

WELCOME

**VPK/PRESCHOOL III
HANDBOOK**

2025/26



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GET TO KNOW YOUR TEACHER

MISS KAYT

ALL ABOUT ME

Hi! My name is Kaytlyn Larsen. I am originally from Salt Lake City, Utah. I recently graduated from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and Elementary Education, along with ESOL and Reading endorsements. In my free time, I enjoy reading, running, participating in triathlon races, and spending time at the beach!



Welcome to VPK!

I am so excited for the new school year with you and your kiddos, we are going to have a lot of fun and learn a lot!

WHERE TO CONTACT ME

Group Me

Email:

klarsen@uwf.edu

Center Phone Number

850-474-2195

MY FAVORITE THINGS

Color: Purple

Candy: KitKat

Beverage: Coffee

Food: Chick-Fil-A

Hobby: Reading and
Running

Animal: Frogs

Store: Target

Daily Schedule

7:30 am

Center Opens

8:00 am

Morning Tasks/Free Time

8:30 am

Large Group/Circle Time

9:00 am

Morning Snack

9:15 am

Free Choice

10:15 am

Story Time

10:30 am

Rotations/Small Group

11:15 am

Outside Learning Activity

12:00 pm

VPK Pickup/Lunch

12:30 pm

Nap/Quiet Time

2:30 pm

Clean up and Transition

2:45 pm

Afternoon Snack

3:15 pm

Afternoon Lesson

3:45 pm

Choice Center/Outside

4:30 pm

Free Play and Pick up

5:30 pm

Center Closes



Important Items

ITEMS YOUR CHILD NEEDS FOR SCHOOL

- **BLANKET AND PILLOW**
 - YOUR CHILD WILL NEED A TRAVEL SIZE PILLOW AND BLANKET FOR NAP TIME. THEY WILL BE STORED WITHIN THEIR PERSONAL CUBBIES AND WILL BE SENT HOME AT THE END OF THE WEEK TO BE WASHED.
- **LUNCHBOX AND WATERBOTTLE**
 - FOR LUNCH, PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD BRINGS A NUTRITIOUS MEAL AND WATER EACH DAY. PLEASE LABEL BOTH THE LUNCH BOX AND THE WATER BOTTLE WITH YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME.
- **SNACKS**
 - WE WILL BE HAVING TWO SNACKS EACH DAY (MORNING AND AFTERNOON). PLEASE PROVIDE A MINIMUM OF 10 SNACKS EACH WEEK.
- **EXTRA CLOTHES**
 - PLEASE PROVIDE TWO SETS OF EXTRA CLOTHES TO BE STORED IN YOUR CHILD'S CUBBY. THIS INCLUDES TOPS, BOTTOMS, UNDERWEAR, SOCKS, AND A SINGLE PAIR OF SHOES.
- **SUNSCREEN AND BUGSPRAY**
 - PLEASE BRING A BOTTLE OF SUNSCREEN AND BUGSPRAY FOR YOUR CHILD. YOU WILL NEED TO SIGN AN AUTHORIZATION FORM. PLEASE LABEL BOTH WITH YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME.





Things to Know



- **DROP OFF/PICK UP**

- YOUR CHILD SHOULD ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 8:15AM, THIS ALLOWS FOR TRANSITIONAL TIME FOR YOUR STUDENT BEFORE GOING TO CIRCLE TIME. PLEASE LET US KNOW AHEAD OF TIME IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

- **SCHOOL CLOTHING**

- PLEASE DRESS YOUR CHILD IN PLAY CLOTHES THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES. THEY WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN MESSY ACTIVITIES LIKE PAINTING AND SENSORY PLAY, SO CLOTHING THAT CAN HANDLE A BIT OF MESS IS RECOMMENDED.

- **SHOES**

- THE SHOES YOUR CHILD WEARS TO SCHOOL NEED TO BE FITTED, CLOSE-TOED SHOES. CROCS, FLIP-FLOPS, AND SANDALS ARE NOT ALLOWED. THIS IS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD IN ALL OF OUR ACTIVITIES.

- **BIRTHDAYS**

- IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING STORE-BOUGHT SNACKS FOR YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY, WE'D LOVE TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU. PLEASE ASK ABOUT ANY ALLERGIES IN THE CLASS TO HELP YOU PLAN FOR YOUR SNACK.

- **MEDICATION**

- BEFORE ANY MEDICATION CAN BE ADMINISTERED TO YOUR CHILD, A PERMISSION TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED.

- **ILLNESS**

- IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK, (I.E. FEVER OVER 100 DEGREES, VOMITING, ETC.) PLEASE LET US KNOW AND KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME UNTIL THEY ARE SYMPTOM FREE FOR 24 HOURS, HAVE BEEN ON ANTIBIOTICS FOR 24 HOURS, OR HAS A DOCTOR'S NOTE CLEARING THEM TO RETURN.

Meal Times

- **BREAKFAST**

- WE ARE HAPPY TO SERVE A PREPARED BREAKFAST TO YOUR CHILD IF THEY ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 8:30AM. IF THEY ARE NOT READY TO EAT UPON ARRIVAL, WE WILL PROVIDE THE BREAKFAST DURING MORNING SNACK TIME.

- **SNACKS**

- SNACKS WILL BE SERVED AT 9:00AM AND 3:15PM. EACH CHILD WILL HAVE THEIR OWN SNACK BIN TO STORE THEIR SNACKS.

- **LUNCH**

- LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00PM. PLEASE PROVIDE A NUTRITIOUS LUNCH AND ENSURE ALL FOOD IS CUT INTO BITE-SIZED PIECES.

- **EXTRA**

- YOU MAY BRING FOOD FOR US TO REHEAT, BUT WE CANNOT ACCEPT FROZEN OR UNPREPARED ITEMS, SUCH AS EASY MAC. PLEASE SEPARATE FOODS THAT NEED TO BE REHEATED FROM THOSE THAT NEED TO STAY COLD, AND LABEL ALL CONTAINERS.



Learning in the Classroom

THE EARLIEST YEARS ARE ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS. CHILDREN NEED SECURE ATTACHMENTS TO THE SPECIAL PEOPLE IN THEIR LIVES SO THEY CAN FEEL COMFORTABLE EXPLORING NEW THINGS AND PLACES. OUR FOCUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR WILL BE ON SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SO EACH CHILD FEELS SECURE AND READY TO EXPLORE IN THE CLASSROOM.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT ALL CHILDREN GROW AND DEVELOP AT THEIR OWN PACE. LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM WILL BE INDIVIDUALIZED SO THAT ALL CHILDREN CAN PARTICIPATE FULLY.

WE WILL BE USING CREATIVE CURRICULUM (BELOW) TO GUIDE US.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL 1. Regulates own emotions and behaviors a. Manages feelings b. Follows limits and expectations c. Takes care of own needs appropriately 2. Establishes and sustains positive relationships a. Forms relationships with adults b. Responds to emotional cues c. Interacts with peers d. Makes friends 3. Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations a. Balances needs and rights of self and others b. Solves social problems	LANGUAGE 6. Listens to and understands increasingly complex language a. Comprehends language b. Follows directions 9. Uses language to express thoughts and needs a. Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary b. Speaks clearly c. Uses conventional grammar d. Tells about another time or place 10. Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills a. Engages in conversations b. Uses social rules of language COGNITIVE 11. Demonstrates positive approaches to learning a. Attends and engages b. Persists c. Solves problems d. Shows curiosity and motivation e. Shows flexibility and inventiveness in thinking 12. Remembers and connects experiences a. Recognizes and recalls b. Makes connections 13. Uses classification skills 14. Uses symbols and images to represent something not present a. Thinks symbolically b. Engages in sociodramatic play	LITERACY 15. Demonstrates phonological awareness, phonics skills, and word recognition a. Notices and discriminates rhyme b. Notices and discriminates alliteration c. Notices and discriminates discrete units of sound d. Applies phonics rules and knowledge of word structure to decode text 16. Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet a. Identifies and names letters b. Identifies letter-sound correspondences 17. Demonstrates knowledge of print and its uses a. Uses and appreciates books and other texts b. Uses print concepts 18. Comprehends and responds to books and other texts a. Interacts during reading experiences, book conversations, and text reflections b. Uses emergent reading skills c. Retells stories and recounts details from informational texts d. Uses context clues to read and comprehend texts e. Reads fluently 19. Demonstrates writing skills a. Writes name b. Writes to convey meaning c. Writes using conventions	MATHEMATICS 20. Uses number concepts and operations a. Counts b. Quantifies c. Connects numerals with their quantities d. Understands and uses place value and base ten e. Applies properties of mathematical operations and relationships f. Applies number combinations and mental number strategies in mathematical operations 21. Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes a. Understands spatial relationships b. Understands shapes 22. Compares and measures a. Measures objects b. Measures time and money c. Represents and analyzes data 23. Demonstrates knowledge of patterns SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 24. Uses scientific inquiry skills 25. Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics of living things 26. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials 27. Demonstrates knowledge of Earth's environment 28. Uses tools and other technology to perform tasks SOCIAL STUDIES 29. Demonstrates knowledge about self 30. Shows basic understanding of people and how they live 31. Explores change related to familiar people or places 32. Demonstrates simple geographic knowledge THE ARTS 33. Explores the visual arts 34. Explores musical concepts and expression 35. Explores dance and movement concepts 36. Explores drama through actions and language ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION 37. Demonstrates progress in listening to and understanding English 38. Demonstrates progress in speaking English
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Wish List

I HAVE CREATED AN AMAZON WISH LIST WITH ITEMS THAT WILL SUPPORT OUR LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS. THIS WILL BE LINKED ON THE FIRST PARENT LETTER EMAIL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP IN MAKING THIS YEAR A SUCCESSFUL AND ENRICHING ONE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

I AM THRILLED TO WELCOME YOU AND YOUR CHILD TO THIS NEW SCHOOL YEAR. LET'S MAKE IT A GREAT YEAR!

THANK YOU!

Miss Kayt