

MITTINEAGUE METHODIST COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

TRANSITIONS

7.04(18) (b)

Upon entering preschool parents have had an opportunity to tour the preschool, visit the classrooms, and speak with the Director. They are given the preschool phone number and director's personal phone number if any questions or concerns need to be addressed before their child begins preschool. Home visits are conducted for the three year old children during the summer by the classroom teachers. The children who will be entering the four year old program receive a note or post card from their classroom teachers welcoming them into their classroom. In addition to the necessary forms that must be filled out prior to entering parents are also given a form to fill out titled "Help Us to Know Your Child" and also one for parents to fill out about themselves. An orientation evening for parents is offered before the start of school. The director will go over the schools policies, handbook, and answer any questions. Parents are then invited to visit their child's classroom where they can meet with their child's teacher and familiarize themselves with the classroom and the classroom's daily schedule. For the first two days of school half of the three year olds come for an hour visit with their parent(s) and then half for the other hour. For the four year old program half the class comes for one day and the other for the next day. This introduction helps for a smoother transition into their day at preschool.

In dealing with separation the preschool works very closely with the parent(s). If necessary extra staff is added to help the classroom routine flow consistently. The teacher(s) or director will be in close contact with the parent and offer suggestions to ease the separation anxieties. At anytime during the morning the parent may call the school to see how their child is doing or ask to speak with the child's teacher. Parents may also call their child's teacher(s) at home.

Upon entering the staff will review all of the child's intake forms and make any note of any special accommodations or concerns. If the child is returning to the program the classroom teachers will speak with the child's previous teachers for any information that may aide in the child's transition.

At the end of the school year the children in the three year old program will have an opportunity to visit the four year old classrooms. The four year old teachers will also have an opportunity to spend some time to visit with the children in the three year old classroom. For the children who are leaving the program and going off to kindergarten the classroom teachers will start to prepare them for their next transition by having the principal from the kindergarten come to visit, reading a special book about starting a new school, and talking about how much they have grown over the school year. Parents are also given the opportunity to share their child's final report with the school they will be attending in the fall.

