

KIDS IN ACTION

Before & After School Program

2021 - 2022

Parent Handbook



Updated 07/2021

Kids In Action Staff

Superintendent of Schools . . .

Dr. Paul Austin

Director of Business and Support Services...

John Ferris

Director . . .

Jackie Sansone

Team Leaders...

Barbara Granahan, - Foster School

Jen Benoit - South After-School

Anne Krog - South After-School Kindergarten

Karen Pratt – Pre-Kindergarten & East School

South Before School . . .

Barbara Granahan Paige Silvia

Ann Howard Judy Cheney

Jen Benoit

East Before School & Buses . . .

Brenda Foresta Teresa Henderson

Kelly Deady

Pre-Kindergarten . . .

Karen Pratt

Cathy Dyer

Judy Cheney

After-School . . .

Kindergarten – South School

Anne Krog

Michelle Magner

Teresa Henderson

Grade 1 & 2 – South School

Jen Benoit

Jeffrey Sewell

Kathy Cashman

Paige Silvia

Kelly Deady

Grades 3, 4 & 5 – Foster School

Barbara Granahan

Rachael Anderson

Ann Howard

Janet Whitcomb

Colleen Shinney

Kids In Action Contact Information

KIA Office:

(781) 804-4235

Foster School:

Grades 3-4-5 After-School: (781) 741-1591

South School:

Before-School: (781) 741-1540 ext. 4257

Kindergarten After-School: (781) 804-4211

Grades 1-2 After-School: (781)741-1540 ext. 4257

Pre-Kindergarten (781) 804-4211

East School:

Before School (781) 741-1540 ext. 4211

3 Step Notification System

Use the “**3-Step Notification System**” when your child will be absent from Kids In Action.

1. Absences **must be called** in to your child’s school.
2. Absences **must be e-mailed** to the KIA Dismissal Staff at your school.

East	Brenda Foresta	bforesta@hinghamschools.org
Foster	Barbara Granahan	bgranahan@hinghamschools.org
PRS	Karen Pratt	kpratt@hinghamschools.org
South	Jen Benoit	jbenoit@hinghamschools.org

Kids In Action Mission Statement

Kids In Action provides a safe, fun and secure environment.

Each child's out of school time is enhanced through choice based and enriching activities, encouraging personal responsibility and independence.

Good sportsmanship, tolerance and acceptance are promoted through cooperative games and recreational activities encouraging participation and team work.

Creativity, Imagination, and problem solving are encouraged through choices. A wide range of materials are available that foster imagination and invite open-ended play. Arts & crafts, board games, cooking projects S.T.E.M. and gross motor activities are available.

Kids In Action believes that children learn, grow and develop appropriate social skills through experiences and interactions with each other

Each school's guidelines and procedures are reinforced carefully throughout daily activities.

Some examples are the arrival and dismissal process, responsible playground behavior strategies and through the integration of Hingham Schools' "RULES OF THE ROAD"



Hingham Public Schools does not discriminate in its educational and/or operational programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion or religious creed, disability or handicap, sex or gender (including pregnancy), gender identity and/or expression (including a transgender identity), sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law.

Parent Information . . .

KIA Programs & Locations

Please take note of the different locations for Kids In Action.

Pre-Kindergarten located at **South Elementary**

Children in **grades K-2**, from all schools, are located at **South Elementary**.

Children in **grades 3, 4, & 5**, from all schools, are located at **Foster Elementary**.

Before School, for children who attend **South and PRS**, will be located at **South Elementary**.

Before School, for children who attend **East and Foster**. Will be located at **East Elementary**.

Registration Process

During the school year, registration is ongoing provided there is availability.

Fall Registration for Kindergarten will begin on April 12th.

Fall Registration for existing families, grades 1-5, will begin on May 3rd.

Fall Registration for new families, grades 1-5, will begin on May 10th.

There is a \$25.00 non-refundable Registration Fee, and a \$150.00 non-refundable Deposit due at the time of registration.

The Deposits will be credited to the May 2022 tuition payment. Your deposit will be forfeited if you withdraw from KIA before May 2022.

Please mail the Registration Form, Registration Fee, and Deposit to:

Kids In Action · 220 Central Street · Hingham, MA 02043

Tuition & Payment Policies

Tuition is an annual charge payable in 10 equal payments, August through May. All families are required to pay KIA tuition through HPS 3rd party billing provider, FACTS Management. Tuition will be debited or charged on the 20th of the month, August through May. Email reminders will be sent a few days before payment is due. You may set up or update your FACTS account at <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/4JVQJ>

There is no reduction in fees for absences or vacations.

Schedule Changes & Withdrawals

Schedule changes and withdrawals will only be implemented at the beginning of the specified month at the discretion of the Director. There is a \$50.00 fee for schedule changes made after October 2022.

Parent Information . . .

Transportation

Transportation from the elementary schools to the Kids In Action Programs at South and Foster will be provided by the Hingham Public Schools. Kids In Action teachers at each school will take attendance and put the children on the bus to go to their KIA Program. A Kids In Action teacher at the program site will meet the bus.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be sent out once a year. If you wish to have a conference regarding your child's progress, please speak with the Team Leader at your site.

Parent Visits

Parents are always welcome to visit the Kids In Action Programs. You may come to observe, read a story, play or help with an activity. Please schedule a time that is convenient for you.

Field Trips

Field Trips are scheduled a couple times a year. All children who are regularly scheduled for the day of the field trip may attend. All Kids In Action Staff are needed to attend the field trip. If you do not wish for your child to attend the field trip, please speak to the director. A notice and permission slip with the field trip information will be distributed before the date of the field trip. Transportation will be provided by the Hingham Public Schools. A small fee will be assessed for the price of the field trip and transportation.

Homework

Children are welcome to do their homework at Kids In Action. Older children in grades 3, 4 and 5 have a scheduled homework time in the library. Younger children in grades 1 and 2 do not have a scheduled homework time but, they may do their homework at any time in the homework space provided. Please discuss your homework expectations with your child.

Photographs

Children will only be photographed with written consent by parents/guardians. With permission, photos may be used for projects and displays within the program, the KIA Facebook Page and for Press Releases. You may find the parent consent form in the registration packet.

Bullying Prevention

Kids In Action follows the Bullying Prevention / Intervention Plan set forth by The Hingham Public Schools. Kids In Action Administrators will assist in all cases with strict confidentiality.

Pick Up and Drop Off Times . . .

1. Before school children must be walked into the building and a teacher notified of the child's arrival. Be sure to sign in your child noting the time of drop-off. Children must never be left at Kids in Action without a teacher present. ***The Drop Off time for children taking the bus to Foster or PRS is no later than 7:30 The Drop Off time for children staying at East and South is no later than 8:00.*** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter!
2. If a child does not attend school for any reason, they may not participate in KIA for that day.
3. If a child has been dismissed from school or Kids In Action to attend scouts, religious education class, sports, etc. they may return to Kids In Action no later than 5:00 p.m.
4. A designated parent or guardian as indicated on the registration form, must pick up and sign out each child. Parents must send in written authorization with their children if an alternate person will be picking up. The note must be signed and dated by the parent/guardian. Children will not be released to a person under the age of 18. Alternate pick up persons must present photo ID at time of pick up.
5. Children must stay with the designated adults or parents once they are signed out of Kids In Action. No one is allowed to wander through the building when leaving the program.
6. It is important that you have developed and reviewed with your child, a back-up emergency plan in the event your child goes home by mistake. We consistently track the children as they get on the buses and as they come into Kids In Action. If a child does not come to Kids in Action on a scheduled day, we contact the child's teacher and then contact the parent for verification that the child is where he/she should be. If a child comes to Kids in Action on an unscheduled day, we will keep the child with us until a parent or an emergency contact comes to pick up. KIA staff are instructed to keep a child when in a doubtful situation and contact parents for pick up at KIA as soon as possible.
7. Hingham has a locked door policy at all times. Please ring the bells to be let in by KIA Afterschool staff. For Kindergarten pick up please use the KIA door near the playground.
8. Kids In Action closes promptly at 6:00 p.m. Parents are expected to pick up children by 6:00 p.m. A \$15.00 fee will be charged for each 15 minutes or fraction thereof after 6:00 p.m.

Emergency Updates and Procedures . . .

- 1 Parents need to inform KIDS IN ACTION of changes in ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, and EMPLOYMENT CHANGES AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION. If is critical, IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, that all information is complete and up-to-date.
2. If a child is going to be absent from After-School for any reason, parents must notify Kids In Action, the school that the child attends and notify the classroom teacher in writing. If you know in advance that your child will be out, please send a note or tell the teachers the day before. Please use the **“Three Step Notification System”**.
- 3 In case of a medical emergency, first aid will be administered by the staff. The parent or designated adult, as indicated on your registration form, will be notified as quickly as possible. Any EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION will be to SOUTH SHORE HOSPITAL and the child will be accompanied by a KIA Teacher.
4. If a child becomes ill at Kids In Action (FEVER, VOMITING, DIARRHEA, ETC.) or is found to have a contagious condition such as HEAD LICE, CONJUNCTIVITIS, or STREP THROAT; you or your emergency contact will be called and the child will be expected to be picked up within an hour from Kids In Action. Children must be free of the above symptoms for 24 hours before returning to the program.

School Cancelations & Delayed Openings . . .

Kids In Action follows the Hingham Public School Calendar.

Please be aware that in the event of a Hingham Public School **cancellation**, Kids In Action will also be cancelled.

On a day there is a **delayed opening** in the Hingham Public Schools, the Before-School Program (grades K-5) will operate on the same schedule with the times reflecting the amount of the scheduled delay. One-hour delay - KIA Before School will open at 8:00 a.m. or Two-hour delay - KIA Before School will open at 9:00 a.m. Kids In Action Pre-Kindergarten will be closed if there is a delayed opening.

In the event that HPS **releases students early** due to inclement weather the **Kids in Action After School Program will operate and close at 3pm**. Only children enrolled in AFTER SCHOOL KIA will be transported from their home school to KIA at the weather related release time as identified by the Superintendent. Pre-Kindergarten Parents will be called to pick up their child immediately.

Health and Safety Procedures . . .

With each child's well-being in mind, Kids In Action has developed health guidelines concerning illness and medication. We ask that all parents cooperate by observing the guidelines and by informing the staff of any health related issues. This policy is in conjunction with the HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL'S health guidelines.

Medication

The only medications to be administered at KIA are emergency inhalant medications for Asthma or reactive airway disease and Epi-pen injector medications for known food or insect allergy. These medications will require a physician's order and parent authorization. Any child who receives an Epi-pen will be transported by ambulance to South Shore Hospital. A copy of the child's Food Allergy Action Plan will be kept in the child's classroom.

All medication must be in the original container with the prescription label on the bottle or box KIA will keep all medication under proper conditions for preservation, security and safety. All unused medication will be returned to the parent.

Illness

1. If a child has any condition, such as ALLERGIES or ASTHMA, which would limit participation in the regular activities provided at Kids In Action, the Director must be notified in writing. All allergies will be clearly posted (unless otherwise advised) with the child's name, allergy and allergic reaction and the staff will be alerted to the allergic response of the child involved.
2. Any child that is absent from their elementary school for illness or other reasons will not be admitted to Kids in Action until he/she returns to school in compliance with Hingham Public School health guidelines.
3. If a child becomes ill (FEVER, VOMITING, DIARRHEA, ETC.) or is found to have a contagious condition such as, CONJUNCTIVITIS, or STREP THROAT; you or your emergency contact will be called and the child will be expected to be picked up as soon as possible from Kids in Action. Children must be free of the above symptoms for 24 hours before returning to the program.
4. Contagious illnesses should be reported immediately to the Director. Appropriate information will be posted and distributed to the necessary families and staff members. Contagious diseases like CONJUNCTIVITIS, SCARLET FEVER, STREP THROAT or BRONCHITIS require the child to remain at home until they have been on an antibiotic for 24 to 48 hours from the first dose of medication.
5. Any child found to have active head lice will be sent home from KIA. The child must be rechecked by their school nurse and cleared before returning to KIA.
6. Any child well enough to attend Kids In Action is expected to participate in **all** aspects of the daily routine, including outdoor play.

Discipline Policy . . .

Kids In Action believes that children learn and grow through experiences and interaction with other children. As teachers, we can lovingly guide and re-direct the children to help them learn to cooperate with their peers and encourage positive individual and group experiences that will enhance their growth and development while in our care. We believe that we can best accomplish this through integrating the Hingham Public Schools "Rules of the Road". Our goal is to help each child develop a sense of responsibility for his/her own behavior while participating in the Kids in Action Program.

<p style="text-align: center;">RULES OF THE ROAD</p> <p>Treat each other with care and respect Be Kind Do not hurt anyone with your words, body, or any object.</p> <p>Support a positive learning environment Be cooperative. Do not interfere with teaching or learning.</p> <p>Be serious about learning Work hard and honestly. Pay attention and follow directions.</p> <p>Take care of your school Do not damage, destroy, or steal any property.</p>
--

When a child's behavior does not follow these specified guidelines we will use the following steps in disciplining the child. All efforts will be made to encourage and assist the child in developing positive behavior techniques prior to removal from the Kids In Action Program. In many instances, we will seek direction and support from the child's elementary school in handling situations that are difficult and complex. We will maintain ongoing communication between the parents and the staff and take into consideration individual situations and the safety of all children.

1. Speak with the child, reminding him/her of the Rules of the Road and encourage the child to express his/her feelings constructively.
2. Remove the child from the activity, giving the child the opportunity to calm down and regain his/her composure. Provide the child with alternative behavior techniques that would be appropriate in the situation and redirect the child to another activity. The teacher will speak to the parent regarding the situation.
3. If the child continues with inappropriate behavior the director and the teacher will speak to the child and to the child's parents. A report referencing the situation will be written and given to the parent. A plan of action to help the child remember the Rules of the Road will be developed with the parents, the teacher and the director.

CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLAN OF ACTION

(Consequences may vary at the Director's discretion.)

1. *Removal* from the gym or an activity for a specified period of time. 1st incident
2. *Suspension* from Kids In Action for a specified period of time. 2nd incident
3. Removal from the Kids In Action Program. 3rd incident

Transportation Policy . . .

Hingham Public Schools School Bus Safety Rules

(All school rules apply when students are riding on school buses)

1. Arrive at the assigned bus stop in advance of the posted time for the bus arrival. Parents are responsible for the supervision of students until the students board the bus in the morning and after students leave the bus at the end of the day.
2. While waiting for the bus, keep as far off the road as possible until the bus has arrived, stopped and opened its door. Do not run or fool around at the bus stop.
3. Keep clear of the area around the bus where the driver might not be able to see you. If you drop something under the bus, Do not try to get it – report your problem to the bus driver.
4. If you have to cross a street to get to your bus, wait for the bus driver to signal to you then look both ways before crossing...some cars do not stop when the bus lights are flashing.
5. Get onto the bus in a single file. Do not push.
6. Take a seat and remain seated until the bus arrive at school. Make room for others to be seated.
7. No standing is allowed when the bus is moving.
8. Do not throw anything in the bus or out of the bus window or hang any part of your body out the bus window.
9. Pay attention to the instructions of the bus driver. Make sure that your behavior does not distract the driver from the important job of driving the bus.
10. Keep the aisles clear. Large items and large musical instruments such as drums and cellos that do not fit on your lap are not permitted on the bus.
11. Do not use inappropriate or loud talk or make other noises that might distract the driver.
12. Be Courteous to the driver, fellow students and passersby. Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.
13. No eating or drinking is allowed on the bus. Do no litter.
14. Treat bus equipment well. Damage to bus equipment will be paid for by the offender.
15. If you must cross the road when getting off the bus, wait for the bus driver to signal to you, then pass in front of the bus at a distance where you can see the driver and the driver can see you. Remember to look both ways before crossing. (If you do not usually cross in front of the bus at the end of the day, but need to do so, let the driver know before you get off the bus.)
16. At the end of the day, go directly home.

The school principal's office may suspend bus riding privileges if there are violations of these rules or if students engage in any other action, which jeopardizes the health and safety of others. Depending on the severity of the incident, the following is the general disciplinary procedure:

1. Initial report of an infraction of a school bus safety rule: Student conference with the Head Teacher, Assistant Principal or Principal. Administrator may choose to notify parent.
2. Second report of an infraction of a school bus safety rule or initial report of a more serious nature: Student conference with Head Teacher, Assistant Principal or Principal (and bus driver as needed). Written notification to parents.
3. Third report of an infraction of a school bus safety rule or any misconduct that seriously threatens the safety of the school bus: Loss of bus riding privileges for a period not to exceed ten days. Written notification to parents.
4. Fourth report of any infraction of a school bus safety rule or a second misconduct that seriously threatens the safety of the school bus: Loss of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.

Early Release Days . . .

Grades K-5:

First Wednesday of each Month

(With the exception of March)

South & PRS: 11:30 Dismissal.

Foster & East: 12:00 Dismissal.

Lunch is **not** served in the schools on Early Release Days.
Please provide a peanut, tree nut free lunch for your child

Wednesday before Thanksgiving

South & PRS: 11:30 Dismissal

Foster & East: 12:00 Dismissal

Lunch is **not** served in the schools on Early Release Days.
Please provide a peanut, tree nut free lunch for your child

KIA AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS WILL CLOSE AT 3:00 p.m.

Last Day of School

South & PRS: 11:30 Dismissal

Foster & East: 12:00 Dismissal

Lunch is **not** served in the schools on Early Release Days.
Please provide a peanut tree/nut free lunch for your child

PRE-KINDERGARTEN . . .

Pre-Kindergarten will be dismissed at 11:30 on all Early Release Days