

Seymour Community Preschool Handbook



Program Policies and
Procedures

2023-2024

Seymour Community Schools
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Seymour, IA 52590
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Preschool Policies and Procedures

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Program Policies and Procedures

I. WELCOME TO SEYMOUR COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL QPPS 10.1

Seymour Community School was awarded the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Grant in 2013, for four-year-old students, as a result of the Preschool Advisory Committee's dedicated work. We also have received the Early Childhood Iowa Kids First Communities grant to fund having the half day three-year-old class as well. The program's goal is to provide a high-quality preschool program meeting each child's needs, including children with disabilities and those from a diverse background. The preschool provides a rich learning environment that encourages children's natural curiosity and supports them to take risks that lead to new skill development. It is a setting where children feel safe, respected, and cared for. This is an opportunity for all three and four year old children to take part in planned, active learning experiences to build their readiness skills. The preschool program has adopted and meets the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, administered by the Iowa Department of Education. The Iowa Early Learning Standards are used to guide expectations for the children and instructional practices.

II. MISSION, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOALS QPPS 10.1

Mission:

The purpose of the Seymour Community School District is to provide each student an opportunity to achieve his or her highest academic and social potential by providing access to high quality instruction, programs, activities, and facilities. The district provides students access to high quality instruction that supports the required "Common Core" Standards, 21st Century Skill acquisition and the enhanced application of technology.

Preschool Philosophy of Education:

We believe:

- Student learning is the most important element of our society.
- Students learn best in a safe and caring environment.
- Respect for diversity develops tolerance within the school and our society.
- Social Emotional competence is a significant factor in school success.
- Constructive, purposeful play supports essential learning.
- The physical environment affects the type and quality of learning interactions.
- School, home and community cooperation facilitates and reinforces learning.

Goals for Children:

- Children will show competence in social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development skills.
- Children will be enthusiastic and curious learners.

Goals for Families:

- Families will feel welcome in the classroom and school.

- Families will work with the school in a meaningful partnership to help their children be better prepared to learn to read and write.
- Families will advocate for their children.

III. ENROLLMENT

Equal Educational Opportunity

The school district does not discriminate in its education programs or educational activities on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, creed, ancestry, national origin, perceived traits or characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability or disability, political party preference, socioeconomic status, marital status or age. Students are educated in programs, which foster knowledge of respect and appreciation for the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups, as well as men and women, to society. Students who feel they have been discriminated against are encouraged to report it to the school district Affirmative Action Coordinator, Mr. Brad Breon, he can be reached at 6418982291. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Director of the region VII Office of Civil Rights, US Department of Education, 10220 North Executive Hills Blvd., 8th Floor, Kansas City, MO 641531367, (816) 8918156, or the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 503190146, (515) 2815294.

Eligibility

Children must be four years of age prior to September 15th of the current school year for the 4year old Preschool. For the three year old room, children must be three years old by September 15th of the current school year. Pre Registration will begin in the spring of the year. Registration materials are available from the elementary secretary. Final registration will occur in the fall.

Hours

The preschool follows the Seymour Community School calendar.

Classes	Days	Begin	End	Breakfast	Lunch
Three Year Old Preschool	Monday-Friday	8:30	3:20	8:00-8:30	10:50-11:20
Four Year Old Preschool	Monday-Friday	8:30	3:20	8:00-8:30	10:50-11:20

General Information QPPS 5.1

Within six weeks after a child begins the program, health records that document the dates of service shall be submitted that show the child is current for routine screening tests and immunizations according to the schedule recommended and published by the American Academy of Pediatrics. At the Spring registration, we will try to get all the documents. If not, at the fall sign up we will request the documents again. We will have all documents by the six week mark for both the 3 year old program and four year old program.

Ratios QPPS 10.4

To be in compliance with DHS regulations, we maintain the following staff-to-child ratio.

3-year-old room 1:10 (1 staff to every 10 children)

4-year-old room 1:10 (1 staff to every 10 children) per the IQPPS guidelines

The director will maintain a current list of available substitutes for both the teacher and teacher assistant. Should one of the teaching staff need to temporarily leave the room, the principal/director will arrange for coverage of the classroom to maintain the staff-child ratio. **QPPS 10.4**

Inclusion QPPS 9.10

The preschool program provides for all children's needs, including those with disabilities and unique learning needs. Modifications are made in the environment and staffing patterns in order to include children with special needs. Staff are aware of the identified needs of individual children and are trained to follow through on specific intervention plans. The Great Prairie AEA is involved with students with IEPs. It is our belief that inclusion in our program will enrich the experience for teachers, students, other children and their families. The preschool facilities meet the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements. Accessibility includes access to buildings, toilets, sinks, drinking fountains, outdoor play space, and all classroom and therapy areas.

IV. A CHILD'S DAY

Who Works In The Preschool QPPS 10.2

Program Administrator The elementary principal is designated as the program administrator supervising the preschool program. The principal meets all qualifications described in the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards

Teacher **QPPS 6.2**

A full time teacher licensed by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners and holding an early childhood endorsement is assigned to the preschool classroom.

Teacher Assistant **QPPS 6.3**

A full time teacher assistant in the classroom carries out activities under the supervision of the teacher. The teacher assistant will have specialized training in early childhood education.

School Nurse **QPPS 10.8**

The school nurse maintains student health records by updating them quarterly, and attends to the health needs of the students while they are at school. The school nurse will collect documentation on routine screening tests and immunizations served on the schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The school nurse will keep these documents on file in her office in the Seymour School. The content of these student files is confidential but may be accessed by administrators or teaching staff who have consent from a parent or legal guardian. The records are available to the child's parents or legal guardian and regulatory authorities upon request. The school nurse is available for parent consultation when necessary.

Support Staff

Great Prairie AEA support staff provide resources and assistance to the teacher and classroom upon request to help all children be successful in the preschool setting. Such staff may include: early childhood consultant, speech and language pathologist, social worker, occupational therapist, physical therapist or others.

Daily Activities QPPS 3.1, 3.2

A consistent daily schedule is planned to offer a balance of learning activities following the Creative Curriculum which is based on five principles. The principles are:

- positive interactions and relationships with adults provide a critical foundation for successful learning
- social emotional competence is a big factor in school success
- constructive, purposeful play supports essential learning
- the physical environment affects the type and quality of learning interactions
- teacher and family partnerships promote development and learning

They guide practice and help us understand the reasons for setting up and operating preschool programs in a particular way. Play is planned for every day. Ten classroom interest areas are integrated. Listening is balanced with talking, group activities with solitary time, indoors with outdoors, quiet play with noisy play. Your child will have the opportunity for the following types of activities every day:

Large and Small Group Activities	Self-directed Play	Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack
<i>Learning Center Activities:</i> Art, Science, Writing Table, Games, Puzzles, Book Center, Blocks Center, Pretend Play, Sensory	Story Time	Technology
	Outdoor Activities	Social Activities

Weekly notes will be sent home to families in children's backpacks and electronically, if parents desire.

Curriculum QPPS 2.1 - 2.4

Curriculum is a framework for learning opportunities and experiences. It is a process by which learners obtain knowledge and understanding, while developing life skills. It is continually revised and evaluated to make learning fun and exciting. Currently we use Creative Curriculum and Gold Teaching Strategies OnLine for Data and for monitoring the progress the children are making throughout the year. We also incorporate Handwriting Without Tears with numbers, letters, shapes and colors, Really Great Reading Launchpad for phonemic awareness.

It is the policy of Seymour Community Schools that the curriculum content and instructional materials utilized reflect the cultural and racial diversity present in the United States and the variety of careers, roles, and lifestyles open to women as well as men in our society. One of the objectives of the total curriculum and teaching strategies is to reduce stereotyping and to eliminate bias on the basis of sex, race, ethnic origin, religion, and physical disability. The curriculum should foster respect and appreciation for the cultural diversity found in our country and an awareness of the rights, duties, and responsibilities of

each individual as a member of a multicultural nonsexist society. Parents have a vital role in the education of their child. The curriculum should be adapted to reflect the values, beliefs and languages of families.

QPPS 1.7

The preschool program uses *The Creative Curriculum*, a research and evidence based comprehensive curriculum designed for three and four-year-olds. It addresses all areas of early learning: Social/Emotional Development, Physical Development, Cognitive Development, and Language Development. The Teaching Strategies Gold: Objectives for Development and Learning for Ages 3-5 is our road map for determining where each child is developmentally, for tracking each child's progress, and for planning learning experiences. It provides children an opportunity to learn in a variety of ways – through blocks, dramatic play, toys, games, movement, library, art, music, discovery, sand and water, cooking and computers. Suggestions for modifications and adaptations are an integral part of the curriculum. **QPPS 2.1, 2.2**

Four-year-old literacy program Launchpad is playful and powerful evidence-based foundational skills instruction that prepares students for kindergarten. It is game-based, teacher-led, Interactive, kinesthetic, and multisensory instruction that makes learning fun, and features a colorful, image-based teacher presentation online tool that makes teaching simple and enjoyable.

Child Assessment QPPS 4.1-4.4

Guiding principles:

It is the school district's belief that assessment of young children should be purposeful, developmentally appropriate, and take place in the natural setting by familiar adults. The results will be used for planning experiences for the children and to guide instruction. Assessment will never be used to label children or to include or exclude them from a program. A family's culture and a child's experiences outside the school setting are recognized as being an important piece of the child's growth and development. All results will be kept confidential, placed in each child's file, and stored in a secure filing cabinet. The Seymour Preschool has developed an assessment plan which includes the assessment purposes, procedures, timelines and uses of the results. The plan coordinates with this policy addressing confidentiality and family involvement. Child assessment records are kept in a secure file to protect confidentiality.. We also do Parent Conference forms for students through the Gold Teaching Strategies OnLine and share with parents. We will have checkpoint times three times per year, this will replace quarters. Parents will get an individual child profile based on these checkpoints as their report card three times a year.

Children are assessed in the following ways:

- *Gold OnLine Progress Report* is modified to align with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. It records student progress in all developmental areas at the beginning, middle and end of the year.
 - Observational data provides an ongoing anecdotal record of each child's progress during daily activities.
 - Child portfolios are organized by the teaching staff and include the assessments, observational data, and child work samples collected on an ongoing basis.
 - Families are asked to contribute information about their child's progress. Young children often show different skills in different settings. Working together, the teaching staff and families can gather a complete picture of a child's growth and development.

- Family Conference Forms online shared with parents on conference meetings.
- Seymour Preschool Report Card

The information from the above is used in the following ways:

- To provide information about children's needs, interests, and abilities in order to plan developmentally appropriate experiences for them;
- To provide information to parents about their children's developmental milestones;
- To indicate possible areas that require additional assessment.

Progress Reports QPPS 7.3, 7.5

Assessment information will be shared formally with families during Parent Teacher Conferences in the fall and spring. In addition, the *Gold Teaching Strategies Online conference forms, Gold onLine*, will be used at the end of each checkpoint. The preschool teacher will communicate weekly regarding children's activities, interests, needs and developmental milestones. Informal conferences are always welcome and can be requested at any time.

If through observation or information on the *Creative Curriculum*, or IGDIs, the teacher feels that there is a possible issue related to a developmental delay or other special need, she/he will communicate this to the family during a confidential conference, sharing documentation of the concern. Suggestions for next steps may include the following, with the knowledge and consent of the parents:

- The teacher requests assistance from the Student Assistance Team as an early intervention process. This team engages in problem identification, planning interventions, providing support, and making outside resources available to those individuals requesting assistance. The S.A.T. team is available and functional for all students and teachers in the building.
- A request made to Great Prairie Area Education Agency for support and additional ideas or more formalized testing.

The preschool teacher would assist in arranging for developmental screening and referral for diagnostic assessment when indicated. **QPPS 7.4**

If a child is determined to need special accommodations, those accommodations are included in the materials, environment, and lesson plans for that child. Examples include sign language and visuals for children with hearing impairments or language delays and behavior plans for children whose behavior does not respond to the typical strategies used by teaching staff in the classroom.

Program Assessment QPPS 10.15

Seymour Community Preschool implements the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards. We will participate in a desk audit yearly to confirm we are meeting these standards. Administrators, families, staff, and other routinely participating adults will be involved annually in a program evaluation that measures progress toward the program's goals and objectives. The annual evaluation process includes gathering evidence on all areas of program functioning, including policies and procedures, program quality, children's progress, and learning, family involvement and satisfaction, and community awareness and satisfaction. Each program uses this information to plan professional development and program quality improvement activities as well as to improve operations, policies, and procedures.

Supervision Policy QPPS 3.7

Before children arrive at school, the preschool teacher will complete the following daily safety checklist indoor and outdoor:

- All safety plugs and electric outlets covered, heat/AC, water temperature, and toilets, etc. in working order.
- All cleaning supplies/poisons out of children reach and are stored properly.
- Classroom and materials checked for cleanliness/broken parts, etc. including playground.
- Supplies checked first aid kit, latex gloves, soap, paper towels, etc.
- Daily monitoring of the environment spills, sand, etc. Other serious problems reported to the head custodian.
- Upon arrival, each child is observed by the teacher for signs of illness or injury that could affect the child's ability to participate in the daily activities.

No child will be left unsupervised while attending preschool. Staff will supervise primarily by sight. Supervision for short intervals by sound is permissible as long as teachers check every two to three minutes on children who are out of sight (e.g. those who can use the toilet independently, who are in the library area, etc.)

Child Guidance and Discipline

Teaching staff will equitably use positive guidance, redirection, and planning ahead to prevent problems. They will encourage appropriate behavior through the use of consistent clear rules, and involving children in problem solving to foster the child's own ability to become self disciplined. Where the child understands words, discipline will be explained to the child before and at the time of any disciplinary action. Teaching staff will encourage children to be respectful, responsible, and relationship builders. Teaching staff will use discipline that is consistent, clear, and understandable to the child. They will help children learn to persist when frustrated, play cooperatively with other children, use language to communicate needs, and learn turn taking.

Challenging Behavior **QPPS 1.8, 1.9**

The teaching staff in the preschool is highly trained, responsive, respectful, and purposeful. The teachers anticipate and take steps to prevent potential challenging behaviors. They evaluate and change their responses based on individual needs. When children have challenging behaviors teachers promote prosocial behavior by:

- interacting in a respectful manner with all children.
- modeling turn taking and sharing as well as caring behaviors
- helping children negotiate their interactions with one another and with shared materials.
- engaging children in the care of their classroom and ensuring that each child has an opportunity to contribute to the group.
- encouraging children to listen to one another and helping them to provide comfort when others are sad or distressed

Teaching staff will guide children to develop self control and orderly conduct in relationship to peers and adults. Children will be taught social, communicative, and emotional regulation skills. If a child displays persistent, serious, and challenging behavior, the teaching staff, parents, and AEA support staff will work as a team to develop and implement an individualized plan that supports the child's inclusion and success.

Aggressive physical behavior toward staff or children is unacceptable. Teaching staff will intervene immediately when a child becomes physically aggressive to protect all of the children and encourage more acceptable behavior.

Permissible Methods of Discipline:

For acts of aggression and fighting (biting, scratching, hitting) staff will set appropriate expectations for children and guide them in solving problems. This positive guidance will be the usual technique for managing children with challenging behaviors rather than punishing them for having problems they have not yet learned to solve. In addition, staff may: (1) Separate the children involved; (2) Immediately comfort the individual who was injured; (3) Care for any injury suffered by the victim involved in the incident.; (4) Notify parents or legal guardians of children involved in the incident; (5) Review the adequacy of the teaching staff supervision, appropriateness of program activities, and administrative corrective action if there is a recurrence.

Prohibited Practices

The program does not, and will not, employ any of the following disciplinary procedures:

1. harsh or abusive tone of voice with the children nor make threats or derogatory remarks.
2. physical punishment, including spanking, hitting, shaking, or grabbing.
3. any punishment that would humiliate, frighten, or subject a child to neglect.
4. withhold nor threaten to withhold food as a form of discipline.

Water activities QPPS 9.14

We have a water table in the classroom for children to stand and play with their hands in the water. Fresh potable water is used. During water play children are involved in active experiences with science and math concepts. Precautions are taken to ensure that communal water play does not spread infectious disease. Children with sores on their hands are not allowed to participate with others in the water table to ensure that no infectious diseases are spread. Children are not allowed to drink the water during water play activities. When the activity period is complete, the water table is drained and refilled with fresh water before a new group of children comes to participate. When the activity period is completed with a group of children, the water is drained. Alternatively, fresh potable water flows freely through the water play table and out through a drain in the table. Outdoor water play is limited to tubs and buckets or containers as well as the water table. We do not participate in swimming pool activities. Staff supervise all children by sight and sound in all areas with access to water in tubs, buckets, and water tables.

Snacks/Foods and Nutrition QPPS 5.9- 5.17

Attitudes about food develop early in life. The food children eat affects their well being, their physical growth, their ability to learn, and their overall behavior. We have an opportunity to help children learn about foods, to enjoy a variety of foods from their own culture and others, and to help them begin to appreciate that their bodies need to be strong, flexible, and healthy. Eating moderately, eating a variety of foods, and eating in a relaxed atmosphere are healthy habits for young children to form.

Children attending preschool are served a snack at a regularly scheduled time. The preschool serves a wide variety of nutritional snacks and encourages children to expand their tastes by at least trying a portion of the food offered. All food is prepared, served, and stored in accordance with the U.S.

Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) guidelines. Clean, sanitary drinking water is made available to children throughout the day. Staff discards any foods with expired dates. Foods that are hotter than 110 degrees Fahrenheit are kept out of children's reach. Foods requiring refrigeration will be kept cold until served.

For each child with special health care needs, food allergies, or special nutrition needs, the child's health care provider will provide the program in an individualized care plan prepared in consultation with family members, school nurse, and specialists involved in the child's care. Children with food allergies shall be protected from contact with the problem food. With family consent, the program posts information about the child's allergies in the food preparation area and in areas of the facility the child uses to serve as a visual reminder to all adults who interact with the child during the day. Program staff will keep a daily record documenting the type and quantity of food a child consumes when any child with a disability has special feeding needs and provide parents with that information.

Outside Play and Learning QPPS 9.5-9.8

We have daily opportunities for outdoor play as the weather permits and provided the weather air quality and environmental safety conditions do not pose a threat. This allows children the opportunity to develop their large muscle skills, get exercise, and be active. We use the Child Care Weather Watch guidelines produced by Healthy Child Care Iowa to determine if the Wind Chill Factor or Heat Index is safe for outdoor play.

In cases when we cannot go outside (due to weather conditions) children are given the opportunity to use indoor equipment for similar activities inside and are supervised at the same level as outdoor equipment. We can go to a gym if it's open. For example, tumbling mats may be offered for upper body activities or rolling across the mat.

In order to make sure that your child can play comfortably outside it is important to dress him or her according to the weather. Children need to wear clothing that is dry and layered for warmth for cold weather. When it is cold outside he needs a warm coat, mittens or gloves and a hat (labeled with your child's name). For the warmer days dressing your child lightly is just as important. For those in between days dressing your child in layers is a practical idea.

There are areas on the playground for children to be in the shade and still be active. We encourage you to bring a hat or other clothing for your child to wear as another protection from the sun. Sunscreen or sunblock with UVB and UVA protection of SPF 15 or higher will be applied to your child's exposed skin (only with your written parental permission to do so). We will also use an insect repellent containing DEET (only with your written permission) no more than once a day to protect your child from insect bites when the public health authorities recommend its use.

Program staff will complete the National Program for Playground Safety's Suggested General Maintenance Checklist on a weekly basis.

Clothing

Your child will be learning through creative, active play that can sometimes be messy. Your child should wear comfortable, washable clothing as well as rubber soled and closed toe shoes to school. While we encourage the use of paint smocks or shirts during art projects, we can't guarantee that spills or stains will not occur. Clothing should be free of words, graphics, or pictures that are profane,

immoral, illegal, or disruptive in nature. All families are asked to provide an extra set of clothing for their child in case of an “accident” or messy play. Please clearly label the clothing with your child’s name to reduce the possibility of mistakes.

Toilet Learning QPPS 5.5

Toilet learning is an important time in a child’s development. For children who are unable to use the toilet consistently, the following procedures are in place:

1. Diapering will only be done in the designated diaper area, i.e., the bathroom adjacent to the classroom with a fold down changing table. At all times, caregivers have a hand on the child when being changed on an elevated surface. Food handling will not be permitted in this diapering area. Staff members whose primary function is preparing food do not change diapers until their food preparation duties are completed for the day.
2. Staff will follow all diapering guidelines set forth in the Iowa Quality Preschool Programs Standards: Standard 5, Criteria 7:
 - . Staff use only commercially available disposable diapers or pull ups unless the child has a medical reason that does not permit their use (the health provider documents the medical reason).
 - . For children who require cloth diapers, the diaper has an absorbent inner lining completely contained within an outer covering made of waterproof material that prevents the escape of feces and urine. Both the diaper and the outer covering are changed as a unit.
 - Cloth diapers and clothing that are soiled by urine or feces are immediately placed in a plastic bag (without rinsing or avoidable handling) and sent home that day for laundering.
 - Staff check children for signs that diapers or pull ups are wet or contain feces at least every 2 hours when children are awake and when children awaken. Diapers are changed when wet or soiled.
 - Staff change children’s diapers or soiled underwear in the designated changing areas and not elsewhere in the facility.
 - At all times, caregivers have a hand on the child if being changed on an elevated surface.
 - Surfaces used for changing and on which changing materials are placed are not used for other purposes, including temporary placement of other objects, and especially not for any object involved with food or feeding.
 - Containers that hold soiled diapers and diapering materials have a lid that opens and closes tightly using a hands free device (e.g., a step can). Containers are kept closed and are inaccessible to children. The container will be clearly labeled to show its intended use.
 - Diapering and Gloving posters will be posted in the changing area showing procedures through the use of visuals and words. These procedures are used by the program administrator to evaluate teaching staff that change diapers.

Most children in the four year old program will not need this. We realize accidents do happen and that is why we need a change of clothes for each child. The children in the three year old program probably do not have diapers either but in cases where they do we follow these procedures.

3. Potty chairs will not be used due to the risk of spreading infectious diarrhea.
4. All families are asked to provide an extra set of clothing for their child in case of an “accident” or messy play. Please clearly label the clothing with your child’s name to reduce the possibility of mistakes.

Objects From Home

Because the preschool program provides ample toys and learning materials for your child, we ask that you limit toys brought from home. If your child brings an “attachment” item from home, we ask that it is small enough to fit inside his/her backpack or cubby. Please do not allow children to bring gum, candy, money, or toy guns to school. The program cannot be responsible for lost or broken toys brought from home.

Weapon Policy

No student shall carry, have in his or her possession, store, keep, leave, place or put into the possession of another student any real weapon or a lookalike weapon on any school premises, in any school vehicle or any vehicle used by the school or for school purposes, in any school building or other buildings or premises used for school functions, whether or not any person is endangered by such actions. "Look alike weapon" means any item that resembles or appears to be a weapon. *A zero tolerance policy on dangerous weapons (real or toy) are in effect; i.e., guns, squirt guns, water rifles or pistols, slingshots, toy guns, toy grenades and other similar items knives, etc. Violation may result in a student suspension/expulsion.*

Classroom Animals and Pets

No pets, of any kind, are allowed at school without permission. Teachers may give special permission for pets to be brought to school as part of a special display or activity. However, under no circumstances is a potentially dangerous pet to be brought to school. Pets need to be up to date on ALL shots and provide evidence of shots.

Any children allergic to the pet will not be exposed to the animal. The classroom teacher is responsible for checking requirements have been met.

Birthdays QPPS 5.10

Birthdays are an important and significant event in the life of a child. They afford the opportunity for children to be given special recognition. Accordingly, students who wish to bring treats for the class on their birthday may do so. Food that comes from home for sharing among the children must be either whole fruits or commercially prepared packaged foods in factory sealed containers. The teacher will provide families a list of foods meeting the USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program guidelines. Those who have summer birthdays are welcome to choose a school day to celebrate with their class. Invitations to parties outside of school that do not include the entire class will not be distributed at school.

V. COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES QPPS 1.1, 7.5

The program will promote communication between families and staff by using written notes as well as informal conversations or email. Families are encouraged to send written notes with important information so all the staff who work with the child can share the parent’s communication. Teaching staff will write notes for families no less than weekly. Staff will use these notes to inform families about the child’s experiences, accomplishments, behavior, and other issues that affect the child’s development

and wellbeing. Parents are encouraged to maintain regular, on going, two way communication with the teaching staff in a manner that best meets their needs email, in person, notes, or phone calls.

Open Door Policy

Parents and legal guardians are always welcome to visit the preschool classroom. As a safety feature, all parents and visitors will check in at the elementary school office. Visitors are asked to please use discretion with regard to bringing babies and toddlers to school as young children may disrupt class sessions. Photo identification will be required for any unknown visitor to the classroom.

Arrival and Departure of Children

All motor vehicle transportation provided by parents, legal guardians or others designated by parents or legal guardians will include the use of age appropriate, and size appropriate seat restraints.

When bringing your child to school, we ask that you park your car in the parking lot and turn off the engine before entering the building. Please hold your child's hand as you enter the building to decrease the possibility of an accident. Children are not allowed in the classroom before 8:10. If they are any earlier they need to go to the lunchroom. Parents or legal guardians must either accompany children to the classroom at the beginning of the day or leave their child in the care of one of the teaching staff. No child will be permitted to leave the building without an adult.

Other than parents or legal guardians, only persons with prior written authorization (Parent Consent Form) will be allowed to pick up a child from the school. Anyone who is unfamiliar to teaching staff, including authorized individuals, will be asked to present photo identification before a child is released to them.

In the interest of students' safety, parents/guardians/authorized individuals are requested to report directly to the office when picking up their child rather than going to the child's classroom. Likewise, when a student returns to the building following an absence during the school day, the adult should stop in the office and sign the child in. When picking up your child from the school, please come early enough to enjoy watching what your child is doing during that time of the day. The school staff is happy to interact with families at arrival and dismissal times.

When preschool students arrive they will go to the lunch room in the school. A preschool staff member will be in the lunchroom to assist them with breakfast and then bring them to the classroom. At dismissal, teaching staff will accompany each student to the bus and assist the student onto the bus.

When all children have arrived the teacher will record attendance for the day. Throughout the day each time children transition from one location to another, i.e. classroom to outdoor, the teacher will be responsible for counting the number of children whenever leaving one area, during that activity time and when arriving at another area to confirm the safe whereabouts of every child at all times.

Transportation

The Seymour Community Schools will provide school bus transportation for preschoolers in PK3 and PK4. Exceptions are no transportation provided to or from school for in town kids. Three year old preschool students that are riding the bus will be seated in a harness car seat fastened into the bus. The

parents or legal guardians may request transportation at enrollment, indicating the pick up and drop off address, the name of the responsible person at that address, and emergency contact information for all parties involved. Parents or legal guardians are asked to keep their information current by reporting changes to the preschool teacher or elementary school secretary. All information will be updated at least quarterly by teaching staff.

For children who have special needs for transportation, the facility will use a plan based on a functional assessment of the child's needs related to transportation that is filled out by the child's physician. This plan will address special equipment, staffing and care in the vehicle during transport. Any accommodations indicated in the child's Individualized Educational Program will be implemented as described.

Transportation services are managed and program vehicles are licensed and insured in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. Certification of licensing and insurance is available on site.

Field Trips

An important learning opportunity can take place in the form of a field trip that is relevant and reinforces what has been taught in the classroom. The Seymour school buses are used for these field trips with four year old preschool if a bus is needed but walking in town trips are most likely. The three year old preschool class does walking field trips in town. Parents will be informed of each field trip through a newsletter and signs posted in the classroom well in advance. A parent or legal guardian must sign an informed consent form for trips for each child before each trip.

Adult family members are asked to volunteer to go on these trips to provide increased supervision and adult/child ratios. A notice posting the dates, time of departure, time of return, and the destination location will be posted prominently at least 48 hours before the field trip. Each child will be assigned to an adult for every part of the trip. Before every trip, the teaching staff will instruct children and all adults using the bus about the 10foot danger zone around the vehicle where the driver cannot see.

During the field trip, all children will wear identifying information that, for children, gives the program name and phone number. A first aid kit, emergency contact information, and emergency transport authorization information for the children in the group will be taken on all trips. Children will be counted every 15 minutes while on a field trip. Children may only use a public restroom if they are accompanied by a staff member. Children will never be left alone in a vehicle or unsupervised by an adult.

Attendance

Students who are enrolled for classes (three year old room and four year old room) in the Seymour Schools are expected to be in school for the full session and are expected to be punctual in their arrival and departure. Students are not expected to be absent any more than is necessary for health reasons or appointments. Irregular attendance interferes with the progress of your child and others as teachers find themselves taking class time to repeat information and make adjustments for those students who have been absent. Please call the elementary office with the reason for an absence no later than 8:30 A.M... For safety's sake, if a student is absent without notification, the school secretary/teaching staff will attempt to contact the family to verify the child's absence from school.

Ethics and Confidentiality

Staff follow an important code of ethics to guide their involvement with children and families. It is essential to protect the confidentiality of all information concerning children and their families. Maintaining a professional attitude includes being responsive to the needs of children and their families while balancing the need for confidentiality. Children are people who deserve respect. One way we demonstrate this respect is to refrain from talking about the children in their presence unless the child is part of the conversation and to refrain from labeling a child negatively or positively. No information about any particular child shall be shared with another child's parent. We continually strive to model such qualities as patience, tolerance, cooperation, acceptance, understanding of others, and enthusiasm for children as well as for other adults.

Children's Records

Student records containing personally identifiable information, except for directory information, are confidential. Only persons, including employees, who have a legitimate educational interest are allowed to access a student's records without the parent's permission. Parents may access, request amendments to, and copy their child's records during regular office hours. Parents may also file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they feel their rights regarding their child's records have been violated. For a complete copy of the school district's policy on student records or the procedure for filing a complaint, contact the board secretary in the high school administration office.

Parents or guardians will be asked to sign a release of information form should they or the school request information be shared with another agency, stating to whom the information is to be released, the reason or purpose for the release of information, when it expires, and ways the parents can withdraw permission if they choose to do so.

Preschool Advisory Committee QPPS 10.15

The Seymour Community Preschool has a preschool advisory committee composed of parents, school staff, and other community members interested in the preschool program. This group meets annually to provide feedback on services that meet children and family needs. They also serve as a sounding board for new ideas and services. Please let the preschool teacher know if you are interested in being part of the Preschool Advisory Committee.

We also have a Preschool-4th grade Parent Teachers United Committee that meets monthly. All families are welcome to join.

Grievance Policy

Open and honest communication between families and the preschool program is an essential component of a high quality early childhood program. We want you to be confident that your child is being well cared for and is having a quality experience. Our staff encourages families to raise concerns and work collaboratively together to find mutually satisfying solutions for students to incorporate into classroom practice. If there is ever a time you have a concern regarding your child, we want to encourage you to address your concern to your child's teacher. If additional help is needed, either party may ask for the assistance from the Elementary Principal, Mrs. Starr.

If you have a concern regarding some aspect of the program or policy, please contact the Elementary Principal.. If you remain dissatisfied, you may contact the Superintendent of Seymour Community Schools, Mr. Breon.

As part of our program assessment, in the spring of each year, we also provide you with a family questionnaire to evaluate our program. This information helps us to assess how the program is meeting the needs of families and children, as well as to identify strengths and weaknesses.

VI. FAMILY INVOLVEMENT QPPS 7.1, 7.2

Seymour Community School preschool rooms (three year old and four year old classrooms) encourages families to be very involved in their child's education by observing their children during the day when possible and meeting with staff. Family members are welcome to visit at any time during class sessions.

Teachers and administrators use a variety of formal and informal ways to become acquainted with and learn from families about their family structure and their preferred means of child rearing practices and communication; and information about their socioeconomic, linguistic, racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds as they wish to share. Families are surveyed in enrollment paperwork and through other questionnaires during the year regarding their family, beliefs, and preferences. Home visits are conducted at the beginning of the school year. Parents feedback surveys are given at the start, middle and end of the school year. Program staff communicate with families on at least a weekly basis regarding children's activities and developmental milestones, shared caregiving issues, and other information that affects the well-being of their children. Family teacher conferences are held in both the fall and spring semesters, as well as when either party requests. At least one Family Night is held during the year.

Seymour Preschool values the time spent talking and interacting with families and developing strong, reciprocal relationships. As the teacher learns from the families' expertise regarding their child's interests, approaches to learning, and developmental needs, goals for your child's growth and development can be incorporated into ongoing classroom planning. Families are encouraged to share any concerns, preferences or questions with the preschool teacher or administration at any time.

Although in person daily contact cannot be replaced, preschool staff also rely on notes home, emails, phone calls, newsletters, and bulletin boards as alternatives means to establish and maintain open, two way communication.

Seymour Preschool invites you to become involved in one or all of the following ways, and welcomes other ideas as well.

1. Support your child's daily transition to school by sharing information about your child's interests and abilities. Keeping the teacher informed of changes and events that might affect your child allows the teacher to be more responsive to your child's needs.
2. Attend family meetings.
3. Return all forms, questionnaires and so on promptly.
4. Attend Family/Teacher conferences in the Fall and Spring semesters.

5. Take time to read the family bulletin board.
6. Check your child's folder each day.
7. Participate in field trip activities.
8. Share some of your talents in your child's class through activities such as: reading or storytelling, cooking, art, music, sewing, crafts, hobbies, your profession, or artifacts from trips you have taken.
9. Share any of your families' cultural traditions, celebrations, or customs.
10. Help prepare snack and enjoy it with your child.
11. Read all the material sent home with your child.
12. Come to play.
13. Help with special events. Helping takes many different forms such as preparation of materials at home, making telephone calls, preparing or posting flyers, recruiting other volunteers, collecting donations or prizes, run errands, photography, setup before the event, or clean afterwards.
14. Serve on the Preschool Advisory Committee.
15. Add to the monthly newsletter or organize it.

It is the policy of the Seymour Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, creed, age, marital status, or physical disability in its education programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title VI or VIII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The school district will, to the extent possible, provide full opportunities for meaningful participation of the families with children with limited English proficiency, families with children with disabilities, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats on request, and, to the extent possible, in a language families understand.

The school district believes that families should be supported in making decisions about services that their children may need. The teaching staff will provide information to families about available community resources and assist as requested in helping the family make connections. The staff will encourage families to advocate for needed services and will support their efforts to negotiate health, mental health, assessment, and educational services for their children.

Home Visits QPPS 7.1, QPPS 7.2

Home visits will be made within 30 days of the start of school. This is an opportunity for the preschool teacher to get to know you, your child, and your family and for you to begin to create a partnership between home and school in order to best meet your child's needs. This is a great time for you to share what makes your family unique, how you prefer to communicate with the teacher, and share your knowledge about your child's interests, approaches to learning, and developmental needs. You can help the teacher understand what your goals are for your child and whether you have any concerns you'd like addressed. Parents are encouraged to share these preferences, concerns, and questions at any time with either the classroom teacher or administrator.

Family Teacher Conferences QPPS 7.3

The preschool program will have formal family teacher conferences in the fall and spring. During the conference the teacher will share results of classroom assessments and samples of your child's work. Together you can make a plan to continue to encourage your child's growth and development.

Family Night

Family night is an opportunity for you and your family to come to school to participate in fun as well as educational activities. Based on results from a family survey, the teaching staff will select a topic for the evening. With help from family volunteers, the night will be planned to meet the needs of the children and families in the classroom.

Transitions

Home-school connections are crucial to the transition to kindergarten or any other program, such as special education. The child's family provides the consistency and continuity necessary for a young child to be successful. Making a change from one program to another can sometimes be difficult for a young child whether the transition is within the same building or in another location. Teaching staff will partner with the family to make the transition as smooth as possible by connecting family members with the next program's staff. Preschool staff will provide information about enrollment policies and procedures, program options, and arrange for a classroom visit whenever possible. The program staff will assist families in communicating with other programs.

VII. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Seymour Community Preschool is committed to promoting wellness and to safeguard the health and safety of children and adults who participate in our program. In order to provide a safe and secure environment for every child and adult, we follow guidelines required by the Quality Preschool Program Standards, regulatory agencies and pediatric authorities in the field.

Health and Immunization Certificates QPPS 5.1

Within six weeks after a child begins the program, health records that document the dates of service shall be submitted that show the child is current for routine screening tests and immunizations according to the schedule recommended and published by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

When a child is overdue for any routine health services, parents, legal guardians, or both provide evidence of an appointment for those services before the child's entry into the program and as a condition of remaining enrolled in the program, except for immunization for which parents are using religious exemption.

Health and Safety Records QPPS 5.1

Health and safety information collected from families will be maintained on file for each child in the school nurse's office. Files are kept current by updating as needed, but at least quarterly. The content of the file is confidential, but is immediately available to administrators or teaching staff who have consent from a parent or legal guardian for access to records; the child's parent or legal guardian; and regulatory authorities, upon request.

Child Health and Safety Records will include: **QPPS 5.1**

1. Current information about any health insurance coverage required for treatment in an emergency;
2. Results of health examination, showing up to date immunizations and screening tests with an indication of normal or abnormal results and any follow up required for abnormal results;
3. Current emergency contact information for each child, that is kept up to date by a specified method during the year;
4. Names of individuals authorized by the family to have access to health information about the child;
5. Instructions for any of the child's special health needs such as allergies or chronic illness (e.g., asthma, hearing or vision impairments, feeding needs, neuromuscular conditions, urinary or other ongoing health problems, seizures, diabetes);
6. Individual emergency care plans for children with known medical or developmental problems or other conditions that might require special care in an emergency (allergy, asthma, seizures, orthopedic or sensory problems, and other chronic conditions; conditions that require regular medication or technology support
7. Supporting evidence for cases in which a child is underimmunized because of a medical condition (documented by a licensed health professional) or the family's beliefs. Staff implement a plan to exclude the child promptly if a vaccine preventable disease to which children are susceptible occurs in the program.

General Health and Safety Guidelines QPPS 5.2

- All staff must be alert to the health of each child, known allergies, or special medical conditions.
- Under the supervision of the preschool teacher, all staff must be alert to the whereabouts of all children. Systems are in place for accounting for children at regular intervals, especially during periods of transition.
- All staff is to follow proper procedures for hand washing, using disinfectant, and following universal precautions to prevent infections.
- All staff are familiar with evacuation routes and procedures.
- All teaching staff complete "Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens" annually.
- At least one staff member who has a certificate of satisfactory completion of pediatric first-aid training, including managing a blocked airway and providing rescue breathing for infants and children, is always present with each group of children. When a child in the group has a special health condition that might require CPR, one staff person who has successfully completed training in CPR is present in the program at all times.

Illness Policy and Exclusion of Sick Children QPPS 5.3

For the health and safety of all the children, it is mandatory that sick children not be brought to school. If your child has any of the following symptoms during the night, he or she will not be admitted the following morning for the safety of the other children.

- fever greater than 100 degrees F
- vomiting
- diarrhea

- pink eyes with drainage
- cough with congestion and excessive nasal discharge

The center's established policy for an ill child's return:

- Fever free for 24 hours
- Chicken pox: one week after onset (or when lesions are crusted)
- Strep: 24 hours after initial medication
- Vomiting/Diarrhea: 24 hours after last episode
- Conjunctivitis: 24 hours after initial medication or when without drainage

Upon arrival at school, each child is observed by teaching staff for signs of illness or injury that could affect the child's ability to participate comfortably in the daily activities. Children will be excluded when a child is not able to participate comfortably; if the illness requires more care than staff are able to provide without compromising the needs of the other children in the group; or if keeping the child at school poses an increased risk to the child or to other children or adults with whom the child will come in contact.

When a child develops signs of an illness during their day at preschool, parents, legal guardians, or other individuals authorized by the parent will be notified immediately to pick up the child. For this reason, please be sure that we have current, accurate phone numbers for you, your authorized emergency contact person and your child's pediatrician. In the meantime, we will provide the child a place to rest until the parent, legal guardian or designated person arrives under the supervision of someone familiar with the child. If the child is suspected of having a contagious disease, then until she or he can be picked up, the child is located where new individuals will not be exposed.

Reporting Communicable Diseases QPPS 5.3

Staff and teachers provide information to families verbally and in writing about any unusual level or type of communicable disease to which their child was exposed, signs and symptoms of the disease, mode of transmission, period of communicability, and control measures that are being implemented at the program and that the families should implement at home. The program has documentation that it has cooperative arrangements with local health authorities and has, at least annually, made contact with those authorities to keep current on relevant health information and to arrange for obtaining advice when outbreaks of communicable disease occur.

Medication Policies and Procedures QPPS 5.8

Policy: The school will administer medication both prescription and over the counter medications to children with written approval of the parent and an order from a health provider for a specific child. Because administration of medication in the school is a safety hazard, medication administration will be limited to situations where an agreement to give medicine outside preschool hours cannot be made. Whenever possible, the first dose of medication should be given at home to see if the child has any type of reaction.

Procedure: The school nurse coordinates and/or administers medication during school hours only if the parent or legal guardian has provided written consent and the medication is available in an original labeled prescription or manufacturer's container that is child resistant. Any other person who would

administer medication has specific training and a written performance evaluation, updated annually by a health professional on the practice of the five right practices of medication administration: (1) verifying that the right child receives the (2) right medication (3) in the right dose (4) at the right time (5) by the right method with documentation of each right each time the medication is given. Medication errors will be controlled by checking and recording these five right practices each time medication is given. Should a medication error occur, the Regional Poison Control Center and the child's parents will be contacted immediately. The incident will be documented in the child's record at the school.

For prescription medications, parents or legal guardians will provide the school with the medication in the original, child resistant container that is labeled by a pharmacist with the child's first and last name, the name and strength of the medication; the date the prescription was filled; the name of the health care provider who wrote the prescription; the medication's expiration date; and administration, storage, and disposal instructions.

For over the counter medications, parents or legal guardians will provide the medication in a child resistant container. The medication will be labeled with the child's first and last names; specific, legible instructions for administration and storage supplied by the manufacturer; and the name of the health care provider who recommended the medication for the child.

Instructions for the dose, time, method to be used, and duration of administration will be provided to the teaching staff in writing (by a signed note or a prescription label) or dictated over the telephone by a physician or other person legally authorized to prescribe medication. This requirement applies both to prescription and over the counter medications.

Medications will be kept at the temperature recommended for that type of medication, in a sturdy, child resistant container that is locked and prevents spillage.

Medication will not be used beyond the date of expiration on the container or beyond any expiration of the instructions provided by the physician or other person legally permitted to prescribe medication. Instructions which state that the medication may be used whenever needed will be renewed by the physician at least annually.

A medication log will be maintained by the school staff to record the instructions for giving the medication, consent obtained from the parent or legal guardian, amount, the time of administration, and the person who administered each dose of medication. Spills, reactions, and refusal to take medication will be noted on this log. See sample form in Appendix.

Teaching staff who are required to administer special medical procedures have demonstrated to a health professional that they are competent in the procedures and are guided in writing about how to perform the procedure by the prescribing health care provider.

Cleaning and Sanitization QPPS 5.18, QPPS 5.19

The facility will be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. When a spill occurs, the area will be made inaccessible to children and the area will be cleaned immediately.

Toys that have been placed in a child's mouth or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretion or excretion will be removed immediately and disinfected after they are cleaned with soap and water. This also applies to other surfaces in the classroom. Toys and surfaces will be disinfected using a non-toxic solution. Machine washable cloth toys that have been placed in a child's mouth or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretion or excretion must be laundered before another child's use. Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used.

Staff will be trained in cleaning techniques, proper use of protective barriers such as gloves, proper handling and disposal of contaminated materials, and information required by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration about the use of any chemical agents.

Routine cleaning will be supervised by the preschool teacher. A checklist will be completed as indicated in the table.

Facility cleaning requiring potentially hazardous chemicals will be scheduled when children are not present to minimize exposure of the children. All cleaning products will be used as directed by the manufacturer's label. Non Toxic substances will be used whenever possible.

Hand Washing Practices QPPS 5.6

Frequent hand washing is key to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Teachers teach children how to wash their hands effectively. Posters of children using proper hand washing procedures are placed by each sink. The program follows these practices regarding hand washing:

- Staff members and those children who are developmentally able to learn personal hygiene are taught hand-washing procedures and are periodically monitored.
- Hand washing is required by all staff, volunteers, and children when hand washing reduces the risk of transmission of infectious diseases to themselves and to others.
- Staff assists children with hand washing as needed to successfully complete the task.

Children and adults wash their hands:

- upon arrival for the day;
- after diapering or using the toilet (use of wet wipes is acceptable for infants);
- after handling body fluids (e.g., blowing or wiping a nose, coughing on a hand, or any touching of mucus, blood or vomit);
- before meals and snacks, preparing or serving food, or handling any raw food that requires cooking (e.g., meat, eggs, poultry);
- after playing in water that that is shared by two or more people;
- after handling pets and other animals or any materials such as sand, dirt, or surfaces that might be contaminated by contact with animals; and

Adults also wash their hands

- before and after feeding a child;
- before and after administering medication;
- after assisting a child with toileting; and

after handling garbage or cleaning.

Proper hand-washing procedures are followed by adults and children and include

- using liquid soap and running water;
- rubbing hands vigorously for at least 10 seconds, including back of hands, wrists, between fingers, under and around any jewelry, and under fingernails; rinsing well; drying hands with a paper towel, or a dryer; and avoiding touching the faucet with just-washed hands (e.g., by using a paper towel to turn off water).

Except when handling blood or body fluids that might contain blood (when wearing gloves is required), wearing gloves is an optional supplement, but not a substitute, for hand washing in any situation listed above.

- Staff must wear gloves when contamination with blood may occur.
 - Staff does not use hand-washing sinks for bathing children or removing smeared fecal material.
- In situations where sinks are used for both food preparation and other purposes, staff clean and sanitize the sinks before using them to prepare food.

First Aid Kit QPPS 9.12

The first aid kits are located in the preschool classrooms next to the doors. First aid kits are maintained for each group of children. They are inaccessible to children, but readily available for adult use. They are fully equipped according to guidance from Healthy Child Care Iowa. Following each use of the First Aid kit, the contents will be inspected and missing or used items replaced immediately. The First Aid kits will be inspected monthly. The first aid kit is taken to the outdoor play areas as well as on field trips and outings away from the site.

Emergency Plans

Fire Safety QPPS 9.13, 10.10

Fully working fire extinguishers are installed in the preschool classrooms with tags indicating their annual service date. The fire alarm system is serviced annually. Carbon monoxide detectors are installed in each classroom and tagged for service annually. Fully working smoke detectors, fire alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors are tested monthly. A written log of testing dates and battery changes is maintained and available upon request. Fire drills are conducted monthly and recorded on a log.

Medical Emergencies and Notification of Accidents or Incidents QPPS 10.10

The Seymour Community School District has in place a “Safety Procedures Booklet” that describes the following situations and procedures to follow:

- Emergency phone numbers
- Fire procedures
- Utility Failures (electric power failure, water line break, gas line break)
- Severe weather
- Bomb threats
- Physical Threats/Armed Intruder
- Evacuations

- Crisis Intervention Plan, Crisis Intervention Steps, and Media Procedures
- Accidental Injury or Illness procedures for life threatening and nonlife threatening situations
- School crisis team members and a checklist to use
- List of CPR/First Aid experienced persons in each building

This booklet will be posted by the telephone and included in the first aid kit. The booklet will be reviewed by each staff member at the beginning of each school year and when changes are made to it. Procedures designate an appropriate person to assume authority and take action in an emergency when the administrator is not on site. Plans for evacuation procedures designate how and when to either shelter in place or evacuate. These plans specify a location for evacuation. Evacuation procedures are practiced monthly with yearly practice of other emergency procedures in the preschool.

In the event that your child receives a minor, nonlife threatening injury during their time at preschool, our teacher will assess the situation and apply first aid as needed. Minor cuts and scrapes will be treated with soap and water and bumps will be treated by applying ice to the injured area. Any incident or injuries will be documented on an “Injury and Illness” form and a copy will be given to the parent within 24 hours of the incident.

All staff will have immediate access to a device that allows them to summon help in an emergency. The telephone numbers of the Fire Department, Police Department, Hospital, and Poison Control will be posted by each phone with an outside line. Emergency contact information for each child and staff member will be kept readily available. The list of emergency telephone numbers, and copies of emergency contact information and authorization for emergency transport will be taken along anytime children leave the facility in the care of facility staff. In the event that a child needs emergency transport to a medical facility, someone familiar to the child will accompany him or her. Emergency phone numbers will be updated at least quarterly. Emergency phone numbers will be verified by calling the numbers to make sure a responsive, designated person is available.

Inclement Weather QPPS 1.1

In the event that the Seymour School must be closed due to bad weather, we will notify school patrons by School Web page www.seymourcsd.org radio station 98.7fm KCOG as we have in the past. WHO Channel 13 and Channel 8 KCCI in Des Moines will be the official station with all school closings and early dismissals. Sign up for school delay and closing alerts at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/IAEDU5895/subscriber/new>

Protection from Hazards and Environmental Health QPPS 9.16, 9.17

Program staff protect children and adults from hazards, including electrical shock, burns, or scalding, slipping, tripping, or falling. Floor coverings are secured to keep staff and children from tripping. The preschool classroom building has been tested for lead, radon, radiation, asbestos, fiberglass, and other hazards that could impact children’s health with documentation on file. The City of Williamsburg

provides water for the building. Staff maintain the building's heating, cooling, and ventilation systems in compliance with national standards for facility use by children.

The program maintains facilities so they are free from harmful animals, insect pests, and poisonous plants. Pesticides and herbicides, if used, are applied according to the manufacturer's instructions when children are not at the facility and in a manner that prevents skin contact, inhalation, and other exposure to children.

Smoke Free Facility QPPS 9.15

In compliance with the Iowa Smokefree Air Act of 2008, Seymour Community School buildings and grounds are smoke free. A "No Smoking" sign meeting the law's requirements is posted at the entrance to the preschool classroom building to inform people that they are entering a non-smoking place. No smoking is allowed on the school grounds, in outdoor play areas or within sight of any children.

Child Protection Policies QPPS 10.6

The health and well being of every child in our care is of the utmost importance and the protection of children is our responsibility. An applicant or volunteer for temporary or permanent employment with the preschool program involves direct interaction with or the opportunity to interact and associate with children must execute and submit an affidavit of clearance from any and all crimes against a child or families. In addition no person with a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect will come in contact with children in the program or have responsibility for children.

The program has a written school board policy for reporting child abuse and neglect as well as procedures in place that comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws. The policy includes requirements for staff to report all suspected incidents of child abuse, neglect, or both by families, staff, volunteers, or others to the appropriate local agencies. Staff who report suspicions of child abuse or neglect where they work are immune from discharge, retaliation, or other disciplinary action for that reason alone unless it is proven that the report is malicious. All teaching staff complete "Mandatory Reporter: Child and Dependent Adult Abuse" at least every five years and within six months of employment.

The school district does not tolerate employees physically, or sexually abusing or harassing students. Students who are physically or sexually abused or harassed by an employee should notify their parents, legal guardians, teacher, principal, or another employee. The Iowa Department of Education has established a twostep procedure for investigating allegations of physical or sexual abuse of students by employees. That procedure requires the school district to designate an independent investigator to look into the allegations. The school district has designated (name of person) at (phone number). The alternate investigator is (name of person) and may be reached at (phone number).

Substance Abuse QPPS 10.12

Persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be permitted on the premises of Seymour Community School. At no time will children be released to a person under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Volunteers QPPS 7.2

Parents, friends, grandparents, and other adults are encouraged to take an active part in the educational process of the children. Please contact the teacher, the elementary principal, or our office secretary if you would like to be a school volunteer. We have a volunteer job description that defines the role and responsibilities of a volunteer. For safety's sake, if a volunteer will be working with children, he/she will be expected to execute and submit an affidavit of clearance from any and all crimes against a child or families. In addition no person with a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect will come in contact with children in the program or have responsibility for children. If a volunteer works more than 40 hours per month with children, he/she will also need to provide a current health assessment, not more than one year old.

VIII. Staff QPPS 10.11-10.14 **General Information**

The Seymour Community School district has written personnel policies that define the roles and responsibilities, qualifications, and specialized training required of staff and volunteer positions. The policies outline nondiscriminatory hiring procedures and policies for staff evaluation. Policies detail job descriptions for each position, including reporting relationships; salary scales with increments based on professional qualification, length of employment, and performance evaluation; benefits; and resignation, termination, and grievance procedures. Personnel policies provide for incentives based on participation in professional development opportunities. The policies are provided to each employee upon hiring.

QPPS 10.12 Hiring procedures include completion of the following checks: criminalrecord check, free from history of substantiated child abuse or neglect check, education credentials, verification of age, completion of high school or GED, personal references and a current health assessment.

Orientation QPPS 6.5

Employees must know their role and duties. New preschool teaching staff will be required to participate in an initial orientation program that introduces them to fundamental aspects of the program operation including:

- Program philosophy, values, mission, and goals;
- Expectations for ethical conduct;
- Health, safety, and emergency procedures
- Individual needs of children they will be teaching or caring for;
- Accepted guidance and classroom management techniques;
- Daily activities and routines of the program;
- Program curriculum; Teaching Strategies Gold Online
- Child abuse and neglect reporting procedures;
- Program policies and procedures;
- Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards and Criteria;
- Regulatory requirements.

Follow-up training expands on the initial orientations. See Staff Orientation Checklist.

The employee's immediate supervisor should provide the new employee with a review of the employee's responsibilities and duties. The superintendent will explain payroll procedures, employee benefit programs and accompanying forms to the employee. Regular employees ineligible for the school district's group health plan will be given information regarding where they can obtain health care or health care insurance.

Staff Development Activities QPPS 6.5

Personnel policies provide for incentives based on participation in professional development opportunities. All teaching staff continuously strengthen their leadership skills and relationships with others and work to improve the conditions of children and families within their programs, the local community, and beyond. Teaching staff are encouraged to participate in informal and formal ways in local, state, or regional public awareness activities. They may join an early childhood group or organization, attend meetings, or share information with others both at and outside the program.

Teaching staff will be informed of professional development activities provided by Child Care Resource and Referral, the local Empowerment areas, and the area education agency. Staff are expected to attend all staff training and meetings throughout the year. Early Childhood Professional Development will be provided on site by our AEA Early Childhood Consultant. Training will focus on early childhood topics relevant to the program and community.

Evaluation and Professional Growth Plan QPPS 6.5, 6.6

All staff are evaluated at least annually in some way by an appropriate supervisor or, in the case of the program administrator, by the superintendent. Staff also evaluate and improve their own performance based on ongoing reflections and feedback from supervisors, peers, and families. From this, they develop an annual individualized professional development plan with their supervisor and use it to inform their continuous professional development.