Stark County Educational Service Center
Early Childhood Program

PARENT HANDBOOK

Stark County's Early Childhood Program
Consortium Members

Brown Local School District
Canton Local School District
Fairless Local School District
Jackson Local School District
Lake Local School District
Marlington Local School District
Minerva Local School District
Northwest Local School District
Sandy Valley Local School District
Strasburg-Franklin School District
Tuslaw Local School District

PERSONNEL

STARK COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
6057 Strip Ave NW • North Canton OH 44720
(330) 492-8136

PRESCHOOL SITES

Brown Local: Malvern Elementary
Canton Local: Faircrest Memorial Elementary
Fairless Local: Fairless Elementary
Jackson Local: Stark State Campus
Lake Local: Lake Primary
Marlington Local: Lexington Elementary
Minerva Local: Minerva Elementary
Northwest Local: Northwest Primary
Sandy Valley Local: Sandy Valley Elementary
Strasburg-Franklin Local: Strasburg Admin.
Tuslaw Local: Tuslaw Elementary

Dear Parents,

We are very happy you have selected our program for your child. It is our belief that every child can learn and succeed. We strive to build a strong foundation for future learning.

We offer a strong, developmentally appropriate early childhood program, which adheres to National Association for the Education of Young Children guidelines and is licensed by the State of Ohio. Our researched-based curriculum is aligned with the Ohio Department of Education's Early Learning Content Standards and concentrates on skills that are important in Kindergarten.

Our staff members, who are committed to making your child's preschool experience meaningful and rewarding, are what make us special. They are committed to the challenge to remain lifelong learners in the growing and ever-changing profession of early childhood education. As you begin to know us better, you will come to share our enthusiasm and see why Stark County's Early Childhood Program is unique and special. Please feel free to call us throughout the school year, if you should have any concerns or questions.

We look forward to working with your child.

Sincerely,

Ryan Murphy

Ryan Murphy, Early Childhood Director

7/25

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Stark County Early Childhood Program is to provide an opportunity, through active and quiet play, for children to grow through a variety of experiences. It is our belief that every child can learn and that the preschool experience should be positive, enjoyable, and rewarding for children and their families. Activities provided in our preschool are multi-cultural, play-based, and child-initiated. As the nurturing occurs in the preschool environment, the child develops communication skills and learns to interact with others in his/her world.

STARK COUNTY ESC EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS • OVERVIEW

Stark County Integrated Preschool (SCIP)

The SCIP Program is available to children ages 3 to 5 years who are currently delayed in one or more areas of development. Each SCIP classroom also accomodates up to eight typical peers. The activities presented in the SCIP Program are age-appropriate learning experiences intended to facilitate the individual goals of the children with delays as identified in their Individual Education Plans (IEP). The preschool environment is designed to enhance the development of self-confidence, self-expression, curiosity, enthusiasm, and the ability to interact effectively with other children and with adults. The environment is designed to further the development of problem-solving skills, the achievement of independence, and the development of cooperative abilities. *AEPS* is the adopted curriculum in the preschool program.*

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Classrooms

The Stark County Preschool Enrichment Program provides comprehensive preschool services for children who are four years old by September 30 and not age eligible to attend Kindergarten. Family income must fall below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. It is our belief that children develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually through both play and teacher-directed developmentally-appropriate creative activities.

Itinerant Services

Stark County Preschool Itinerant Services provide a consultative intervention program which is tailored to meet the individual needs of preschoolers with developmental delays and to lend support to their families. These individualized services can be provided to preschoolers in the most effective environment. The child's Individualized Education Program Team will determine goals, objectives and services needed for the child to make progress. The itinerant teacher provides a combination of direct and consultative services.

Transition Services

The Stark County Preschool Transition Services are designed to meet the educational needs of those students who will be leaving the preschool program at the end of the current school year. Classroom experiences are provided which will enhance independence and school readiness skills.

STARK Project for Educating Audition in Kids (SPEAK)

SPEAK is an auditory/oral preschool classroom in which children with hearing loss learn to listen and talk. The program is available to children 3 to 5 years of age. It provides an educational option for parents who have chosen spoken language as the primary means of communication for their hearing impaired child.

**Board Approved March, 2009*

STARK COUNTY'S EARLY CHILDHOOD RELATED SERVICES

Speech/Language Therapy

Speech/Language Therapy services are available to those qualified children enrolled in the Stark County Integrated Preschool program. The IEP Team determines services.

Augiology

Audiology services are available. Audiologists screen children a minimum of two times over the school year. Additionally, hearing testing is offered at our Taft Elementary preschool site in the Plain Local School District. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's hearing, contact your preschool teacher.

Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy is provided to children who have been referred and evaluated by an occupational therapist and qualify for these services. Therapy is provided if it will improve, develop, or restore functions impaired or lost through illness, injury, or deprivation. Therapy is designed to improve ability to perform tasks independently and/or prevent, through early intervention, further impairment or loss of function.

Physical Therapy

Physical Therapy is provided to children who have been referred for evaluation due to concerns about gross motor skills. Children who qualify for physical therapy will follow a prescribed therapy plan. The therapy may aid the child with walking, physical exercise, communication skills, wheel chair activities, and proper positioning. Also, a therapeutic exercise program may be designed to improve strength and range of motion.

School Psychological Services

The Stark County licensed preschool psychologists assist teachers and parents by evaluating children to determine eligibility for special education services. Psychological services include consulting with parents and teachers to develop plans to address behavior, learning, and other issues in serving preschool children.

Adapted Physical Education

Services by a certified adapted physical education instructor are available for children in our early childhood program. Adapted physical education programs make adjustments to meet the needs and abilities of preschoolers.

Confidentiality of Student Information

Student records, educational and personal, are maintained in a confidential manner in complianc with the *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act : 20 USC 1232g*. These procedures follow the Ohio Revised Code and protect the integrity of each student's personal information.

"In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

PROGRAM GOALS

The Stark County Early Childhood Program provides developmentally appropriate activities, learning environments, and approaches which meet the individual needs of young children and are aligned to the Early Learning Content Standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

THE CHILD

- To recognize the uniqueness of each child, working creatively to develop a plan to guide each child's progress
- To encourage development of a positive self-image
- To help children develop their physical, social, emotional, linguistic, aesthetic, and cognitive potentials
- To address all areas of the child's development when engaging in activities with the child
- To encourage every child to learn through instructional methods that include a variety of approaches

THE CURRICULUM

- To implement a curriculum that is consistent with it's learning goals for children.
- To promote learning and development in each of the following areas: social, emotional, physical, language and cognition.
- To maximize children's learning and development by using planned activities, daily schedules and routines, and targeted materials.

THE ENVIRONMENT

- To take advantage of learning opportunities within activities of daily living and play in the child's environments
- To provide a secure environment that encourages creative exploration and independence, optimizing the child's experiences of success
- To provide an environment where individual differences are respected and appreciated
- To integrate children with varying abilities
- To provide developmentally appropriate activities for children
- To engage children in active rather than passive learning

THE PARENTS AND FAMILIES

- To recognize parents as children's primary teachers
- To involve children's families in the program and to make resources available to them
- To review children's progress in the program and report to parents at mid-year and year-end
- To support children and families in making the transition from preschool to school-age programs

STANDARDS, CURRICULUM, SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

Preschool Early Learning and Development Standards

The program implements a written, research based, comprehensive curriculum aligned with the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards. Teachers plan intentional and purposeful activities and experiences for all hours of instructional time that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of children across all developmental domains. Teachers support children's active engagement through opportunities for exploration and learning.

Screening

The program ensures that all children receive a comprehensive developmental screening that is valid and reliable within 60 days of entry into the program and annually thereafter. Necessary referrals are completed within 90 days of identification of need. The results are formally communicated with families through a parent/teacher conference, face to face meeting, or phone conference.

All children with special needs have participated in a multi-factored evaluation to determine eligibility for preschool special education services. All students with special needs receive the support and services per the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Assessment

Ongoing/Informal Assessments:

Teachers use a variety of informal assessment processes throughout the school year for all students. Ongoing assessment is the process of gathering information in the context of everyday class activities to obtain a representative snapshot of a student's abilities and progress. Standardized assessments measure a child's performance against a set of criteria or performance standards to guide instruction and curricular decisions.

Teachers use information from daily interactions, observations, and curriculum-based assessment to complete state required assessments: the Early Learning Assessment (ELA) and Ohio's Child Outcomes Summary (COS).

Progress Reports

Parents receive formal progress reports about their child every 18 weeks. Data is collected weekly regarding the child's progress on IEP goals and objectives. All students receive two progress reports that will be provided electronically or in paper form at the end of each semester. Parents of all students are offered the opportunity for Parent Teacher Conferences two times a year in the fall and spring.

SCHEDULE — WHAT WILL MY CHILD DO AT SCHOOL?

A. Calendar/Snow Days
   1. The preschool calendar will follow each school district's calendar except for preschool staff development days. In addition, there will be several annual family involvement opportunities scheduled.
   2. If your school district cancels school due to inclement weather or if you feel the road conditions are hazardous, your child should not report for class. Visit the school district's website or listen to WHBC 94.1 FM or 1480 AM for school closings. If the school district announces a delay in their starting time, preschool a.m. classes will be cancelled.

B. Arrival/Departure — Transportation
   1. Whether or not the child is provided transportation by the school district depends upon the busing policy of the school district.
      a. Stark County Integrated Preschool Program (SCIP) — Transportation is arranged and/or coordinated by the local school district as part of the program in most of our districts.
      b. Early Childhood Education Program (ECE) — The parents are requested to provide transportation to and from the program. Parents should bear in mind that teachers have schedules to maintain and preparations to be accomplished for the next class. **If providing transportation, it is essential that child be picked up ON TIME since child care service is not available.**
      c. SPEAK Program - transportation is arranged and/or coordinated by the local school district as part of the program.

C. Child Safety
   1. Children will be with adults at all times.
   2. Under no circumstances will a child be released to anyone not known to the school without authorization from parent or guardian. Identification, e.g. a driver's license, is required when a new person picks up a child.
   3. A teacher and/or teacher assistant will escort the children to and from the bus.
   4. Fire drills will be held monthly in coordination with the individual school district. Tornado drills will be held during tornado season. A record of all the fire and tornado drills will be maintained in the school office. School safety drills must be conducted three times a year.
   5. Each preschool staff member will be aware of the location of each student's file and of procedures to follow in the event of illness, injury, or emergencies such as fire and weather alerts.
   6. There will be immediate access at all times to a working telephone within the building.
   7. Procedures for fire and emergency exiting are posted in the classroom.
   8. A class roster of children and parents are on file and available upon request. These rosters include only families who have opted to be on the list.

D. School Hours

   School hours vary according to the individual location. The classes are scheduled in the morning or in the afternoon and are approximately 3 hours in length. Specific preschool hours are stated at the bottom of the yearly school calendar.

E. Nutrition
   1. Families may provide a treat or non-food item on a child's birthday (please refer to acceptable food list). Please coordinate this with your child's teacher.
   2. Notify the teacher of any allergies and treatment of these allergies. A form is available for completion and in some cases a doctor's statement must be provided to verify food allergies.

SCHEDULE (continued)

F. Daily Schedule
1. Included is an overview of the preschool daily schedule. The individual program schedule varies according to each teacher's classroom schedule. A daily schedule is posted in each classroom.
2. The preschool day consists of:

circle time	free play	snack
restroom break	gross motor activities	music and movement
clean-up	story time	

student-directed activities may include centers such as:

dramatic play center	block center	writing center
discovery center	art center	science center
family life center	sand/water center	table toys center
computer center	reading center	

3. The activities are a reflection of the preschool philosophy and goals.

G. What Children May Bring
1. Children may always bring science items to show to the class: bird's nest, flowers, rocks, leaves, shells, worms, bugs, and so forth. They may also bring vacation brochures and/or pictures, and other things of educational value. Note: In some classes, there are set days for "sharing."
2. Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school, as missing pieces, breakage, and sharing cause problems. There are sufficient toys at the school to provide stimulating creative play.

"GEE, ALL THOSE KIDS DO IS PLAY"

Yes, children in our early childhood program do play a lot . . . 50 to 90 minutes per session. During this time a lot is going on. They are:

- meeting friends
- playing with toys
- exploring how things work
- looking at books
- listening to music
- sharing
- pouring and measuring
- having different experiences in a mostly-child group situation vs. a mostly-adult situation
- developing and expanding their language abilities
- having creative art experiences
- having cooperative play experiences
- learning to share the adults' attention
- learning social skills needed to play games and make friends
- building with materials that may not be available at home
- using "messy" art materials in a space provided for experimentation
- becoming independent
- comparing and contrasting different materials
- learning from other children about appropriate behavior
- participating in indoor/outdoor gross motor activities

<u>So you see, what looks like play is really hard work!</u>

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT/DISCIPLINE

A. Our goal as adults is to help children learn to live successfully with classmates, family members, adults and others. To achieve this, we encourage children to develop self-control and be responsible for their own actions. A preschool staff member in charge of a child or a group of children shall be responsible for their discipline. Constructive, developmentally appropriate child guidance and management techniques are to be used at all times and shall include such measures as redirection, separation from problem situations, talking with the child about the situation, and recognition for appropriate behavior.

B. Behavior management/discipline policies and procedures shall ensure the safety, physical, and emotional well-being of all individuals on the premises. The center's actual methods of discipline shall apply to all persons on the premises and shall be restricted as follows:
   1. There shall be no cruel, harsh, corporal punishment or any unusual punishments such as, but not limited to, punching, pinching, spanking, or biting.
   2. No discipline shall be delegated to any other child.
   3. No physical restraints shall be used to confine a child by any means other than holding a child for a short period of time, such as in a protective hug, so the child may regain control.
   4. No child shall be placed in a locked room or confined in an enclosed area such as a closet, a box, or a similar cubicle.
   5. No child shall be subjected to profane language, threats, and derogatory remarks about himself or his family, or other verbal abuse.
   6. Discipline shall not be imposed on a child for failure to eat, failure to sleep, or for toileting accidents.
   7. Techniques of discipline shall not humiliate, shame, or frighten a child.
   8. Discipline shall not include withholding food, rest, or toilet use.
   9. Separation, when used as a discipline, shall be brief in duration and appropriate to the child's age and developmental ability, and the child shall be within sight and hearing of a preschool staff member in a safe, lighted, and well-ventilated space.
   10. The staff shall not abuse or neglect children and shall protect children from abuse and neglect while in attendance in the preschool program.

C. The parent of a child enrolled in our program, upon receiving this handbook, is receiving official notification of the program's behavior management procedures.

D. Bus Behavior
   Children are required to follow their local school district policy on bus behavior. Stated below are a few of the basic bus rules:
   1. Children must wait for the bus in a location clear of traffic and away from bus stops.
   2. Children should go directly to assigned seats.
   3. Children need to remain seated to keep aisles and exits clear.
   4. Children should observe appropriate conduct and obey the driver.
   5. Children must not throw or pass objects into, on, or from the bus.
   6. Children may carry on the bus only objects that are safe and can be held in their laps. In addition, the following rules apply to parents, legal guardians, etc.:
   7. An adult is required to accompany the child to the bus stop and remain with him/her until the child boards the bus.
   8. An adult is required to meet the child at the bus stop when the child exits the bus at the end of the school day.

Re: Ohio Revised Code 3301-37-10/Board Adopted June 2006

HEALTH AND SAFETY

A. School Health Tips

Health is high on the list of priorities for most people. We would like to call your attention to some do's and don'ts that we believe will help your child be a happier and healthier person at school.

1. DO send your child to school with:
   a. a smile on his/her face
   b. a hug from you
   c. appropriate clothing for the weather and any forecasted changes
   d. enough sleep so that he/she is eager to get up and get the day started
2. A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness will be immediately isolated and discharged to his/her parent or guardian:
   a. diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool within a 24-hour period)
   b. severe coughing, causing child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound
   c. difficult rapid breathing
   d. yellowish skin or eyes
   e. conjunctivitis
   f. temperature of 100 degrees fahrenheit or above (taken by the auxiliary method when in combination with other signs of illness)
   g. untreated infected skin patch(es)
   h. unusually dark urine and/or grey or white stool
   i. stiff neck
   j. vomiting
   k. evidence of lice, scabies or other parasitic infestation.
3. A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be isolated immediately from other children. Decisions regarding whether the child should be discharged immediately or at some other time of day shall be determined by the director and the parent/guardian. The child, while isolated at the program, shall be watched carefully for symptoms listed in Paragraph 2 of this rule as well as the following:
   a. unusual spots or rashes
   b. sore throat or difficulty in swallowing
   c. elevated temperature; or
   d. vomiting

B. Illness and Medical/Dental Emergency Procedures

1. A child is considered to be mildly ill when he/she does not feel well enough to participate in preschool activities, but does not have symptoms that may be indicative of a communicable disease. When your child appears mildly ill and unable to participate fully in preschool, we will call to inform you of the child's condition giving you the option to pick up your child.
2. There is a suitable place in each building provided for student emergency care, which may be needed due to illness or injury while the student is at school and where students wait while parents are being contacted.
3. There is a preschool staff member available at all times trained in first aid, CPR, communicable disease, and child abuse.
4. In case of severe emergency, the following steps will be followed:
   a. provide immediate necessary first aid
   b. contact 911, if necessary
   c. contact parents
   d. follow procedure indicated on child's application
5. Medical and dental emergency procedures are posted in each classroom and by each telephone. They will be made available to school personnel, children, and parents.

C. Communicable Disease

1. The following diseases are classified by the Ohio Department of Health as “communicable” and the child needs to be excluded from school according to the following recommendations.

Disease	Incubation Period	Duration of Absence from School	Isolation Period
Chicken Pox	2-3 weeks; usually 13-17 days	Approximately 7-14 days (depending on onset of chicken pox)	**The child can return to school when crusts have formed and are dry.**
Common Cold	12-72 hours; usually 24 hours	Approximately 1-3 days	**The child can return to school when symptoms are gone (irritated throat, watery discharge from nose and eyes, sneezing, chilliness, and general body discomfort).**
Corona Virus	2-14 days	5 days - Regardless of symptoms or vaccination status.	**The child can return to school if fever and symptom free for 24 hours. Must wear a mask for five additional days.**
Flu	1-4 days	Approximately 1-5 days	**The child can return to school when symptoms are gone (fever, chills, headache and sore muscles, runny nose, sore throat, and cough are common).**
**German Measles (Rubella)	14-21 days; usually 16-18 days	At least 7 days after the onset of the rash	**The child can return to school 7 days after the onset of symptoms (mainly skin rash and fever).**
Hepatitis A (Infectious)	10-50 days; average 25-30 days	Until released by physician	**The child can return to school when released by physician.**
Hepatitis B (Serum)	45-160 days; average 60-90 days	Until released by physician	**The child can return to school when released by physician.**
Impetigo	2-5 days; occasionally longer	24 hours after antibiotic treatment is started and there is no longer a discharge	**24 hours after antibiotic treatment is started.**
Head Lice (Pediculosis)	The eggs of lice may hatch in one week and sexual maturity is reached in approximately two weeks	Until after treatment with an effective pediculicide.	**The child can return to school when the head is nit-free.**
**Measles (Rubeola)	8-13 days; usually 10 days	At least 4 days after the rash appears	**The child can return to school 4 days after the rash appeared.**
Meningitis (Bacterial)	1-7 days	Until released by physician	**The child can return to school when released by physician.**

C. Communicable Disease (continued)

Disease	Incubation Period	Duration of Absence from School	Isolation Period
Meningitis (Aseptic-Viral)	72 hours - 3 weeks	Until released by physician	**The child can return to school when released by physician.**
Mononucleos	2-8 weeks	Until released by physician	**The child can return to school when released by physician.**
**Mumps	12-26 days; commonly 18 days	At least 9 days after swelling occurs	**The child can return to school 9 days after swelling occurs.**
Pink Eye	Eyes are red with water or thick discharge, matted eyelashes, burning and itching.	Child needs to see a doctor	**Until discharge stops and/or child is seen by doctor.**
Ringworm (scalp, skin, feet)	Unknown	Exclusion from school is necessary for ringworm of the scalp and skin until 24 hours of treatment has been completed	**The child can return to school after 24 hours of treatment has been completed.**
Scabies	First infestation is 4-6 weeks; re-infestation symptoms may occur in a few days	Exclusion from school until 24 hours after treatment has been completed	**The child can return to school 24 hours after treatment has been completed.**
Scarlet Fever & Strep Throat (Streptococcal)	1-3 days, but may be longer	Exclusion from school until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment is started	**The child can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment is started.**
**Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	7-21 days; usually 10 days	5-7 days after treatment is started	**The child can return to school 5-7 days after treatment is started.**
Croup	2-7 days	Exclusion from school until severe symptoms are gone.	**The child can return to school when severe symptoms are gone.**
Diarrheal Disease	Variable	Exclusion from school until diarrhea is gone.	**The child can return to school when diarrhea is gone.**
Fifth Disease	4-14 days	Until released by the physician.	**The child can return to school when released by physician.**
Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease	3-6 days	Until sores are scabbed over and release by the physician.	**The child can return to school when released by physician.**

** Immunization is required by law for entrance into school.

C. Communicable Disease (continued)

2. The communicable disease chart shall be posted in each classroom.
3. Students infected with the AIDS virus follow Stark County Educational Service Center's Board Policy JHCCA (adopted by Board 4/91).
4. The following procedures will be followed:
   - If a child becomes ill or is injured during the day or is suspected of having a communicable disease, he/she will be isolated from the other children and made as comfortable as possible while the parents are being contacted.
   - The child will be attended to by an adult until the parent or responsible person is contacted by telephone and arrives to take the child home.
   - A child will be readmitted to preschool under the following conditions:
     a. Child's temperature has returned to normal for a 24 hour period.
     b. Child is free of any contagious skin rash.
     c. No vomiting or diarrhea for a 24 hour period.
   - Please notify the school if your child is absent with a communicable disease so we may alert other parents.
   - Parents will be notified by telephone or in writing if their child is exposed to a communicable disease, such as chicken pox, at preschool.

D. The program shall notify parents when a child is injured and maintain a log of injury reports.

E. Child Abuse
In accordance wiith Ohio Revised Code 2151.421 and subsequent amendments, any case of suspected child abuse or neglect will be "immediately" reported to the Stark County Deparment of Human Services.

F. Medication Policy (Refer to Stark County Board of Education Policy JHCD; adopted 6/91.)
Many students are able to attend school regularly only through effective use of medication in the treatment of disabilities or illnesses that do not hinder the health or welfare of others.

1. If possible, all medication should be given by the parent at home.
2. If medication must be given at preschool, a parent must complete our MEDICATION FORM and hand it directly to the child's teacher.
3. There are several steps to follow if your child is taking a prescribed medication:
   a. The parent must write a note to the teacher requesting that the teacher comply with the physician's order.
   b. The teacher or appropriate person will secure, store, and dispense the medication. The prescribed medication must be in the original container.
   c. The teacher must receive and retain a statement signed by the physician who prescribed the medication.
4. Parent permission is needed for the application of topical products and lotion and is to be applied according to the manufacturer's instructons.

G. Clothes We Wear To School

1. Washables are best, since a lot of messy "projects" are done at school. Underclothes should be simple and easy to adjust. Clothes should be simple, washable, sturdy, not too tight, safe, and easy to manage.
2. Buttons and zippers should allow for independence in toilet and dressing habits. (Try to avoid belts and suspenders.) Boots should be easy to manage. They should be large enough so the child can put them on without help.
4. To prevent the loss of clothing, sew the child's name into his/her, coat, hat, mittens, etc. A laundry marker can also be used.
5. Book bags should be 13" by 15" or larger to accommodate all papers and supplies. Canvas, denim, or any durable cloth is best. Your child should bring his/her bookbag every day.

H. Immunization Information

In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, Sections 3313.671 and 3701.13, all school districts must be provided with complete immunization information for each child upon entrance into the school district. These immunizations must be kept up to date, administered in a timely manner, according to your family physician's or health clinic's instructions, until the series has been completed. Upon entrance to preschool, a medical form signed by your family physician or health clinic will document the following immunization requirements:

DTP	4 doses
Polio	3 doses
Measles, Mumps, Rubella -- usually combined as MMR	1 dose
HIB	1 dose

The 5th DTP and 4th Polio are normally administered just prior to Kindergarten.

I. Health Screenings

In accordance with Ohio Department of Health requirements and guidelines, school staff conduct periodic health screenings to detect abnormalities in hearing and vision. Health screenings may also be conducted when a concern arises. Screening permission is included in the enrollment packet. Parents may opt out by checking the **I do not give permission** box.

Blood Pressure

Your child should have blood pressure measurements regularly, staring around 3 years of age. High blood pressure in children needs medical attention. It may be a sign of underlying disease. If not treated, it may lead to serious illness. Check with your child's physician about blood pressure measurements.

Lead

Lead can harm your child, slowing physical and mental growth and damaging many parts of the body. The most common way children get lead poisoning is by being around old house paint that is chipping or peeling. Some authorities recommend lead tests at 1 and 2 years of age. If you can answer "yes" to any of the questions below, your child may need lead tests earlier and more often than other children. Has your child:

- Lived in or regularly visited a house built before 1950? (This could include a day care center, preschool, the home of a babysitter or relative, etc.).
- Lived in or regularly visited a house built before 1978 (the year lead-based paint was banned for residential use) with recent, ongoing, or planned renovation or remodeling?
- Had a brother or sister, housemate, or playmate followed or treated for lead poisoning?

Vision and Hearing

Your child's vision should be tested before starting school, at about 3 or 4 years of age. Your child may need vision tests as he or she grows. Some authorities recommend hearing testing beginning at 3 to 4 years of age. If at any age your child has any of the vision or hearing warning signs listed below, be sure to talk with your health care provider.

Vision Warning Signs

- Eyes turning inward (crossing) or outward
- Squinting
- Headaches
- Not doing as well in school work as before
- Blurred or double vision

Hearing Warning Signs

- Poor response to noise or voice
- Slow language and speech development
- Abnormal sounding speech

Special Warning: Listening to very loud music, especially with earphones, can permanently damage your child's hearing.

Additional Test

Your child may need other tests to prevent health problems. Some common tests are:

- Anemia (Blood) Test - Anemia is having less than the normal number of red blood cells or less hemoglobin than normal in the blood. Your child may need to be tested for anemia when he or she is still a baby (usually around the first birthday). Children may need this test as they get older.
- Cholesterol (Blood) Test - Children (2 years and older) may need this test especially if they have a parent with high cholesterol or a parent or grandparent with heart disease before age 55. If a family history is not available, testing may be needed if your child is obese or has high blood pressure.
- Tuberculosis (TB) Skin Test - Children may need this test if they have had close contact with a person who has TB, live in an area where TB is more common than average (such as a Native American reservation, a homeless shelter or an institution) or have recently moved from Asia, Africa, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, or the Pacific Islands. *Last Editorial Review 10/3/2005*

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The program provides opportunities for all families to engage in program activities annually. Parents are permitted access to the classroom during operational hours. Parents must notify the classroom teacher prior to their visit. Parents should report to the school office and sign in upon entering the school building. A visitor badge may be required per individual site requirements.

TRANSITIONS:

New Student Transition

Children entering the preschool program have an opportunity to visit the classroom with their parents prior to enrollment. The classroom teacher will meet with the family to orient them to the enrollment process and particular information relating to the program operations, schedule, health requirements, the child's developmental history, the ASQ-SE, daily routines, parent involvement and the learning environment. During the summer teachers send out a letter to welcome them to preschool. Parent orientation and holding an open house or pre-enrollment visit for families and children help prepare them for the school experience. Teachers contact new families shortly after enrollment to inquire how their child is doing.

Transition from One Classroom to Another

Children who transition within the program receive information from the new teacher in conjunction with the previous teacher. Information will be shared regarding the child's growth and development, classroom expectations, schedules and procedures. A meeting will be held with the new teacher and family to welcome the child to their new classroom. An opportunity for the transitioning child to spend time in the new classroom prior to moving may be provided.

Transition Out of the Program

Children who transition out of the program will provide a current progress report, educational records, student portfolio or work samples, transition skills checklist and the most current ETR/IEP with the future program. Transition meetings with the parents and team are held as each child transitions out of the program. The staff will celebrate each child's accomplishments and successes by supporting them as they move on to the next program. If transitioning to kindergarten, preschool students may be invited to visit a kindergarten classroom, tour the building, and meet the kindergarten teachers. The school may also invite the children and their families to school activities such as holiday programs, plays, concerts or assemblies. Kindergarten registration/screening dates are shared to encourage participation.

PARENT CONCERNS

The Stark County Educational Service Center declares it to be the policy of this agency to provide an equal opportunity for all students, regardless of race, color, disability, religion, sex, ancestry, age, economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered or any program or activity sponsored or conducted by this agency. Any person who believes that the agency or any staff person has discriminated against a student has the right to file a complaint. A formal complaint can be made in writing to Stark County Educational Service Center to the attention of Ryan Murphy at: Stark County ESC • 6057 Strip Ave NW, North Canton OH 44720, or phone (330) 492-8136.

The complaint will be investigated and a response will be given to the concerned person within five working days. The Early Childhood Director can provide additional information concerning access to equal education opportunity. Under no circumstances will the Stark County Educational Service Center threaten or retaliate against anyone who raises or files a complaint.

All complaints and reports concerning the operation of the preschool program may be reported to the Department Ombudsman at the Office of Early Learning and School Readiness at (614) 466-0224. Parents may also receive copies of inspection reports of the program from their child's classroom teacher or from Stark County Educational Service Center's Early Childhood Department at (330) 492-8136.

RESOURCES

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

NICHCY
National Information Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities
P. O. Box 1492
Washington, D.C. 20013
1-800-695-0285 or (202) 884-8200

NORD
National Organization for Rare Disorders
P. O. Box 8923
100 Rt. 37
New Fairfield, CT 06812-8923
1-800-999-6673

STATE AGENCIES

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)
470 Glenmont Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43214
(614) 410-0321

Department of Children & Youth
246 North High St, 8th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183
info@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov
(614) 995-9974

Ohio Department of Education
The Division of Special Education
933 High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085
(614) 752-1462

Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention
PO Box 118,
246 N. High St
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0118
(614) 644-8389

Ohio Department of Human Services
30 East Broad St
Columbus, Ohio 43215
1-877-644-6562

Ohio Department of Mental Health
30 East Broad St
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-2596

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
1810 Sullivant Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43223-1239
(614) 466-5214

FEDERALLY FUNDED PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD)
Bank One Building
165 W. Center Street - Suite 302
Marion, Ohio 43302-3741
(740) 382-5452 or 1-800-374-2806 (parents only)

OCECD provides information, training and assistance to parents of children with disabilities throughout Ohio. OCEDC has a network of Family Resource Centers, located throughout Ohio, that provide free support, training, and information services to Ohio's families of children with special needs.

STATE PROJECTS

Family Information Network (FIN)
A statewide parent-to-parent network that provides information, support, and education for families of infants and young children who have developmental delays or disabilities.
Contact: The Family Information Network at the Department of Health for the FIN Consultant in your region, (330) 633-2055.

Parent Mentor Project
A project supported by the Ohio Department of Education in which selected school districts have a parent(s) available to serve as a liaison between families and the schools.
Contact: The Ohio Department of Education or your local SST, (330) 492-8136, for the parent mentors in your region.

REGIONAL

State Support Team, Region 9 (SST)
6057 Strip Ave NW
North Canton OH 44720
(330) 492-8136

LOCAL

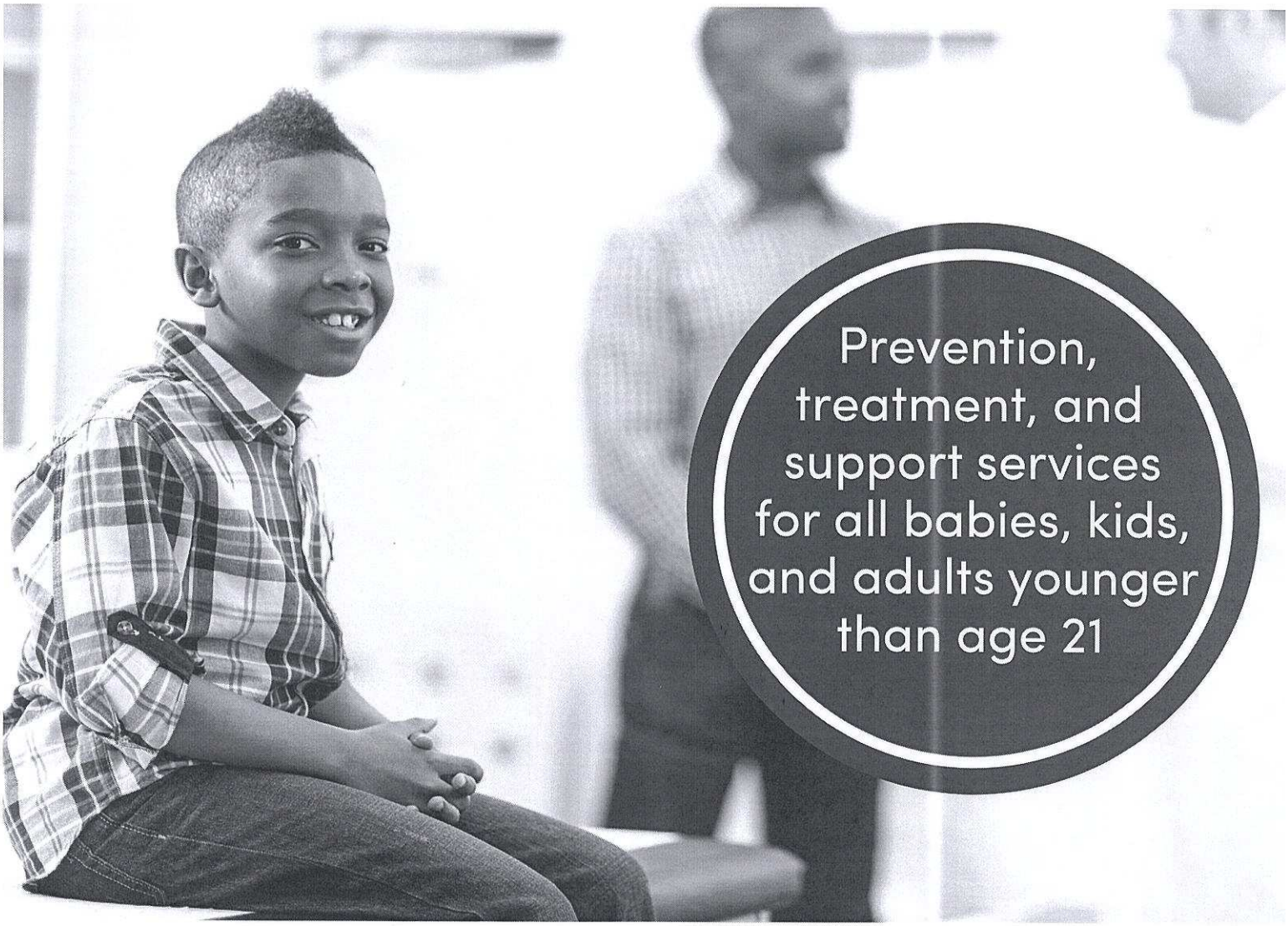
Information and Referral
Call: 211 or 330-491-9997
Centro San Jose: 330-454-2220

This Early Childhood Program is licensed by the Ohio Department of Education. Teachers are available to discuss any concerns you may have as a parent.

If you have questions or complaints regarding the Early Childhood Program, please call: Stark County ESC Early Childhood Department @ (330) 492-8136.

If you have concerns regarding the classroom environment, teacher qualifications, health and safety conditions, the number of children, care of the children, or similar matters please call: ODE @ (614) 466-0224 or toll free (877) 644-6338 ask for Preschool Program Licensing.

If your child has an IEP and you have concerns regarding your parental rights or your child's program, please call: (614) 466-0224 or toll free (877) 644-6338 ask for Office of Early Learning and School Readiness.



Healthchek

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services

- Well-child exams
- Vaccinations
- Lead testing
- Vision, dental, and hearing exams
- Developmental and mental health screenings
- Follow-up services
- Support services like transportation and referrals to other social services
- and more!

Call:

Your county Healthchek Coordinator

Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline

(800) 324-8680

Go online:

medicaid.ohio.gov/healthchek

Ohio | Department of Medicaid

Healthchek Services Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1. What is Healthchek?

Answer 1. Healthchek is Ohio Medicaid's child health benefit for children under age 21. The Federal name for this benefit is Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment services, or EPSDT. The purpose of Healthchek is to find and treat health problems early, so your child can have the best health and development possible. Healthchek is free and covers Healthchek exam (well child check-ups), hearing, vision and dental screenings to diagnose any health problems your child might have. It also covers medical and dental treatments and equipment that may be determined as medically necessary.

Question 2. Is Healthchek different from Medicaid?

Answer 2. No. Healthchek is the children's health component of Medicaid for children under age 21.
Under Healthchek, your child can receive medically necessary services or equipment that would be covered by federal Medicaid whether or not the service is covered by Ohio's Medicaid plan for adults. Also, your child can get more of a certain service than would be provided to adults. For example, a child could get more physical therapy than an adult would get if the added therapy is medically necessary for the child. Children also can get more dental care than adults.

Question 3. Do I have to fill out an extra application for my child to receive Healthchek services?

Answer 3. No. Once your child is enrolled in Ohio Medicaid, he or she can receive Healthchek services. Ask the Healthchek Coordinator at your County Department of Job and Family Services' (CDJFS) for more information about Healthchek services. A list of county Healthchek Coordinators can be found at:
http://medicaid.ohio.gov/Portals/0/For%20Ohioans/Programs/countycoordinators.pdf

Question 4. How many Healthchek exams are covered?

Answer 4. Healthchek covers 13 check-ups throughout the first three years of life, then one check-up each year until the age of 21. It is important to take your child to all of the covered check-ups to ensure your child's health and normal development. If a health problem is found, more exams and services are covered when necessary to diagnose and treat the problem.

Question 5. What happens during a Healthchek exam?

Answer 5. Healthchek screenings (exams) are complete physical examinations that include:
- Medical history
- Complete unclothed exam (with parent approval)
- Developmental screening (to see if your child's physical and mental abilities are as expected for his or her age)

Question 7. What happens if a health problem is found?

Answer 7. Your child's doctor can treat the problem or can make a referral to a specialist for further evaluation and treatment. Any Medicaid provider can find a problem, make a referral or provide treatment. This includes: doctors, nurses, dentists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists and other health care professionals.

Question 8. What does medically necessary (medical necessity) mean?
Answer 8. Medical necessity for individuals covered by early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) is defined as procedures, items, or services that prevent, diagnose, evaluate, correct, ameliorate, or treat an adverse health condition such as an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, emotional or behavioral dysfunction, intellectual deficit, cognitive impairment, or developmental disability.

Question 9. What should I do if the doctor says my child needs a medically necessary service that has to be approved by Medicaid or my child's managed care plan?

Answer 9. If you are enrolled in a Medicaid managed care plan, your provider should contact the plan's prior authorization department and make the request. Each plan has its own process for approving requests for services. If you are not enrolled in a Medicaid managed care plan, your Medicaid providers can make a request for the service. Your health care professional will submit all the necessary supporting paperwork (example: treatment plans, progress notes, assessments), asking that the requested service receive prior authorization for coverage.

Question 10. What if a request for approval by Medicaid or my child's managed care plan is denied?

Answer 10. You will receive notification by mail if the service your doctor recommends is denied by Medicaid. If you disagree with the denial, you may ask for a hearing. You must ask for a hearing within 90 days from the date of the notice. This document should tell you exactly how to ask for the hearing. A hearing will be scheduled, and a hearing officer will listen to you and Ohio Medicaid, then will decide whether or not the denial was correct.

If your child is enrolled in a managed care plan, you can find information about your plans process on their website by searching for "appeal" or by calling their member services department for assistance.

Managed Care Plan	Website	Member Services
Buckeye Health Plan	https://www.buckeyehealthplan.com	1-866-246-4358
Caresource	https://www.caresource.com	1-800-488-0134
Molina Healthcare	http://www.molinahealthcare.com	1-866-449-6849
Paramount Healthcare	http://www.paramounthealthcare.com	1-800-462-3589
United HealthCare	https://www.uhc.com	1-877-542-9236

Call: 2-1-1
Visit: *211stark.org*
Text: your zip code to *898-211*

211 is a vital service used by many people every year. Individuals contact 211 to access free and confidential referrals on food, health care and other resources.

United Way's 2-1-1 Help Center provides free and confidential 24-hour access to a trained professional who will review your options for help.

No matter the situation, the specialists at 211 listen, identify underlying problems and connect people in need with community resources and services that improve their lives. In 2019 alone, 211 in Stark and Carroll Counties answered almost **20,000** calls, texts, and emails, helping thousands of people with life-changing support. There is no other network in the country that has a similar pulse on community needs.

211 is free, accessible 24/7/365, and completely confidential.

2-1-1 is not available on all cell phones. Call 330-491-4997 if you cannot connect to 2-1-1. 211@unitedstark.org | www.211stark.org

2-1-1

United Way

United Way
of Greater Stark County

GET CONNECTED. GET HELP.

211 can be used to access local community social service needs for the following emergencies: rent, food, utilities, taxes, transportation, low cost medical, prescriptions, financial tips, predatory lending, job search and skills!

How we help

Donations and volunteering: Opportunities for individuals to volunteer time or provide goods and materials to community agencies.

Education, recreation and the arts: Services and programs that help people gain access to education, sports and other cultural and artistic pursuits.

Employment and income support: Resources to assist with finding, obtaining and maintaining employment, as well as services related to household income such as government benefits, welfare programs, and other general financial aid.

Family support and parenting: Resources for those seeking parenting or care giving assistance, or other supports for the day-to-day care and safety of family members.

Food, clothing and household items: Services that provide access to food, clothing, diapers and other basic household items.

Health care: Resources to help people achieve and maintain physical well-being and health.

Mental health and counseling: Resources to help people maintain mental and emotional wellness.

Municipal and community services: Local, state and federal government offices and non-government services targeted at improving entire communities.

Substance abuse and other addictions: Resources for those who are engaged in addictive behaviors who are seeking help for their disease, or for those looking for assistance who have loved ones who are in active addiction or recovery.

COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL AND FREE
ACCESSIBLE 24/7/365 BY PHONE
AND ONLINE AT 211STARK.ORG

211 sponsored by

AULTMAN

United Way of Greater Stark County

2-1-1

Get Connected. Get Answers.

AULTMAN

CARROLL COUNTY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

Emergency Assistance is available to Carroll County residents through funding provided by Aultman Hospital. Clients may call 2-1-1 to determine eligibility. 2-1-1 services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Eligible clients will be scheduled for an appointment with an Information & Referral Specialist on Thursdays at the Carroll County Department of Job and Family Services.

Carroll County Emergency Assistance Guidelines:

- Must reside within Carroll County
- Must be at or below 300% FPL
- Must have valid photo ID and provide SS number for all household members (only last four digits will be recorded)
- Must provide proof of household income for the past thirty days
- Assistance may be provided once every twelve months for rent/mortgage and once every twelve months for utility assistance; however, in extremely rare circumstances, additional requests are reviewed and considered for assistance
- Client must have a $0 balance after they receive UW assistance
- No reconnect or late fees will be paid with UW funding
- Individuals and families receiving assistance must demonstrate financial stability following United Way assistance. Stabilization may be the result of increased income, case manager budget suggestions, referrals, advocacy or the resolution of a temporary financial crisis.

The following assistance will be considered:

Rent assistance

- Must have a past-due notice, an eviction notice or newly signed lease for first month's rent
- Limit of $500 OR one month's rent, whichever is less
- Rent not to exceed 50% of family's gross income

Mortgage assistance

- Must have a past-due notice from lender
- Limit of $500 OR one monthly payment, whichever is less
- Mortgage not to exceed 50% of family's gross income

Utility assistance

- Propane or other heating oil with 25% or less in tank, up to $500
- Coal or firewood up to $500
- Gas and electric must have a disconnect notice or be disconnected, up to $300
  - Must have applied for HEAP and/or PIPP Plus, if eligible
  - During the HEAP winter crisis program exceptions included
    - Households with an individual over the age of 55 and/or disabled and/or those with a medical need
    - Households with child(ren) under the age of 5
- Water must have a disconnect notice or be disconnected,