Mary W. Howe Pre-K Center

Schoolwide Behavior Plan

2026-2027



Schoolwide Behavior Plan (SBP)

School Name: Howe Pre-K Date: 2026-2027

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NHCS Preschool Program

The New Hanover County Pre-Kindergarten program is committed to creating a strong foundation that prepares all students for academic, social and emotional success as they enter the 21st century.

NHCS Mission

The mission of New Hanover County Schools, in collaboration with our parents and the community, is to strive to provide children with an opportunity for a superior education in a safe and positive learning environment where they are prepared with the skills to succeed.

NHCS Pre-K Mission

The New Hanover County Pre-Kindergarten program is committed to establishing a foundation of learning by inspiring, guiding, and teaching the children in our program while serving their families and the community. We believe that all children have individual worth and can succeed in the future when given a positive foundation of learning.

Mary Washington Howe Pre-K Mission and Vision

Mission

Mary Washington Howe Prekindergarten Center, in conjunction with a collaborative community, will foster an inclusive, respectful, and supportive environment that acknowledges and celebrates the diverse cultural backgrounds of all children, families, and staff. Our school family will create a cooperative learning experience in which children will embrace problem-solving, critical thinking, and thoughtful interactions with others, and an enthusiasm for learning that lays a foundation for a successful K-12 education and beyond. We aim to ensure that every child receives an education that is culturally relevant, equitable, inclusive, and promotes positive relationships among children.

Vision

We will lay a foundation for children and families to have a positive learning experience that will equip them for a successful future.

Beliefs About Children and Learning

We believe that children need nurturing caregivers in the home and school setting.

We believe that children learn through active involvement with developmentally appropriate materials, and that play is an important vehicle for learning to occur.

We believe that children need to be able to identify and communicate their feelings, needs and desires in positive ways in a preschool setting.

We believe that children must learn to make decisions and accept responsibility for those decisions and learn to solve real-life problems, not just find the "right" answers.

We believe that a child's development and learning is greatly enhanced through a partnership between the school and the child's family.

We believe that your child is in the best possible place with the best staff.

Discipline Policy

We believe that children learn self-discipline in many ways. They learn from the example of their teachers and other adults. They learn through play and social encounters with the other children. They

learn by trying things over and over again. Children need to know the adults in their classrooms will love them and keep them safe no matter what negative behaviors they display. We believe that children develop discipline through many different experiences with loving professionals to guide their progress. Teachers and other staff members in the Howe Pre-K Program do not use corporal punishment or other negative forms of discipline (shaming, teasing, humiliating, or yelling).

Discipline and Behavior Management Policy

Date Adopted: August 18, 2021

Praise and positive reinforcement are effective methods in managing the behavior of children. When children receive positive, non-violent, and understanding interactions from adults and others, they develop good self-concepts, problem solving abilities, and self-discipline. No child shall be subjected to any form of corporal punishment. Based on this belief of how children learn and develop values, this facility will practice the following age and developmentally appropriate discipline and behavior management policy:

We:		We:
1. DO praise, reward, and encourage the children. 2. DO reason with and set limits for the children. 3. DO model appropriate behavior for the children. 4. DO modify the classroom environment to attempt to prevent problems before they occur. 5. DO listen to the children. 6. DO provide alternatives for inappropriate behavior to the children. 7. DO provide the children with natural and logical consequences of their behaviors. 8. DO treat the children as people and respect their needs, desires, and feelings. 9. DO ignore minor misbehaviors. 10. DO explain things to children on their level. 11. DO support students through breathing and calming techniques. 12. DO stay consistent in our behavior management program. 13. DO use effective guidance and behavior management techniques that focus on a child's development.		1. DO NOT handle children roughly in any way, including shaking, pushing, shoving, pinching, slapping, biting, kicking, or spanking. 2. DO NOT place children in a locked room, closet, or box or leave children alone in a room separated from staff. 3. DO NOT delegate discipline to another child. 4. DO NOT withhold food as punishment or give food as a means of reward. 5. DO NOT discipline for toileting accidents. 6. DO NOT discipline for not sleeping during rest period. 7. DO NOT discipline children by assigning chores that require contact with or use of hazardous materials, such as cleaning bathrooms, floors, or emptying diaper pails. 8. DO NOT withhold or require physical activity, such as running laps and doing push-ups, as punishment. 9. DO NOT yell at, shame, humiliate, frighten, threaten, or bully children. 10. DO NOT restrain children as a form of discipline unless the child's safety or the safety of others is at risk.

Distribution: One copy in Family Handbook; One copy to be maintained in the child's facility folder.

Welcoming and Orienting New Students, Families, and Staff

Families attending Howe Pre-K will participate in an Annual Orientation prior to the student starting school. NCPK sites shall implement strategies designed to develop partnerships with families and build

reciprocal relationships that share decision making. In order to make this happen, different types of communication channels may be used. Some of these are and are not limited to:
Newsletters
Daily notes
Telephone
Text
Email
Digital platforms
Social media
Bulletin boards
Webinars
Workshops
Parents will be offered:
Home Visits (Required Home Visit at the beginning of the year)
3 Parent/teacher conferences to discuss fall, winter, spring/end of year child progress
To volunteer and/or attend field trips
Serve on any committee/parent groups which may be offered at the site
Notified of family community events (eg. Smart Start parenting programs, etc.)
When children are enrolled during the year, parent/teacher conferences will be adjusted as needed.

Safety Policies and Procedures

Public schools and licensed childcare facilities are required to conduct routine safety drills in preparation for emergency situations. Fire drills will be held monthly to ensure that children know how to respond in the event that the building has to be evacuated. An annual tornado drill is held each spring and an earthquake drill is held in the fall. In addition, we will practice quarterly lockdown drills and shelter in place drills to ensure that children and staff know how to respond in the event that an emergency arises that requires us to stay within the confines of the school building and classrooms. Emergency bags are located in each classroom which contains plans, contact information as well as emergency supplies.

The district has extensive and comprehensive safety plans that are continually reviewed and updated as necessary by district personnel along with our Emergency Services partners. The New Hanover County Schools Emergency Operations Plan Summary is available on the district website.
We constantly strive to make every facility in our district as safe as possible. All exterior doors remain locked during the school day, requiring every visitor to check-in at the main office after being screened using a front door entry system that includes video and audio. There are School Resource Officers and School Nurses assigned to each school. Additionally, students and staff periodically conduct drills for all types of emergencies throughout the school year.
The New Hanover County School system, along with all of the Emergency Services within the county, works cooperatively to keep our students safe. Staff at every campus are trained to respond to numerous types of emergencies.
Student and staff safety is a priority, and everyone plays a part in maintaining safe schools. Additional information can be found here: https://www.nhcs.net/divisions/student-support-services/safety-and-crisis-management

Arrival and Dismissal Safety Policies

NC Childcare Law

Children younger than age 8 and who weigh less than 80 pounds must be properly secured in a child restraint or booster seat. Children less than age 5 and less than 40 pounds must be in the rear seat if the vehicle has an active passenger-side front air bag and a rear seat.

Responsibility/Penalties (According to Buckleup.gov)

Driver is responsible for all children less than sixteen

Penalty not to exceed $25
Full court costs and fees apply to failure to secure a child in an appropriate CRS or seat belt violations
Two (2) driver license points

Child Care Rules

(NC Child Care Rules)
Specifically look at Page 50)

10A NCAC 09 .1003 Safe Procedures

(b) Each center shall establish procedures for pick-up and delivery of children to ensure children are protected from danger and not exposed to risk of harm. These procedures shall be communicated to parents, and a copy shall be posted in the center where they can be seen by the parents.

In order to ensure the safety of our students:

All students must be loaded from the right side of the car into an appropriate car seat or booster seat.
Staff will no longer load students from the left side of the vehicle due to street traffic.
Vehicles without appropriate car/booster seats will be asked to leave the car line and pull around and park. Parents will be required to show an ID to retrieve their child at the front door. (Staff will not load students into cars without car seats/booster seats.)

School and School System Emergencies

If an incident occurs that requires the notification of all parents, our school, along with all schools in the New Hanover County Schools system, will initiate the contacting of parents using the School Messaging system. School Messaging is capable of sending a telephone or email message to every parent in our school and our school system all at once at a specified time. The successful delivery of information is dependent upon accurate phone numbers. In order to make sure that you receive important messages, we must have the most current names and phone numbers of emergency contact people. If your emergency information changes during the school year, please let school personnel know immediately so that we can keep school records updated and accurate.

School Messenger:

Caller ID will display an "844" prefix when a general announcement is delivered.
Caller ID will display 411 if the message is a dire emergency.
SCHOOL MESSENGER will leave a message on any answering machine or voicemail.

Anti Bullying Policy

Policy Code: 4329/7311 The board is committed to providing a safe, inviting, and civil educational environment for all students, employees, and other members of the school community. The board expects all students, employees, volunteers, and visitors to behave in a manner consistent with that goal. The board recognizes that bullying and harassing behavior creates an atmosphere of intimidation and fear, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious misconduct or to violence. Accordingly, the board prohibits all forms of bullying and harassing behavior, including encouragement of such behavior, by students, employees, volunteers, and visitors. "Visitors" includes parents and other family members and individuals from the community, as well as vendors, contractors, and other persons doing business with or performing services for the school system.
This policy prohibits bullying and harassing behavior, or the encouragement of bullying or harassing behavior, that takes place (1) in any school building or on any school premises before, during or after school hours; (2) on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity; (3) at any bus stop; (4) during any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity; (5) at any time or place when the student, employee, or other person is subject to the authority of school personnel; or (6) at any time or place when the bullying has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools.

This policy is not intended to prohibit expression of religious, philosophical, social, or political views, provided that the expression does not substantially disrupt the educational environment.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is very important for success in our program. Parents have the responsibility to ensure regular school attendance. Regular attendance is necessary for your child to get the greatest benefit from this learning opportunity.
Anytime children are absent from school, they fall out of their routine. They also miss out on key opportunities to learn, build lasting friendships, and develop the skills and attitudes needed to become good citizens. There is a clear connection between student attendance and student performance in school. In order for your child to meet the goals of our program and to be ready for kindergarten, students need to attend a full day of school each day. which means arriving on time every day.

Why does this matter?
Failure to maintain adequate attendance can jeopardize your child's placement at Howe Pre-K.
We want your child to establish good habits in Pre-K.
Chronic absenteeism (truancy) is linked to repeating grade levels and drop out rates.
Unexcused Absences: missing the bus, oversleeping, bad weather, car trouble

Excused Absences: illness, religious holidays, death in immediate family, medical appointment note, quarantine, education opportunities with prior approval, court or administrative proceedings.

In order to code an absence as excused, Howe is required to have a note from home which meets the following:
1. Date(s) of absence(s) included
2. Specific reasons for absence
3. A parent/guardian signature must be provided.
4. The note for the absence must be received within 3 days of the child's return to school if the absence is to be coded as excused.
5. A written note from a parent does not automatically result in an excused absence. The reason for the absence must be one of those determined by Public School Law.

You will be contacted by the teacher, assistant, or social worker after the third consecutive day of absence.

Adopted Approach to Classroom Management

Children in Pre-K learn through play using exploration and discovery as a way of learning, The Creative Curriculum enables children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills. It is based on 38 objectives for development and learning which are fully aligned with our state standards and fall under the following domains: reading, math, social-emotional, physical, and language.

Conscious Discipline Our Social-Emotional Core instruction comes from the philosophies of Conscious Discipline. Our goal is to assist students with learning self-regulation. Each classroom will create expectations for students that model the components of Conscious Discipline.