**PARENT HANDBOOK**



**2023-2024**

Chilkat Valley Preschool ~ PO Box 1165 ~ Haines, AK 99827 ~ 907 766-3213

Chilkat Valley Preschool

Chilkat Valley Preschool provides an organized, caring, and play-based learning environment through multisensory activities. Serving the children and families of our community, we are dedicated to the fullest development of the whole child.

CVP welcomes all pre-primary-school children of all races, religions, and ethnic cultures.

The preschool learning experience seeks to strengthen children and the ties between their families, community, and other children. Some of the fun activities include…

Creating, Laughing, Dancing, Singing, Sharing,

Exploring Planets, Sand, Water & Play Dough.

Painting, Reading, Writing, Counting, Baking,

Creating Sculptures, Sewing & Dress up.

Community Field Trips, Make Believe Play,

Practicing Good Manners and Patience,

Building self-esteem, Growing & Thriving.

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Thank you for your time and attention in reading the

Parent Handbook. Parents will be notified about

any changes made to these policies during the school year.

We look forward to an exciting and educational

year with you and your child!

## Getting Started at

## Chilkat Valley Preschool

Children who are 3 years old by September 1st are eligible to enroll in the fall semester. As a prerequisite for attending preschool, children must be potty trained and meet the state immunizations requirements.

**Hours of Operation**

Monday-Friday

7:50 am – 3:15

CVP is licensed for 24 children between the ages of 19 and 84 months. We will not exceed a 6:1 ration on any given day with toddlers present, and 7:1 with exclusively preschoolers without Board approval. We encourage **early registration** to ensure there is space available. Open registration begins on April 1st on a first come first serve basis with payment of the non-refundable $50 registration fee. Priority registration is given to returning students and their families. If there is space available, toddlers will be accepted into the program. Please deliver registration to the preschool building or mail/email to:

P.O. Box 1165

Haines, Alaska 99827

907-766-3213

[cvpreschool@aptalaska.net](mailto:cvpreschool@aptalaska.net)

[www.chilkatvalleypreschool.org](http://www.chilkatvalleypreschool.org)

## 7 days notice will be given for changes to the Handbook or schedule.

## Please plan to join us at the Preschool for a Family Night/Open house TBD

We will introduce families & staff, explain general preschool procedures, tour the facility, and answer parent questions. We invite those with interest to join the Board of Directors. We hold monthly meetings where enthusiasm is more important than experience!

**2023/2024 School Year Calendar**

## CVP generally follows the Haines Borough School Districts calendar

## Please note dates below:

First day of school Tuesday, September 5th 2023

Thanksgiving November 23rd-24th 2023

Winter Break December 18th-January 1st 2024

Martin Luther King Jr February 19th 2024

Teacher Professional Development March 8th

Spring Break March 18th-22nd 2024

Last Day May 23rd 2024 Ends at 2pm

Preschool will be closed for inclement weather or holidays whenever the public schools are closed. Radio station KHNS, 102.3 FM is the timely source of information on weather related closures. We also try to send emails to notify parents of closures, but do not depend on this. In addition to the radio, a reliable source is the Haines Borough School District website. CVP does not regularly schedule make up days for weather related closures.

**Lead Teacher / Administrator Absence**: In case of a Lead Teacher/Administrator absence due to sickness a qualified substitute who meets state, licensing regulations and qualifications will cover for that day. If they are unable, a parent volunteer may be asked at administrator’s discretion.

## Preschool and Toddler Tuition

Tuition for Chilkat Valley Preschool is based on the 9 months school is in session.

*For your convenience* payments can be made on an Annual or Monthly basis:

**Monthly payment plans are due the first day of each month**. If payment is not received by the 10th of the month, a late fee of $25 will be charged. Other payment plans may be set up by speaking to the office manager. Students will be considered un-enrolled if tuition is not paid by the end of the month. No credit will be given for school days that a child misses.

CVP requires 30 days notice when families wish to increase or decrease the attendance for a child. This will give the school enough time to plan for the decreased revenue and/or to admit the next child on the waiting list. Tuition may be prepaid up to two months in order to reserve a spot during extended absences. Prepayment for more than two months is allowed at the discretion of the board. If tuition is not paid to reserve the spot during an extended absence lasting one month or longer, the child will be withdrawn from school and need to pay the $50 registration fee upon re-enrolling.

School 8:15-12:15 School + Extended Care 8:15-3:15

Monthly Annual Monthly Annual

2 days/week (T,Th) $210 $2,100 $365 $3,650

3 days/week (M,W,F) $315 $3,150 $550 $5,500

5 days/week (M-F) $525 $5,250 $800 $8,000

**Financial Assistance**

The State of Alaska offers the **Child Care Assistance Program** (CCAP). These programs are designed to help working and/or training parents/guardians pay for childcare. To be eligible for CCAP you must be working, going to school, attending a job training program or self-employed. The program is based on your family’s income. Contact Child Care Program Office at 1-888-268-4632 for more information or log onto [www.dhss.alaska.gov](http://www.dhss.alaska.gov) or email [ccpo@alaska.gov](mailto:ccpo@alaska.gov)

**Scholarship** – Chilkat Valley Preschool is proud to offer partial scholarships a year to those who qualify. Please see the office administrator for further information regarding an application.

## Immunizations

As a prerequisite for attending preschool, all children must have the state-required immunizations. A detailed list of these immunizations is posted on the main bulletin board. A copy of these immunizations **must** be in our office prior to starting preschool. We are required by the state to report to the Alaska Division of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology.

Health or religious exemptions from immunizations require a notarized affidavit.

Please speak with the office manager if you have questions about your child’s immunizations or call the Haines SEARHC Medical Clinic at 766-6300. Please note that each child is required to meet the minimum milestones for immunizations according to their age.

## Clothing & Personal Items

**What to bring on the first day?** Bring extra change of clothes and indoor shoes (slippers or crocs work well). State safety regulations require children to wear shoes at all times while in the building. Please bring extra outerwear, hats, gloves etc. to store for changes in the weather throughout the day. A water bottle is required for all students. Lunch and blanket/pillow will be needed for students who are staying all day.

**What to wear** **to preschool?** Comfortable play clothes are best. Thechildren will be active in potentially messy activities. We will also play outdoors so bring weather-appropriate clothing for outside.

**The Coat Cubby** area is right inside the front door. This is where the children leave their outdoor gear and extra shoes. Labelall removable clothing withyour child's name.

**Arrivals & Departures**

**Come in** and help your child get his/her coat off and into their cubby. Never drop your child off in the parking lot. Come into the building and make contact with one of the staff members before you leave.

**Separation Anxiety**. Don’t worry! If your child feels uncomfortable, rest assured that we give him/her the support he/she needs. Usually, brief partings with parents make it easier for all concerned.

**Be prompt** when arriving and departing school, late arrivals can be disruptive for all the children. We recognize that time restraints can be difficult for some young children and parents, be as consistent as possible.

**We will not release children to anyone who is not authorized in writing by the parent/guardian.** If you expect anyone other than yourself to pick up your child after school, please include their name and phone number on the information card provided. You may update the information card at any

**School Day Curriculum**

The preschool derives its curriculum from a constructivist approach, rooting from the work of Vygotsky and Piaget. It is a play-based curriculum which assumes a child must be active participants within their own learning, meeting the children where they are at developmentally and then challenging them to grow. Families will receive updates and newsletters through an app called Bloomz, explaining what is happening in the classroom and summarizing special activities that are planned. We also use Facebook to show what students are doing throughout the week. We appreciate parent participation and suggestions.

Our daily schedule includes time for active play, fine motor skill practice, artistic expression, pretend play, sensory activities, group activities, and shared reading, among other activities. This schedule may be adapted for special guests, field trips, and inclement weather. Toddlers participate in most of the activities with preschoolers. Staff are intentionally providing opportunities for each age group to learn and grow with age-appropriate expectations. If there is a mixed age group, the preschoolers can be helpers and role models which encourages increased self-control and executive function.

We give children the chance to practice taking care of their own needs, such as putting on coats and shoes, or asking a friend for help. They practice monitoring their bodies and deciding how many layers to put on (within reason). Although it may take additional time, we celebrate with them the journey of increased autonomy.

**TV and computer use:** Chilkat Valley Preschool follows a play-based curriculum with emphasis on social development. Consequently, television, movies, video games, and computer use are not included in our program, except on rare occasions when a short video (10 min. or less) may be used to guide movement activities during inclement weather.

# Behavior Management

# Two principles guide the preschool’s approach: Children learn to identify, accept, and understand their emotions, then successfully bring them under control. If a child needs help bringing order to their inner and outer worlds, there is an adult nearby. This will also help prevent potentially hurting themselves or others.

When the teachers observe inappropriate behavior, they intervene with active listening techniques and, when appropriate, redirection of attention or activity. Situations requiring discipline are viewed as opportunities to help a child learn more about themselves and about social interactions.

Discipline is never punitive. Under no circumstances will corporal punishment be administered to a child. Alaska law requires staff at the Chilkat Valley Preschool to report suspected and/or confirmed child abuse/neglect to the Office of Children Services (OCS).

**Plan of Supervision**

Indoor and outdoor supervision consists of CVP staff proactively monitoring the safety of our students. Our staff is CPR First Aid certified and first aid kits are available if needed. All activities and transitions will be monitored and at no time will a child be left unattended. Certain play areas that allow for climbing have their own set of safety rules, for example, only one child on the ladder at a time.

**Outside Play:** Outside play is supervised at the Tlingit Park playground. We give children every reasonable opportunity to play outside, but at times, the weather can be downright inhospitable with wind and ice. During times when it is below 25 degrees with wind and ice, the children will play indoors. Rest assured that on cold and/or wet days when we choose to play outside, the preschool staff keeps a close eye on each child's comfort level, and we're always prepared to have a staff member accompany a child indoors. We ask for your cooperation in choosing your child's outer garments with the day's weather in mind. On wet days, rain jackets and waterproof boots are a must, and rain pants are also nice. In wintertime, please send your child dressed appropriately for outdoor play with the following: snow suit, snow boots, hat, mittens, and either a scarf or facemask. You might consider leaving an extra set of labeled hat/mittens/scarf in your child's cubby once the weather turns chilly.

Outside play is vital to the need of the human brain to make connections, play, and learn. Physical development is highly interconnected to the social emotional and cognitive domains. There is no such thing as being over prepared. Please send clothes with the idea that your child will be outside for many hours at a time.

## Field Trips & Other Programs

Talented individuals/organizations wanting to share their expertise and enthusiasm with preschoolers are always appreciated. We celebrate the local talent and rich diversity of the community. Twice a month a local music teacher leads the children with singing & playing instruments in the classroom. Twice monthly we make a visit to the local library to hear stories read aloud and check out a book. We also have tours of Alaska Indian Arts, local restaurants, the Fire Hall, Police station, Post Office, beach, playground, and many others. Toddlers are included in all trips with the assistance of a walker wagon.

**Field trip transportation:** We rely on parent and staff vehicles for transportation. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Any time spent assisting CVP Staff with transportation will be counted towards parent volunteer hours.

**Plan of supervision**: The plan for supervision on field trips is to increase the child to staff ratio, take emergency contact information with us along with a cell phone and our first aid backpack. We will be sure that all the children are safely buckled in vehicles and in a smoke-free environment. We will post all transportation plans on the front door of the preschool***. However, travel to and from field trip locations is not covered by the preschool's insurance.***All parents are required to sign a consent for transportation and field trips for their child to participate.

## Classroom Volunteers

We welcome and encourage parents/guardians to participate in the education of their children. Please come and observe or participate, just sign up at least 24 hours beforehand. Your help and interest in the classroom will be most appreciated. The following guidelines are helpful:

1. Please arrange for your other children to have childcare.
2. Arrive 15 minutes early to go over the schedule with the teacher
3. Let the teacher know your interests.If you like, you can plan a special project to do with a small group of children.

As a volunteer at the preschool, you may hear staff or children discussing various concerns or family situations. Respecting the confidentiality of such information is essential while volunteering. A **TB test is suggested** for each parent volunteering *regularly* in CVP's classroom**.** All volunteers are *supervised. Volunteers* will not be left alone with the children at any time**.**

**Parent/Guardian Participation**

The preschool depends on active participation of enrolled families to thrive. Participation is essential in the following areas:

**1)** **Pack a daily snack and lunch for your child.**

Snack time not only fuels us up for more fun, it also provides an opportunity to have conversations and practice our table manners. We encourage children to do as much as possible for themselves, which boosts their skills and self-esteem. You are always welcome to join us for lunch. Children do not share lunches at school due to health and safety standards. Please save sweets and treats for home and remember water is provided. Please keep State Licensing lunch guidelines in mind as you pack a lunch as well as snack: **½ cup Dairy, Fruit or Vegetable, ½ ounce protein, ½ slice bread/grain**

**3) Participate in fundraisers**

CVP will organize 4-5 fundraising events throughout the school year. Each family will be responsible for contributing to fundraisers to the best of their abilities. **Required 20 hours a school year or a donation of $250.** Families can easily meet goals by participating in one or several of these fundraisers. Fundraising updates will be given to families to help with motivation. Parent commitment and assistance with these fundraisers helps keep preschool tuition costs both stable and as reasonable as possible.

**4) Join the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors is made up of 4-8 volunteers. These Board members meet monthly and are responsible for the overall management and administration of the school. Remember that enthusiasm is more important than experience!

## Health & Safety

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It's best for all of us if we have only healthy children at school. Follow your common sense and be considerate of the staff, other students, and their families when deciding whether your child should attend school. If any of the following symptoms have occurred in the last 24 hours please have your child stay home:

Fever of 100 degrees or more

Started taking antibiotics

First signs of a cough or cold

Vomiting or Diarrhea

\*\*\*Head lice is spotted

\*Contagious skin rash or infection

\*\*Chickenpox

*\*The return to school must be approved by staff and/or doctor*

*\*\*Return to school when all the sores have scabbed over*

*\*\*\*The return to school is approved by medical personal and no live ice is spotted. You must have visual confirmation from a professional over three weeks to confirm the cycle of lice has been stopped. Contact the public health nurse if you have reason to believe your household has been exposed to lice.*

The office manager will notify parents immediately if children have been exposed to contagious diseases and/or conditions. No medications will be administered unless specifically prescribed and directed by the child’s physician. Written dosage instructions are required. Along with providing a safe, enjoyable learning experience for your child, one of our highest priorities is to ensure proper hygienic practices at all times. We follow strict sanitary standards with frequent hand washing for the staff and children, no sharing of hats, brushes or combs and bleaching all the items used in the preparation and serving of food. **To further ensure safety, at no time are fire arms allowed on school property, no animals may be on the premises without prior approval and poisonous plants are prohibited.**

**Children with experienced disabilities**

Children with experienced disabilities often learn more from their peers than from any teacher. Things like: how to share, get along with others, and use language to express needs. In their preschool experience, children with and without disabilities learn to accept people with differences, to be compassionate, and to feel good about helping others. Our goal is to prepare *all* preschool-aged children for a lifetime of inclusion. If needed, additional staff training will be pursued to help with special needs concerns.

A special needs plan of care is required by state licensing regulations. This plan is written in cooperation with the parents, teachers, Haines Borough School District and specialists. This plan is referred to as Individualized Education Programs (IEP's).

CVP will refer children with identifiable disabilities to the local school district. Public school districts in Alaska are responsible for providing the evaluation and special services needed by diagnosed children.

**Confidentiality**

All Chilkat Valley Preschool employees have agreed that confidentiality and privacy is of utmost importance when discussing issues related to personnel, children and parents, and situations happening in and around the preschool. If you have questions or concerns please contact the office manager or the Board President.

## Licensing & Insurance

The Chilkat Valley Preschool is licensed by the Department of Health & Social Services and must comply with all stipulated licensing requirements. We are subject to annual review and are proud of our outstanding compliance record. We carry liability insurance and accident insurance, which covers all children and staff at school and at field trip locations.

**EXPULSION POLICY**

Unfortunately, there are sometimes reasons we have to ask that a child be removed from

our program either on a short term or permanent basis. We want you to know we will do

everything possible to work with the family of the child(ren) in order to prevent this

policy from being enforced.

**WHEN A CHILD IS HAVING A PROBLEM IN THE CLASSROOM**

Staff will try to redirect child from negative behavior and praise appropriate behaviors.

Staff will reassess classroom environment, appropriate of activities, supervision.

Staff will always use positive methods and language while disciplining children.

Staff will consistently apply consequences for rules.

Child will be given verbal warnings.

Child will be given time to regain control.

Child’s disruptive behavior will be documented and maintained in confidentiality.

Parent/guardian will be notified verbally.

Parent/guardian will be given written copies of the disruptive behaviors that might

lead to expulsion.

The director, classroom staff and parent/guardian will have a conference(s) to

discuss how to promote positive behaviors.

The parent will be given literature or other resources regarding methods of

improving behavior.

Recommendation of evaluation by professional consultation.

Recommendation of evaluation by local school district child study team.

**PARENTAL ACTIONS FOR CHILD’S EXPULSION**

Failure to pay/habitual lateness in payment.

Failure to complete required forms including the child’s immunization records.

Verbal abuse to staff.

Parent threatens physical or intimidating actions toward staff members.

**CHILD’S ACTIONS FOR EXPULSION**

Failure of child to adjust after a reasonable amount of time.

Uncontrollable tantrums/angry outbursts.

Ongoing physical abuse to staff or other children.

Unable to toilet train in our program.

**A CHILD WILL NOT BE EXPELLED**

If child’s parents:

Made a complaint to the Office of Licensing regarding a school’s alleged

violation of the licensing requirements.

Reported abuse or neglect occurring at the school.

Questioned the school regarding policies and procedures.

Without giving the parent sufficient time to make other child care

arrangements.

**SCHEDULE OF EXPULSION**

If after the remedial actions above have not worked, the child’s parent/guardian will be advised verbally and in writing about the child’s or parent’s behavior warranting an expulsion. An expulsion action is meant to be a period of time so that the parent/guardian may work on the child’s behavior or to come to an agreement with the school. The parent/guardian will be informed regarding the length of the expulsion policy. The parent/guardian will be informed about the expected behavioral changes required in order for the child or parent to return to the school.

**NAME OF CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**SIGNATURE OF PARENT: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**