



2025-2026 Preschool Handbook

Buena Regional School District

David C. Cappuccio, Jr., Superintendent of Schools

Abigale Begley, Early Childhood and Elementary Supervisor

Preschool Mission Statement

The mission of the Buena Regional Preschool Program is to create a strong foundation for lifelong learners by supporting the academic, social-emotional and physical growth of all students. We utilize developmentally appropriate, inclusive practices and research to guide instruction. We promote optimal growth and development within a safe and welcoming learning environment. We recognize the strength in diversity and celebrate individuals, cultures and perspectives whose knowledge, skills and talents enrich our program. We commit to fostering supportive relationships with our school families and within our community.

WELCOME

Welcome to Buena Regional School District Preschool!
We are happy to have you as part of our school community.

This handbook explains policies, procedures, and expectations of the families participating in the Early Childhood Program. Please keep it for future reference as it contains information that may be helpful throughout the year. We are looking forward to a year of fun learning and growth.

Buena Regional's preschool program is a state-funded, standards-aligned, full day program for 3 and 4 year old children in our community.

If at any time you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, the main office, or our
Early Childhood Staff,

Mrs. Abigale Begley

(Early Childhood Supervisor)

☎- 856-697-0800 ext. 8304

✉ - abegley@buena.k12.nj.us

Tara Levari

(Preschool Instructional Coach)

☎- 856-697-0800 ext. 8730

✉ - tlevari@buena.k12.nj.us

Jessica Grieff

(Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist)

☎- 856-697-0800 ext. 8316

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Collings Lakes Elementary School

856-697-0800

Principal, Richard Lawrence

Secretary, Jennifer Steward

Nurse, Dee Consalo

Preschool Teachers

PSA, Jane Barr

PSB, Michele Buehler

PSC, Tiffany Parrish

PSD, Annette Cerione

PSE, Lauren Placendo

PSF, Alexis Mota

John C. Milanesi Elementary School

856-697-0800

Principal, Jamie Lynn VanArtsdalen

Secretary, Kathy Pace

Nurse, Nicole Cheli

Preschool Teachers

PSA, Amy McMahon

PSB, Danielle Sacco

PSC, Rosa Johnson

PSD, Lauren Matteo

PSE, Rudy Barnes

CURRICULUM

The HighScope Preschool Curriculum: Highscope is one of the 4 state-approved preschool curriculums in a free, full-day preschool program. In a HighScope preschool classroom, teachers ignite children's interest in learning by creating an environment that encourages them to explore learning materials and interact with adults and peers. We focus on supporting early learners as they make decisions, build academic skills, develop socially and emotionally, and become part of a classroom community.

Active Learning: The center of the HighScope Curriculum is active learning. It's the foundation of young children gaining knowledge through their natural play and interactions with the environment, events, and other people.

Adult-Child Interaction: Teachers act as partners, working alongside children and communicating with them both verbally and nonverbally to encourage learning. Key strategies for adult-child interactions are sharing control with children, communicating as a partner with children, scaffolding children's play, using encouragement instead of praise, and taking a problem-solving approach to supporting children in resolving conflicts.

Learning Environment: To create a predictable and active learning environment, teachers arrange and equip the classroom with diverse, open-ended materials that reflect children's home, culture, and language. The room is organized and labeled to promote independence and encourage children to carry out their intentions.

Daily Routine: A consistent framework for the day provides a balanced variety of experiences and learning opportunities. Children engage in both individual and social play, participate in small- and large group activities, assist with cleanup, socialize during meals, develop self-care skills, and exercise their small and large muscles. The most important segment of the daily routine is the plan-do-review sequence, in which children make decisions about what they will do, carry out their ideas, and reflect upon their activities with adults and other children. These higher-level thinking skills are linked to the development of executive functions, which are needed to be successful in school and life.

Assessment: Ongoing child assessment is also an underlying component of the HighScope Curriculum. Objective anecdotal observations of children collected throughout children's natural play allow teachers to assess child progress and plan meaningful learning experiences.

For more information, go to: <https://highscope.org/our-practice/preschool-curriculum/>

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL CURRICULUM

We utilize Second Step Curriculum to help support the social-emotional learning of our preschoolers. Second Step focuses on “Human Skills” such as skills for learning, empathy, emotion management, friendship skills, problem solving, and transitioning to Kindergarten. Skills and concepts are taught through short, daily activities that take 5–7 minutes each.

Second Step Early Learning has been shown to improve young students' executive-function skills—like attention, memory, and self-control—which are not only predictive of Kindergarten readiness but are essential for success in and outside the classroom.

Keep an eye out for the weekly parent letter sharing what theme the class is working on and how you can help support your student at home.

For more information, go to: <https://www.secondstep.org/early-learning-curriculum>

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

School Hours and Attendance:

- **Daily Attendance is Mandatory.**
- **School Hours: 9:05 to 3:45**
Children may enter the building from 9:05 to 9:25. Students will be greeted at the main entrance. It would be helpful to bring your child by 9:10 if they are having breakfast.
- **We understand that this may be the first time your child is away from you. Experience has taught us that short goodbyes are best. Be assured we comfort and calm any child having difficulty separating from family. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.**
- **Dismissal** for preschool **car riders** will begin at 3:25. Staff will bring your child to you in the designated car line. Students riding the bus will be escorted by staff to their buses.
- **Single Session:** On single session days dismissal will be at 1:30.

Emergency Forms: Please complete and return all forms ASAP.

Leaving School: If your child normally rides a bus and you plan to pick up your child, please send a note to school so that your child will not be placed on the bus for that day. **If someone other than a parent or guardian will be taking your child from school, please send a note to school stating who will take your child home, identification and/or password will be requested by the office staff.** Call the school office if the change is last minute. Do not leave a message on the teacher's voice mail. Without proper documentation, your child's regular dismissal will be followed.

Absences: Please call the main office and leave a message stating that your child will be absent. **If your child accrues more than 10 consecutive days absent, you will be contacted by administration and may lose your child's placement in the program.* When your child has been absent from school,

please send a note to school stating the reason for the absence. You may refer to the district-wide folder for other school district policies.

Tardiness: If your child arrives at school after 9:25 AM, please sign him/her in at the office window. The office staff will give your child a late slip to give to the teacher.

Address and Phone Numbers: If your child's address, phone numbers, or emergency contacts change during the year, please notify the teacher and the main office.

Website: The district website, buenaschools.org, is a wealth of information regarding news, upcoming events, policies, curriculum, and resources. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with this valuable information.

Social Media: Our district utilizes social media with individual school accounts as well as district-wide accounts. Please like and follow us to see district, school, and classroom highlights.



CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Communication: Open communication between our preschool families and teachers is a priority to ensure the best possible school experience for your child. Please be on the lookout for additional information from your child's teacher regarding joining their classroom communication platform.

Items Needed for School:

- **BACKPACK:** Your child will need a standard size backpack **without wheels**. Put your child's name on the inside of the backpack for safety reasons. We will give every child a communication folder. Please check the folder daily for notes and papers. All correspondence should be placed in this folder. **We check the folders everyday.**
- **SMALL BLANKET:** Your child will need a small blanket for nap time. We will send it home on Fridays to be washed and returned that Monday. A cot and fitted sheet will be provided by the district as well as a laundered service.
- **CLOTHING:** Play can be messy and sometimes children may have accidents throughout the day. Please send in a complete extra set of clothing including underwear and socks in a ziplock bag with your child's name on it. Please label all clothing with your child's name. In the event that a child needs to use the extra clothes, we will send the clothing home and ask that you replace whatever the item was the following day.
- **WATER BOTTLE:** You may send in a clearly **labeled** water bottle or spill proof drink container that your child can use throughout the day.
- **SNACK:** Preschool students have a snack daily. Please send in a **snack and drink** separated from their packed lunch.

Your child **will not** need pencil boxes, pencils, crayons, etc. All materials will be provided by the school.

Shoes: We also strongly encourage the children to wear **sneakers** or **casual shoes** to school. We will go to the playground every day. Children in dress shoes, crocks, sandals and the like may be more accident-prone when using the playground equipment. Also, we encourage the girls to wear shorts or tights under their dresses. **Flip flops are not allowed.** It is a school rule.

Toys: Our preschool classrooms are well equipped with age appropriate toys for all students to play with. We ask that students **not** bring toys from home. If a child does bring a toy to school, it will be left in his/her backpack. Also, if you notice a toy that does not belong to your child, please return it to school. Sometimes as the children are playing, they put things in their pockets. We understand, just return the items to school.

Breakfast Lunch and Snack:

If your child chooses to have breakfast the cost is **\$1.50**.

Your child may purchase lunch **or** bring their own from home. Lunch is **\$3.00**. Free and reduced information packets will be sent home.

As stated above, Preschool students have snack daily.

Please send in a **snack and drink** separated from their packed lunch if they are packing.

***IMPORTANT**

Please make your child's teacher and the school nurse aware of any allergies.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child
during the upcoming school year!

**Please sign and return this page to school in your child's folder.
Thank you!**

I acknowledge that I have received and read the Preschool Parent Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.

Students Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Signature: _____