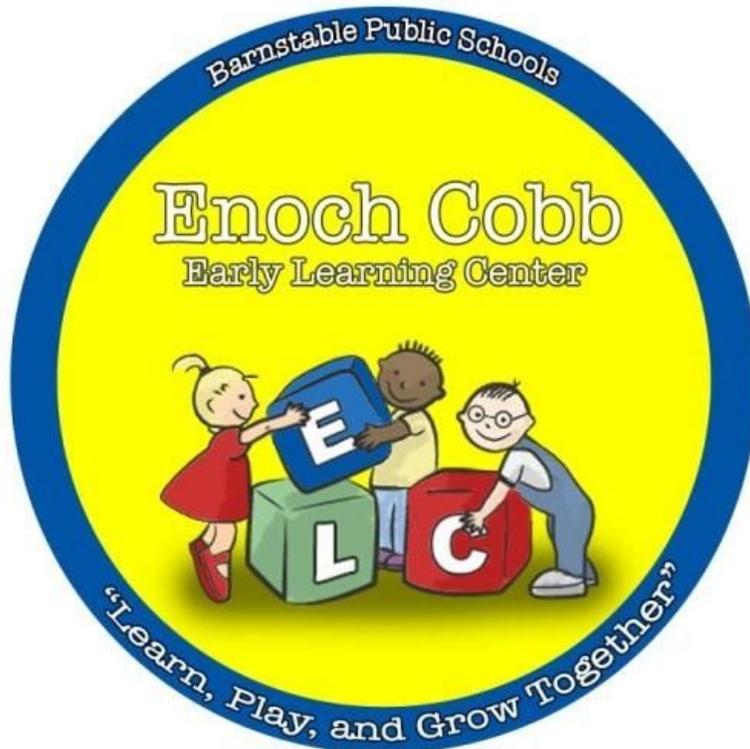


Enoch Cobb Early Learning Center

Barnstable's Inclusive Preschool Program
2019-2020 Parent Handbook



50 Old Craigville Road

Hyannis, MA 02601

Phone: (508) 790-6493

Fax: (508) 790-9833

www.barnstable.k12.ma.us

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Purpose

Inclusive Education

We believe that every child in our school is a valued, contributing member of the community and that children, with and without disabilities, benefit when they learn, work and play side by side. Social and emotional competence is essential to success in school and in life. The inclusive preschool classroom is the ideal environment for developing the social and emotional skills children will need for future success, by providing many opportunities to practice social awareness and relationship skills. Some of these skills include: perspective taking, empathizing, appreciating diversity, respecting others, communicating, listening, cooperating, resisting social pressure, negotiating conflict and seeking or offering help.

Enoch Cobb Early Learning Center Mission

Our goal is exemplary early childhood education. We provide children with high-quality social, language, and early academic experiences, which address each child's individual needs in an emotionally and physically safe environment by following developmentally appropriate, best practices for young children of all abilities, embracing diversity, and by providing a standards-based curriculum.

Barnstable Public Schools Vision

To educate the whole child by creating a student centered school culture that addresses students' physical, social, emotional, and academic needs by creating a safe and healthy learning environment in which students are challenged, supported, and engaged. We are addressing this through social, emotional, and academic development (SEAD) and positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS).

Core Values

Commitment: We are dedicated to the continuous learning and growth of all.

Collaboration: We work together while keeping student needs at the center of all decision making.

Community: We build strong, respectful partnerships that support student success.

Student Schedules

Special Education

Students may qualify for special education services through an evaluation process. Their resulting preschool program and schedule will be determined by the special education team (including parents and guardians) at an initial meeting and are based on his/her education needs. Any changes in schedule or placement for a student receiving special education services must be decided by the team and current progress must be considered. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or schedule, please contact Stephanie Markwell, Special Education Coordinator by calling the main number 508-790-6493 and pressing "2" at the prompt.

Peer Models

Students may qualify as peer models through a preschool screening process. Screenings are offered by appointment throughout the year, as long as space is still available. Programs range from 3 half-days to 5 half-days per week and are based on availability. Parent preference is considered, but can not always be accommodated. Once students are accepted into the program, they are automatically enrolled for the following year as long as they remain preschool age, however, their schedule may change. Parents may submit preferences for the following year's schedule by emailing Principal Caucci in May.

Session Times

Morning sessions run from 9:15 am - 11:45 am

Afternoon sessions run from 1:15 pm - 3:45 pm

Transporting Students

Student Drop-Off

Parent parking is limited. For that reason, we have implemented a "curbside" drop-off system, so that parents can avoid parking all together. Families dropping off students should form a single vehicle line starting in the front of the building and continuing along the side of the building. School staff will come outside at 9:10 am (morning session) and 1:10 pm (afternoon session) to walk children in from cars. Each student will be given an identification badge which

we will affix to his/her backpack which state his/her name and classroom teacher. This will ensure your child gets to the right room even if they walk in with a staff member from another classroom.

Important Requests:

1. Please follow the direction of our school staff who will be there to direct you.
2. Please be sure to shut engines off when you arrive at the front of the building for the safety of children walking to the front door from visitor spaces.
3. Please do not leave your car unattended in the drop-off line. If you need or want to walk your child to the front door or need to enter the building, you must move your car to a visitor space first.
4. If you are in the car line, please stay in or near your vehicle with your child. Do not huddle around the front door.
5. If you have parked and walked up to the door, please line your child up with the other "walkers" so they can enter in an orderly fashion.

Student Pick-Up

Parent parking is limited. For that reason, we have implemented a "curbside" pick-up system, so that parents can avoid parking all together. Families picking up students should form a single vehicle line starting in the front of the building and continuing along the side of the building. Each family will be given two "car tags" which should be placed in the passenger side window stating your child's name and teacher. A School staff member will come outside at 11:40 am (morning session) and 3:40 pm (afternoon session) and call children for dismissal by walkie-talkie in order of the line. A staff member will walk your child right out to your car. Should you need to dismiss your child early, please come inside and sign your child out.

Important Things to Note:

1. Please follow the direction of our school staff who will be there to direct you.
2. If you do not have a car tag with you, you will be directed to pull into the left lane, park and go inside to have your ID verified and get a new car tag.
3. Only people listed as guardians or emergency contacts will be allowed to pick up students.
4. Families with court ordered custody, visitation or stay-away orders should notify us right away so we can act accordingly.

Buses

Barnstable public schools provides buses for students who qualify for special education services only. The transportation department is completely separate from the Enoch Cobb Early Learning Center. All questions and concerns regarding your child's bus routes, drop-off or pick-up times should be directed to Beth Metell in the transportation office at 508-790-6497. If

Beth is unable to resolve your concern, please contact Sandy Gifford, Director of Transportation at 508-790-6498.

Home-School Communication

Principal's Emails

Principal Caucci will be emailing families periodically with important school-wide information and updates. Please be sure to check your inbox regularly

Teacher Newsletters

Classroom teachers will send home weekly or bi-weekly newsletters describing the week's theme, curricular concepts and activities planned. These will be sent home in your child's backpack. Please check your child's folder for classroom information daily.

Communication Notebooks

Each student is provided a folder with a small notebook inside. The notebook is intended for parents to jot down important notes the classroom staff may need to know for the day (early dismissal, trouble sleeping, didn't eat breakfast etc.). The books will be checked by classroom staff upon arrival. Teachers may also periodically write something to parents about the child's day (child's extra clothing are coming home because he/she got wet at the water table etc.).

Emailing School Staff

All Barnstable Public Schools staff email addresses use the following format: lastname_firstname@mybps.us Staff members check their inboxes at least once per day and make every attempt to respond to parents within 24 hours.

Phone Calls

Teachers and therapists can not be reached while in class with students, however, you can leave a voicemail message by calling the main number 508-790-6493 and using the staff directory at the prompt.

Facebook

School-wide information, updates, special events and photos of what's happening at school are posted regularly on our Facebook page. Please follow us!

Student Absences

We ask that you notify the school if your child is going to be absent by calling the main number 508-790-6493 and pressing “1” at the prompt to leave a message or speak to the school nurse.

Please notify the school nurse and keep your child home until symptom-free for a minimum of 24 hours, if they are experiencing the following:

1. Fever greater than 100.5 degrees
2. Repeated bouts of diarrhea
3. Vomiting

For all other symptoms or illnesses, please call Nurse Patty O’Hara for consultation, prior to sending your child to school.

Wellness Policy

Snacks

Families are encouraged to send in a healthy snack for their child each day, however, parents and guardians may choose to send whatever type of snack they want their child to have (unless the specific classroom is deemed to be “nut safe”). School staff will ensure that children do not share snacks. Filtered water is provided for drinks.

Celebration Food

All food distributed by school staff to students MUST follow specific health guidelines, with the exception of one food or beverage per month. Food distributed to students MUST come in a sealed package with a store label on it. We are unable to distribute baked goods made at home to the entire class for safety and wellness reasons. If you would like to send in treats for your child to share on holidays or birthdays, please ask your child’s teacher first to be sure there have not been other celebrations that month and be sure it is labeled. Party favors should be considered instead of food.

On Valentine’s day, it is okay to send in individual candy/cards to share with the class. School staff will help children place these in each child’s gift bag. The candy will not be consumed in school. The gift bags will be sent home and parents may decide when and if it should be consumed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you follow a curriculum?

Yes, Massachusetts standards for preschoolers are embedded into thematic play so that every activity is a meaningful, but fun learning experience for your child. There are currently formal preschool standards in the areas of Literacy, Math, Science, History/Social Science and Social-Emotional Development. Our teachers follow a curriculum map which ensures that each child in our program receives a consistent educational experience.

What does a typical preschool day look like?

A lot can happen in two and a half hours! In this time, children will participate in a Circle Time (a large group meeting in which they engage in music, movement, stories and hands-on lessons), Recess (outdoor play), Snack Time, and Center Time (small group activities which provide opportunities to practice skills, engage socially with peers and create).

Do peer model students receive the same amount of teacher attention as students with special learning needs?

Yes, our teachers are trained to differentiate instruction so that each child receives what he/she needs. Our goal is to make sure that every child continues to learn and grow throughout their time in our program.

How big are the class sizes?

Due to rolling admission, our class sizes start smaller and grow to a maximum of 15 students by year's end. Each class has 1 Lead Teacher and 2 Teacher's Assistants at all times; creating a staff to student ratio of 1:5. Typically ratios are smaller due our therapists participation in the classrooms.

How do you assess progress?

We use a developmental, observation-based, early childhood assessment tool called, Teaching Strategies Gold. It allows classroom staff to make note of how each child performs while completing classroom activities. Once entered into the system, the program can monitor growth and compare students to their same aged peers, helping us to plan appropriate next steps for instruction and play. We will communicate your child's developmental levels on this assessment on the report card which will go home in January and in June.

How do teachers communicate with parents?

All teachers send home weekly newsletters describing the week's theme, concepts and skills so that parents may reinforce these at home. In addition, teachers will have families download the Remind App, so simple reminders and messages can go directly to your phone. We also keep a Home-School Communication notebook in each child's backpack for passing written information. Parent -Teacher conferences are held in December, but parents are always welcome to call or email their child's teacher to set up a meeting.

How do you discipline?

We use an approach called, Positive Intervention Behavior and Supports (PBIS). Much can be found online about this approach. In a nutshell, it is a proactive way to set students up for success using lots of visual supports, direct teaching of expectations, modeling and practice. This eliminates the majority of challenging behavior, however, when needed teachers may redirect, correct, or set appropriate limits.

