



Loving Hands Preschool September 2020

WELCOME FAMILIES!!! We are so excited to begin this school year!! We can't wait to welcome our families back after the crazy end to last school year, and pray for a better outcome for this one! We hope everyone is enjoying their summer and continue to enjoy what is left of it. Each month, we will send a school-wide newsletter home with each child. This will give you a glimpse of what will be going on in your child's class, and around the school. Please keep the **newsletter** and class calendars in a "safe" place so you can refer to them, as needed. If you misplace your copy or need an additional for other family members, additional copies can be found at the "Information Station" outside of the Preschool Office, or online at www.loving-hands.org

On 8/9/2020, the Governor moved the state ratios back to their normal capacity. Below you will find the state ratio, max **group sizes**, compared to Loving Hands Preschool group sizes.

Age Group	State Ratio	Maximum Group Size for State	Loving Hands Max group size
Orange Room (3's)	1 teacher: 12 children	2 teachers: 24 children	2 teachers: 12 children
Green Room (4's)	1 teacher: 14 children	2 teachers: 28 children	2 teachers: 14 children
Yellow Room (4's)	1 teacher: 14 children	2 teachers: 28 children	2 teachers: 18 children
Blue Room (4/5's)	1 teacher: 14 children	2 teachers: 28 children	2 teachers: 14 children
Purple Room (5's)	1 teacher: 14 children	2 teachers: 28 children	2 teachers: 14 children

After careful consideration, we would like to move forward with a plan for putting our classroom groups back together. Loving Hands Preschool has prided itself on our low group sizes, thus we feel that it is safe and reasonable to resume to the original class size. Although we have extra space within the building to separate the classes, and will continue to have those spaces ready in case of another mandate, we feel that moving back to our original spaces will:

- Provide our classroom spaces with 2 teachers in a room, where the previous mandate only allowed for one teacher per space. This will allow us to maintain the same cleaning and sanitizing procedures we have done in the past, with additional cleaning of high touch areas, and frequently used toys/materials. By leaving one teacher per classroom, those things would still need to be done, possibly interfering with time that the teacher could be working directly with the children.
- Provide a more normal class environment and allow everyone to begin to develop the relationships with both teachers/all peers.
- This will allow the teachers to continue to work together on assessing the children, while providing additional small group time for the students.
- Cut down on waiting time for the children in between activities. In the past, for example, when children finish snack time, they would begin a new activity with a teacher, while the second teacher cleans and disinfects the tables, placemats, sweeps floor, etc. If teachers were alone in a classroom, the children would be working independently while the teacher completed those tasks. This allows for additional learning time for the students.

We understand that a smaller group size lends itself to more space for social distancing, but we will continue to organize our classrooms into centers, as we always have, which are set up as natural barriers to limit the number of children in a smaller space. The state minimum is to provide 35 sq ft. per student in each room, and we keep our classes well under max group size, so we are still providing more than enough space to socially distance within the classroom, naturally, not measured.

This year, due to the restrictions of people in the building and social distancing guidelines, we will need to hold our **Meet the Teachers** in a different way. Because we know that this is an important time for your child and YOU, we want to make sure that we can welcome families to our classrooms before the start of school, and give everyone a chance to introduce their child to their teachers/classrooms. To do this in the safest way, we are requesting that we postpone the first day of school to Monday, September 14. This will allow us to have a Meet the Teacher week, instead of fitting everyone into one day. Teachers will have a sign up sheet available at Parent Orientation, for each family to sign up for a 15 minute time slot. This is the opportunity to spend a few minutes in the classroom with your child and help them explore before their BIG day!! We offer day and a few evening times for your convenience. Please be sure to bring: any paperwork that you still need to turn in, a set of extra clothing for your child in a labeled Ziploc bag, any school supply items that you haven't already turned in, and items that you purchased to donate to the classrooms.

This year, we have to postpone the start of our **enrichment** classes. Due to the restrictions put on centers, it would not be in best practice to let our classes intermingle. If there would be a positive Covid-19 test, our hope is to isolate it to the one class and not have to shut the entire school down. Keeping our classes in their own cohorts at this time would be our best option. If at any time in the school year, we feel that Enrichment is something that we can safely offer, we will notify parents immediately. In that case, sign up sheets for Enrichment can be found at our **Information Station**, outside of the preschool office. Along with Enrichment sign up sheets, you can also find volunteer opportunities at Loving Hands, copies of the Parent Handbook, newsletters, medical statements, school year calendars, and also a place to put paperwork that needs turned into the Preschool Office. We use this area to share information with everyone in a convenient location. Please continue to turn tuition payments into the church office. There is a tuition box located inside the sliding window of the main office. If a teacher requests an item, you may return those to the teacher directly. All school wide materials (like enrollment paperwork, medical statements, and fundraiser materials) will be turned into the Information Station. Please do not hand Miss Shannon or your child's teachers items. Arrival and dismissal times are busy and we would hate to set something down and misplace it.

This school year will look different at Arrival and Dismissal times. At arrival, we are mandated to perform health screenings on all of our staff and students. We ask that anyone coming into the building at drop off or pick up also perform the same screening on themselves before bringing their child to school. The health screening will consist of 3 questions that parents will fill out BEFORE dropping their child off. It is to make sure that, to the best of your knowledge, you or your child doesn't have a fever of over 100°, have any other symptoms of Covid-19, or haven't been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive. We are asking parents to fill out the form ahead of time to simply save time at drop off. Otherwise, we would have to ask the screening questions to each family as they drop off and we felt that this would save a great deal of time.

Once you hand us the form, with the first 3 questions filled out, you and your child will sanitize your hands while we will take your child's temp and record the temp that we get. If your child's temp is over 100°, we ask that you keep your child at home. Typically we would ask you to keep your child home until they are fever free for 24 hours, but at this time while we work to create a policy that best fits our program, we are requesting that they be fever free for a minimum of 72 hours to make sure that no other symptoms appear, or that the fever doesn't return, or have been seen by a physician who agrees that they can return sooner. If your child begins to show other symptoms or someone in your household or close proximity shows symptoms or tests positive, please let Miss Shannon know immediately. Right now, the next step is to call the Summit County Health Department. They will give case by case guidance on the steps that will need to be taken, and let us know which classrooms need to quarantine, if any. This is such a fluid situation, that there is no set guidance that fits all cases, so we must rely on the SCHD to guide us through this process. But most importantly, we need your help. Please keep your children home if they (or anyone in your household) aren't feeling well, or you know that they have symptoms that could be associated with Covid-19. By doing this, we greatly increase our odds of having a successful and healthy school year!

After a child has had their health screening, our parents will continue down the tile hallway to the double doors, where their teachers will be waiting for them. This will be our drop off area, instead of parents walking the children upstairs. We are excited that teachers will now be able to greet our students/parents at this time. Originally when the rooms were split, this wasn't going to be able to be an option because all staff would need to remain with their group. We feel that even though we will do drop off and pick up downstairs at this time, it will have a more normal feel to all of our families. Parents will be able to exit the next set of double doors to the parking lot. This will reduce parents from having to pass each other in the entrance areas. We ask parents to wear masks at drop off and pick up, and keep a safe distance between families while in the building. Masks have been mandated by the state for anyone school age and older, so we request that our families follow that same guidance in our building. Our preschoolers are not required to wear a mask at any time, but we have requested that they wear them at drop off and pick up times, simply because it is one time during the day that we can't keep them from being in closer proximity of other classes/families. By wearing a mask for that short period, it may also mean that in the case of a covid-19 positive test, that the Health Department would not need to shut our entire school down, and could isolate them to smaller groups.

Pick up will take place at the same entrance. The outside door will be unlocked when it is time for pick up to begin. To decrease the waiting time and long lines prior, we will unlock the door when it is ok for parents to come in the building. Children will wash their hands before dismissal, they will come down and wait in the muscle room area and then we will dismiss the kids to go home.

Our preschool does not offer a "carpool" option, so a responsible adult will need to walk your child in to school each day, and pick them up at the end of each day. In order for an adult to pick up your child, their name must be present on the **Child Release Form**. Teachers will check ID of any adult that they do not recognize. Please bear with us at the beginning of the school year, and bring your ID, as well. We are learning to put names to faces and may not recognize you right away, especially with a mask on! If at any time during the year you would like to add or remove someone from your child's pick up list, please do so in the preschool office with Miss Shannon. I will be sure to update the information with the teachers.

We follow **Green Local Schools school year calendar**, as well as any snow days. If Green Schools has a Delay Start, preschool will be closed for that day. It will be considered a snow day. There are a few days throughout the year that Loving Hands is closed, while Green Schools are open. Please check your school year calendar for those dates. This also applies if the school district is mandated to close down or begin to meet virtually. No decision has been made at this time for what we would do if Green starts the school year remotely. If that decision should come, we will be in contact with parents with additional information.

Please remember to pack a **snack** (and a lunch for our full day classes) for your child each day. You may choose what you would like to send for your child, but we do ask that it contain nutritional value and that is NUT FREE! Their snack box/bag may be placed in their backpack so it is easier for our little ones as they head upstairs.

Every child must have a **Medical Statement** on file that has been signed by a physician. ODJFS requires that this be on file within 30 days of any new student's enrollment, and every 13 months thereafter. The Preschool Office will send out reminders to families at 90 days. We will ask that you return the form with the date of your child's appointment. If we do not receive that back, we will send another reminder 60 days before the expiration and then again at 30 days. If a child's Medical Statement expires and we have not received an updated form, your child may not return to school until that has been updated. This is a state rule, and exceptions can't be made.

In the beginning and end weeks of school, as weather permits, we will be using the playground and outdoor play areas. Please be sure to **sunscreen** your child before school. Loving Hands Preschool will not be responsible for sunscreen. We have a short time frame to enjoy the playground, so there is not time to apply/reapply sunscreen throughout the day. We also recommend that your child wear tennis shoes. The playground has rubber mulch and it makes wearing sandals or cros uncomfortable.

Families have been given **Preschool Payment Envelopes**. We request that these be used each month to simplify the payment process for Brittney Hurley, our Administrative Coordinator. If you forget your envelope, please be sure to write your child's name on the memo line of your check. Payments are due BY the 16th of the month. Payments are made one month in advance (i.e. September payment is due on August 16). Please note: sometimes the due date is going to fall on a weekend or day that the school is not open, please be sure to pay ahead of time in these cases. The payment will not be cashed until on or after the 16th. Paying in full? Using AFT? Don't need your envelopes? We would love to re-use them. Simply drop them in the paperwork basket at the Preschool Information Station. Just a reminder that all payments are non-refundable. This applies in the

case that the school would need to shut down. If at any time a family decides to withdraw from the program, they will need to do so in writing to smiller1950@sbcglobal.net

JOIN US ON **FACEBOOK!!!** Loving Hands Preschool has a Facebook Page. We post reminders, updates, and other exciting info on the page. Look for us at www.facebook.com/LovingHandsPreschool

SEPTEMBER DATES

5: Happy Birthday Madeline T.
6: Happy Birthday Ryker S.
7: Labor Day- No School
8-11: Meet the Teacher (sign up for times)
9: Happy Birthday Reagan F & Roman L
10: Happy Birthday Zoey C. & Lydia S
13: Happy Birthday Lincoln G.
14: First day of school for Green Room, Orange Room MW, Blue and Purple Rooms
14: Happy Birthday Peyton J.
15: First day of school for Yellow Room & Orange Room TTH classes
15: Tshirt orders due by first day of school \$10
15: Happy Birthday Lincoln T
16: October tuition due
17: Preschool Board Meeting 9:00

19: Happy Birthday Mason B
21/22: Chapel Time with Miss Shannon
27: Happy Birthday Brielle S. & Caroline M
28: Happy Birthday Cole M.

Preschool 3's- Orange Room
Miss Terri & Miss Shannon B
tnetteleton316@gmail.com csbelaney@gmail.com

Welcome to the Orange Room! Miss Shannon and I are so excited for this new adventure with you and your child! We have an entire school year of learning, activities, and crafts planned. We will be working on social skills, as well as academic materials. We have very few days in the month of September. We will be working hard on getting acclimated to a scholastic setting, filled with new friends and a new environment. Our themes will be "Welcome," "Rules," "All about me," and "Feelings." We will be introducing students to shapes ,colors, numbers and letters in a variety of ways, including familiarizing students with the letters of their names. To help with what your child is learning in school , help your child find circles, the color yellow and the first letter in their name.

We will also be starting art projects and crafts! We will be drawing our first preschool picture, painting, making handprints, and crafts according to our daily reading. We will delve into how students express their feelings, and we encourage your help! Questions to ask your little one during our first months of school will greatly encourage how we interact, as well as how they interact with classmates. Some questions to consider:

- What is a feeling?
- What do you do with a feeling?
- What is your favorite color?

We are looking forward to an amazing and fun-filled school year!

Pre-Kindergarten MWF- Green Room
Miss Libby & Miss Carolyn
Libbyway4@hotmail.com

Welcome to the beginning of an exciting year of Pre-Kindergarten! September will be filled with lots of fun as we start out with the book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. This is always a class (and teacher) favorite! This first month of school, we will be focusing on getting to know each other and becoming familiar with the classroom routines. Our learning center time will include many fun games, songs, and activities to help everyone become familiar with the Green room and all our new friends! We will also be learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, discovering ways to sort and count plastic bugs, and digging right into the alphabet letters and sounds, beginning with the letter Aa! We should be able to have our large muscle time on the playground outdoors this month, and will have Chapel time with Miss Shannon.

Don't forget to look for the first Friday Green Folder, including a "Peek into our Week" form! After looking it over with your child, please remember to return the folder, with the pages still in the prongs, on Mondays! We will use the Remind app to send pictures and announcements, so if you haven't already, be sure to get the invite code and join! You can also use this App to ask any questions, as your message will go directly to Miss Libby.

We are so excited for this year and can't wait to watch your children grow and learn together!

Pre-Kindergarten TTHF- Yellow Room
Miss Kate & Miss Tina
misskate.lhp@gmail.com

Hello and welcome to the Yellow Room! We are so happy to finally begin our school year! Preschool is such a fun and magical place. It is truly amazing to see how much your child will grow and learn this year, and we are so excited to be a part of it! There are so many fun activities planned for this year. We are going to start off our slightly shortened month getting to know each other and figuring out our class rules, through several fun learning activities. We will work on spelling first names and discussing why they are unique. Additionally, we will also do some creative "all about me" projects using our math skills!

Each month we will focus on several letters, numbers, a shape and a color. This month we will tackle A and B, numbers 1 and 2, the circle, and the color yellow (it seemed like the perfect one to start with!).

Miss Tina and I realize how different this school year looks to you, but our goal is that your child never notices. For them, this will be a fun place to be with friends, hear fantastic stories, explore their artistic abilities, and come home every day with excitement in their voices. We can't wait to get started!

Transitional Kindergarten AM (with full day option)-Purple Room

Miss Alicia & Miss Stacey

aliciasobieski27@gmail.com

Welcome to the Purple Room! We have so many fun and exciting activities planned, and we cannot wait to get back in the swing of things. Although, we do have some changes that needed to be made, we will do our absolute best to keep this school year as normal and fun as possible. We take our jobs very seriously when it comes to the health and protection of your little ones. We are mothers as well, with children returning to school and we understand your concerns.

We will use the month of September to get to know our classmates through activities that are designed so that we can learn about each other's interests. Miss Stacey and I will also be participating in most of these activities so the children can become more comfortable and familiar with us. Our first theme of the school year is "All About Me". This will help me plan for the upcoming months by observing what their likes and dislikes are. We will also talk about diversity and show that everyone is different in their own way and that is what makes them special. We will also use this month to review our letters, numbers, colors and shapes. I'm sure most of the children are familiar with these, however it's always good for a review after a long summer vacation. This will also give us the opportunity to see where each student is at academically and where some strengths and weaknesses may lie.

Miss Stacey and I are ready to meet all of your wonderful children and begin this amazing school year! Please don't hesitate to contact me or set up an appointment for us to speak, if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for joining our Purple Room!

Blue Room-Full Day Transitional Kindergarten

Miss Jessica & Miss Mary Ellen

jfulmer0805@gmail.com

Welcome to the Blue Room! We are so excited to start this new school year even if things are going to be a little bit different. We are going to make this year lots of fun. We had so many fun activities plan to help prepare the children for kindergarten.

For our first month of school we are going to be working on our classroom routine, which will include songs that will be incorporated into our daily schedule throughout the school year. We will learn about our classroom rules and jobs. Our themes to kick off our school year will be back to school, all about me and apples. With these themes come lots of fun activities such as our all about me bags to learn all about our friends and their families making applesauce and trying different kinds of apples and meeting all our new friends on our first day of school. Miss Mary Ellen and I look forward to an amazing school year with all out new friends in the blue room and all our fun activities we have planned.

Throughout the year we will be working on things to prepare your children for kindergarten, such as reviewing our letters and numbers, working on memorizing our address and phone numbers. We will also be working on rhyming words and words that are the opposites. Then once we are ready, we will begin sight words and make sight word rings so the children can have all their sight words to take home. Looking forward to making lots of memories 😊