

# The ABC's of Preschool

## AACA Preschool Handbook

### A

**ATTENDANCE** Daily attendance and punctuality is expected to help maintain the structured day of Preschool. If your child will be absent, please email your child's teacher and assistant and copy [kwallett@alphonsusacademy.org](mailto:kwallett@alphonsusacademy.org) on the email. Call the main line 773-892-1397 if you need to contact your child's teacher during the school day.

### B

**BIRTHDAYS** will be celebrated in the classroom.

### C

**CENTERS** are areas of the classroom set up with a variety of activities for free choice time, when students have a period of uninterrupted play each day. The centers include: math, science, dramatic play, art, writing, library, and sensory. They often correspond with the season and theme.

### D

**DRILLS** for evacuation (fire), lockdown, and tornadoes will take place throughout the year. Please be aware that any person in the building needs to respond appropriately. Procedures are posted in each room.

### E

**ENTRANCES** and **EXITS** can cause anxiety for young children and their parents, therefore please:

- DO NOT** leave any children in the car unattended
- follow the correct procedures
- be on time for both drop off and pick up
- allow enough time for smooth transitions
- choose a legal parking spot if you decide to walk your child into the

building

### F

Your child will have a take home **FOLDER** that should be returned every day.

- \*Written communication will be sent home when needed
- \*Student work should be emptied out daily
- \*The folder can also be used as a way for you to send notes to school

### G

**GIVING** supplies and materials to your child's classroom is appreciated. Teachers will often include a wish list in their newsletters to give you ideas.

### H

**HEALTHY SNACKS** are encouraged. We will share more details.

I  
INTEGRATED ARTS CURRICULUM is the basis of our preschool program. Children explore themes through an integrated arts approach. We offer opportunities to explore drama, art, music, and physical education. Specials teachers will visit the class or invite children to their unique space weekly.

J  
JOBS will be given to students. This helps build classroom community and gives a special responsibility at school.

K  
KIDS like to have fun! Please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for running, jumping, painting, stair climbing, and much more. We require closed toe and heel shoes to be worn on a regular basis. Please keep in mind that Crocs, flip flops, clogs, etc. can be unsafe. Avoid lace and tie shoes unless your child is proficient at tying. \*We ask that every child has a complete set (socks too) of clearly labeled extra clothes to keep at school in case of an emergency.

L  
LOVE is required to make a successful preschooler! We will have creative ways to show our love with gestures, distant hugs, smiles, sign language and words of endearment.

M  
MORNING MEETING is how everyone starts the day at AACA. Children will participate in greetings, activities, shares and morning message.

N  
NEWSLETTERS will be emailed weekly. Please read them carefully as they often have a lot of important information.

O  
OUTSIDE recess happens every day. We will be taking the children outside daily unless it is raining, snowing, or extremely cold. Thus, it is important that they are dressed suitably.

P  
PRESCHOOL is an exciting and wonderful place! Your child will feel safe to take risks and learn in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Q  
QUESTIONS always pop up. Drop a note, call, or email anytime.

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## R

The foundations of emergent READING and writing skills start in preschool.

-Reading Curriculum:

- \*promotes fun with language & literacy
- \*encourages a love of literature
- \*begins to help children understand that letters and words have meaning.

-Writing Curriculum:

- \*promotes literacy
- \*develops writing skills
- \*develops fine motor skills

## S

STAR students will have an opportunity to share about themselves. A schedule will be sent home.

\*More information will follow.

## T

TOILET TRAINING causes much anxiety for our families. It is our policy that children should be independent in their toileting skills. Please be aware that if your child has an accident, they must be able to change themselves. We will talk the child through this, but legally cannot help them beyond buttons and zippers. If your child has an accident and is unable to change themselves, we will call you to come change them. We are sensitive to the fact this is a difficult milestone and partner with families to ensure the success of each child.

## U

UNIQUE describes EVERY child. We strive to meet each child's unique needs to make them as successful as possible!

## V

VOLUNTEERS need to meet school volunteer requirements. Volunteers are an important part of the AACA community and this is a great way to earn your mandatory service hours! Please contact Connie Del Toral, [cdeltoral@alphonsusacademy.org](mailto:cdeltoral@alphonsusacademy.org) for more information.

## W

WEDNESDAYS will be early dismissal for the full day preschool. They will be dismissed at 1:45 using the standard exit procedures.

## X

EXCELLENT STEAM opportunities provided on a daily basis.

## Y

YOU are your child's first teacher.

\*Collaboration and communication between your home and school will help the school year run smoothly.

\*Children benefit from consistent routines at both home and school. Please be mindful of your child's bedtime.

## Z

ZZZZZ's are important to our little ones! A good night's sleep supports brain development and learning. Please make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep and eating a good breakfast. All full day students should provide a [TOT COT](#)