



**ASHLAND-GREENWOOD
EARLY CHILDHOOD
PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**



**PARENT HANDBOOK
2025-2026**

Ashland-Greenwood Early Childhood Preschool Program

GOAL

The goal of the AG Early Childhood Preschool Program is to provide high quality early childhood education in a positive and nurturing environment for all children. The program promotes social, emotional, intellectual, language, physical and aesthetic development and learning for children and promotes family development and support. This inclusive preschool program serves children of all races, ethnicities, and abilities whose parents desire a preschool experience for their child. Ashland-Greenwood does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment of, or employment in its programs and activities. All information is confidential. Preschool serves as the first step to help your child grow into a life-long learner and responsible citizen.



Ashland-Greenwood Early Childhood Preschool Program

Who may attend?

Priority will be given to students who turn 4 on or before July 31st; other additional considerations can be found in District 6040-PreKindergarten (Preschool or Early Childhood) Program. All families are encouraged to apply, however, due to limited space there may be a waiting list.

Where is AG Early Childhood located?

The AG Preschool is located in the Ashland Greenwood Primary School.
1010 N. 17th Ave in Ashland, NE.

When is Preschool?

Preschool is Monday-Thursday
AM Session: 8:00 am - 11:20 am
PM Session: 12:00 pm - 3:20 pm

Preschool is required to meet a minimum of 450 instruction hours during the school year, in the event of loss of scheduled time due to weather or unexpected circumstances, classes may be extended to a Friday-any schedule changes will be communicated with parents.

What will my child learn?

The AG Early Childhood Preschool Program uses Creative Curriculum. This curriculum is developmentally appropriate, addresses all areas of development, and is aligned with the standards for learning set by our district and the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines.

We measure the quality of our program through self-assessment procedures using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale as well as independent evaluations, completed by the Nebraska Department of Education.

We will measure child outcomes and progress using Teaching Strategies GOLD, an authentic measure that uses daily observations of children, which are used to guide student learning while in the program. Results of TSG assessments will be shared with parents in the fall, spring and end of the school year.

What services does the AG Early Childhood Preschool Program provide?

Each class is taught by a teacher who is certified to teach young children. Support to the teacher and the children is provided by paraprofessionals and other support staff which includes but is not limited to special education providers, speech language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapists, administration and a school psychologist.

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ABSENCES - If your child is absent or ill, it is necessary for you to **call 402-944-7083** (option 1) to inform us of your child's absence and the reason for it. The secretary at this number will let the Early Childhood teacher know your child will be gone. This is for your child's safety. If a child must leave early for a doctor's appointment, go to the office to sign him/her out and the secretary will call him/her to the office.

If your child is not in preschool and the teacher has not been informed of the absence, school personnel will make a reasonable effort to contact the parents or emergency contacts to ensure that your child is safe and where they are supposed to be.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

Morning class—8:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

Afternoon class—12:00 p.m. 3:20 p.m.

ATTENDANCE — A key factor in making each child's school experience a success is regular school attendance. Parents/guardians should notify the school before, or as early as possible, on the morning of the child's absence or late arrival.



BIRTHDAYS - Birthdays are special occasions for young children. We will do special, in class, celebrations for each child on his/her birthday. Families may provide birthday treats for the class. **Treats must be store-bought due to allergies.** Party invitations will not be allowed to be handed out in school unless they are for the entire class. If you would prefer your child's birthday not to be celebrated, please talk to your child's classroom teacher.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES – An original birth certificate **is required** to be seen by the school secretary prior to the first day of school. A copy will be made and the certified document will be returned to you.



CALENDAR - A school calendar has been developed for the Early Childhood Preschool Program. The preschool calendar is different from the school calendar.

CONFERENCES - Parent/Teacher conferences are held at school in October. We will discuss your child's accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress. Please feel free to schedule additional conferences at any time throughout the year if the need arises. Home Visits will take place in August (before school starts) and will be offered in March during P/T conferences.



DISCIPLINE - Our classroom is a small community where teamwork and respectful relationships are created. We will spend time learning and practicing classroom and school procedures. Each child is expected to act within safe and productive standards of behavior. To establish a positive learning and play environment, the children will be guided to respect themselves and their companions through specific directions, positive reinforcement, suggested new activities and age-appropriate consequences.

DISMISSAL — If your child is not picked up after class has dismissed, efforts will be made to contact the parent, or emergency contacts. Children will not be released to people that are not on your child's emergency contact sheet. If the person is unknown to staff, he/she will be asked to show identification. **It is VERY important that the school and preschool has current phone numbers of parents and emergency contacts.**

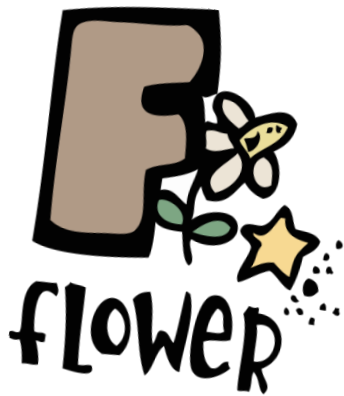
DISTRICT ALERTS- The school uses an automated calling system to contact households regarding school postponements, school closings, school emergencies and other school related announcements. It is important to inform the school of any changes in phone numbers.



E-MAIL - You can contact your child's teacher via their email address: erin.rathe@agps.org or victoria.nelson@agps.org which is checked on a daily basis. If you need to discuss something urgent, please call the school at 402-944-7083 (prompt 1).

EMERGENCY INFORMATION - Please update emergency contacts promptly. ***If your home or work phone number changes, or your contact numbers change, PLEASE inform the office as soon as possible so you can be located quickly if an emergency occurs.***

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS - Inclement weather may result in school closing, a delayed opening or early dismissal. If the weather is threatening, please tune in to an Omaha or Lincoln TV or radio station. The media will provide up-to-date school closing information on their website or on air. Please remember that when inclement weather exists, it is not always easy to make contact with all the media contacts. It is recommended that you use several media contacts. The district's automated calling system and district website will also be used to communicate school closings. **Should the school have a delayed opening (late start), the morning preschool session will be canceled and made-up on a TBD Friday and communicated by your child's teacher. The afternoon session will be held as usual.**



FAMILY - Families play the central role in their child's development. Engaging families with their child's preschool experience is essential to maximize learning. There will be many opportunities for families to work with their preschooler throughout the year. Some ways that we build the family-school relationship include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Two home visits—one at the beginning of the year and one offered during spring P/T conferences.
- Communication—we will communicate with you via Remind App, notes, newsletters, e-mails, phone calls and conversations.
- Family activities—flyers will be sent home throughout the year to inform you of family activities that will happen at school.

- Early Childhood Advisory Committee - a group of parents collaborate with preschool staff and community providers that meet together and discuss current preschool happenings and events that are relevant to EEC. Three or more meetings are held each year.

- Parent and Teacher Organization (PTO) – AG PTO is a non-profit group consisting of parents, guardians, school staff and community members dedicated to providing Ashland-Greenwood Elementary with funds, programs and services that will enrich and maximize the education of every child.

FIRE DRILLS - Fire drills are held throughout the year. All children will participate and are expected to exit quickly and quietly to their designated exit. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill. Sometimes these drills cause anxiety for kids, so we spend a lot of time talking about why we do fire drills. We learn that we do them so that we are safe in case there is a real fire.

FOOD ALLERGY - If a child has identified food or drink allergies, or medical conditions that require a modification in diet, the school may provide food and drink that takes this into account. For the school to provide dietary substitutions, a doctor's note is required stating the allergy or dietary requirements. Please speak with the school nurse prior to school starting and request a Special Diet form.



GRANDPARENTS - In the event parents are unable to make a family event, Grandparents or other family/friends, are invited to attend the event with the preschool child.



HEALTH - Health conditions that could affect your child's safety or well-being at school may be shared with school staff on a need-to-know basis. Examples of health issues that could be shared include diabetes, seizures, peanut allergy, asthma and medications that might have a side effect at school (drowsiness, behavioral changes).

Normal good health practices should be used at all times. The school's goal is to keep your child in school while not putting other children at risk. Children feeling uncomfortable or not well to the extent that the child is unable to accomplish normal activities should not be in school.

First aid will be administered by the school nurse or personnel with first-aid training as needed. If a serious illness or injury takes place at school, the parents will be notified. If a parent cannot be reached at home or work, the child's emergency contact person will be contacted. The city emergency unit will be called in cases of a serious injury or illness.

The following Nebraska State Health Guidelines will be used when assessing a student's health:

- Children with a temperature of 100 degrees or more should not be in school. A child may not return until they have been without a fever for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- Children with serious communicable/infectious diseases must have a doctor's permission slip to return to school in accordance with State Health Guidelines. Diseases included are:
 - Hepatitis A
 - Tuberculosis
 - Measles
 - Mumps
 - Rubella
- Children with chickenpox will be excluded from school for no less than 6 days (day of onset of specific symptoms is counted as day "0", the day after is day "1") after the appearance of the first crop of vesicles, and the child is without fever and the vesicles are dry.
- Children with some communicable/infectious diseases cannot remain in school. Examples of these diseases are:
 - Streptococcal Infections (strep throat, scar Latina)
 - Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
 - ScabiesA minimum of 24 hours exclusion and proof of treatment will be required before a child having this type of disease can attend school.
- Children with some diseases must have a doctor's permission slip or evidence of treatment (proof of medication) to re-enter school. Examples of these diseases include:
 - Impetigo
 - Ringworm

- Head Lice – Children identified as having head lice will be excluded from school until they receive appropriate treatment. They may return to school with proof of treatment and determined to be lice and nit free by a school representative.
- Children with an unidentified rash who are without fever (under 100 degrees) and feeling well, may stay in school. When a rash is observed, parents must be notified of the rash. Rashes persisting longer than 3 days require proof of medical evaluation. Some rashes may require immediate exclusion and proof of medical evaluation.
- Children will be sent home if they are vomiting or have diarrhea regardless of whether or not they have a temperature elevation. A child may not return to school until 24 hours symptom free.
- In the event it becomes known that a child is infected with a chronic infectious disease not commonly associated with casual transmittal (i.e. hepatitis, rheumatic fever, mononucleosis and HIV) and any changes in the educational program of a child is needed, this will be handled on a case-by-case basis, relying on the best scientific and medical advice available.

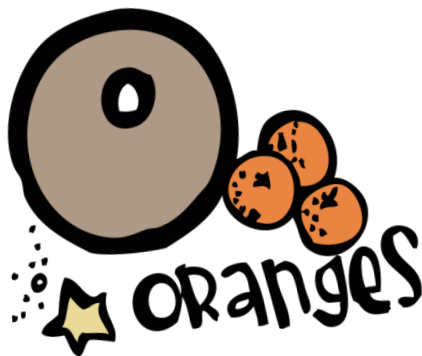
HOME VISITS - Teachers will visit every family at their home two (2) times during the school year. First visit will be prior to school starting in August. Second visit will be during 2nd semester P/T conferences (March). Home visits are a great opportunity to build relationships!



ILLNESS - The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. Please remember that your child may not come to school with a temperature greater than 100.0. Children may not come back to school until he/she has been fever free, without medications, for 24 hours. Please see health issues listed – Page 8.

Immunizations - Children in Nebraska may only enroll in and attend school if they are protected against communicable diseases and conditions such as measles, mumps, rubella, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus, by immunization prior to enrollment (Revised Statute, Chapter 79-217). The following are the vaccines children need prior to attending preschool for the 2025-2026 school year:

- 4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine,
- 3 doses of Polio vaccine,
- 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age (Hib not required after child reaches 5 yrs of age),
- 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine,
- 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age,
- 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian or health care provider will be accepted.
- 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age (Pneumococcal not required after child reaches 5 years of age).



MANDATORY REPORTERS - The law requires that every staff member at the AG Early Childhood Preschool Program report any sign of child abuse or neglect. This includes proper safety restraints, or leaving younger children in vehicles while picking up your preschooler. If staff observe possible abuse or neglect, they are required under state law to report.

MEDICATIONS - Over the counter medication products may be used in the school health office for personal hygiene, skin care, first aid, or for therapeutic purposes. These products may be used without specific consent and are provided by the school.

NEWSLETTER - Newsletters will be sent home electronically or in paper to keep families informed about what is happening in class. **Please take time to review-much information is shared!**

OH, WOW!!!! - You will be constantly amazed at the changes your child will be making this year. We will be learning and growing DAILY! Preschool is the key to kicking off your child's learning career. Please help us in making this a very fun, beneficial, and positive learning experience!

OUTSIDE - Weather permitting, children will go outside daily. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for the daily weather. We will go out during all seasons, whether hot or cold. During winter months, please ensure your child has a coat, ear/head covering, mittens or gloves, and boots when necessary.

PAYMENT – Ashland-Greenwood Early Childhood Preschool Program has a minimal cost to families for children to attend our program. Fees collected are used to cover the costs of meals and services to children and families and to help defray costs for our comprehensive program. The following fees will be used for the upcoming school year.



- Tier I – Full Tuition**
\$175 per month for 9 months (September – May)
- Tier II – One enrollment priority***
\$125 per month for 9 months (September – May)
- Tier III – At least two enrollment priorities*,**
or students who receive Special Education Services,
or qualify for free lunch or reduced meals
\$0 per month

\$25/month for MID-DAY transportation to/from childcare.

Enrollment priorities include:

- Child has special education verification (IEP)
- Qualification for the free or reduced lunch program
- Mother under 18 years of age at child's birth
- Home language is not English
- Child's birth weight was under five pounds at birth (doctor verified)
- Child is in foster care or is a ward of the court (legal documentation required)

Starting September 1st, invoices will be sent the 1st of each month, payment is due by the 20th. Final payment is due by May 15. If tuition is not received by the fifteenth of the month, a reminder will be provided to families. Failure to remit payment for program tuition may result in discontinued enrollment unless extenuating circumstances are discussed with the building principal. Payments are payable via check and e~Funds, e~Funds information will be shared at preschool parent meeting in July.

PICTURES – AG Elementary contracts annually to have pictures taken of school children early in the school year. Information regarding prices, times and dates will be provided when available.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS – The administration of medication at school is discouraged except when necessary for the child's health or education. The dosage intervals of many medications can be adjusted so the times for taking medication come outside school hours. When possible, interval adjustment should be considered before administering medication at school. All medications administered by school district personnel shall be administered in accordance with Medication Aide Act.

A. **Authorization for Prescription Medications** – Prescription medications which must be administered during school hours may be administered when the following are on file at school:

1. A caretaker's signed and dated authorization/permission to administer the medication during school, which included the reason the child is receiving the

medication. (Note: all references to “caretaker” in this policy shall also include a parent, foster parent, family member or legal guardian; it shall not include a friend or child provider).

2. The medication is in its original packaging and is labeled as dispensed by the prescriber or pharmacist. The label must name the child and identify the medication, administering physician, strength, dosage, time interval and route to be administered. Two labeled containers may be requested: one for home and one for school. If needed, the physician may be contacted for clarification on medication administration.
- B. **Authorization for Non-Prescription Medications** - If a regular education child must take non-prescription medication during school, procedure 1 above is to be followed before administration, and the medication must be provided in its original container.
- C. **Authorizations** - Medication authorizations must be renewed annually and updated immediately as changes occur.

QUESTIONS -If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact:



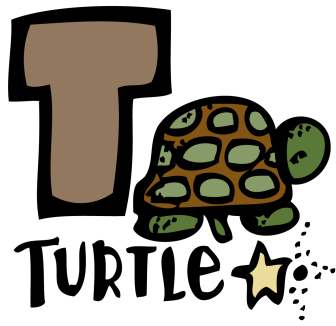
Erin Rathe, Early Childhood Preschool teacher
erin.rathe@agps.org
Tori Nelson, Early Childhood Preschool teacher
victoria.nelson@agps.org
Danielle Hyatt, Early Childhood Special Education teacher
danielle.hyatt@agps.org
Darcy Carey, Program Coordinator & EC Special Education teacher
darcy.carey@agps.org
Amanda Moon, Primary School Principal
amanda.moon@agps.org
Kristin Fangmeyer, Director of Student Services
kristin.fangmeyer@agps.org



RESTROOMS - Each preschool classroom has child-sized restrooms available in the classroom. We encourage children to use the restroom and have adults in the room remind children as well. Please continue to work on restroom skills: flushing the toilet, getting dressed and washing hands. For children not yet toilet trained, restrooms also include changing stations. Please provide a change of clothes and diapering supplies as necessary.



SUPPLIES - A small voluntary school supply list can be found on the district website. The school provides all necessary supplies for preschool students. Special requests may be made by the classroom teacher for special projects. Assistance with these supplies is appreciated but not mandatory.



TOYS - Children LOVE to share their toys-some use toys or other items as a personal comfort. In order to protect your child's toys from getting lost or broken, it is asked that toys stay home, unless being brought to school for Show & Share. If your child needs extra support with comfort and may need an item from home, please talk to your child's teacher.

Toy weapons shall not be allowed in the preschool setting at any time; please do not allow the child to bring any toy/item that could be perceived as a weapon. Toys referencing aggressive or violent characters will also not be allowed at preschool.



NOTICE OF DISCRIMINATION

Ashland-Greenwood School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Building Principal has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies.

ELE: (402) 944-7083

For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 601 East 12th Street, Room 353, Kansas City, MO 64106, (800) 368-1019 (voice), Fax (816)426-3686, (800)537-7697 (telecommunications device for the deaf), ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

PRESCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT

It is very important for a child to attend preschool regularly to benefit from the services provided. It is your responsibility as a parent and/or caregiver, to notify the school prior to class starting that your child will be absent for the day and give a reason why.

If your child is absent and you have not notified the school you will receive a call from the school to check on your child's absence. If persistent absenteeism occurs with no explanation, your child's enrollment may be reviewed.

I have read the above agreement and will abide by it.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

A-G Early Childhood Preschool Program Handbook Notice of Receipt

For a school to provide meaningful, positive, learning experiences, the school must have a well-defined organizational program. The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize parents and children with the preschool program and district procedures and policies.

Please read this handbook. If you have any questions, please call (402) 944-7083 (option 1). Sign and return this form to the elementary office.

I hereby acknowledge that my preschool child and I have received the procedures and regulations outlined in the Ashland Greenwood Early Childhood Preschool Handbook and that I have read and understand them.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date