

Parent Handbook
For
Bayfield Early Education Programs, Inc.



B.E.E.P.

Bayfield Early Education Program

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Carol Blatnick
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Andrea Foutz

Philosophy and General Program Information

The Bayfield Preschool is a fully licensed, developmentally appropriate preschool which offers child care and educational enrichment programs serving children ages three to eight in the Pine River Valley. The program is operated by Bayfield Early Education Programs, Inc. (BEEP), a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment that promotes individual growth, inspires curiosity and helps develop positive social skills which help all children become successful in life.

The program recognizes that all children move through the same stages of development but at different chronological times and at different rates. It is also based on the belief that children learn best through play and hands-on activities. Children are encouraged to construct their own knowledge by manipulating materials, engaging in dramatic and creative play, art, music, gross motor, and other stimulating activities. It is the aim of the program to identify each child's developmental level and to facilitate development from that point by providing age-appropriate and individually-appropriate learning and play activities. Development of age-appropriate social skills and the establishment of a positive self-concept are further goals of the program.

The curriculum is theme-based and explored through the daily routine of literature, interest centers, and individual/small group/whole group cognitive activities. Higher-level number/letter and reading/writing concepts are introduced and explored through manipulatives, games, books, and music activities. Specific curriculum used includes Montessori, Creative Curriculum, and Zoo Phonics.

BEEP adheres to the 10 practices suggested by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) which make for a good early childhood classroom:

- 1. Children spend most of their time playing and working with materials or other children. They do not wander aimlessly, and they are not expected to sit quietly for long periods of time.*
- 2. Children have access to various activities throughout the day. Look for assorted building blocks and other construction materials, props for pretend play, picture books, paints and other art materials, and table toys such as matching games, pegboards, and puzzles. Children should not be doing the same thing at the same time.*
- 3. Teachers work with individual children, small groups, and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend all their time with the whole group.*
- 4. The classroom is decorated with children's original artwork, their own writing with invented spelling, and stories dictated by children to teachers.*
- 5. Children learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. The natural world of plants and animals and meaningful activities like cooking, taking attendance, or serving snack provide the basis for learning activities.*
- 6. Children work on projects and have long periods of time (at least one hour) to play and explore. Worksheets are used little if at all.*
- 7. Children have an opportunity to play outside every day. Outdoor play is never sacrificed for more instructional time.*
- 8. Teachers read books to children individually or in small groups throughout the day, not just at group story time.*
- 9. Curriculum is adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help. Teachers recognize that children's different background and experiences mean that they do not learn the same things at the same time in the same way.*
- 10. Children and their parents look forward to school. Parents feel secure about sending their child to the program. Children are happy to attend; they do not cry regularly or complain of feeling sick.*

Children with special needs are welcome in the program. Through screenings, assessments, and referrals, special needs children have access to a wide range of developmental services through San Juan Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

➤ ***Ages of children accepted***

BEEP is licensed to care for children from 3 years old to 8 years old.

➤ ***Schedule***

Full-day and half-day schedules are available, with most families choosing either a T/Th or M/W program. All classrooms provide educational care and enrichment experiences for children ages 3-6. Each classroom is multi-age and uses a play-based approach to learning. A Friday enrichment class is offered for parents who need full week care. An after-school program is also offered for children ages 3-8.

➤ ***School Hours/Calendar/Weather***


Classrooms open at **7:45am daily**, with classroom hours for the morning half-day classroom being 8:00am to 11:00am or 12:00 to 3:00pm for afternoon half-day, and the full-day classrooms from 8:00am to 3:00pm. All classrooms operate Monday through Thursday. The Friday classroom is open from 8:00am to 3:00pm. The after-school program operates from 3pm to 5:30pm.

We generally follow the Bayfield School District's calendar for vacations, in service days, and holidays. We will have school on the designated elementary school in service days, but we will not have school on the all-District in service days. *Note: BEEP classes will still begin at 8:00am on the District's late start Wednesdays.*

We follow the Bayfield School District's policy on school closure due to inclement weather. Please use our website www.beeppreschool.org to access the district website (www.bayfield.k12.co.us) for closure information. The following radio stations will be notified by the BEEP Director in the case of closure.

KIUP (930 AM)/KRSJ (100.5 FM) 247-4464
KDGO (1240 AM) 247-1240

KPAG (1400 AM)/KRQS (106.3 FM) 264-2121
KIQX (101.3 FM) 259-4444

 Please do not be on your cell phone when in the building; we and your child need your undivided attention.

➤ ***Drop Off/ Pick Up***

Parents or individuals who have permission from the parents are asked to bring children directly into the program so that we know they have arrived safely. Please sign your child in on the classroom sign-in sheet, and give any special instructions to the staff at that time. *Your full signature is required on the classroom sign-in/sign out sheet.*

Children will be released only to those persons authorized on the Pick-Up Authorization form, and any changes to that form must be in writing. Although written authorization is preferred, verbal authorizations are accepted if staff knows the person. If not, the person picking up your child will be asked to present a picture ID.

In cases of shared or disputed custody of children, law enforcement will be called to resolve any disputes arising over pick up of children. If an unauthorized person attempts to forcibly remove a child, staff will release the child and immediately call 911. If a child is not picked up within a reasonable amount of time (30 minutes) after your Plan time has ended, and staff has not been notified of a late pick-up, police dispatch will be notified and the Bayfield Marshal's office will be contacted to pick up the child. The child will be left with them until an appropriate caregiver arrives to take him/her home. Social Services will also be notified.

Safety of the children is always our first concern. If you or your designated care giver attempt to pick up a child in an incapacitated state, based on the best judgement of the staff, she/he has been instructed to contact the Marshal's Office.

➤ ***Tuition and Fees, Schedule Plans***

Admission to the program begins with the completion of required application, health, medical, and immunization forms, as well as emergency contact, pick-up authorization, and information records. A non-refundable \$50 registration fee completes the admission process.

Tuition fees apply to class sessions, after-school program and extended hours. These fees are due the 1st day of each month. A \$3.00 Early Drop Off charge is applied for signing in before your Plan time begins. A late fee of \$20.00 will be added when tuition fees are not paid by the 15th of the month. Another late fee of \$20 can be imposed on the 30th if there is a balance due

remaining. Tuition payments which are overdue by 30+ days may be assigned to a collection agency, and the child may be asked to leave the program.

We accept cash, check, or credit card (Visa, Mastercard, and Discover). Your account can be set up for automatic payments either with a credit/debit card or through automatic withdrawals from your checking/savings account. You can also make payments online. For either of these methods, please see Andrea Foutz, Administrative Assistant, for more information. A \$15 fee will be charged for insufficient fund checks (NSF) and declined credit cards. If there is an issue concerning your tuition or if you have questions, please contact Andrea Foutz or Carol Blatnick.

Parent payments are recorded in the Procure accounting system. Rates are based on the number of in-classroom days, taking into consideration District In-Service days, holiday breaks, and Spring Break. The months of August and May are half the monthly tuition, making a total of 9 months tuition per school year.

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) - BEEP currently accepts CCCAP (Colorado Child Care Assistance Program) as administered by the Colorado Department of Health and Human Services for low income families. Contact your local Department to see if you are eligible. This program can cover all or part of your tuition if you qualify. Parents are responsible for paying those fees (Early drop off, Late Pick up, etc.) that are in addition to CCCAP.



If it is necessary for parents to remove their child from the program, the school must receive a two weeks written notice prior to leaving. Otherwise, tuition payment for the two weeks is required.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN ARE PICKED UP PROMPTLY AS SCHEDULED.

There is a 15 minute window for signing out your child at the time your Plan ends (except for Plans 1 and 2). A \$25.00 late fee per quarter-hour will be billed for children not picked up at their scheduled time. If your child is still in our care 30 minutes after your Plan time ends, then the Marshal's office will be notified.

Plan Times		Plan Times	
Plan 1	7:40am – 5:30pm 15 minute window does not apply	Plan 4	8:00am – 11:00am
Plan 2	7:40am – 4:30pm 15 minute window does not apply	Plan 5	12:00pm – 3:00pm – Offered IF there is sufficient interest. Please indicate an alternate schedule in the event that Plan 5 is canceled.
Plan 3	8:00am – 3:00pm		

➤ **Attendance**

A class roster is used daily to identify which students will be attending school each day. **IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT, PLEASE NOTIFY THE STAFF.** A count of the children is part of the daily routine; attendance count is taken within twenty minutes of the beginning of class, and checking the count occurs frequently during the course of the class session. Staff will always be able to visually identify each child's location. **Due to regulatory ratios, we are unable to accommodate drop-ins on days when your child is not scheduled to attend. Missed days for sickness, general absence, vacation, etc. are not credited nor can another day be substituted.**

➤ **Discipline**

It is human nature to seek approval and respond to the positive, and this is even truer for young children. We use children's natural desire to please as the basis for our discipline program. Rather than drawing attention to negative behaviors, we seek to "catch children being good" and to reward appropriate behaviors with positive reinforcement.

A large part of a discipline program is expectations. We have three simple guidelines that ensure a safe and comfortable environment for your child: **Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible.** The discipline techniques we use are sequential, ranging from planned ignoring, proximity, redirection, and consequences, to "time out" as a final technique, with minutes in time out not exceeding the child's age. If a child is in danger of hurting him/herself or others, parents will be called to pick up the child and a behavior management plan will be agreed upon as needed.

➤ **Health**

It is unlikely that your child will enjoy a productive day if he/she does not feel well. Children must be in a normal healthy state and allowed to go outside in order to attend school. Any child who is ill will not be permitted to attend the program according to Colorado law.

If your child becomes ill, develops a fever of 100.5 or higher, or has an accident or injury while attending the program, staff will notify you by telephone and, if necessary, will call your child's doctor or medical facility, as instructed in writing on the child's enrollment forms. Ill or fevered children will be isolated from other children until a parent/guardian can come to pick them up. Fevers of 100.5 are automatically sent home and must be fever free without medication for 24 hours before resuming attendance in class.

Children will be permitted to attend the program if they have been attended to by a doctor and are no longer contagious. This is usually 48 hours after taking medication. ***If medication is required, a doctor's release is required before child can return to school.*** BEEP staff will not administer medication to your child. Ask your health care provider for prescriptions that can be given outside of your Plan's school time.

Long Term Medications –

BEEP staff does not administer medications. Only extreme conditions would dictate an exception.

For long term medications, a Health Care Plan must be in place with BEEP's nurse consultant and your child's teachers before **ANY** medication can be given. Medication must be in its original container with pharmacist's label and must match the doctor orders i.e. child's name, dose, how to give prescription (with food, milk, etc.). Container must include dosage syringe.

Staff will administer medications only upon completion of all the medical paperwork – 1) Doctor's orders 2) Approved plan from nurse consultant 3) Medication in original container with pharmacist's label 4) Parent's written permission. Parents are encouraged to ask for twice a day dosages from the doctor or come to school and administer medication themselves. Children **MAY NOT** carry or administer their own medication. We ask you to cooperate with this state-regulated policy, which is enforced for the well-being of all children.

If your child is experiencing diarrhea or vomiting, he/she is **not to attend school until 24 hours after the last episode.** Your child must be **fever free without medication for at least 24 hours** before they can come back to preschool. ***If medication is required, a doctor's release is required before child can return to school.*** Please let us know when your child is ill, as we may be of some help if we know a particular illness has occurred among the children. Please contact the program **IMMEDIATELY** if your child is diagnosed as having a communicable disease so that the other parents can be informed. Always check the parent information center for this information. We must also notify the local or state health department when children have been diagnosed with a communicable disease such as hepatitis, measles, mumps, pertussis, diphtheria, salmonella, tuberculosis, chicken pox, etc.

The Department of Social Services requires us to notify you that not all children attending the program may be fully immunized due to religious or other reasons. The Health Department assures us that immunized children are not at risk and, in the event of quarantine, children not immunized will not be allowed to attend the program.



Once again, in the event you must withdraw your child from the program, a two week written notification to the program is required. Lack of notification will mean that charges will continue to be assessed.

➤ **Emergencies**

Emergency situations such as fire, tornado, or an unaccounted-for child require immediate 911 notification. In the event of fire, we evacuate to our designated meeting place and, with a class list and physical count, verify that all children are accounted for. In the event of any emergency, procedures to be followed are listed on the bulletin board in the entry hall.

➤ **Field Trips**

We will post information at the parent information center regarding upcoming field trips for the program. If we go on a scheduled or unscheduled field trip, information regarding our location and time of return will be posted. We are unable to accommodate late arrivals, as our full staff is necessary to provide supervision for the class with the same teacher-child ratios required as when

we are in the classroom.

➤ **Special Activities**

It is the policy of this program that television/video/iPad viewing is not a substitute for interactive learning and thus it is not a part of our regular curriculum. However, on occasion, a video may be shown as a Special Event, and parents and children both are invited to participate.

➤ **Personal Needs**

Small cubbies are provided for storage of your child's personal belongings. We discourage children from bringing toys or other favorite items from home, especially action figures, as storage space is limited and items may be lost or taken. **Weapons of any type are not permitted.**



Children must be able to take care of their toileting needs in order to attend the program, unless the child has been identified as having special needs. Accidents do happen, however, so please send along a change of appropriate seasonal clothing in a gallon sized ziplock bag with your child's name on it. It will be kept in the classroom.

Since our program is play-based and provides many opportunities for hands-on activities (some of which are messy), we encourage you to send your child to school in **appropriate play** clothing. Outdoor time is a very important part of the daily routine, so children will be outside virtually every day except in extremely inclement weather. For your child's comfort, please remember to dress him/her appropriately for the weather. (Flip flops and sandals are very difficult for children to play in on the playground.)

➤ **Visitors**

Visitors are welcome at the program. A visitor's log, including name, address, date, reason for visit, and time is maintained. Visitors unknown to the staff are asked for identification.

➤ **Lunches**

Children who stay for lunch must bring a nutritious lunch and drink. Lunches are eaten in the classroom. **Please send a well-balanced lunch.**

State regulations expect that lunch will provide 1/3 of your child's daily nutritional requirements. A typical lunch might include:

- 1 serving protein (meat, egg, cheese, beans, peanut butter)
- 1-2 servings bread or grain products
- 2 servings vegetables and/or fruits
- 1 serving dairy (milk, yogurt, cheese, milk substitute)

NO SODA POP OR CANDY PLEASE! These items will be returned to you via the lunch box. Enjoy as a snack on the way home.

Please send your child's lunch in a lunch box (name on the box). **No Glass containers please!** Pack the amount you expect your child to eat. Having your child assist with lunch selections helps insure that he/she eats well. We will leave the remains of your child's lunch in his/her lunch container so you are aware of how much your child has eaten each day.

➤ **Snacks**

BEEP provides a nutritious mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack for your child. You are asked to participate by providing food highlighted on a monthly snack list that will go home to you. What the children have for snacks each day will be written on the white boards in each room. Please be sure to notify us if your child has a **FOOD ALLERGY** or is on a special diet.

Occasionally we ask parents to donate refreshments and other classroom supplies for special projects in the program. Families will be asked in advance when items need to be donated, and a list of items to choose from will be provided, so that each family may contribute according to their ability.

➤ ***Conferences***

Parent-teacher conferences are held at registration to explain goals and gain information about the child, once during the program year to report progress, and at the conclusion of the school year to review development. Attendance at conferences is **mandatory**, and we will attempt to accommodate parents' schedules.

➤ ***Abuse Reporting/Complaints***

All professionals who work with children are mandated child abuse reporters. If staff suspects child abuse, we will comply with the law that requires reporting to the Department of Human Services. For additional information, please refer to the letter contained in the back of this handbook.

Complaints about the program can be directed either to the Colorado Department of Human Services, 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203 (303-866-5700) or to the local office of the La Plata County Department of Human Services, Tech Center Plaza, 10 Burnett Court, First Floor, Durango, CO 81301 (970-382-6150).

Parent Involvement

It is very important for parents to be actively involved in their child's experience at BEEP. **Parents with children enrolled in the CPP program are required to participate in lieu of tuition.** In addition to donations of snacks/refreshments and other classroom supplies, there are many other opportunities for parents to participate in the program, including playground and building maintenance, assisting with fundraising events, assisting in preparation of teaching materials, serving on the program's Board of Directors and simply donating money. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to the best of their ability. Please talk with staff about donations of time and or talent that you can make.

Two opportunities for parents to be involved are our fundraisers, Breakfast with Santa and Cowboy Luau. The Breakfast includes a meal and Silent Auction. Cowboy Luau is both a Live and Silent Auction. The preschool has hosted these events for a number of years and raise a significant amount of money for the preschool. We ask parents to donate a craft or talent and to help solicit donations, decorate, clean up, etc.

A survey will be circulated once school starts of areas that the preschool needs parent involvement.

Bayfield Early Education Programs, Inc.
645 Fox Farm Circle
PO Box 1584
Bayfield, CO 81122
970-884-7137

Dear Parent:

Your child is enrolled in our child care program, which is licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services. The license indicates that our program has met the required standards for the operation of a child care facility. The license is displayed in the hall at our center; please ask to see it.

Our program, like most licensed facilities, makes every effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for children. Unfortunately, on rare occasions, an incident of physical or sexual abuse may occur. If you believe that your child has been abused, you should seek immediate assistance from the La Plata County Department of Social Services at 970-382-6144. Colorado law requires that child care providers report all known or suspected cases of a child abuse or neglect.

You should also be aware that there may be children enrolled in the program whose parents have opted out, by law, of vaccination requirements. For the health of all, the state does strongly encourage vaccinations for the prevention of communicable diseases.

Child care services play an important role in supporting families, and strong families are the basis of a thriving community. Your child's educational, physical, emotional, and social development will be nurtured in a well planned and run program. Please feel free to observe our program regularly, especially with regard to children's health and safety, equipment, and play materials, and staff interactions. For additional information regarding licensing, or if you have concerns about our facility, please consult Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care at 303-866-5958, or contact the La Plata County Department of Human Services, 970-382-6150.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Blatnick
Executive Director

PARENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Parents,

Please read the Parent Handbook carefully. By signing and returning this form to your child’s teacher, you acknowledge you have read, understood and agreed to the policies outlined in the Parent Handbook provided by the Bayfield Early Education Programs, Inc.



Parent’s Signature

Date

Child’s Name

**PARENT CHECKLIST -
for child’s first day in preschool**

- _____ Signed parent handbook form – **required by the State of Colorado**
- _____ Health status form signed by doctor – **required by the State of Colorado**
- _____ Immunization record – **required by the State of Colorado**
(ask Andrea Foutz for more information regarding exemptions)
- _____ Extra change of clothes (including underwear & socks)
- _____ Regular sized bath towel for children attending full day

Handbook Highlights:

- ✓ Tuition invoices will be in your child’s mailbox at least one week before they are due. Tuition is due on the 1st of every month.
- ✓ Sick Policy: Children must be diarrhea, vomit and fever free for at least 24 hours before they can come back to the preschool. If a child becomes sick while at the preschool, parents will be called and must pick up their child within one hour. **Please call if your child will be absent!**
- ✓ A two week notice is required to withdraw your child.
- ✓ No cell phone conversations during drop off or pick up.
- ✓ Snack calendar will be provided monthly. Please bring the designated items on your assigned date.
- ✓ Supply Checklist: Supplies need to be provided first day of attendance.

