

Pomegranate

Preschool for the Arts



Parent Handbook

POMEGRANATE PRESCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

A program of Temple Emek Shalom

1800 East Main Street, Ashland, OR 97520

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The Goals of Pomegranate:

The primary goal of Pomegranate Preschool for the Arts is to offer three- to five-year-olds an arts immersion program that will encourage self-expression and socialization. Each child is regarded as an individual whose gifts, temperament and challenges are to be respected.

The Curriculum:

Throughout the week children are offered arts activities in music, drama, creative writing (through story-telling), and fine arts. Outdoor and indoor play are a daily part of the schedule. A science component is incorporated into the curriculum, as well as several field trips. Children are read to every day.

No child is obliged to participate in any of the structured activities; playing is just fine.

While Pomegranate is a secular program, we honor the Jewish tradition of *Shabbat* on Fridays by doing *Kiddush*. Children will bake *challah* bread every Friday throughout the school year. We honor the Jewish holidays with traditional foods and rituals.

Parent Involvement:

The small enrollment of Pomegranate lends itself to a familial atmosphere. There will be three informal gatherings throughout the school year.

Parents are invited, but not obliged, to participate in the life of the school in any number of ways:

- helping with an arts-related activity
- accompanying us on field trips (*This is vital. We always need a 1:3 ratio on field trips.*)
- reading a story at the end of the school day
- being part of a work party to improve or beautify our two rooms or the outdoor play area

Parent/Teacher Communication

We hold two parent-teacher conferences during the school year, in December and May. Parents are encouraged to phone or email us with any concerns.

Drop-Off Time: 9:00 am

Please try to be prompt. If your work schedule makes it necessary for you to drop your child off a few minutes early, please speak with us. We ask that you do your best to be punctual.

Pick-Up Time: 12:45 pm

Please notify us if you must be detained. Any child picked up more than 10 minutes after the official pick-up time of 12:45 pm will be charged \$1.00 for each minute that you are late. Please be considerate of our teachers, who need to clean up, plan for the next school day, and take care of their own family responsibilities.

- Only the adults listed on your child's enrollment form have permission to pick up your child. If an emergency requires that a person not listed needs to pick up your child, it is imperative that we hear from you.
- Please check your child's cubby for notices and artwork, and empty the cubby of such materials each day.

Toys: Unless your child needs a familiar object to help in transitioning (a blanket or a stuffed animal), we discourage bringing toys to school.

Dress at School

Despite the use of smocks, we get SUPER MESSY doing art and science projects, and playing in the stream. Please provide at least two full changes of clothes in a plastic bag or shoebox. Also, send extra underwear if your child has occasional accidents. Keeping an extra sweatshirt in your

child's cubby is also a good idea, in case of sudden weather changes.

Snack and Lunch

Parents are expected to provide a daily snack and lunch for their children. Please purchase a water bottle that can be left in your child's cubby. We will refill it. Please keep sweets to a bare minimum. If you bring a treat for the class to share, please list the ingredients: some of our children have food allergies.

The preschool follows the same dietary rules as the Temple. Therefore, all meat options are prohibited. Dairy and fish (no shellfish) are permitted.

Fostering Positive Behavior

The gathering time at Pomegranate is meant to be joyful. Young children are not yet adept at resolving conflicts, or even identifying what it is that upsets them. The Pomegranate teachers follow these guidelines in order to help children learn to exist together peacefully:

- We treat each other with great respect;
- We take good care of ourselves, and of each other;
- We take care of our classroom and the out-of-doors recreational area;
- We foster positive behavior among the children in our program by:
 - providing an environment that meets children's needs;
 - allowing lots of time to practice social skills;
 - having patience and good humor!
 - giving children the opportunity to gain self-control with the teachers' guidance.

Conflicts:

- **Sharing:** Children do not develop empathy until they

are about eight years old. Here is our script about sharing:

Child: "I want to play with the _____."

Teacher: "Ask _____ if you can play with it after s/ he's done."

Child: "But I want it."

Teacher: "And I want you to have it, just as soon as _____ is done."

- **Hurting:** We intervene if we sense that one child may hurt another. However, if a child is unintentionally hurt, we will concentrate on the "victim," and encourage him or her to let the "attacker" know how s/he feels. If a child is consistently hurting other children, that child will be removed from the group for a time, to think about what has happened.
- **Punishment:** No child at Pomegranate will ever be made to feel guilty, or be punished; rather, children will be encouraged to have a consciousness about what has upset another person.

If there is an ongoing problem, parents and teachers will work together to find a resolution.

Emergencies:

In the event of an emergency, parents will be immediately notified. However, if you cannot be reached, we will call the people you have listed on the emergency contact form.

Please be sure that emergency contacts live locally, and that the numbers are always current.

HEALTH POLICY

Contagious diseases must be reported to the school as soon as the illness has been diagnosed, so that other parents may be notified of the exposure.

Children with signs of a cold (cough, runny nose, hoarseness, etc.) should be kept at home until the symptoms are no longer apparent. If your child exhibits any of these symptoms at school, we will call you to pick your child up.

A CHILD MAY NOT ATTEND SCHOOL WITH THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

- **Fever.** Must be fever-free for 24 hours
- **First three days of a cold**
- **Unidentified rash.** Children may return when the rash is diagnosed and the infection is dry, scabbed over and not draining.
- **Vomiting or diarrhea** in the last 24 hours
- **Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye).** Children may return after three doses of medication, and when eyes are clear of discharge.
- **Open cold sores or fever blisters** in the mouth area
- **Head lice or nits**

Please cooperate in protecting everyone's health.

We look forward to a wonderful year with your
children!

“If we hope for our children
that they will become full human beings
and that they will move towards
actualizing the potentialities that they have,
then, as nearly as I can make out,
the only kind of education in existence today
that has any faint inkling of such goals
is arts education.”

-- Abraham Maslow