delighted to have the opportunity to serve you and your child(ren). We serve children ages 3-5 years of age and strive for a low-teacher child ratio of 1:10 (preschool).

For our recreation preschool programs, we provide a hands-on, child-centered, safe, and healthy environment that includes fun and age-appropriate learning activities. Our program meets the developmental needs of young children, focusing on emotional, social, physical, and cognitive skills. Classrooms are set up with rich environments, fun-filled learning areas, consistent schedules, and routines, and both large and small group times. The staff are trained in, CPR/First Aid, and safe food handling practices. **Children must be fully toilet trained to participate in these programs (no diapers or pull-ups permitted).**

As a parent or guardian, you play an important role in helping to ensure your child has a positive experience in our program. Please read this Family Handbook so you are aware of our policies and procedures. Thank you!

A QR code at the back of this Family Handbook will allow you to sign the Family Contract online. Please keep this Family Handbook accessible for future reference. Electronic copies of this Family Handbook can be found on ARC's website at: <https://arcseattle.org/Preschool-Programs>

COMMUNICATION

Contact information is listed at the back of this handbook. Our qualified management and staff are available to answer any questions you may have regarding you or your child's experience in our programs. Please refer to the following breakdown as an informative guide for whom to direct your questions, comments, or feedback.

REGARDING THE PROGRAM...

Director - Each program has a director who plans and prepares program offerings and oversees day-to-day operations on site. They will give you an on-site orientation to familiarize you and your child with these specific offerings.

Area Operations Supervisor (AOS) – If the Director is unavailable and you require immediate assistance, please contact the Area Operations Supervisor listed for your site.

Program Accommodations Manager – Our Program Accommodations team supports children with diagnosed disabilities and/or behavioral needs. They assist both new families and those already enrolled, ensuring ongoing support throughout the child's experience. The team collaborates closely with the on-site Director and Area Operations Supervisor to maintain a consistent, high-quality experience for all children. ARC's Voice/TDD number is 206-615-0492.

Community Center Staff – Each program is linked to a specific Community Center. For questions about registration, payments, scholarships, DCYF subsidies, or facility-related matters, please reach out to the Community Center Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, or Recreation Attendant for assistance.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergencies 24 Hour Emergency line SPR: 206-684-7250

Typically used for afterhours emergencies related to Seattle Parks and Recreation facilities, parks, or programs.

Childcare Hotline 24 Hour Emergency/Extreme Weather: 206-684-4203

This line is updated with critical information about program operations impacts due to emergencies, weather, or other emergency situations. This is an informational line only and does not accept messages.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

OUR PARTNERSHIP

Within the City of Seattle, a special working relationship is maintained through a Memorandum of Agreement between Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) and the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) and its advisory councils. ARC is an independently incorporated, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It is comprised of a volunteer Board of Directors made up of advisory council representatives and at-large members. Currently, there are neighborhood advisory councils that share the common purpose with SPR of providing community supported quality programs and services.

SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION MISSION STATEMENT

MISSION: Seattle Parks and Recreation equips employees and the public for well-being as we support healthy people, a thriving environment and vibrant community. We provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate, and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults, and seniors.

VISION: Seattle Parks and Recreation envisions an accessible and sustainable park and recreation system, led by a dynamic workforce, where visitors and residents come together to play, recreate, strengthen our environment, and build community; a place which fosters collaboration and where everyone is park proud! #ParkProudSeattle

THE ASSOCIATED RECREATION COUNCIL MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

MISSION: Inspire engagement and participation in equitable, dynamic, culturally relevant, and responsive recreation, childcare, and lifelong learning programs.

VISION: Bringing together all people to build a healthy community.

VISION OF PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS: To provide children ages 3-6 with a safe developmentally appropriate learning environment that includes fun, active, engaging experiences that develop a love of learning.

THE ASSOCIATED RECREATION COUNCIL PROGRAM GOALS

It is the goal of our program to serve the needs of parents/guardians while addressing the special interests and concerns of their children. Our trained staff works diligently to provide a safe, quality program designed to promote citizenship, leadership, cultural enrichment, health and physical education, social recreation, along with outdoor and environmental education. Our program goals also include utilizing the many available resources within Seattle to enhance your child's education and to raise awareness about issues affecting our community.

ANTI-BIAS STATEMENT

ARC recognizes and honors diversity of all kinds. This includes race, ethnic background, religion, gender and gender identity, age, sexual orientation, and differing physical conditions. We strive to be culturally sensitive, create welcoming environments where families and children see themselves represented, and adopt policies and procedures that foster equity and inclusion. Anti-bias education is a commitment to respect and embrace differences and to actively challenge bias, stereotypes, and unfairness.

ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

As a matter of policy, law and commitment, no person will be excluded from, nor discriminated against, on the basis of race, color, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economics, political ideology, age, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, or presence of sensory, mental or physical handicap (Seattle Municipal Code).

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Associated Recreation Council recognize and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In an effort to create an inclusive community, we are committed to making every reasonable effort to accommodate participants with disabilities.

If you believe you have been discriminated against based on the above listed criteria, you may file a complaint with:

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Office for Equal Opportunity
Civil Rights Compliance Section
PO Box 45830
Olympia, WA 98504-5839

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Parents/guardians: In consideration of all participants, staff, family members and guests, it is important that all visitors to the program abide by our rules and guidelines, as outlined in this handbook. Below are additional items that have been established as it pertains to conduct of all visitors:

- We ask that you take special care to be courteous and respectful in all interactions whether with your children or others' as well as with staff, other parents/guardians and visitors.
- Please share our rules and guidelines, as outlined in the family handbook, with anyone you may ask to pick-up, drop-off or visit your child(ren) in our program.
- It is expected that if a parent/guardian feels any person is exhibiting threatening physical and/or verbal behaviors, it will immediately be reported to the program director and/or designee.

Staff will work to ensure our program is always safe and welcoming to all:

- If there is a situation where the conduct of a parent/guardian, authorized pick-up or emergency contact is not consistent with rules and expectations, the program director and/or designee will ask that person to refrain from the behavior and/or leave the program or center.
- Conduct by parents/guardians, authorized pick-ups or emergency contacts in violation of the Anti-Harassment Policy found in the family handbook may result in staff calling 911 and/or termination of enrollment of participant.

ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

Families, community center and program staff are expected to respect the rights of everyone at the program by:

1. Recognizing our programs are made up of individuals from varying cultures, religions, sexual orientations and racial and social backgrounds.
2. Refraining from racial or sexual comments, jokes or slurs. Other examples of unacceptable behavior include inappropriate touching, unwelcome sexual behavior or comments, displaying derogatory materials.
3. Not threatening verbally, physically or otherwise, anyone involved in the preschool program.

To report alleged discrimination or harassment contact your program's Area Operations Supervisor to start an investigation.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It is the policy of Seattle Parks and Recreation and Associated Recreation Council to treat all confidential information in strict confidence and to respect each family's information and records in a secure and safe manner.

EXEMPT STATUS

The SPR/ARC recreation preschool programs operate 3.5 hours per day and are currently exempt from the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) licensing regulations.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS INFORMATION

CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY

Our program is grounded in a holistic, play-based approach to early learning that encourages curiosity, creativity, and confidence. We provide an environment where children are supported in their social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development through hands-on exploration and meaningful interactions. By fostering a love for learning, we help children build the foundational skills they need to thrive now and in the future.

Each classroom is intentionally designed to include a variety of interest areas that promote active exploration, critical thinking, and social connection. These areas may include:

- **Blocks** – where children develop small muscle coordination, learn about sizes, shapes, numbers, order, patterns, and how to work together and exchange ideas and viewpoints.
- **Dramatic Play** – where children deepen their understanding of the world by engaging with others as they recreate life experiences, learn to cooperate with their peers, share ideas and solve problems.
- **Toys and Games** – where children practice eye-hand coordination, counting, make puzzles, do matching games, learn to take turns and develop confidence in completing a task successfully.
- **Art** – where children create, explore materials, express themselves and their feelings, develop fine motor skills, and convey their individuality and originality.
- **Library** – where children can relax and have quiet time looking at picture books, learning about different people and places, learn pre-reading skills such as left to right eye coordination, understanding symbols, develop listening skills, and use small muscles for writing and illustrating.
- **Discovery** – where children explore and investigate to answer their questions. They observe, experiment, measure, solve problems, and learn how to predict what will happen as a result of their actions.
- **Safe Space** – children learn how to regulate their emotions and solve social problems.
- **Sand and Water** – children learn math concepts, social studies, technology and art.
- **Music and Movement** – children hear and appreciate different kinds of music and learn to express themselves through movement.

COSTS AND PROCEDURES

REGISTRATION

The following items must be completed before any child can participate in our program(s). We offer an e-forms platform called ePACT through which parents/guardians and/or guardians will complete the required participant registration information.

- ePACT Participant e-forms. (A paper version is available upon request - Participant Information and Authorization Form E-13).
- Registration fees and/or deposits paid in full.
- Scholarship Application and Verification of Income (if applicable).
- Medical Treatment Authorization forms and any additional forms (if applicable) specific to your child's needs requested by your program. (Forms are available for download in ePACT).
- If your child requires accommodations, a meeting will be scheduled with the parent/guardian within 3 working days before your child can attend the program. Disclosure is not intended to be punitive, but rather to allow us to best serve your child.
- **Incomplete paperwork will delay your child's start date.**

Please notify the program director in writing and update your child's ePACT record if there are any change of address, phone numbers, names of persons authorized to pick up your child, allergies, other health or medical information, or accommodation needs.

PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

If your child has a less severe disability, as indicated on enrollment paperwork, the director will request a Program Accommodation meeting before your child's start date. Program Accommodations meetings are attended by the parent/guardian, director and Program Accommodations Manager or Lead. The group will work as a team to understand the nature of the less severe special need and to identify positive strategies to support the participant while they are in program.

Every effort will be made to provide reasonable accommodation. Our program and staff are not equipped to provide personal hygiene care nor one-on-one support for managing behavior.

EXPLANATION OF FEES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Each preschool program has a fee based on the number of hours (3.5 hours each day) and the hourly rate. The hourly rate is multiplied by the total program hours between September and June and then divided by 10 months to get an average monthly fee. This standard fee is paid each month, whether there are 14 program days in the month or 22 program days in the month. **Preschool Programs do not operate during the Seattle Public School Thanksgiving week, Winter, Mid-Winter, and Spring Breaks.** See. Below for SY 2025-2026 pricing and program hours:

Site	Ages	Hours	2-Day	3-Day	4-Day	5-Day
Discovery Park CC	3-4 years	Program 9:30am-1pm	\$410.00	\$610.00	NA	\$1020.00

- A \$50 registration fee is charged at time of registration to hold a spot in each program. This fee is one-time per program regardless of the number of months.
 - *Note: Scholarships are applied to Registration Fees*
- Families will pay the registration fee again for each different location they enroll.
- **Registration fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable**
- Monthly program fees are due 14 days before the start of the month. If the payment due date falls on a weekend or holiday, payment is due the next business day.
 - If payment is not collected prior to the due date, your child may be withdrawn from the program by the next business day.
- Program fees include all supplies.
- **Pro-rating:** This is only permitted for NEW/FIRST TIME registrations. Please check with the community center staff regarding this policy.
- **Drop-in** attendance is NOT allowed.

- **Absence:** If your child is sick or absent, we are unable to give you a refund or pro-rate your fee. Since we reserve a place for your child each day, staff are required to be on-site, even if your child is absent.
- **Continuity of Care Registration:** Typically, sites offer continuity of care registration for families whose children were enrolled the previous school year. Your local community center staff will be able to provide any details regarding continuity of care registration.

PAYMENTS

Payments may be set up as 'auto-pay' in the registration system, paid over the phone with credit card/debit card, and may be taken during community centers operating hours. We encourage families to choose payment methods online. Parents/guardians are asked to save receipts for tax or accounting purposes. Back receipts may not be available. There will be a fee of \$20 for each NSF check. Make checks payable to:

CITY OF SEATTLE
FEDERAL TAX IDENTIFICATION INFO
ARC Tax ID # 51-0170717

REFUND POLICY

A refund may be issued for the program/activity, less the registration fee, if they withdraw and/or if they notify the community center coordinator at least 14 days prior to the beginning date of the program/activity. No refunds will be made for requests received less than 14 days prior to the beginning of the program/activity. For program days that are cancelled due to weather related circumstances, no credit/refund will be issued for the first two cancelled days. A credit will be issued for the 3rd or additional cancelled days.

It is the policy of Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Associated Recreation Council that any person who registers for a class, camp, special event or program that is cancelled for any reason by SPR or ARC, they will receive a full refund, with the following exception: No refund/credit is given for the first two cancelled days, if cancelled due to weather.

For full details of the Department's Refund Policy, please see Policy Number 060-P 7.16 which can be found here: <https://www.seattle.gov/parks/reserve/refunds-reductions-and-waivers>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Drop-in** enrollment is NOT allowed.
- **Absence:** If your child is sick or absent, we are unable to give you a refund or pro-rate your fee. Since we reserve a place for your child each day, staff are required to be on-site, even if your child is absent.

CITY SCHOLARSHIPS – Apply Early!

Scholarships are available through Seattle Parks and Recreation. Please apply online via Seattle Civiform. Find the link at <https://civiform.seattle.gov/applicants/70428/programs> or visit your community center for help with the application process.

City Scholarship Application Information:

- The Scholarship cycle qualification window is the beginning of Summer Day Camp through the end of the following school year.
- Scholarship participants have a 60% attendance requirement. They must attend 60% of a program period in order to keep the scholarship. Families will be notified if you are in jeopardy of losing your child's scholarship.

- Scholarship applications are accepted year-round with ‘new cycle’ applications available each year in February. Scholarship funds are limited and are allocated on a first come, first served basis.
- Please apply online via Seattle Civiform. It’s the most secure way to apply. Alternatively, you may return a hard copy application and supporting documents to the community center front desk or email the packet to scholarship.parks@seattle.gov.
 - If hard copy scholarship application and financial documents are submitted to a site or emailed, please **BE SURE TO MARK OUT ANY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.**

HOLIDAY CLOSURES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Programming on City holidays is NOT included and will NOT be offered. We will be closed on the following City of Seattle holidays:

Labor Day	Monday, September 1 st
Indigenous Peoples’ Day	Monday, October 13 th
Veterans Day	Tuesday, November 11 th
Thanksgiving & Native American Heritage Day	Thursday, November 27 th – Friday, November 28 th
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25 th
New Year’s Day	Thursday, January 1 st
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 19 th
President’s Day	Monday, February 16 th
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25 th
Juneteenth	Thursday, June 19 th

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

First Day of Program	September 8 th
State In-Service Day	October 10 th – closed to participants
Parent/Guardian Teacher Conference Days	November 24-26 th – closed to participants
Winter Break	December 22 nd – January 2 nd – closed to participants
Mid-Winter Break	February 16-20 th – closed to participants
Sprint Break	April 13-17 th – closed to participants
Last Day of Program	June 12 th

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SIGN-IN AND SIGN-OUT PROCEDURES

It is required that the parent or authorized representative sign their child in on arrival and sign their child out when leaving daily. Participants will only be released to those individuals authorized by the parent/guardian in the ePACT information or the E-13. Parents are encouraged to add the names of any and all individuals who may bring or pick up a child, even under unusual circumstances. Please contact the director to add or remove individuals from the pick-up authorization list. Authorized persons over 18 years old must produce a valid picture ID.

- Authorized persons over 18 years old must produce a valid picture ID.
- Please have identification ready as it may be checked frequently. We appreciate your support as staff work to maintain safety.
- Signatures must be full legal names.
- Staff are not authorized to sign children into the morning program, nor out of the afternoon program.
- Staff can sign a child in/out for an activity on premises where the parent or guardian has given specific written permission that would allow that child to leave the facility.

All authorized individuals must be 14 years or older. When the authorized individuals are between the ages of 14 and 17, the parent/guardian is responsible for assessing the responsibility level and emotional maturity of the authorized person. Additional consideration should be given to the safety of the route to be taken home and whether the younger child listens well and follows directions. Should supervision or safety of the child become an issue, the Seattle Parks and Recreation and Preschool staff will meet with the parent to determine the appropriateness of the authorized individual.

Important Notes:

- If the non-custodial parent attempts to pick up their child and we have a notarized restraining order, we are mandated to call the police.
- If we have a court-ordered Parenting Plan, and a parent requests to pick up the child on a different day, we **MUST** have authorization from the other parent that it has been mutually agreed upon. Staff cannot negotiate or alter the Parenting Plan.
- For safety reasons, we will not release your child to anyone who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance. In such circumstances staff will call other adults on the authorized pick-up list.
- If the parent/guardian appears to be under the influence, chooses to leave the premises with the child and will be operating a motor vehicle, staff will call the police immediately.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, CANNABIS USE AND PROHIBITION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

The usage or distribution of all alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and illegal drugs is prohibited. If a parent/guardian is impaired or suspected to be due to drug or alcohol use, we will call someone on their pick-up authorization list or suggest calling a ride service for them. If the parent/guardian chooses to leave with the child and will be operating a motor vehicle, staff will call the police immediately. The incident will also be reported to CPS. An Incident Report will be written.

REPORTING LATENESS/ABSENCES

It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the director when the child will not be in attendance for the day, or any part of the day. If your child will be arriving late or be leaving early on a particular day, please let the director know. You may also leave a voicemail message which will be checked periodically by staff.

LATE PICK-UP POLICY

Children must be picked up by the end of program hours. If you have not picked up your child by end of scheduled program time, you may be assessed a late fee (see *Late Pick-Up Charge* section below) and staff will start calling all contacts listed on the E-13. If your child is left longer than 1 hour after the program is closed and the staff is unable to reach you or emergency contacts, as mandated reporters, we are required to notify CPS and/or the police. Please make sure that emergency contacts listed on the registration form are people who would be willing and available to pick up your child in case of such an emergency or unforeseen lateness. Continued lateness may result in warning letters and your child's removal from the program.

LATE PICK-UP FEE

A Late Pick-Up Fee of \$1 per minute will be charged for participants not picked up by the end of the program. This fee is to be paid at the front desk by cash, credit card or check. Please make sure that emergency contacts listed on your registration form are people who would be available to pick up your child in case of such an emergency or unforeseen lateness.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

If you need to request the release of records pertaining to your child's participation in our program, please provide a formal 'Request for Information' in writing to the Seattle Parks and Recreation Community Center Coordinator. Seattle Parks and Recreation staff will clarify what information you are

requesting and coordinate the release of the documents. Certain records pertaining to minors have legal restrictions on who can access them, what may need to be redacted prior to release, and may require 3rd party notification.

PROGRAM CANCELLATION/REFUNDS

Preschool program days cancelled by SPR for any reason will be refunded with the following exception: Programs closed due to weather or emergency circumstances will be credited to the customer account **after the first two cancelled days. No credit will be provided for the first two cancelled days over the course of a school year.**

For full details of SPR's Refund Policy, please see Policy Number 060-P 7.16 which can be found here: <http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/PoliciesPlanning/RefundPolicy.pdf>

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS OR NATURAL EMERGENCIES

When Seattle Public Schools are in session, our preschool programs run under the school district's assessment of road conditions and school closures. For up-to-date information on the impact of extreme weather conditions or natural emergencies, call the **Childcare Hotline at 206-684-4203**. This hotline is available 24 hours a day.

IN THE EVENT OF EXTREME WEATHER OR NATURAL EMERGENCIES

- Preschool programs could be cancelled based on weather conditions affecting the safety of staff, children, and families.
- Seattle Parks and Recreation community centers can only be closed by an order from the Mayor and may be instructed to remain open to the public, even if Preschool programs have been cancelled.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE POLICY WHEN SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE OPERATING

- When Seattle Public Schools are open, the preschool is open, with the exception of approved City holidays (Indigenous Peoples Day).
- When Seattle Public Schools are closed, the preschool is closed.
- When Seattle Public Schools open late, the preschool will be open for afternoon sessions only where afternoon sessions are available.
- When Seattle Public Schools are dismissed early, preschool care will be provided until parents and/or guardians arrive to pick up their children. They will be called to pick up their children as soon as possible, no more than two hours following emergency closure.
- Please listen to the public service announcements made by the media regarding Seattle Public School closures or call the **Childcare Hotline at 206-684-4203**.

LUNCH AND SNACK

The serving of lunch and snack varies from site to site. In some cases, parents/guardians may be required to provide lunch and/or snack. Sites do not have the ability to heat or refrigerate food. Check with your program director for specific information. **Please note: all our classrooms are nut free zones.**

PRESCHOOL POLICY REGARDING TOILET TRAINING

All children must be self-toileting (no diapers or pull-ups) before they enroll in the preschool program. We do not have the proper facilities or staffing required to change diapers or pull-ups. All children must wear standard underwear. We understand that even under the best circumstances, accidents occur. If an accident does happen, we help the child get dry and comfortable again. We ask the children to do as much as possible with the changing process. To facilitate this, all children must have an extra set of clothes, underwear, and socks at preschool.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

There are many ways that you can become involved in your child's program:

- We welcome all suggestions. Please be in contact with our directors, area operations supervisors, and/or community center coordinators with any feedback that can help us to continue to provide high quality service for you and your family.
- Please speak with your director who will schedule time for you to share your talents and contributions.

VISITATION POLICY

Parents/guardians are invited to request to observe your child in program. Unsupervised access shall only be with the child's parent/guardian. Parents/guardians wishing to observe our programs should remember that you are a visitor and not a registered volunteer of the program. As a visitor, you may participate with your child, but staff members are the professionals who lead and execute the program. If you wish to accompany your child on a field trip, you may transport your child, and ONLY your child, in your private vehicle or via public transportation. If the trip is on public transportation and you ride with your child, you will need to sign your child out of the program. Please note that any time the child is with you, he or she must be signed out into your care. Unfortunately, you will be unable to ride with the rest of the program on the rented buses.

TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

Preschool staff will attempt to give daily feedback to parents and/or guardians and/or guardians regarding their child's day at preschool. In turn, it is helpful if parents and/or guardians inform the staff if there is anything at home which may affect the child at preschool (such as a visit from a grandparent, illness in the family, a restless night, etc.). We ask that if you have any concerns about something that has happened at preschool, please let the director or teacher know as soon as possible so we can schedule a time to meet and discuss the issue. In order to maintain confidentiality, we ask that you discuss private matters outside the classroom.

FAMILY/STAFF COMMUNICATION

Communication from ARC may include satisfaction surveys, monthly newsletters, daily informal communication, and program learning objectives. Communications regarding registration are a function of Seattle Parks and Recreation, please contact Community Center staff for any questions or support.

SUPERVISION

Children will always be well supervised by our staff and will be in continuous visual and/or auditory range. SPR/ARC strives to maintain 1:10 adult to child ratio.

SUPERVISION DURING BATHROOM USE

All staff are required to provide appropriate supervision by keeping children within continuous visual or auditory range. When bathrooms are located outside the dedicated preschool rooms, a staff person will enter the restroom ahead of the child to ensure it is safe before sending participants into the facility. While participants are using the facility, staff will remain within auditory range of the restroom. Staff will also use this practice for public restrooms on field trips. Staff are encouraged to send children to the restroom one at a time to prevent peer to peer abuse.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

Your child should dress in clothing that allows for them to be successful while in the program. Children need sturdy shoes, and sandals must have straps in the back (no flip flops). Also, provide your child with appropriate outerwear that allows for outdoor play. Your child should have a complete change of clothing (include socks) to be kept at preschool. The best method of storing these items is in a gallon-size zip-lock bag. Please make sure to label all clothing with the child's name.

TOYS AND VALUABLES

Please do not allow your child to bring toys and/or valuables to preschool, unless there is a specified 'Show and Tell' day scheduled by the teacher, or the item is related to the weekly theme. Our facility and staff will not be held responsible for, nor replace, items that become stolen, lost, or broken.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday celebrations are important to children, and they enjoy sharing the experience with their friends at preschool. Everyone is welcome to have a birthday celebration if they wish (even summer birthdays). Please notify your director if you plan to provide a special snack for your child's birthday. Only commercially prepared foods may be served according to public health recommendations. If you are planning a birthday party outside of preschool program, and sending out invitations, please do so outside of preschool program time - unless all children are being invited to attend the celebration.

FIELD TRIPS

Supervised groups may travel by school bus, Metro bus, or on foot to local parks, pools, or other points of interest. Field trip attendance lists will be completed in advance and staff/child ratio will be strictly followed during transition periods or while on field trips. All reasonable safety measures will be utilized while on field trips, as the safety and well-being of your child is of utmost importance to us. Parents/guardians will be informed of field trip dates, times, and destinations in advance. We encourage you to reinforce with your children the importance of always following the directions and decisions of staff. On rare occasions and/or due to repetitive behaviors of concern, if staff deems that a child's conduct may seriously endanger his or her safety, or the safety of others, the parent/guardian will be notified, and the child will not be able to participate in the planned activity.

NON-RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

SPR and ARC programs celebrate our diversity of cultures and their non-religious traditions. No religious content is included.

SAFETY EXPECTATIONS

Our goal is to provide a safe, comforting and healthy learning environment for your child. To ensure the success of our program, we have some basic rules to go by. Please review them with your child:

- We stay in the classroom at all times. We only leave the classroom with our teachers or families.
- We use walking feet inside.
- We keep our shoes on at school so that our feet are safe.
- We use inside voices when in the classroom.
- We can use running feet outside and in the gym.
- We share the toys and games.
- We take turns with our friends and may have to wait until they are done.
- We listen to our teachers and to each other.

SAMPLE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Below is a sample daily schedule. Schedules and program times vary from site-to-site. Please communicate with your program director about site specific daily activity schedules.

PRESCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE HALF DAY

Time

9:30-10:30 am

10-11 am

11-11:45 am

11:45 am-12:15 pm

Activity

Arrival, choice activities, snack

Circle, team building, songs

Discovery station and small group

Lunch

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT AND GUIDANCE

We strive to meet the growing needs of all children by providing a safe space with appropriate guidelines and boundaries designed to support the safety of all our participants.

Staff use indirect ways to guide children:

- We provide clear rules and expectations
- We give choices
- We maintain a regular routine.
- We provide a fun, busy activity schedule.

GUIDANCE AND REDIRECTION

As a partner in your child's success, we encourage you to share information with us that may affect your child's behavior. We are committed to working with you in the best interest of your child and the rest of the participants in our care. We do not use or endorse any form of corporal punishment by anyone (including family members). We also do not condone any means of inflicting physical pain such as biting, jerking, shaking, spanking, slapping, hitting, kicking, or any other measures.

In order to accomplish this, children, parents/guardians and/or guardians, and staff will all be aware of the program rules and behavior expected. We are confident this practice will minimize the need for disciplinary actions.

- Staff will communicate with the child in an effort to identify the problem and possible solutions.
- The child may be redirected to a new activity for a cool down period.
- For the preschool program, if the situation becomes unsafe for your child or unsafe for other children *Handle with Care (HWC)* will be used. *Handle with Care* is an integrated crisis intervention system that uses verbal de-escalation techniques and, in emergency situations when there are no other options to keep your child and/or others safe, a modified physical restraint for young children. HWC's young children's program balances appropriate protection, containment, and limit-setting with the child's development of self-sufficiency and independence. All preschool staff have been fully trained in *Handle with Care*. Parents/guardians and/or guardians are notified as soon as possible if *Handle with Care* is used.

Should disruptions occur, staff will act as the facilitator and use the following procedures:

We may remove a child from an activity if they are struggling with keeping themselves or others safe, and staff will work with the child in addressing and identifying feelings and emotions they are having. Staff will help to de-escalate the situation, and work with the child to find more appropriate and acceptable ways to communicate their feelings and needs.

If the situation persists:

1. The parent/guardian may be called for immediate pick up. This may also result in an immediate suspension.
2. In the case of a suspension, or if the situation becomes severe, a parent meeting will be conducted with the parent/ guardian, the Director, and a Program Accommodations Manager.
3. Depending on the situation, a *Behavior Support Plan* may be implemented for the child.
4. Upon continued occurrences, a follow-up parent meeting will be held to review results of *Behavior Support Plan* and any additional steps.
5. If your child is suspended for 1-5 days, there will be no refund for that day and/or week.
6. If your child is removed from the program for the remainder of the session your deposits cannot be refunded or transferred.

7. We reserve the right to grant exceptions to #1-4 of the above discipline steps in cases involving severe, extenuating and/or exceptional circumstances; examples include behavior that:
- Hurts another child, either physically or verbally.
 - Hurts himself/herself/themselves.
 - Destroys (non-disposable) property.
 - Creates a one-on-one extended situation with staff, which takes them out of their designated 1:10 ratio.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Staff will regularly check in with parents/guardians and/or guardians about their child's engagement, interest, and progress in the program through verbal or written communication. Staff will work to support each child in developing their abilities, talents, skills and academic work.

ARC uses two forms of written documentation to communicate with parents/guardians and/or guardians:

1. **Occurrence Form.** Used to communicate any injuries.
2. **Behavior Notification.** Used to indicate serious/inappropriate behaviors.

A positive behavior reinforcement system will be utilized to promote appropriate behavior. When necessary, this may also come in the form of a Support Plan.

IMMEDIATE BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

The following behaviors will result in immediate behavior management protocol outlined above:

- Abusive, harassing, and/or obscene language or gestures.
- Threats of any kind that would intend harm, physical aggression, violent acts, or bullying.
- Weapons of any kind (including toy guns, firearms, sharp objects, and fireworks).
- Offensive or lude conduct.
- Improper exposure.
- Intentionally leaving the supervised area without permission.
- Intentionally damaging or defacing community center or school property.

Please Note:

Due to the variety of behaviors children may exhibit, Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Associated Recreation Council reserve the right to suspend a child when necessary to protect the physical and emotional safety of the child, other participants, or staff. In such cases, the child may be separated from the group for the remainder of the day, and parents will be contacted to arrange immediate pickup.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

Most situations can be diffused without the use of physical restraint. Physical restraint is the last resort and will be used only if the child is posing a serious threat to themselves or others. Staff will do everything possible to de-escalate the situation, including using a soothing calm voice, moving away from the child, removing the child from the situation, and validating the child's feelings. Parents will be notified immediately in the event that physical restraint was necessary.

ABUSE PREVENTION

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) and the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) adhere to stringent screening and hiring practices in order to safeguard the safety and well-being of the children in our programs. ARC also provides staff with required Child Abuse Reporting training on a regular basis.

MANDATED REPORTER

Washington State law (26.44 RCW) requires all persons who work or volunteer in a licensed preschool facility to immediately report suspected abuse to either a law enforcement agency or to **Child Protective Services**. Abuse may take the form of physical, sexual, emotional, child exploitation or neglect. Staff are not obligated to inform the family if a report or request for investigation is made to CPS. The Child Protective Services worker will notify the family of the referral. CPS has legal access to interview any child either inferred in an abuse case or who might be a witness to an abuse case. CPS may, or may not, inform you ahead of time of a pending interview with your child.

STAFF PROFESSIONALISM

ARC staff is trained to maintain professional boundaries at all times. In an effort to avoid any conflict of interest or performance, **ARC staff are not permitted to provide private childcare to program participants outside the recreation preschool program.**

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Parents must fill out a medication administration form and sign it for each medication that is to be received.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Any prescription medication to be administered to a child while in our care must be accompanied by written approval of a physician (prescription label is accepted as physician approval) along with written parental consent. All medication must be in its original container and properly labeled with the child's name, date the prescription was filled, or medication's expiration date and legible instructions for administration such as manufacturer's instructions or prescription label. Additionally, please inform us of any and all medications the child takes while **not** in our care. In cases of emergency, this may be necessary information for first responders and medical staff. To capture this information, complete the *Medication Information and Treatment Authorization* form available in ePACT. This form should also be uploaded to your child's record in ePACT.

Medications for chronic conditions such as: asthma or allergies:

For chronic conditions (such as asthma): An individual care plan must be provided that lists symptoms or conditions under which the medication will be given.

Emergency supply of medication for chronic illness:

For medications taken at home, we ask for a three-day supply to be kept with our disaster kit in case of an earthquake or other disaster.

Staff administering medications will document the time, date and dosage of the medication given.

NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

The following medication can be given with written parental consent, only at the dose, duration and method of administration specified on the manufacturer's label, if medication has not expired, and if it is in its original container and will be stored on-site and administered by staff:

- Antihistamine

- Non-aspirin fever reducer/pain reliever
- Anti-itching ointment or lotion intended specifically to relieve itching
- Decongestant
- Non-narcotic cough suppressant

A physician's written authorization is required for non-prescription medication that is not included in the above list, medication that is to be taken differently than indicated on the manufacturer's label or medication that lacks labeled instructions.

All unused medication will be returned to parents/guardians or disposed of properly.

ILLNESS (including during program)

These guidelines are consistent with Public Health Seattle/King County. We ask that you adhere to the following guidelines. **Please keep at home any child with the following symptoms until resolved:**

- Fever of at least 100.4 °F orally (no-touch thermometer)
- Diarrhea, more than two loose stools per day or stool contains a drop of blood or mucus
- Vomiting, twice or more in the past 24 hours
- Rash, any not associated with heat or allergic reaction
- Drainage from the eye, redness of eyelid lining, swelling and discharge of pus
- Appearance/Behavior: Unusually tired, lack of appetite, confused, irritable, unable to participate in program
- Sore throat: especially with fever and swollen glands
- Head lice or nits: until no lice or nits are present
- Scabies: until after treatment
- Open or oozing sores, unless properly covered and 24 hours have passed since starting antibiotic

Please Note: Parents/guardians must have alternate plans for childcare. Children not well enough to participate in ALL activities, must not attend the program. If your child is sick, no refund will be issued.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

Parents/guardians are to inform the program director immediately when their child contracts a contagious disease (including, but not limited to chicken pox, conjunctivitis, mumps, measles, viral infections, and lice or is exposed to one. Our center will then post a general notice to alert other parents/guardians; no names will be used. Children being treated with antibiotics for a contagious disease may not return to our facility until she/he has been using the medication for a 48-hour period and/or until the danger of infecting others is over.

Incidents of contagious disease will be reported to the County Health Department at 206-296-4774. Staff will conduct lice checks periodically. To ensure the safety of ALL participants in our program, we require a doctor's note indicating that the child is no longer contagious, and it is safe for the child to return to the program.

LICE POLICY

If a child is found to have head lice while at the program, parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to pick up their child immediately. In the event of a lice breakout, all children will have their hair checked for nits by the staff and families will be notified of the outbreak. Children found with nits will be sent home with instructions for removal. Children will not be allowed to return to the program until they are nit free. Staff also will be checked. When lice are found, all rugs, couches, pillows, soft toys, etc. will be cleaned.

SUNSCREEN POLICY

It is the family's responsibility to provide, and apply, sunscreen prior to arriving to the program when there is sun exposure. During program hours, staff will provide opportunities for children to receive and reapply sunscreen at regular intervals. Please check with your director for additional instructions.

CONCUSSION INJURY PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Washington State law (RCW 28A.600.190) requires all recreation and sports organizations to notify parents/guardians about the dangers of concussions and the importance of removing a child from play if they are suspected of a head injury.

Concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities. A concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Concussions can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. They can occur in any organized or unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the ground, or with obstacles.

Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of head injury leaves the child or adolescent especially vulnerable to greater injury and even death. Therefore, it is important that a youth that is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a sport or recreational activity be removed from play immediately. The youth should not return to play until they have been evaluated by a licensed health care provider and has received written clearance to return to play.

Staff takes the following measures to ensure safety and prevent concussions or other head injuries:

- Participants are always supervised and remain within visual or auditory range.
- Staff are trained to recognize symptoms of a head injury (child appears dazed or stunned, seems confused, moves clumsily, loses consciousness-even briefly, shows personality or behavior changes, becomes nauseous or vomits, has double or blurred vision, or becomes dizzy).
- Participants are required to use helmets when they ride bikes or other “wheels” (no skateboards).
- Participants are reminded of the safety rules of the sport or recreation activity.
- Parents/guardians are notified immediately in cases of suspected injury and appropriate medical treatment is sought.

HEALTH PRACTICES

NON-SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is prohibited in all programs, and no staff is allowed to smoke within visual range of participants.

FOOD HANDLING PRACTICES

All staff who prepare children’s meals and/or snacks have valid Food Worker Permits. We follow all Public Health Department regulations.

HAND WASHING PRACTICES

Participants and staff wash hands upon arrival to program, after using restroom facilities, before preparing and eating meals and/or snacks, and before participating in cooking activities.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

CHILDCARE HOTLINE

In the case of inclement weather or a natural emergency, such as snow or an earthquake, please call the Childcare Hotline to ensure that the program is operating on a regular schedule: **206-684-4203**.

INJURY PREVENTION

All equipment used by the program is inspected daily by staff to ensure safety. Any equipment deemed unsafe or dangerous for children will be reported and removed or participants will be informed that the unsafe area is off limits until repaired or replaced.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OR INJURY

In case of a serious illness or injury the following procedures will be followed:

- Administer immediate First Aid/CPR
- Contact 911
- Contact Parent or Emergency Contact
- File Accident/Medical report with the director, area operations supervisor and community center coordinator.

FIRE AND EARTHQUAKE PLAN

Program staff conducts monthly fire drills and quarterly earthquake drills throughout the year. Participants are instructed what to do in the event of an emergency. Emergency evacuation plans are posted in the community center.

HEIGHTENED SECURITY AND LOCKDOWNS

In the event of a highly unsafe situation occurring in the neighborhood, the program may go into heightened security or lockdown. Heightened security means that we keep all children on-site and lock all outer doors. A lockdown means that in addition to keeping the children in the building, we will shut off all the lights and keep children in a better protected area until notified by the police that the situation has cleared. During a lockdown, no parent/guardian or staff may enter or leave the building.

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

If you have a complaint, please request an appointment to have a conference with your program director to ensure that the situation is addressed properly. We request that families do not leave grievances on our voice mail nor attempt to discuss during program hours. We will do our best to address, and solve, each situation. If the complaint or grievance cannot be resolved with the director, you are encouraged to contact the Area Operations Supervisor (telephone numbers can be found at the end of the handbook).

SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPR/ARC Recreation Preschool - Contact Information				
September 2025 – June 2026				
Preschool Program	Address	Community Center Phone	Program Phone	Area of Operations Supervisor
Discovery Park Environmental Learning Center	3801 Discovery Park Blvd. Seattle, WA 98199	206-386-4236	206-423-6625	Anna Barron 206-384-3819

FAMILY CONTRACT



Please follow this link to sign the Family Contract acknowledging receipt and understanding of this handbook.