Six *to* Six
MAGNET SCHOOL
A COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SCHOOL

Preschool Addendum

Updated: August 2025

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"It is the policy of C.E.S. that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against under any service or program on account of race, color, religious creed, age, marital or civil union status, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, residence, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation, learning disability or physical disability including, but not limited to, blindness, or pregnancy and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding C.E.S. nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Associate Executive Director's office, C.E.S., 40 Lindeman Dr., Trumbull, CT 06611, (203) 365-8831."

The policies in this manual are in no way intended to violate any statutory obligations on the part of Six to Six Interdistrict Magnet School or C.E.S. Where a policy conflicts with a law of the State of CT or the U.S.A., said law shall be controlling.

Preschool Addendum

Preschool Curriculum and Assessment

Preschool children learn through play as they actively explore materials and activities and interact with children and adults. The purpose of preschool is to provide your child with an opportunity to practice being part of a larger group of children in an environment focused on providing learning opportunities. For young children, learning how to be comfortable away from family, learning how to get along with other children, and learning how to get what they need is a major part of the preschool experience. Teachers help children express their feelings and ideas through words. Positive peer conflict resolution is introduced in the preschool and carried out through the grades. Classrooms are set up with various learning centers (art, dramatic play, blocks, etc.) Children move freely from one center to another during choice or activity time. During meeting (whole group time) children learn to be part of a group, teachers introduce activities, read stories, teach songs, reinforce basic concepts, etc.

The Connecticut Early Learning Developmental Standards (CT ELDS) were designed by the state to ensure that children enter kindergarten with the behaviors and skills most important to be successful learners in the areas of Cognition, Social and Emotional, Physical Development and Health, Language and Literacy, Creative, Math, Science and Social Studies.

<u>Sample Daily Schedule</u>

The following is an example of what a day in the preschool might look like. Please note that times will vary from class to class.

8:15	Breakfast in the classroom/Bathroom time/Morning routines
8:45-12:30	Core instructional day begins
	Morning meeting
	Work/Activity time:
	Small groups: Heggerty Phonological Awareness Program
	Guided choices
	Snack
	Specials (Spanish, Music, Physical Education)
	Recess
	Read Aloud
	Lunch
12:30	Bathroom and Transition to nap
1:00	Naptime
2:15	Wake up/Afternoon Routines/Transition to home
2:45	Core day ends/Dismissal/Transition to Afterschool Program

*Please be aware that the bathroom is open and available to your child at all times during the day.

Program Tuition

When a family enrolls in our preschool program, a contract is generated stipulating payment arrangements. The yearly tuition for the Six to Six Interdistrict Magnet School Preschool Program is $2,351.00. The initial credit/debit/e check payment of $76.00 is due with this contract (This includes the $25.00 annual preschool snack fee.) By submitting this contract, parents agree to pay Cooperative Educational Services (CES) through the online parent portal. **Monthly payments of $230 are due every month for 10 months beginning on September 1st, 2025 and ending on June 1, 2026.** A late fee of $15 will be charged if payment is not received by the due date of the 1st.

If families are delinquent in any payments due to CES the child may be dismissed from the program. No credit will be issued for days the child is absent from school for whatever reason and/or days missed due to inclement weather or any other emergency.

Care4Kids child care assistance is accepted. It is essential that families make payments in a timely fashion. Individual contracts state that all payment must be made each Monday *without exception*. Also, if payments are more than two weeks delinquent, students will be exited from the program due to non-payment.

We are now using a Six to Six Payment Portal. This platform will be used to pay for all school fees including pre-k tuition, before, and after school tuitions, as well as field trip costs. Please keep in mind that automatic late fees will be added to your child's online account if fees are not paid on time.

Family Conferences and Assessment

We use the Connecticut Documentation and Observation for Teaching System (CT DOTS) as our primary assessment tool. This is a framework to guide early care and education providers in a process of monitoring children's progress on the skills, abilities, and behaviors in the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS). It is used for assessing both three and four year old students in the preschool classroom. The CT DOTS helps us to observe and monitor each child's progress related to our curriculum goals in the eight areas of development- cognition, social and emotional development, physical development and health, language and literacy, creative arts, mathematics, science, social studies. It is a tool that we use for curriculum planning and it is a means of sharing information with families.

Family conferences are scheduled twice during the year. These times provide an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher(s) to discuss his/her progress in the classroom. Child Profiles are based on CT DOTS. It is an expectation that family conferences will be attended and treated as an appointment that must be kept. If needed, notes will be taken on a conference form to keep track of what was discussed between families and the teacher. Virtual conferences are also an option if parents are unable to attend in person.

Medications and Health Care Guidelines

Teachers are not permitted to administer medication. Please contact our school nurse as needed:

- Patty McCarthy 203-365-8200 extension 8212. Email: Mccarthyp@cestrumbull.org

Please check the "illness" guidelines outlined in the school's handbook online in Section 4. It will advise you as to when your child needs to stay at home from school and absence notification procedures. Please alert us of any allergies.

You must provide a copy of your child's physical examination and immunization record, signed and dated by your child's physician. The physical must have occurred within the last year. Every year that your child is enrolled at Six to Six in preschool or kindergarten, a current physical and immunization record must be on file. Your child's health is confidential but is immediately made available upon request to: administrators and teaching staff who have consent from a parent or guardian to access the records, the child's parent or legal guardians, or regulatory authorities.

Food

Breakfast**:** Free breakfast is provided for all children if they would like to eat upon arrival in the classroom.

Snack: A daily morning snack is provided by the school. Children who are enrolled in afterschool will bring their own snacks for the afternoon. Information about before and after school will be coming soon to those who are enrolled.

Lunch: Lunch is free and we eat in the classroom. Please let us know if you would like your child to have school lunch so that we can keep an accurate count.

Lunch menus can be accessed by internet at the following address:
https://www.bridgeportedu.net/district-offices/nutrition-center/menu

Please check the lunch menu daily because on certain days you may want to pack a lunch if it is something you know your child will not eat. If you do choose to pack a lunch, please make sure your child's lunch box is **labeled with his/her name** and include an ice pack to keep food cold throughout the day. We do not microwave food in the classroom so if you pack a lunch that you'd like to stay warm we recommend using a thermos.

***Please remember that we are a peanut free preschool and we do have students with allergies enrolled in our preschool program. Carefully check package labels when you are sending in food for lunch.**

Please pack a labeled reusable water bottle each day with your child**.** We encourage children

to stay hydrated and we will refill them throughout the day as needed.

We are a NAEYC accredited preschool program and according to their guidelines the following foods cannot be served: peanuts; popcorn; raw peas and hard pretzels; chunks of raw carrots(cooked are acceptable); meat larger than can be swallowed whole. If you choose to pack hotdogs they must be cut lengthwise into small chewable pieces**.** Hot dogs that are whole or sliced into rounds cannot be served. If you choose to pack grapes they must be cut in half lengthwise.

Preschool Transition

Developmentally, it makes sense to gradually transition preschool aged students into a full day program. This allows children to have a gradual approach to new routines, new friends and new teachers in smaller settings. Please take note of the transition schedule for the current school year. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you to let you know which group (s) he is in. This schedule is for all preschoolers, including returning students. If a child is not in attendance during the first week of school, the transition schedule begins on the child's first day of school.

Since children need varying degrees of support from their families during the first weeks of school, teachers and families will work together to determine if a longer transition schedule is appropriate for individual children.

Toilet Learning

We understand that toilet learning is an important developmental milestone for young children and their families. We also understand that there are many factors that impact when and how children learn to use the toilet independently. Toilet learning is a skill, and, like other skills, children need supportive adults to use consistent strategies to help their learning. It is our belief that families initiate the process of toileting at home, and we will support those efforts at school.

As teachers, we will support children's growing independence by:

- Assisting children with buttons, snaps and zippers
- Prompting children to pull their pants and underwear up and down.
- Encouraging children to clean themselves. Staff will assist children as necessary, in order to maintain children's health and comfort.
- Reminding children to wash their hands after toileting.

As families, you can support emerging toileting skills by:

- Dressing your child in clothes they can pull up and down independently. Elastic waist pants work best with children whose skills are emerging. Belts, overalls, snaps on jeans, and onesies can often get in children's way.
- Ensuring your child has several extra sets of clothes at school.
- Communicating with your child's teacher about your child's toileting routine at home.

We have found that, in a classroom environment, children wearing traditional underwear are more likely to be aware of their bodily cues and communicate the need to use the toilet alongside other children that are doing so. Therefore, we encourage families to dress children in underwear each day. We understand that as children gain growing independence, accidents will happen. If your child has an accident, teachers will help your child clean themselves and dress in new clothes. Children will be changed in designated areas that allow for the safety and comfort of children and staff. Soiled clothing will be bagged and given to the family when the child is picked up. With a structured toileting routine, the number of accidents will decrease over time as the toileting skills further develop. If needed, individualized toileting plans and schedules can be created for children based on their needs.

Rest Time

In the preschool classrooms at Six to Six, we follow the National Association for the Education of Young Children's recommendation that the school day balance active and quiet activities and that preschool classes provide for a daily naptime. The Connecticut Department of Health also requires that childcare settings and preschools provide rest time to children involved in programs for more than 5 hours. Playing and working with a large group of peers is very stimulating and more tiring than that of some home settings.

We plan and prepare an environment that is conducive for napping. The classroom is darkened and quiet while soothing music is played. Some children sleep soundly while others rest quietly. This daily naptime is important for the growth and development of children. The children wake up relaxed and refreshed and ready to continue their day.

Children's bedding is sent home every Friday for laundering and returned on Monday for use. Children are expected to bring in a small cot sized pillow and blanket or nap mat in a reusable tote bag. Space is limited and belongings need to fit in the cubbies.

Application of Sunscreen

Sunscreen should be applied by parents/guardians at home before coming to school in the morning at your own discretion. If the parent/guardian would like sunscreen reapplied one time in the afternoon before outside play in the afterschool program, a form must be submitted with a labeled bottle of sunscreen. Teachers are not permitted to apply any other sunscreen on children other than the bottle that is provided by the parent/guardian along with this permission form.

Family Communication

We look forward to developing a partnership with you during the time that your child is in preschool. We understand that families are on the go and that communication takes many forms. We will use email and the Class Dojo App to communicate with families. We will send out a link and/or a QR code to parents so they can log in and "see" what we do through frequent posts throughout the school year. We will include themes, stories,

upcoming events and more.

We encourage you to join our PTA to stay connected. Our PTA is committed to supporting the Six to Six Community, and plans exciting events for our students, staff and families! Please check out the Six to Six PTA group on Facebook for information and school updates. It is a great resource for parents.

Dropping off/Pick up

Preschool Hours are 8:15-2:45. Drop off time will start at 8:15 and end at 8:30. After 8:30 students will be marked tardy and drop off will be done at the main office. **During the hours of 8:15 to 2:45 the classroom phone doesn't ring**. We check emails a few times throughout the day and typically we will check voicemails at the end of the day after students leave. Please email your child's teacher in the morning if your child is going to be absent so we can make sure we enter the attendance correctly. If there is an emergency, we can be reached through the main office. If there is a last minute change in pick up please phone the main office as we do not always see emails right before pick up.
If a person other than a parent picks up a child, the person's name must be included on the child's authorized pick up list in PowerSchool or an email from the parent must be received that day to inform the school. We cannot release a student to someone without written permission from a parent/guardian.

Clothing

Please dress your child for all types of play, including messy play. We paint, use glue, water and sand, eat snacks, and play on the playground. Please be mindful that children should wear shoes that fit their feet snuggly and do not fall off. **Children must wear sneakers to school each day.** We have wood chips on our playground. Crocs, flipflops and open-toed sandals are not appropriate for school. We go out in all kinds of weather: cold, cloudy, sunny, hot, misty, and snowy weather. If your child cannot go out for any reason, please provide a doctor's note. Please note that we go outdoors for recess in any temperature that is 20 degrees or above including the windchill. During the colder months, please send in **mittens** (not gloves) and a hat each day for recess. Please label all belongings.

Things to Keep At Home

- Jewelry should stay home unless it is religiously significant. Necklaces, bracelets, and watches should not be worn to school.
- All home toys should be left at home. 1 cuddly toy is appropriate for nap.
- Candy, gum, and soda are prohibited in school. Cough drops are considered candy, unless discussed with our school nurse.
- Electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, or electronic games are prohibited in school.

Birthdays

Please refer to section 6 in our general Family Handbook.

Volunteering at Six to Six

Please refer to section 2 in our general Family Handbook.

Biting Guidelines

Six to Six's policy focuses on child safety, parent communication, and helping children develop self-regulation skills.

Immediate response and notification

- First aid and comfort for the bitten child: The priority is to provide immediate care, clean the area, and offer comfort. Our school nurse will be notified and she will provide first aid.
- Parental notification: Both the parents of the bitten child and the parents of the biting child are notified on the day of the incident.
- Documentation: Biting incidents are documented with incident reports, which are reviewed and approved by administration, and copies are provided to parents making sure to maintain confidentiality.

Addressing biting behavior

- Focus on the child who was bitten: Initially, the focus is on providing comfort and care to the injured child. Get down on the level of the child who bit, look him or her right in the eyes and calmly explain that biting is not acceptable.
- Determining the cause: Later, staff will try to understand why the biting happened, as it can be a result of excitement, frustration, or anger.
- Prevention strategies:
    - Identifying triggers: Staff will try to identify and avoid situations that may lead to biting.
    - Redirection and distraction: Offering alternative activities or distracting the child before biting occurs can be helpful.
    - Encouraging verbal communication: Children are encouraged to use words to express their feelings, rather than resorting to biting.
    - Providing alternative activities: Offering vigorous physical activities can be helpful

for children who are frustrated or angry.