

KIDS IN ACTION

Pre-Kindergarten

Parent Handbook

2021-2022



Hingham Public Schools

220 Central Street

Hingham, MA 02043

Office: 781-804-4235

Classroom: 781-804-4211

Letter From The Director

Dear Parents,

Hingham Public Schools created the Kids In Action After-School Program in 1986 in response to a need in the community. Kids In Action provides a stable and secure environment for children at the end of the school day. In addition, Kids In Action encourages positive peer relationships and offers the children opportunities to explore their creativity through projects and activities. Children develop self-confidence and responsibility as they grow and mature.

The Kids In Action program provides a relaxed atmosphere for children to explore and imagine; discover learning skills through playing; the development of social skills through making friends and develops responsibility and independence through making choices. The program is designed to enhance each child's social, emotional, intellectual and physical development through creative and stimulating activities.

Our professional staff brings a genuine caring environment to the Pre-Kindergarten Program. The staff combines education in Early Childhood with many years of experience with Pre-Kindergarten children to provide quality care in the Pre-Kindergarten setting. The goal of our staff is to maintain a safe and secure environment for each child. In addition, our staff is dedicated to serving the individual needs of the children by offering a variety of activities that will foster the development of a positive self-image; encourage the use of appropriate social skills; facilitate discovery and growth and provide abundant physical activities.

We hope that each child will develop life-long friendships through their involvement with the Pre-Kindergarten Program. We know the fun-filled activities will remain as fond memories of their childhood.

HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

Kids In Action Staff

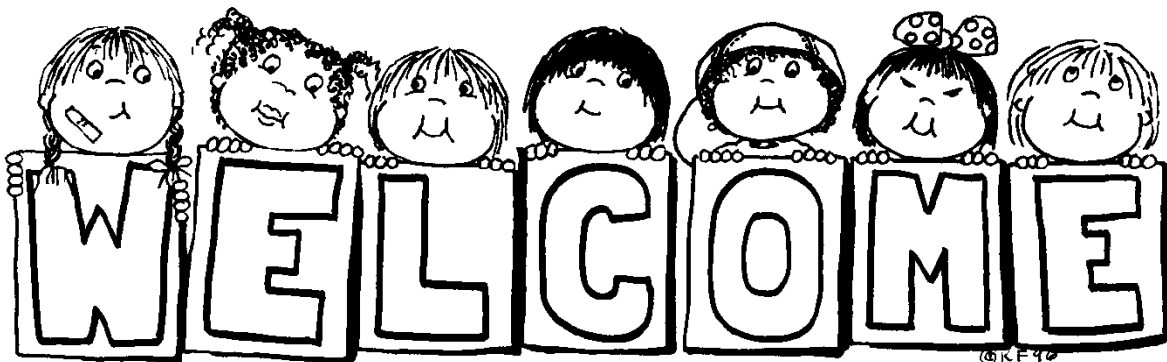
Superintendent of School
Dr. Paul Austin

Director of Business and Support Staff
John Ferris

Director
Jackie Sansone

Assistant Director

Pre-Kindergarten Staff
Karen Pratt, Teacher / Team Leader
Cathy Dyer, Teacher
Judy Cheney, Assistant Teacher



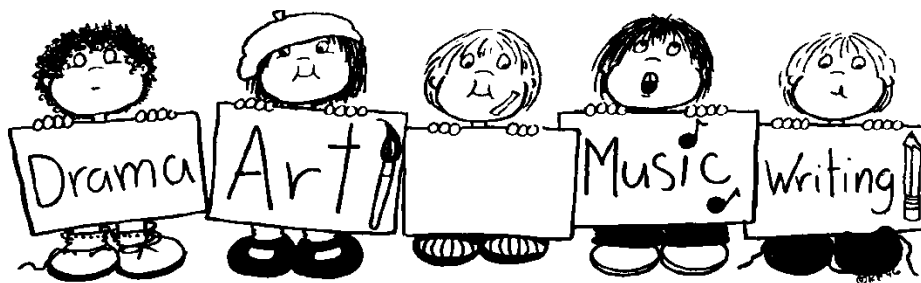
Program Design

KIDS IN ACTION provides a safe and caring atmosphere for Pre-Kindergarten children to learn and play. We believe that children learn best in an environment that is warm and comfortable. Children need the flexible structure of a gently guided routine. Individual activities encourage independence while group activities provide opportunities for negotiating, cooperating and sharing of ideas. Children are provided with experiences that allow them to make choices and to become active participants in their environment through exploration, discovery and imagination. Our curriculum incorporates the diversity and unique individuality of each child.

Learning Centers provide opportunities for children to develop independence and encourages involvement. Centers allow children to make choices of a variety of activities and to develop responsibility for the decisions that they make. Gentle guidance gives children the direction they need in caring for supplies and materials, as well as, following through to the conclusion of the activity.

Through *group activities, table-top activities* and *circle time* our curriculum provides direct educational stimulus. *Free play, creative play* and *imaginative play* provide opportunities for children to utilize their creative energies to optimize their learning experiences. Social skills are strengthened and reinforced through *sharing, taking turns* and through *cooperating* and *negotiating* with other children. *Music and movement activities* along with *outdoor* and *gym activities* provide exercise for large muscle development.

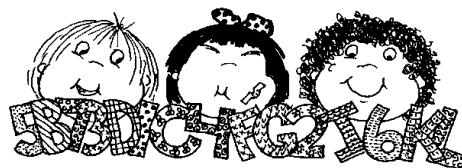
Our curriculum is designed to nurture and enhance the development of the *SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL, COGNITIVE, PHYSICAL* and *CREATIVE* areas of the Pre-Kindergarten child. Through the use of themes, we are able to integrate these developmental areas into an effective approach to learning.



LEARNING TAKES PLACE WHILE A CHILD IS AT PLAY!

Pre-Kindergarten Mission

- Promotes **positive relationships** with children to encourage each child's sense of individual worth.
- Implements a **curriculum** that fosters all areas of child development: cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social.
- Uses developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate **effective teaching approaches**.
- Provides **ongoing assessments** of a child's learning and development and communicates child's progress to the family.
- Promotes the **nutrition and health** of children and protects children and staff from injury and illness.
- Employs a **teaching staff** that has the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development, and to support families' diverse needs and interests.
- Establishes and maintains collaborative relationships with each child's **family**.
- Establishes relationships with and uses the resources of the **community** to support the achievement of program goals.
- Provides a safe and healthy **physical environment**.
- Implements strong personnel, fiscal and program management policies so all children, families, and staff have **high quality experiences**.



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

Achieving Standards through Play

Kids In Action has designed a program that supports learning through active play and play-based centers. We know that young children need many opportunities to explore and discover through interactive play and through a variety of experiences to make learning meaningful to them. We give children time to practice and use what they are learning through activities in each center. We encourage the children to use their imaginations to develop their creativity through the use of various materials.

Choices provide children with the opportunity to make decisions and become independent and to develop personal responsibility. Gentle nurturing staff, listen as children play to offer a **helping hand** when necessary and to adapt curriculum to better fit the needs of the children.

We have established a safe and supportive environment where the children can learn while developing relationships with others and where they feel comfortable taking risks and trying new things. Below are a few of the many opportunities that are provided for the children throughout their experience in our classroom.

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Literacy</u></p> <p>Games & Puzzles Circle Games Table Activities Book Transitions Classroom Story-time Stories on CD Children's Class Books</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Math</u></p> <p>Games & Puzzles Circle Games Table Activities Graphing / Estimating Manipulatives Measuring Height & Weight</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Science</u></p> <p>Life Cycles Sensory Table Cooking Projects Play Dough / Mixtures Seasonal Changes Hands-On Experiments Dinosaurs & Animals</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Social Studies</u></p> <p>Friends The First Thanksgiving Holiday Traditions Farm Field Trip Fire Fighter Visit Safety Officer Visit Community Helpers</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Creative Arts</u></p> <p>Table Activities Cutting & Gluing Painting Arts & Crafts Writing Center Dramatic Play Puppet Play</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fine & Gross-Motor</u></p> <p>Writing & Drawing Tracing & Cutting Transition Games Playground Activities Music & Movement Circle Games Board Games</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Social-Emotional</u></p> <p>2nd Step Curriculum Dramatic Play Theme Centers Table Activities Circle Games Large & Small Group Activities Self-Help Skills Problem Solving</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Home to School Connection</u></p> <p>Children's Sneak-A-Peek Parent Orientation Newsletters / Calendar / Parent Handbook Daily Communication through "Today's Happening" Parent & Child Field Trip Parent Classroom Visits Biscuit Backpacks Children's Class Books Class Performances</p> | |

Parent Information

Registration Process 2021-2022 . . .

1. Open Registration begins on January 4, 2021 for the upcoming school year and closes on February 5, 2021.
2. Confirmation of your child's acceptance and schedule will be mailed by February 26, 2021. If space is available after February 5 we will continue to accept children.
3. During the school year, registration is ongoing provided there is availability.
4. There is a \$25.00 **non-refundable** Registration Fee due at the time of registration.
5. A **non-refundable** deposit of \$150.00 is due when you return your confirmation form. Deposits will be credited to the June tuition. Deposits will be forfeited if you withdraw from KIA before June 2022.
6. Registration forms may be completed and submitted online at,
7. Please mail your Registration Fee to:

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

Tuition & Fees . . .

1. Tuition is an annual charge payable in 10 Equal Payments, August through May. All families are required to pay KIA tuition electronically through H.P.S 3rd Party Billing provider, FACTS Management. The provider charges \$43.00 to set up an account. There is no charge if the annual tuition is paid in full on or before August 1st. Tuition will be debited on the 20th of the month, August through May. A transaction fee will apply to charge card transactions. Email reminders will be sent a few days before payment is due.
 2. There is no reduction of fees for absences or vacations.
 3. Parents are expected to pick up children by 11:30 a.m. for early dismissal or 1:00 p.m. for regular dismissal. A fee of \$15 will be charged for each 15 minutes or portion thereafter.
 4. There is a \$50.00 charge for change of schedule. Scheduled changes will only be implemented at the beginning of the specified month. Limit three changes per school year submitted to the Director in writing one month prior to the schedule change.
 5. If a child needs to be withdrawn from the Pre-Kindergarten Program, a one-month notice is required. This notification must be in writing and dated.
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Parent Information

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures . . .

1. Teachers will meet the children and parents at the playground entrance, on the rainbow, at South School for drop off and pick-up. Parents or caregivers will sign their child in and out.
2. Children must never be left at KIDS IN ACTION without a teacher present.
3. Alternative pick-up person, must have their identification. Please provide a note or email to the teachers indicating the name of the alternative pick up person.

Clothing and Dress . . .

1. Please send in a complete change of clothing to keep at school. (Underwear, shirt, pants, socks) Please place all items in a large zip lock bag labeled with your child's name.
2. Daily activities include outdoor play, if the outside temperature is above 32 degrees. Please be sure that your child is equipped with weather-appropriate clothing. (Coats, mittens, hats, boots etc.)
3. Shoes must be appropriate for all activities including indoor and outdoor play. NO FLIP-FLOPS.

Snack & Lunch . . .

Children should bring in a snack, lunch and water bottle from home. Kids In Action is a **peanut and tree nut free classroom**, please check the ingredients on all food you send to school.

Birthday Celebrations . . .

The Pre-Kindergarten Class celebrates every child's Birthday. The teachers and students will make it a special day for the birthday child. Due to allergy concerns, birthday snacks may not be brought in for the class. Thank you for understanding. This day is a great opportunity for you to visit the classroom, play or read a story to the class.

Parent Information

Parent-Staff Communication ...

The success of Kids In Action depends on good communication and mutual support between parents and staff. Please feel free to ask questions or express concerns at any time. A quick chat with the staff at drop-off or pick-up times are a great way to keep in touch. You know your child best and we will look to you for information about your child's needs, interests and behavior. It is essential that you communicate with us any changes in home or family life (divorce, death, illness, moving to a new home, change in employment, etc.) to help us respond effectively and with sensitivity to your child. We will keep you informed on a regular basis about your child's experiences in Kids In Action.

Everyday a "Today's Happening" will be emailed to families. Here you will find some activities that were offered to the children, the concepts and skills we were focusing on, children who had jobs and upcoming information and dates.

Each month you will receive a newsletter showcasing our themes for the month, some activities we have planned and the MA State Framework Guidelines we are working on with the children.

Assessments & Conferences...

Assessments will be sent out twice a year. If you wish to discuss a particular issue, please notify the Team Leader so an appropriate time can be made available. We want to devote full attention to your concern; therefore, a set schedule of a meeting time makes this possible. Informal conferences will take place in the Fall and formal conferences will take place in the Spring. Time is set aside each month for parents who would like a Parent/ Teacher meeting to discuss the child's progress.

Visits ...

Parents are always welcome into the classroom.

Mandated Reporting . . .

All Kids In Action Teachers are mandated reporters and must, by law, report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Families.

Children's Record . . .

You may request a copy of your child's records by notifying the Director of KIA.

Parent Information

Schedule and Holidays ...

September 10, 2021 - Sneak-A-Peek & Parent Orientation

September 13, 2021 - First Day of KIA Pre-Kindergarten

June 10, 2022 - Last Day of KIA Pre-Kindergarten

Full Day Program: 8:30a.m. – 1:00p.m.

Half Day Program: 8:30a.m. – 11:30a.m.

Kids In Action Pre-Kindergarten follows the Hingham Public School Calendar. On Early Release Days, KIA Pre-K will close at 11:30.

Absences . . .

If a child is going to be absent from Pre-Kindergarten for any reason, parents must notify the Pre-Kindergarten teachers. If you know in advance that your child will be out, please send a note, e-mail or tell the teachers the day before. Otherwise, call the Pre-Kindergarten classroom 781-804-4211 on the day your child will be absent.

School Cancellations . . .

In the event of a Hingham Public Schools cancellation, the Pre-Kindergarten will also be cancelled.

On days there are delayed openings in the Hingham Public Schools, Pre-Kindergarten will be closed.

If the Hingham Public Schools closes early due to weather or an unforeseen event, KIA Parents will be notified immediately to come pick up their child.

Donations ...

You can help us by donating dry erase markers, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, toys, books, etc. Often times the company that you work for, may look for a place to donate over-stock items or unused equipment - KEEP US IN MIND!

Health and Safety Procedures

Emergency Updates and Procedures ...

1. Parents must inform Kids In Action of changes in address, phone numbers, employment and emergency information. It is critical, IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, that all information is complete and up-to-date.
2. In case of a **MEDICAL EMERGENCY** during Pre-Kindergarten hours, First Aid will be administered by the staff. All KIA Staff are First Aid and CPR Certified. The parent or designated adult, as indicated on your registration, will be notified as quickly as possible. Any emergency transportation will be to SOUTH SHORE HOSPITAL, unless a doctor has provided written instructions to transport a child to another MEDICAL FACILITY. A staff member will accompany the child to the hospital. Every effort will be made to contact the child's own PHYSICIAN.

Handwashing ...

To help with the prevention and control of serious illnesses and infectious diseases, children and adults will wash and dry their hands at all appropriate times throughout the day (i.e. before meals, after toileting, etc.). Liquid soap, running water, friction and disposable towel will be used. Hand sanitizer is also available at any given time of the day.

Health and Safety Procedures

With each child's wellbeing 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 due to illness, 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 re-checked 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.

Updated and Revised by
Jackie Sansone, KIA Director
Deborah Whiting, Resource Nurse

11/21/19

Discipline Policy

Kids In Action believes children learn and grow through experiences. 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 using the following BEHAVIOR CODE. Our goal is to help each child develop a sense of responsibility for his or her own behavior while at Kids in Action.

BEHAVIOR CODE

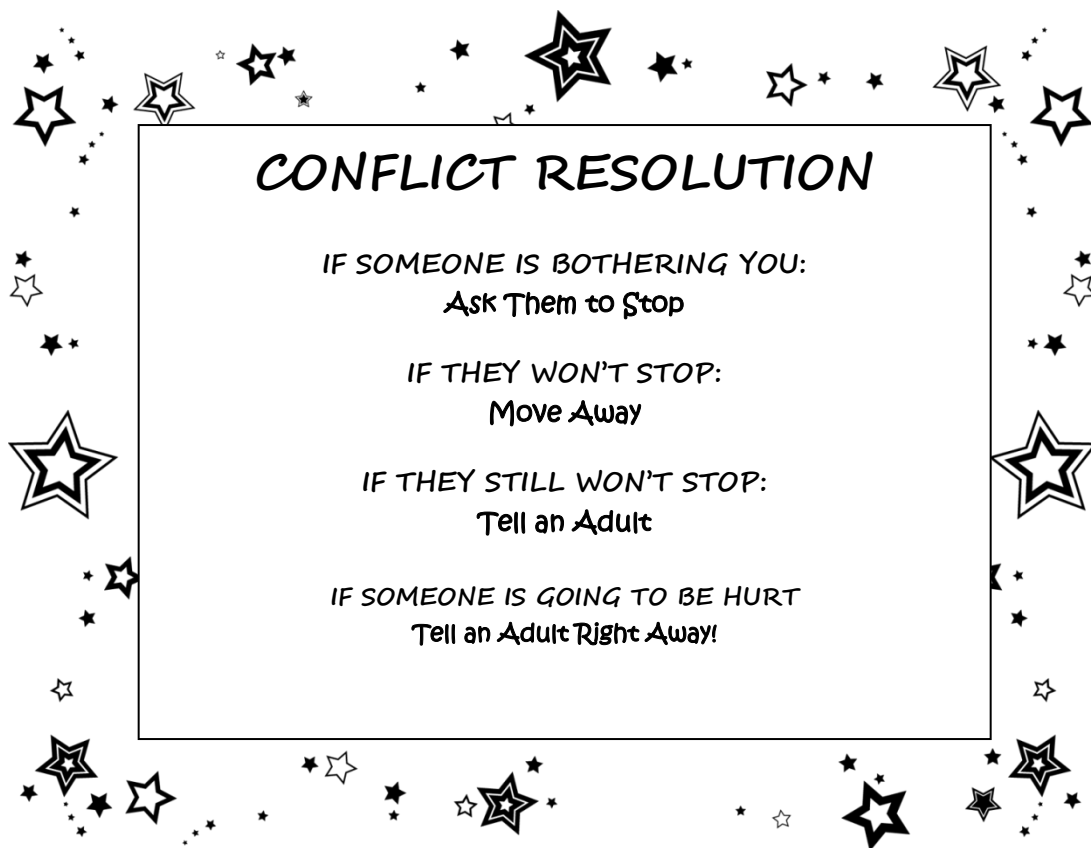
1. Be Respectful of Property Always.
2. Use Appropriate Language at all times.
3. Keep Hands and Feet to One's Self.
4. Cooperate with Teachers and Children.
5. Be Mindful of Other People's Feelings.

When a child's behavior does not follow these specified guidelines, we will use the following four steps in disciplining the child. All efforts will be made to encourage and assist the child in developing positive behavior techniques.

1. Speak with the child, reminding him/her of the Behavior Code.
2. Encourage the child to express his/her feelings constructively and again remind the child of the Behavior Code.
3. Remove the child from the activity, giving the child an opportunity to calm down and to regain his/her composure. Provide the child with alternative behavior techniques that would be appropriate in the situation.
4. The Teacher/Director will speak to the child and his/her parents. In most instances when parents and Kids In Action staff work together with the child, inappropriate behaviors and/or issues can be resolved.

Conflict Resolution

In the natural growth and development process, when children interact with other children, disagreements may arise. To help children develop problem solving ability, we encourage using positive steps in resolving a situation. In an effort to maintain a warm and happy place, for children to play and grow, we offer this conflict resolution as a method of handling disagreements or uncomfortable situations.



**REMEMBER TO USE YOUR WORDS TO HELP YOU
SOLVE A PROBLEM!**