**Parent Handbook *Updated 8/23/22***

**Statement of policies and procedures**

*In the same way, let your* ***light******shine*** *before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16 (ESV)*

Our Mission: To provide a safe environment that provides age-appropriate learning experiences for preschoolers, in order that they may have an understanding of Salvation through Jesus Christ and be academically and behaviorally prepared for Elementary school.

Philosophy: We believe in balancing academic learning with stimulating and fun activities.  Children are a blessing from God, and it is our responsibility to provide a loving, structured, and stimulating environment for them to grow in.  We want each child to have an understanding of God's love for them.  Preschool-age children display varying levels of academic abilities, and should be taught at their own level.  We focus on teaching proper classroom behavior and basic academic skills in a way that is fun and motivating.

**Admission**

Our preschool program accepts students who are 3-6 years old by their first day of class, and have not yet attended kindergarten. Students must be potty-trained (in underwear during class). Exceptions to potty-training requirements are made if a child has a physical or developmental disability that delays their ability to potty-train, and is documented by a doctor.

* Students must be at least **three years old by their first day of preschool**. Our school year runs from late August through mid-May. To enroll in preschool, students should be 3 by September 1st. If room allows, students who turn 3 after September 1st may start on or after their birthday. If they turn 3 after September 1st, they may not turn in their enrollment form until two weeks prior to their third birthday.
* Students should be at least 4 years old by September 1st to enroll in Pre-K.

We welcome all families. We do not require that families attend our church or any church, or adhere to a certain lifestyle or religion. We welcome any family who is willing to allow their child to attend a Christian school where they will be receiving a non-denominational Christian education. (Non-denominational = not restricted to a particular Christian denomination, i.e. Catholic, Methodist, Pentecostal.)

Children of staff members who are school-age (kindergarten and above, up through 11 years old) and are enrolled in and attend a different school may attend occasionally if their parent is teaching on days that their school is closed.

**Registration**

Open enrollment for the fall begins February 1st. Priority registration begins January 22nd for existing students and their siblings. The initial registration requirement is the completed enrollment form and registration fee, and reserves the student’s space in a class. Parents need to meet with the director prior to enrollment to determine whether our services will meet the needs of the student and their family. Each student must have an Immunization Record on file at our school in order to attend. There is a new system in Colorado to record personal exemptions to immunizations. A General Health Appraisal Form signed by a medical professional who has seen the child in the last 12 months is required within 30 days after the child’s first day of school. These forms are available at [www.greeleysonshine.com](http://www.greeleysonshine.com), and at the school.

**Students with special needs**

We will make reasonable accommodations for students with special needs, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the parent’s responsibility to disclose any such needs before admission. We strive to individualize instruction, and to integrate children with special needs with the rest of their class as much as possible. We provide routines, transition songs, and simple signs that can be helpful for all children. Our classroom is wheelchair accessible. The parent of a child with special health care needs must provide an individualized health care plan for the child signed by the child’s health care provider. The plan shall include the following as needed for the child: *Medication Schedule, Nutrition and feeding instructions, Medical equipment and adaptive services with instructions, medical emergency instructions, and Toileting and personal hygiene instructions.* The plan must be completed by the 30th day of enrollment and updated yearly or as changes occur.

**Hours of operation**

SonShine Preschool is open Monday through Friday, 8am-11am and 12pm-3pm. Please see the school calendar, available at greeleysonshine.com. For the convenience of parents, we will usually unlock the doors and allow drop-offs 10 minutes prior to the beginning of class. Our doors are normally locked during classes for extra security. Parents are always allowed access to their child and their classroom, and can be let in if they ring our door bell. We will usually unlock the doors again at 11:00 and 3:00 minutes at the end of class to allow parents to wait in the hall outside of class.

Students must be picked up on time when their class is over. Staff members need to prepare for the next class and possibly pick up their own children from school. Please notify us of any problem or emergency that may make you late. If a student is picked up later than 11 minutes after their class ends, a staff member will remain with the child either in the classroom, office, or playground. The parents must pay a late fee of 3 dollars per minute late, starting the 11th minute after class ends, payable directly to the staff member that stayed with their child. If a child is 11 minutes late being picked up, all parent, authorized pick-ups, and emergency contact numbers in the child’s file will be called. If we are unable to contact anyone to pick up the child, we may contact Social Services, who may collect your child.

**Weather**

Our school will close for inclement weather/snow days according to Greeley School District 6. Please check the District 6 website, www.greeleyschools.org, on snowy mornings to determine if school has been canceled.

We have daily outdoor recess. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather, providing jackets, hats, and gloves as needed. If precipitation or extremely high winds make it uncomfortable, or it is below 20 degrees or above 99 degrees, we will have active play in the chapel at recess time.

**Tuition**

***Pricing for 2022-23 School Year***

***20% Sibling, active military, & pastor discounts available***

**($125 annual enrollment fee)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Days | Time | Tuition |
| **BANANAS**AM Preschool | Tu/Th | 8-11am | $170/ month |
| **DINOSAURS**AM Preschool | W/F | 8-11am | $170/ month |
| **STARS**PM Preschool | Tu/Th | 12-3pm | $170/ month |
| **FROGS**AM Pre-K | M/W/F | 8-11am | $215/ month |
| **BEARS**AM Pre-K | M/TU/TH | 8-11am | $215/month |
| **APPLES**PM Pre-K | M/TU/TH | 12-3pm | $215/month |
| **BEES**PM Pre-K | M/W/F | 12-3pm | $215/ month |

A **$125 annual registration fee**  to cover supplies, curriculum, and general operating costs is due with the enrollment form to reserve a spot in your child’s class. For students starting after the beginning of the school year, the registration fee is pro-rated $10 each month at the 1st of each month ($90 if starting October 1st, $80 on November 1st, on down to $30 if starting April 1st.) It is separate from tuition. Registration fees are only refundable if the class was already full or becomes unavailable.

**Discounts:** *We offer a 50% registration discount and 10% monthly tuition discount for a sibling attending during the same year.*

Tuition may be paid in full, or paid in 9 monthly payments due: *September 1, October 1, November 1, December 1, January 1, February 1, March 1, April 1, and May 1.* Tuition is pro-rated for students beginning after the start of the school year. Cash should be in an envelope with the child’s name. Payments are made online through Brightwheel.

Please ensure that your payment is received by the due date. **If your account is past due, we will have to deny admission of your child until payments are up to date.** If you are more than 10 days past due, your child’s enrollment may be revoked with no refund of the registration fee. A $25 late charge will be added to your account if your payment is paid after the 10th of the month. A fee of $25 will be charged for returned checks. If a check is returned, payments in cash will be required for the remainder of the school year.

**Notification:**

Please give us 2 weeks advanced notice if you plan to withdraw your child. We will also give two weeks advance notice in the highly unlikely event that we would withdraw services. In the event that the actions of a student or parent endanger the welfare of the other students or staff members, there may be immediate suspension.

**Supervision**

A computer with the Brightwheel QR code will be available at the entrance to the classroom to check your child in and out. The person dropping off or collecting each student is required to check that child in and out each time. Teachers will frequently count and ensure that all children’s whereabouts are known at all times, using the sign in and out Brightwheel app as necessary. Students will not be permitted to be in a room (except restrooms) or playground without staff supervision. Staff members are responsible for ensuring that all children are safe, supervised, and accounted for at all times.

Before leaving for the day, the last teacher on duty will ensure that all children have been signed out and that the classrooms and adjoining restrooms are empty. If any child has not been signed out, and the teacher cannot specifically remember that child leaving, they will call the contact numbers for that child until they reach someone that can reassure them that the child has been picked up.

**Discipline**

SonShine preschool teachers love children. In loving them, we will show them that we care by setting firm boundaries and high expectations for behavior. We emphasize manners and respect for adults, children, and our school. We do not allow bad language or hurtful behavior. Discipline will be age-appropriate- with verbal correction and warnings, time-outs, and loss of privileges.

We do not use physical punishment such as spanking with our students. We will use forms of discipline such as time-out and loss of privileges, and allowing children to experience the natural and logical consequences for their actions (for example, if Johnny paints on Molly, he gets his paint taken away and has to help clean off the paint). Our main preventative forms of behavior management include providing a consistent schedule and routine, and using positive reinforcement and redirection. Some positive reinforcement may include praise, stamps, stickers, or rewards. Time-out will be in a visible corner on the room/ playground for roughly the number of minutes matching the child’s age, followed by an explanation of the unacceptable behavior and having the child apologize. We use positive guidance strategies in directing the child to learn ways to self-regulate and make good decisions, such as redirecting and role modeling. Please note that at our school, time outs are rarely needed, and tend to occur less than 4 times total in the entire school per year.

Major disciplinary issues will be discussed with parents. A text message will be sent to parents at the time that a child receives a time-out. If we are unable to control behavior in a child that is frequently dangerous or unacceptably disruptive, even after having a conference and a behavior plan, we may have to suspend or withdraw a child for the safety and well-being of the other children in our care.

**Injuries and Illnesses**

Please message the teachers through Brightwheel if your child will miss school, and let us know why so that we may pray for them if they are ill.

For the health and well-being of all our students, please do not send a child to school if they are ill. Here is a list of symptoms:

**Diarrhea, vomiting, sore throat, earache, discharge from ear, suspicious skin rash, eye infection and/or temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.**

If any of these symptoms are present, do not send your child to school. If your child comes to school with any of these symptoms, he/she will be sent home. If your child becomes ill at school, the child will be separated from the group and asked to rest. Parents will be notified and required to pick their child up immediately. If your child has had a fever, diarrhea or vomiting, please allow at least 24 hours after symptoms abate before they return to school.

If your child is on antibiotics for a contagious disease, they must be on them for 24 hours before returning to school.

The common cold, runny nose, and lingering coughs are not illnesses requiring a stay home unless they are severe enough to make the child too uncomfortable to participate normally in preschool activities, or your parent intuition tells you that they should stay home. Please communicate any health concerns to us so that we can work as a team to care for your child. **Please teach your child to cover their coughs and sneezes with the inside of their elbow, so they don’t “spray germs on their friends or get germs on their hands.”**

If your child is diagnosed with a communicable illness such **as hepatitis, measles, mumps, meningitis, diphtheria, rubella, salmonella, tuberculosis, giardia or shigella,** please keep them out of school and notify SonShine Preschool staff immediately. We are required to report the illness to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and will post a note by the sign in computer. The child’s confidentiality will be maintained.

If your child is seriously injured, we will provide emergency first aid, get emergency medical treatment for your child if necessary, and notify you as soon as possible. If we need you to pick up your child, we will separate them and have them rest until you arrive.

If your child has a minor injury that does not require emergency medical attention, we will provide first aid and notify the person who picks up the child, in writing on Brightwheel.

**Emergency procedures/ Severe Weather**

Parents and/ or authorities will be contacted in case of injury or severe disaster. Emergency transportation will be provided by ambulance if appropriate.

* **Lost Child**: If a child goes missing, we will immediately begin a thorough search, recruiting any available adults, while still supervising remaining students. If the child is not found quickly, authorities and parents will be notified.
* **Tornado Warning**: We will go to the windowless ladies’ restroom in the basement until the warning is lifted.
* **Lock Down:** We will hide in the classroom restroom with the classroom and restroom doors locked.
* **Flood**: We will move to higher ground.
* **Fire/ evacuation**: We will evacuate out the door nearest to the classrooms (the north-west doors), or the west doors. We will gather by the fence at the back (south) of the property, by the red evacuation sign, and notify authorities.
* **Off-Site evacuation**: If for some reason we are required to evacuate off the property, we will walk to the Greeley police station. We will use the wagon from the nursery if needed to transport children with special needs. We will bring any necessary equipment, medications, and special diet foods. If phone service works, we would contact parents via Brightwheel message. In such an emergency, parents would reunite with children there. The address is 2875 10th St., Greeley, CO 80634. Their phone number is 970-350-9605.
* **Long Distance evacuation**: If local disaster personnel required us to evacuate children out-of-town, we would use church vehicles and make every effort to contact parents. If we are unable to contact parents, parents would need to inquire with local emergency personnel regarding our whereabouts.

**Signing In and Out**

All students must be signed in on Brightwheel by the person who brings them, and signed out by a person authorized (in writing or verbally) by the parents or guardians to pick up the child. They may not leave alone. School-age children who occasionally attend with parents who are teachers must be signed out by their parent, and may only leave alone if their parent gives permission.

Students will only be released to persons authorized by the parents or guardians to pick them up. If the person is a stranger to staff, they must show a valid picture ID to prove that are one of the people authorized to pick up the child. If an unauthorized person attempts to collect a child, staff will not release the child to them, and will contact the parents. If the unauthorized person persists or acts in a way that causes suspicion or alarm to staff, staff will lock down the school and call the police immediately.

**Visitors and Volunteers**

Visitors and volunteers must sign a visitor’s log with the time, date, and purpose of the visit. Parents and guardians are welcome in their child’s class at any time their child is present. Other visitors and volunteers must be approved by the director and the teacher of the classroom they wish to enter.

Part of elementary school readiness is learning to be comfortable at school for a little while without one’s parents. Therefore, we invite parents to come in if they wish on their child’s show-and-tell day for any period of time as a guest/volunteer. This is not required and is meant to be purely optional, with no pressure attached. Other school days are an opportunity for your child to get used to having a little time of independence, without their parents. If you have specific days you wish to come, let us know so we can try to arrange the show-and-tell schedule accordingly.

Volunteers will be supervised and under the direction of the director and the classroom teacher. Any adult volunteer working as a volunteer staff member to meet required staff to student ratios who works more than 14 days in a calendar year, must submit fingerprints to the CBI for a criminal record check.

**Excursions/ Transportation**

SonShine Preschool does not provide regular transportation of students. However, special excursions may occur during the school year. Our normal plan for field trips is to have a number of parents to volunteer to drive a small number of students each in their personal vehicles.

For field trips:

* Parents will be notified in advance of any field trip and its transportation plan, and a parent/guardian signature of permission will be required for each child who attends a field trip.
* Children will be actively supervised while on excursions. We use small groups led by parent chaperones.
* An itinerary, cell phone number of an attending staff member, and list of children and staff attending will be left in the office, and emergency contact information and authorization for each child will be brought along on the field trip.
* Parent chaperones and staff members who are transporting students in their own vehicles must provide a copy of their driver’s license, vehicle insurance, and any liability insurance. Each vehicle transporting students on a field trip must have a first aid kit (provided by the school if needed) and a cell phone to call the director and/or authorities in case of an emergency.
* All children will be buckled up in individual suitable and properly installed child restraints/ seat belts at all times while vehicles are in motion, as required by Colorado law if they are in a vehicle with a capacity of 16 of fewer passengers. In vehicles with a capacity of 16 or more passengers (such as a bus), seat belts are not required. Children will be loaded and unloaded out of the way of traffic.
* If a child comes to the school late when their class is already away on a field trip, they may:
	+ Stay with another class (if it is in session and has room)
	+ The parent can wait with the child until the class returns
	+ The parent can bring the child to meet their class at the field trip location.

**Media Use**

We love music at SonShine Preschool! We will listen to many types of appropriate music that is free from profane language or content, with no time limit.

We won’t be watching any regular television, but may watch an *occasional* age-appropriate (rated G) video for educational purposes, to go along with a theme, to illustrate a Bible topic, or for a special treat. This would only be for 2 hours per month maximum, if at all. We normally have two pajama days per year, when students wear their pajamas and we watch a short video towards the end of class. We don’t anticipate using computers/ children’s video games with the preschoolers, but computer use would be subject to the same total combined 2 hours per month “screen time” limit.

**\*Medication at School\***

Since our class times are short, it is highly unlikely that you will need us to give your child medicine, as you should be able to administer it before or after school.

To give your child necessary prescription or non-prescription medication, **including Tylenol/ ibuprofen**, at preschool, we must have the following (we have forms available):

1. **Medication** in its original container labeled with child’s first and last name. Prescriptions must have the pharmacy label attached that lists: Child’s name, prescriber’s name, pharmacy name & telephone number, date prescription was filled, expiration date of medication, name of medication, dosage, how often to give the medication, and length of time the medication is to be given.
2. **Note signed by parent/ guardian** with permission to give medication
3. **Note from doctor/ prescriber** with specific medication, dose, time, reason, possible side effects, duration to be given, and signature.

\*Please use the Medication Administration Authorization form provided on our website at greeleysonshine.com\*

IF ALL 3 OF THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET, WE CANNOT ADMINISTER THE MEDICATION.

CHILD CARE MEDICATION POLICY IS A COLORADO CHILD CARE RULE. Our license depends on complying with these rules.

Be sure to hand us the medicine to lock in our medicine cabinet**. Never leave medication in your child’s possession or in their bag**. Unused medication will be sent home or destroyed according to medication administration guidelines. Only staff members who are delegated by our nurse consultant and director, and who have completed a medication administration course may administer medications. Medication administration will be logged.

**If your child has a severe allergy or severe asthma, we will need a health plan on file.**

**Personal Belongings**

Please label all belongings. Please have your child bring a regular-sized back pack each day, labeled with their name (we provide labels that hook onto the top loop). It should contain one zip-lock bag with a complete change of clothing: short-sleeved shirt, long pants, underwear, and socks. Each child will have a hook on which to hang their bag. The backpack should also contain the child’s Art Folder.

**In cold weather**: Please send a jacket with a hood or a hat. Please send snow boots, snow gloves, and snow pants on snowy days if you have them. We have a class supply of soft, non-waterproof gloves for chilly days.

**Drinks:** Please do not send beverages or sippy cups. We provide access to drinking water at all times from disposable cups (we have a disposable cup dispenser by the sink in our classroom). Your child is welcome to keep a water bottle with water in their backpack.

**Comfort objects**: Such as blankets or stuffed animals are better left at home. If your child has trouble adjusting to new situations without them, please speak with us and we can allow one temporarily.

**Toys/ other items from home**: Each day, we will rotate to allow a different child to bring the show-and-tell for the day. They are called “The SonShine Kid.” You will be notified in advance. A student may only bring a toy/show-and-tell on their show & tell day. They will be encouraged to show it to the class, tell something about it, and pass it around briefly (if practical). Bringing a toy is risking losing or breaking a toy. We cannot be held responsible for any belongings that come with your child. Please, no toy weapons or electronics (tablets/Nintendos). If your child has a questionable idea for a show-and tell, please feel free to call us beforehand.

**Bottles and Pacifiers**: Preschoolers are big kids, and we encourage them not to use bottles or pacifiers at school. Please leave them at home, or if you prefer, we can encourage a child who is used to having one to put it away in their bag so they can “Be a big kid.”

**Money**: We cannot be responsible for your child’s money. If you are sending money for a field trip or special event, please place it in a labeled envelope or baggie and hand it directly to your child’s teacher.

**Food:**

We have lots of fun and burn lots of energy at preschool! Please ensure that your child gets plenty of rest and a good meal before they come to school. Please do not send individual personal snacks unless your child has a food allergy or special need. We wash our hands and pray before our snacks, and encourage healthy eating habits. ***For the safety of children with nut allergies, we do not serve nuts. Please do not send in any products containing nuts. We do not claim to be a nut-free facility, but we try our best to avoid having nuts in the classroom.***

**Regular day snacks**: The Colorado Department of Health is fairly picky about what parent-provided foods we are allowed to serve to the class. They need to be in store-bought, unopened packages. We can’t accept things that could spoil before they arrive, like refrigerated dairy products. The only fresh fruit/veggies we can accept are: packaged carrots, packaged apple slices, bananas in peel, Cuties /oranges in peel. On your child’s show & tell day, please send in store-bought snacks for the entire class. For variety, snack should consist of food from 2 different food groups. Snacks that are reasonably healthy (not too sugary) are preferred for regular days. Juice and fruit snacks are very sugary, and should not be sent for regular day snacks.

**Birthdays**: We welcome special store-bought treats (like pudding cups or donut holes for birthdays). We will send home a note to notify you of when we would like to celebrate your child’s birthday in class, so you can send treats that day. Your child will receive a personalized birthday crown and choose a small gift from the Birthday Box. We will place a candle in your child’s birthday treat, sing to them at snack time, and text you a photo.

**Class Parties**: For class parties, a sign-up sheet for treats and other needs will be available.

**Please notify us of any special dietary needs or allergies your child may have.** If your child is allergic to components that are likely to be in most snacks (gluten, dairy, etc.), please keep a supply of safe snacks at the school for them to have if our regular snack contains their allergen.

**SonShine Kid (Show & Tell & Snack)**

Our monthly newsletters will include a show & tell calendar. Each class will be one child’s “SonShine Kid Day.” The child will bring something for show & tell and the parents will send snack & utensils for the entire class that day. The “SonShine Kid” gets a special spot on the rug at Carpet Time, a special spot at the table for Snack Time, is the Snack & Book Helper that day. The snack should be reasonably healthy, and have foods from 2 different food groups. Examples: Bananas & a box of saltines, Cutie oranges & a box of cereal, packaged apple slices & vanilla wafers, or a jar of apple sauce & a box of wheat thins.

**Potty-Training**

Our policy is that students must be potty-trained (in underwear- NOT pull-ups- during class time) unless there is a documented special need that delays training. Of course, preschool-age children are prone to accidents, which is why we ask that you always have a change of clothes in their bags. We have a great bathroom adjoining our classrooms with a small child-sized toilet. We encourage independent use of the toilet. Please send your child in clothing that they can easily pull down and up with minimal help, to promote independent use of the bathroom. “Onesies” are not allowed because they are not conducive to independent toilet use. We will ask students if they need to go to the bathroom if they are “doing the dance.” We believe that preschool-age children should be allowed to use the bathroom whenever they want to, to avoid accidents.

At the beginning of each school year, we will teach all the children the proper way to use the bathroom and how to wash their hands after each time.

If a child has an accident, we will have them change into their clean clothes and send the dirty ones home in the zip-lock bag in their backpack. We have wet wipes on hand to clean them up if needed. We will not embarrass or discipline children for having accidents. Sometimes children start having accidents in a new situation, and then when they become accustomed to where the bathroom is and how to take the initiative to go, they get much better. Please communicate any needs your child may have, such as needing to be reminded to go more often.

We encourage preschoolers to learn to wipe themselves, but will assist with wiping if asked and if we feel it is necessary.

If a child is using the toilet, we encourage them to close the door for privacy, and try to make sure that there are no other children in the same room when the child is using the toilet.

For children with a condition that requires diapers, we will wear gloves when changing diapers. The child will be changed on the bathroom counter, which will be disinfected after each use. Parents must provide diapers and wipes for children needing diapers.

**Parent - Teacher Conferences**

Parents are encouraged to stay in frequent contact with their child’s teachers, and communicate about their child’s behavior, progress, and social and physical needs. The director welcomes your texts, phone calls, e-mails, and would love to chat before or after classes whenever possible. Formal conferences are normally scheduled in October and February.

**Immunizations**

The law requires that we have a current immunization record completed for each child *before they begin care*.

* We strongly encourage you to immunize your child according to your doctor’s schedule, to prevent serious or deadly diseases, and also to protect other children who are too young or medically unable to be immunized.
* Some parents do legally exempt their children from some or all immunizations, so there is a chance that some of the students in our school will not be immunized.
* If you opt out of your child’s immunizations, your child may be excluded during outbreaks of certain diseases. There is also a special online procedure to follow if you are opting out of immunizations.

**Smoking**

* Smoking is prohibited during business hours in all areas where child care is provided, and when transporting children on field trips. As much as possible, children will be protected from second hand smoke on excursions. Please protect your child and their belongings from second-hand smoke.

**Licensing:**

* A recent state licensing inspection report is available upon request
* **Reporting complaints**: We are licensed by the state of Colorado. If you have licensing complaints you can report them by contacting :

**Colorado Department of Human Services**

**Division of Child Care**

**1575 Sherman St.**

**Denver, CO 80203**

**(303) 866-5958**

* For the official Rules Regulating Child Care Centers, please consult the Code of Colorado Regulations (12 CCR 2509-8) or contact Lexis-Nexis at 1-800-227-9597 or the Secretary of State, Information Center at 303-894-2200, x6418. The secretary of state’s website is [www.sos.**state**.co.us](http://www.sos.state.co.us).
* Colorado law requires child care providers to report all known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. To report suspicions of child abuse or neglect, contact:

**Weld County Dept. of Human Services**

**(970) 352-1551 ext. 6211**

* United Way notifies us by e-mail of recalled toys and other recalled items. Recalled items will be removed from our facility.