



Loving Hands Preschool

September 2021

WELCOME FAMILIES!!! We are so excited to begin this school year!! 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](http://www.loving-hands.org)

Our first days of class will be Monday, September 13 & Tuesday, September 14. This will allow us to have a **Meet the Teacher** week during the week of September 6-10, instead of fitting everyone into one day, as we had done pre-covid. 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. If you didn't attend Parent Orientation, the sign-up sheets will be available M-TH 9-2 outside of the preschool office. Paperwork/supplies/tuition, etc. can also be dropped off at that time.

Masks- We understand that the mask mandate is no longer in place. But our policy at this time will remain:

- Age 2 and below- no mask is required. When possible, we recommend for siblings not to enter the building. We understand that isn't always an option for families, but when possible, please limit drop off and pick up to one person per child.
- Ages 3-5 (6, if enrolled in our program)- mask is NOT required, but permissible if that is a parental preference (in this case, masks will not be worn during snack time or large muscle play). We are requesting, that children continue to wear masks at arrival time. They can be removed once children arrive to their classroom (unless otherwise instructed by a parent). This will make it easier for us if we get congested in the drop off and pick up area and have more than one group in the same area (still socially distanced, of course). This will be for a time of no more than 10 minutes or so.
- Age 6-10 & not enrolled in our program: masks requested
- Parents/other adults- We request that all adults wear a mask at drop off, pick up, other times when you must enter the building. This will help to limit the number of people our little ones are coming in contact with during that short time.
- Teachers- will wear a mask at any time that they may come in contact with other adults, outside of our staff. While in the classroom, the decision whether to wear a mask/face shield is at a teacher's discretion.

**Enrichment classes** were cancelled last school year because the guidance we were given by the state was not to mix cohorts of students. At this time, we are going to reinstate our Enrichment program, on a trial basis. But, as a precaution, we are going to limit it to our 4- and 5-year-old students. This will allow us to ease back into the mixing of our groups, and hopefully find ways for this to successfully work. As we assess the ways this class works, we will make any announcements later if we can open it to our younger students. We are also making some time changes to this class.

Enrichment will now begin at 11:00 for our PM students. In the past, our PM students were able to arrive at 11:30. This will allow all students to receive the same amount of enrichment time. Enrichment days will remain M-TH, allowing Pre-K students to attend 2 days and TK students can attend 2 or 4 days.

- PM students will attend 11:00-12:30; AM students will attend 11:30-1:00.
- The class is offered Monday-Thursday
- Pre-K classes can attend 2 days/week; TK classes can attend 2 days or 4 days.
- We will still offer a full year option, so you don't have to sign up each month; we will offer the month-to-month option, with sign-up sheets at the Communication Station (outside of the preschool office); we will also offer stay-n-play option, which is a daily option (these options are based on space availability. This sign-up sheet will come out at the end of the preceding month. For October, the sign-up sheet will be out during the week of Meet the Teacher.

This school year, Arrival and Dismissal times will look as they did last year. We will stagger the start/end times to reduce the number of people in the building at one time. Our staggered schedule will look like this:

- 8:45-11:15 or 12:15-2:45: Orange Room classes
- 8:50-11:20 or 12:20-2:50: Purple Room classes
- 8:55-11:25 or 12:25-2:55: Green or Yellow Room
- 9:00-3:00: Blue Room

At arrival, we will continue to perform health screenings on all 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 2 questions that parents should assess BEFORE dropping their child off.

1. Has your child had any of the following symptoms since their last class day (or within the last 10 days if they are new or returning from an absence): fever of 100 degrees or higher, new or unusual cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new onset of headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, or vomiting?
2. Has your child had close contact to a person with a positive, or presumptive, case of covid-19 in the last 10 days?

Once you hand us the form, with the first 2 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 48 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 SCHED 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. 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. Although, masks have no longer been mandated by the state, we still request, at this time, that all adults who enter the building during drop off or pick up times continue to wear one. 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 outside of the muscle room area and then we will dismiss the kids, individually, 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. 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 entire school district is mandated to close down or begin to meet virtually.

Please remember to pack a **snack** (and a lunch for our full day/enrichment 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 crocs 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, or there are blank envelopes next to the tuition box. Payments are due BY the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/LovingHandsPreschool)

Be sure to sign up for your child's class on the **REMIND** app!! This is a way for the teachers to communicate with you about activities going on in class, send pictures and reminders. They are able to send mass texts to all families, or communicate individually with a family. The best part is that you can also send private texts back to them! If you have a grandparent or babysitter that is responsible for your child during school time, they are also welcome to sign up for the app. This will allow them to get the reminders, as well.

#### SEPTEMBER DATES

- 5: Happy Birthday Madeline T
- 6: Labor Day- NO SCHOOL; Happy Birthday Mariam
- 7-10: Meet the Teacher Week (be sure to sign up for a time!!)
- 8: Happy Birthday Liam H
- 9: Happy Birthday Austin H
- 10: Happy Birthday Jackson P
- 11: Happy Birthday Jack T
- 13: First day of school for the Orange Room MW, Green, Blue and Purple Rooms
- 14: First day of school for Orange Room TTH and Yellow Rooms; Happy Birthday Jackson D
- 15: Happy Birthday Lincoln T
- 16: October Tuition due; Happy Birthday Sadie D
- 17: Happy Birthday Hazel R
- 21: Happy Birthday Oaklynn S
- 23: Preschool Board Meeting 9:00 in Library
- 24: Happy Birthday Tucker M
- 26: Happy Birthday Elliott S
- 27: Happy Birthday Brielle S
- 28: Happy Birthday Cole M
- 29: Happy Birthday Emersyn S

**Preschool 3's- Orange Room**  
**Miss Terri & Miss Shannon B**

[tnettleton316@gmail.com](mailto:tnettleton316@gmail.com)

[csbelaney@gmail.com](mailto:csbelaney@gmail.com)

Welcome to the Orange Room! We are so excited for this new adventure with you and your child! We have an entire school year of learning, playing and exploring planned. We will be working on social skills, as well as academic materials. During our first month of school, 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," "All About Me," "Feelings," with a few Eric Carle inspired activities. 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 at school, you can work on identifying circles, the color yellow and the first letter in their name.

We will also be introducing centers, starting fine motor journals, self-portraits, and art projects! This month we will be drawing our FIRST preschool picture, painting, making handprints, along with other activities that coincide with our daily reading. 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?
- What do you like to play during centers?

We are looking forward to an amazing and fun-filled school year! It is truly amazing how much our little Orange Room friends grow throughout the year! We can't wait to be a part of it all!

**Pre-Kindergarten MWF- Green Room**  
**Miss Libby & Miss Carolyn**  
[Libbyway4@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:misskate.lhp@gmail.com)

Hello and welcome to the Yellow Room! Miss Tina and I are so excited to 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 honored to be a part of it! There are so many fun activities planned for this year. We are going to start off 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 focus on letters A, B, C and numbers 1, 2, 3. Our shape is the circle, and we'll start off with the color yellow. Our goal this year is to create a warm and positive learning environment for your child. We hope this is a fun place to be with friends, hear fantastic stories, explore artistic abilities, and come home every day with excitement in their voices. We can't wait to get started!

## **Transitional Kindergarten (Half Day)-Purple Room**

**Miss Alicia & Miss Stacey**

[aliciasobieski27@gmail.com](mailto: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 its 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!

## **Transitional Kindergarten (Full Day)- Blue Room**

**Miss Jessica, Miss Carolyn (M/T) & Miss Mary Ellen (W/TH)**

[Jfulmer0805@gmail.com](mailto:Jfulmer0805@gmail.com)

Welcome to the Blue Room! We are so excited to start this school year! We are going to have lots of fun and make lots of memories. We have 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, Miss Carolyn 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 😊

