



# 2023-2024

# Family Handbook

All program information will be provided in hard copy or another language when needed.  
Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make  
you and your family more comfortable in our preschool.

# Lake Harriet

united methodist **preschool**

Dear Families,

Welcome to Lake Harriet United Methodist Preschool. This handbook contains many of our policies.

These policies are written under the guidance of the Department of Human Services. This handbook clearly and concisely defines the policies listed in the Table of Contents.

We ask that you read the handbook thoroughly. If you have any questions concerning policies, please ask for clarification from the Director.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Lake Harriet United Methodist Preschool Staff

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## ***Staff***

Preschool Phone Number

612.926.8043

The Preschool staff consists of a teaching Director and classroom teachers. All staff have degrees in early childhood related fields and meet the state requirements for continuing education in the field. All staff are state background checked and receive an initial orientation to the program before working alone with children.

Contact information is available in the Family Directory and from your child's teacher.

## ***Preschool Board***

Lake Harriet United Methodist Preschool (LHUMP) is an educational organization of Lake Harriet United Methodist Church (LHUMC). The administration of the school is provided by the Director.

The Preschool Board is a visioning, policy and budget group that also acts as a liaison between parents/guardians and the Preschool staff hearing parent/guardian concerns and working to find satisfactory resolutions.

The Board consists of members of LHUMC, parents/guardians of currently or formerly enrolled children, the Director, the Pastor, the Lay Leader and the Staff-Parish Relations liaison. Meetings are held quarterly or more frequently as needed.

Parents/guardians are invited to attend Board meetings and/or to serve on the team.

Preschool Board contact information is available in the Family Directory.

# ***Philosophy & Goals***

We believe...

all children are capable of learning and are creative, independent, critical thinkers.

in educating the whole child: socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively by providing an atmosphere where the creativity, uniqueness, and self-esteem of each child are nurtured.

preschool is a fun, happy place to be!

Our goals are to provide...

a community where each child is understood, loved, and accepted leading to a positive self-concept.

activities through which each child learns to control emotions, leading to self-discipline.

opportunities where children become excited about learning and are successful learners.

a place that opens new horizons: to explore and wonder!

# ***Program***

The program is carefully planned and supervised to meet the needs of each individual child in the following developmental areas: *approaches to learning, the arts, cognitive, language, literacy and communications, physical and movement, social and emotional*. Our program includes:

- Supervised indoor and outdoor free and organized play
- Creative expression through various art media
- Storytelling and dramatization
- Music appreciation
- Science and discovery
- Special events and field trips
- Small class sizes
- Promotion of good habits and daily routines
- Creation of a loving and caring atmosphere
- Understanding guidance for behavior situations
- Academic readiness activities that are age appropriate

Our program plan is on file at the preschool and posted on our website. A copy may be requested from the Director at any time.

***PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE WELCOME TO VISIT SCHOOL ANY TIME WE ARE IN SESSION.***

## ***Building Security and Access***

LHUMP uses automated door locks to help ensure that all children are kept inside safely. Door locks are secured with passcodes for each staff member and preschool families which will help keep a record of who comes and goes at what time.

## ***Absences***

If your child will not be attending Preschool on a particular day, please message through the brightwheel app or call 612.926.8043. Please leave detailed information if illness related.

The State of Minnesota requires parents/guardians to inform the preschool within 24 hours if a child is diagnosed as having a contagious disease or lice, scabies, impetigo, ringworm, chickenpox, or covid-19. The preschool will, in turn, notify other families whose children may be affected by sending a parent/guardian fact sheet through brightwheel message and/or a written notice posted at the preschool.

## ***Accidents and Emergencies***

A minor injury will be reported to parents/guardians when they pick up their child. If an accident requires medical assistance, we will contact the child's parents/guardians. In an emergency we will call 911. The preschool staff will not transport children for medical care.

## ***Accreditation***

LHUMP has been continuously accredited by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children* since 1994. For more than 80 years, NAEYC has worked to raise the quality of programs for all children from birth through age eight. A major part of NAEYC's efforts to improve early childhood education is through different systems of accreditation for programs that are committed to meeting national standards of quality.

A high quality early childhood program provides a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of young children.

LHUMP has voluntarily undergone a comprehensive process of internal self-study, invited external professional review to verify compliance with NAEYC's criteria for High Quality Early Childhood programs and been found to be in substantial compliance with the criteria. A copy of the criteria can be obtained from NAEYC.

# ***Assessment***

Children will be formally assessed twice yearly; once in the fall, and again in spring. The purpose of the fall assessment is to determine how the child is adapting socially and emotionally to the school setting. The purpose of the second assessment is to determine how the child has progressed socially and emotionally, and how they are progressing physically and cognitively.

Data is collected using observations, work sampling, and individually administered play based tests and are informed by information received on the Family Information form collected upon enrollment. Teachers work with families to determine the best assessment method for their child. Written results are shared with the child's parent/guardian twice yearly. Informal daily assessments are shared verbally on a weekly basis. Communication with families about their child's assessment is sensitive to family values, culture, identity, and home language.

Results are used for the following purposes:

- Arranging for developmental screening and referral for diagnostic assessment if needed
- Identifying children's interests and needs
- Describing the developmental progress and learning of children
- Improving curriculum and adapting teaching practices and the environment
- Planning program improvement
- Communicating with families
- Designing of goals for individual children
- Monitor progress

Children are assessed in the school environment by their individual teacher. Families are notified of assessments so that children are adequately prepared. Results are confidential and placed in the child's file which is located in the staff workroom in a locked cabinet.

Staff provide families with information about the choice, use, scoring, and interpretation of screening and assessment methods that includes



the purpose, the interpretations, the way in which staff have been trained to use and interpret results, conditions under which the child will be assessed, and information about instruments used.

## ***Conferences***

Parent/guardian conferences are offered during the school year. The purpose of these conferences is to establish understanding, cooperation, and consistency between the home and school.

Your child's teacher will arrange a pre-admission conference before school begins. In November, we will offer an optional fall conference. In March, we will offer a second conference. School will be closed for two days in March so we have an opportunity to meet with all parents/guardians. If, for any reason, you feel you need another conference throughout the year, please contact your child's teacher. Also, if you feel a need to have a conference with your child's teacher and the Director, please contact the Director. Written observations will be provided twice a year.

If your child enrolls mid-year, please contact the Director and your child's teacher to schedule a conference.

## ***Behavior Guidance***

Our staff will use discipline in its original meaning, that of teaching, not as punishment. Teachers will provide a positive model of acceptable behavior. We will work with parents/guardians to ensure that behavior guidance will be tailored to the developmental level of the child and that both the preschool and home settings are consistent whenever possible. We will redirect children and groups away from problems toward constructive activity to attempt to keep conflict at a minimum. The staff will teach children how to use acceptable alternatives to problem behavior. We will help children learn appropriate behavior through natural and logical consequences when there are no safety concerns.

When a child's ongoing challenging behavior must be addressed, teachers will:

- Assess the function of the behavior
- Work with families and professionals to develop an individualized plan to address the behavior
- Include positive behavior support strategies as part of the plan.

**Absolutely no form of verbal or physical punishment will be used in our preschool. Teaching staff never use threats or derogatory remarks and neither withhold nor threaten to withhold food as a form of discipline. There are no circumstances when it is permissible for staff to use any form of physical punishment, psychological abuse, or coercion when disciplining a child.**

## ***Birthdays***

Birthdays or half-birthdays are celebrated in your child's classroom. Please check with your child's teacher as to how birthdays are celebrated.

## ***Class Assignment***

Children remain with the same classroom teacher for the school year. LHUMP will maintain a 10:1 staff-to-child ratios at all times. Class placements are finalized near the end of August. Thoughtful consideration of many factors takes place prior to final placement including age, gender, learning style, relationships with peers and teaching styles and strategies. We appreciate your cooperation with this process.

## ***Communication Between School & Home***

The staff will communicate with families in a positive and supportive manner that encourages the parent/guardian-child relationship.

Families will be regularly informed of classroom program plans through weekly lesson plans and monthly newsletters, which are posted in the on our website, [www.lakeharrietumpreschool.org](http://www.lakeharrietumpreschool.org) and shared through the brightwheel app. Special events will be posted on a family bulletin board, on our website and/or a notice will be shared in brightwheel. A monthly brightwheel message from the director will include both a preschool and classroom newsletter to help families be informed of upcoming events, changes in policies, and recent program happenings. If you do not have internet access, please make arrangements with your child's teacher for printed copies of notices.

Family involvement is necessary to the continuing success of the program. Parents/guardians are expected to share their time and talent in the classroom, at events, go on field trips, and are welcome to visit the program at any time. Families are given the opportunity to complete a Program Evaluation annually to help the staff continually improve the quality of the program.

## ***Confidentiality***

Under the Family Education Rights Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) records related to preschool children and their families, and information contained in those records, are to be shared with other staff only if that person has a legitimate educational interest. Requests from third parties must have parent/guardian written permission except in the case of maltreatment. These permissions are maintained in the child's record. Children's files are confidential but can be immediately available upon request. See more information in Appendix C.

Categories of individuals that would have access to a child's file include the following:

- Child's teacher
- Parents/Guardians
- Student Teachers
- Director
- Consultants

A staff member generally has a legitimate educational interest if they need to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. All children's records are stored in locked cabinets.

All employees are prohibited from discussing children and families with, or in the presence of, other children and families.

## ***Days/Hours of Operation***

The preschool is in session September through May; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week unless closed for scheduled days or unforeseen circumstances. The hours are 9am-12:30pm. There are an optional programs; Preschool Plus meets Monday - Thursday 12:30pm-3pm, STEM Fridays meets from 9am - 3pm on Fridays, and AM/PM Flex Care allows for families to drop off as early as 7:30am and pick up as late as 5:30pm, Monday - Friday. The first day of the 2023-24 school year is Tuesday, September 12, 2023 and the last day is either Thursday, May 23, 2023 or Friday, May 24, 2024.

### **2023-2024 Scheduled Closed Days:**

October 18 - 20

November 7

November 20 - 24

December 18 - Jan 1

January 15

February 19

April 1 - 5

Fall Break

Election Day - Staff In Service

Thanksgiving Break

Winter Break

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

President's Day

Spring Break

## ***Discrimination***

Teaching staff counter potential bias and discrimination by treating all children with equal respect and consideration. If you feel that you or your child have been discriminated against in the operation of this program, please discuss your concerns with your child's teacher and/or the director. We will make every effort to deal sensitively and effectively with your concerns.

## ***Dress Code***

Children are encouraged to be dressed in appropriate clothes for play. The children will be exposed to many kinds of media, including paint, clay, chalk, etc... We use large shirts/smocks to protect them, but on occasion they might get these materials on their clothing.

We will go outdoors each day, even in the winter, unless the conditions make outdoor play unsafe. Please send outdoor clothing everyday so

your child may participate. Children should have dry, warm layers. Please label all outerwear with your child's name (jackets, boots, hats, mittens).

For safety reasons, we recommend tennis shoes for your child during school. Flip-flops, slip-ons, cowboy boots, and shoes with a slippery sole are not safe on climbing equipment. Bare feet, stocking feet and slippers are not allowed. Please remember this especially when your child wears snow/rain boots to school and sends shoes to wear indoors every day.

## ***Drop Off and Pick Up***

For the safety of the children please park in the parking lot when dropping off and picking up your child(ren). Automobiles are not to idle when parking to drop off and pick up. It is very important to drive slowly and pay close attention to children at all times.

### ***Drop Off***

The driver must bring all children into school. Children should not be left in the car, classroom or hallway unattended. Please check your child in using the brightwheel app upon arrival each day. ***Your child MUST be checked in before you leave the premises.***

### ***Pick Up***

If your child is enrolled in the regular preschool program, pick up is on the school playground at 12:30pm. When you arrive, please check your child out using the brightwheel app and collect your child's preschool bag from their teacher by 12:30pm. If your child is enrolled in Preschool Plus or STEM Friday, please check them out in the brightwheel app at 3pm and pick up at the main preschool entrance. Families enrolled in AM/PM Flex Care, will check them out in the brightwheel app and pick up their child in either Room 101 or 102 when you arrive. Families are welcome to stay and play on the playground under their caregivers supervision.

If you are ***dropping off after 9am or picking up early***, please message us using the brightwheel app.

If a child is ***not picked up*** at the end of his/her session, the staff will call the parent/guardian or the emergency contact person. If neither can be reached, the staff will remain at the school until 6pm and continue to attempt to reach the parent/guardian or emergency contact. If no one can be reached, the staff will call the police and follow their instructions. A message will be sent through the brightwheel app and a note will be left on the door for the parent/guardian regarding the situation and a phone number to call.

## ***Emergency Procedures***

### **FIRE**

All staff and children participate in monthly fire drills. These will be held at various times during the day and week.

Each class will meet outside the building. Rooms 101, 102 and 104 will exit on the south side of the building. Rooms 105 and 106 will use the Beard street exit located on the east side of the building.

In an actual fire, one staff member will call 911 from a telephone outside the building as everyone is evacuating.

All staff will be instructed in the use of the fire extinguishers. Instructions are posted on each fire extinguisher.

### **TORNADO**

We will perform tornado drills monthly during the months of April through October (when school is in session). The Preschool has a NOAA approved weather radio.

When weather conditions indicate the possibility of a tornado, we will listen to the radio for official tornado watches and warnings. All staff and children will go or remain indoors when under a watch or warning. If sirens are heard or a tornado warning is announced, all staff and children will proceed to the tornado shelter, which is posted in each classroom.

A battery operated portable radio, flashlight, first aid kit, activities for the children and a blanket will be taken to the shelter. Each classroom has access to these items.

We will remain in the shelter until the all clear is announced on the radio.

## **BLIZZARDS AND SNOW EMERGENCIES**

LHUMP reserves the right to close the Preschool when weather conditions make travel to and from the Preschool hazardous. These weather conditions could include:

- Blizzard conditions;
- Sleet and icy roads;
- Poor visibility;
- Severe wind chills

Families will be notified of the Preschool closing by watching or listening for Minneapolis School closings on one of the major networks.

Should winter weather become severe while school is in session, a parent/guardian will be notified by the staff to pick up their children. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be called. Food and bedding will be available if an emergency overnight stay is necessary. At least one staff member will remain until all children have been picked up. In the event that the Preschool is closed due to bad weather conditions, families will not receive a tuition credit.

## **MISSING CHILD**

If a child is missing, the entire staff will be notified. Immediate attempts will be made to locate the missing child. The other children will never be unattended when trying to locate a missing child. If unable to locate the missing child within fifteen minutes the Director will notify the Police, and the child's parent/guardian will be notified.

# ***Enrollment***

Enrollment at LHUMP is open to children in the community and children of LHUMC members and staff. Priority is given to members of LHUMC, staff and returning families. Enrollment for new families is offered via a random selection process depending upon availability. Children ages 3 until entrance to Kindergarten are eligible. Enrollment may be ongoing if there are available spots in the preschool program. Children as young as 33 months may be considered if both parents and Director feel it is a good fit.

## **Exclusion**

A child with any of the following conditions or behaviors must be excluded from Preschool. We **MUST** exclude a child:

- With a reportable illness or condition as specified in part 4605.7040 that the commissioner of health determines to be contagious and a physician determines has not had sufficient treatment to reduce the health risk of others;
- With chicken pox until the child is no longer infectious or until the lesions are crusted over;
- Who has vomited two or more times since admission that day;
- Who has had three or more abnormally loose stools since admission of the day;
- Who has contagious conjunctivitis or pus draining from the eye; and had not completed 24 hours of medication;
- Who has mouth sores with drooling;
- Who has bacterial infection, such as streptococcal or impetigo, and has not completed 24 hours of antibiotics therapy;
- Who has unexplained lethargy;
- Who has lice, ringworm, or scabies that is untreated and contagious to others;
- Who has a 100-degree F auxiliary or higher temperature of undiagnosed origin before fever reducing medication is given;
- Who has undiagnosed rash or rash attributes to a contagious illness or condition;



- Who has significant respiratory distress
- Who is unable to participate in the daily school activities with reasonable comfort, including outdoor play; or
- Who requires more care than the program staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children in our program.

## ***Field Trips***

We feel that field trips are valuable learning experiences for children and we plan two to three throughout the year. Transportation will be provided by a chartered school bus. There will be a special permission form for each trip posted in the classroom that parents/guardians must sign. When planned activities require transportation, the methods used will be in accordance with the Department of Human Services regulations and Minnesota law.

## ***Food Allergies***

The preschool enrolls children with a variety of food allergies and sensitivities. While the avoidance of exposure to allergens is critical to preventing reactions, the risk of accidental exposure or cross-contamination in school buildings is always present. The school setting is a high-risk environment due to the shared use of space, the presence of a large number of students, and the possible cross-contamination of tables and other surfaces. In accordance with the recommendations of health professionals, the preschool staff will monitor high-risk areas and activities such as classrooms, food sharing, field trips, and celebrations but we also rely on the vigilance and cooperation of parents/guardians. We work to educate the child to assist in managing his/her allergies.

For each child with special nutritional needs the child's health care provider gives the preschool an individualized care plan that is prepared in consultation with the family and specialists involved in the child's care. With the parent's/guardian's permission we release allergy information to families in the child's class to reduce exposure.

## ***Grievance Policy***

If parents/guardians have a grievance the following procedure has been established so the concerns can be properly addressed.

A grievance is defined as a statement alleging a violation of the policies of LHUMC or the Preschool.

A grieved person will first attempt to resolve the issue informally by discussing it with the child's teacher. If that approach does not end in a satisfactory solution the grievance must then be put in writing and submitted to the Director who will schedule a meeting with the grieved person within 6 school days. If the grieved person is not satisfied with the response the grievance should be brought to the Preschool Board. In cases where a grievance should not be addressed by the staff, Director and/or Preschool Board, the Pastor of Lake Harriet UM Church should be contacted.

## ***Health and Safety***

Our Health and Safety policies have been developed in accordance with Minnesota state law and the Minnesota Child Care Health Consultants. We have a written agreement to receive health consultation services at least twice yearly from the MN Child Care Health Consultants. To contact MN Child Care Health Consultants please call 612.500.1880.

Minnesota state law requires the filing of a Health Care Summary and Immunization Record for each child signed by the parent/guardian and the child's source of medical care. *It is the policy of Lake Harriet UM Preschool to have this form on file before the first day of school.* If the records are not complete, there must be a written plan from a health care source for completion. If your child cannot receive immunizations or parents/guardians have a conscientious objection to immunizations, there are other procedures we must follow. Please discuss this with the Director. It is a parent's/guardian's responsibility to inform the school of special medical conditions, needs, and allergies.

We ask you to update your child's record including emergency contact information. You may update the record anytime information changes.

When a child in our care has been medically diagnosed with a contagious condition, we need to notify the appropriate health authorities and follow their recommendations for releasing information to families of all children that have been exposed. We post a notification at preschool and/or send home an electronic communication when it is necessary.

***Parents/guardians must inform the Preschool within 24 hours when a child has been diagnosed by the child's source of medical or dental care as having a contagious, reportable disease.***

All staff members are trained in Pediatric CPR and first aid. In the event of any injury or illness, a trained staff member will administer the appropriate first aid. If the staff member decides the situation is an emergency, 911 will be called. If the child needs to be transported, the emergency medical service will transport the child to a medical facility as designated by the emergency service. Staff will not transport children. A parent/guardian or alternate listed on the emergency card will be contacted as soon as possible.

"Broad Spectrum" sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher will be applied to exposed skin thirty minutes before going outdoors, May - September. Parent permission will be required. When public health authorities recommend the use of insect repellents due to a high risk of insect-borne disease, we will notify families so they may choose to use insect repellent containing DEET to prevent insect related diseases. It is our policy that when needed insect repellent should be applied at home.

The use of a hand sanitizer is not a substitute for hand washing in meeting state regulations. Many hand sanitizers are alcohol based. This poses a potential risk to a child who may ingest the hand sanitizer. We occasionally use hand sanitizers and policies are in place for their safe use and storage. See additional information in Appendix B.

## ***Illness***

If a child becomes ill while at Preschool, the child will be isolated from the other children and will be supervised by a staff member.

The parent/guardian or emergency contact will be contacted to pick up the child immediately. Until the parent/guardian or alternate arrives, the child will be monitored and kept comfortable. If the staff thinks it is necessary, the child's health care provider may be called. In the case of an emergency, we will call 911.

A child should be fever-free (without medication) at least 24 hours prior to returning to preschool.

## ***License***

LHUMP is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. This assures our community that high standards have been met regarding space, equipment, the program and staff. The Division of Licensing can be reached at 651.431.6500. The preschool's license number is 801331.

The staff includes the director and 7 teachers. All staff members have degrees in early childhood related fields and meet the requirements for continuing education.

The school is licensed to serve 50 children per session ages 33 months until entrance to kindergarten.

## ***Mandated Reporting***

Professionals who work with children are required to make a child protection report if we know or have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected, or has been abused or neglected in the past three years. A complete copy of the MN statute is available from the co-directors. See additional information in Appendix A.

## ***Medications***

It is our policy that the only medications we administer are those required in an emergency. Proper documentation must be completed by the child's health care provider and on file at the Preschool including the child's first and last name, the date of the prescription, the expiration date or period of use, strength of medication and instructions on how to administer. Emergency medications will be stored in a red medication bag out of reach to children but will travel with the child's teacher whenever out of the classroom. Other over-the-counter medications and prescription medications must be administered by the parent/guardian.

## ***Personal Belongings***

In an effort to limit the amount of items coming from home, we encourage children **not** bring extra belongings or unnecessary items such as blankets, toys, etc. Children staying for nap may bring a blanket and/or stuffy for comfort while sleeping. Children should wear the appropriate clothing to school and bring their lunch with their preschool bags. During the colder months, children should bring their outdoor clothing and extra shoes in their bags to school.

## ***Pets***

Parents/guardians will be informed of pets in the classrooms. Please inform us if your child has an allergy to animal dander. All pets will be licensed and vaccinated following local health department requirements and appear to be in good health. Staff will care for pets following proper sanitation procedures and supervise all interactions between children and animals instructing children on safe behavior when near animals. Immediately after contact with pets, children and adults should wash their hands.

Pets from home are not allowed at preschool unless arrangements have been made with the classroom teacher and/or the Director. All pets are required to be leashed or caged and inoculated and licensed in accordance with local health ordinances.

# ***Research and Public Relations Permission***

Written permission is required from a parent/guardian before a child is involved in a research or public relations activity. A separate form will be obtained before each occasion and maintained in the child's record.

## ***Media Use***

The use of passive media such as television, film, video, dvd and audio tapes is limited to developmentally appropriate programming.

## ***Snacks & Bag Lunches***

Snack and lunch time at Preschool provides the opportunity for not only an energy boost but also learning in several areas. Socialization, manners, sharing, math skills, and patience are among the skills developed at snack and lunch time.

Children provide snacks for their classmates on a rotating basis. Each teacher will post a Snack Schedule in their classroom and will also be shared with families each month via brightwheel and the preschool website. Please supply the same snack for 12 children. A second snack will be offered for children who stay in the afternoon. LHUMP will provide supplemental snack if needed.

**A healthy snack contains at least two of the following four components:** a protein, a vegetable or fruit, and/or a whole grain or enriched bread. All fresh fruits and vegetables will be thoroughly washed prior to eating. Examples of nutritious choices include: yogurt, cheese, fruits, vegetables, crackers, & bagels. We will serve water with every snack.

***ALL SNACKS NEED TO BE COMMERCIALY PREPARED, WITH CURRENT USED BY DATE AND IN AN UNOPENED PACKAGE THAT INCLUDES THE INGREDIENT LIST IF YOUR CHILD IS YOUNGER THAN FOUR, THE FOLLOWING FOODS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THEIR LUNCHES OR BROUGHT TO SCHOOL FOR A SNACK; HOT DOGS, WHOLE GRAPES, NUTS or SEEDS, POPCORN or RICE CAKES, RAW PEAS, HARD***

**PRETZELS or CHIPS, SPOONFULS OF PEANUT BUTTER, MEAT STICKS, CHUNKS OF RAW CARROTS OR MEAT LARGER THAN CAN BE SWALLOWED WHOLE, HARD CANDY or MARSHMALLOWS.**

All food and beverages are served using compostable paper products. No food or beverage will be microwaved.

Please alert your child's teacher to any food allergies or special dietary needs. With permission, the teacher will share this information with other families in the class to assist everyone in making their snack choices. Please see page 17 for our policy on food allergies.

Parents provide bag lunches for their children. Upon arrival, please place your child's lunch in the bin provided in each classroom. Lunches will be stored in a NSF refrigerator until lunch time.

**A healthy lunch contains four of the following components:** a serving of fluid milk, a protein, a vegetable or fruit, and/or a whole grain or enriched bread. LHUMP provides water and one percent organic milk with lunch.

## ***Special Needs***

Parents/guardians have the responsibility to inform the Preschool when their child has any special medical condition, needs or allergies so that we can provide appropriate care and support.

If your child has a special need and is (one or more of the following):

- Eligible for case management through the state and has an Individual Service Plan (ISP)
- Receiving services through the local school district and has an Individual Educational Plan (IEP)
- Determined by a licensed physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or consulting psychologist to have a condition related to physical, social, or emotional development,

you will be asked to share the ISP and/or IEP with us. In addition, state licensing regulations require us to develop an Individualized Child Care Plan (ICCP) with you that will assist us in meeting your child's needs.

This plan must be signed by you and your child's source of licensed health care as listed above and be reviewed annually to assure that necessary modifications are made to the plan of care.

For children with persistent, serious, challenging behavior our staff will work with the family and other professionals as a team to develop and implement an individual plan to support the child's inclusion and success focusing on making modifications in the classroom.

If the special need requires that our staff be trained to perform a new skill, we will ask that you arrange for this training.

Lake Harriet UM Preschool's policies are designed to eliminate or severely limit expulsion, suspension, or other exclusionary discipline; these exclusionary measures would be used only as a last resort in extraordinary circumstances where there is a determination of a serious safety threat that cannot otherwise be reduced or eliminated by the provision of reasonable modifications. In such extraordinary cases, LHUMP will assist the child and family in accessing services and an alternative placement. These policies comply with federal and state civil rights laws.

## ***Termination of Care***

### **By the Parent/Guardian:**

When the parents/guardians decide to terminate enrollment in the preschool, one month written notice to the Director is required. We recognize that LHUMP may not be appropriate for every child. If, for any reason, this program is found to be unsatisfactory for any particular child, we will discuss this with the parents/guardians to determine the cause. Sometimes we are able to make adjustments. If this is not possible or satisfactory, the parents/guardians and/or the program may choose to terminate enrollment on a timeline that is in the child's best interest.



## **By the Program:**

As stated previously, the child’s adjustment to the program and the appropriateness of the particular arrangement for an individual child may cause concern for the child’s well-being. If the program staff does not feel that it is meeting the child’s needs, we reserve the right to terminate enrollment on a timeline that is in the best interest of the child. The program also reserves the right to terminate enrollment if a parent’s/ guardian’s actions and behaviors are inappropriate.

## ***Transportation***

Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the child’s parents/guardians. Under no circumstances will staff transport a child. Field trip transportation is arranged in accordance with the Department of Human Services licensing regulations.

## ***Tuition and Fees***

Preschool tuition is paid over nine months. The first payment is due with enrollment materials on July 1, 2023 (or upon enrollment if registering after July 1) and is a non-refundable deposit. Subsequent invoices are sent via the brightwheel app and payments are due the 1st of the month, Sept – April. An annual registration fee of \$50 is due with each application and is non-refundable.

Preschool . . . . . \$650/month  
Monday – Thursday, 9am-12:30pm

Preschool Plus . . . . . \$550/month  
Monday – Thursday, 12:30pm-3pm

STEM Fridays. . . . . \$400/month  
9am-3pm

Flexible drop off and pick up . . . . . \$200/month  
Monday – Friday  
drop off anytime between 7:30am and 9am  
pick up anytime between 3pm and 5:30pm

## ***Unauthorized Child Pick Up***

A child will not be released to an unauthorized person or a person who is incapacitated or suspected of abuse. Staff is not expected to jeopardize their own safety or the safety of the children in their care. If a staff member is threatened and/or forced to give up the child, the parent/guardian or emergency contact person and the Police will be called. If the person who is incapacitated or suspected of abuse is the parent/guardian, Child Protection or the Police will be called.

## ***Volunteer Opportunities***

LHUMP values family members as volunteers in our program regardless of family structure; socio-economic, racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds; gender; abilities or preferred language. Parents/guardians may provide us with areas of interest or specific skills that they would be willing to share. Volunteers do not work alone with children. They must be with, and supervised by, regularly scheduled educators at all times. If you have questions or would like to make arrangements, please contact your child's teacher or the director.

# ***Appendix A***

## ***Maltreatment Reporting Policy***

Minnesota State law requires us to report all cases of suspected child abuse and neglect to Hennepin County Child Protection Services. A complete copy of the statute is available from the Director.

### ***Who Should Report Child Abuse & Neglect***

- Any person may voluntarily report abuse or neglect
- If you work with children in a licensed facility, you are legally required or mandated to report and cannot shift responsibility of reporting to your supervisor or to anyone else at your licensed facility. If you know or have reason to believe a child is being or has been neglected or physically or sexually abused within the preceding three years you must immediately (within 24 hours) make a report to an outside agency.

### ***Where to Report***

- If you know or suspect that a child is in immediate danger, call 911.
- All reports concerning suspected abuse or neglect of children occurring in a licensed facility should be made to the Department of Human Services, Licensing Division's Maltreatment Intake at 651.431.6600.
- Reports regarding incidents of suspected abuse or neglect of children occurring within a family or in the community should be made to the Hennepin County social services agency at 612.348.3552.
- If your report does not involve possible abuse or neglect, but does involve possible violations of Minnesota Statutes or Rules that govern the facility, you should call the Department of Human Services, Licensing Division at 651.431.6500.

## ***What to Report***

- Definitions of maltreatment are contained in the Reporting Maltreatment of Minors Act (Minnesota Statutes, section 626.556).
- A report to any of the above agencies should contain enough information to identify the child involved, any persons responsible for the abuse or neglect (if known), and the nature and extent of the maltreatment and/or possible licensing violations. For the reports concerning suspected abuse or neglect occurring within a licensed facility, the report should include any actions taken by facility in response to the incident.
- An oral report of suspected abuse or neglect made to one of the above agencies by a mandated reporter must be followed by a written report to the same agency within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays.

## ***Retaliation Prohibited***

Any employer of any mandated reporter shall not retaliate against the mandated reporter for reports made in good faith or against a child with respect to whom the report is made. The Reporting of Maltreatment of Minor Act contains specific provisions regarding civil actions that can be initiated by mandated reporters who believe that retaliation has occurred.

## ***Failure to Report***

A mandated reporter who knows or has reason to believe a child is or has been neglected or physically or sexually abused and fails to report is guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition, a mandated reporter who fails to report maltreatment that is found to be serious or recurring maltreatment may be disqualified from employment in positions allowing direct contact with persons receiving services from programs licensed by the Department of Human Services and by the Minnesota Department of Health, and unlicensed Personal Care Providers Organization.

## ***Internal Review***

When we have reason to know that an internal or external report of alleged or suspected maltreatment has been made we will conduct an internal review within 30 days to protect the health and safety of the children. This review will include an evaluation of whether:

- related policies and procedures were followed;
- the policies and procedures were adequate;
- there is a need for additional staff training;
- the reported event is similar to past events with the children or the services involved; and
- there is a need for corrective action by us to protect the health and safety of children in care.

Based on the results of the review, we will develop, document and implement a corrective action plan designed to correct any current lapses and prevent future lapses in performance by individuals or the license holder, if any.

Our policies have identified the primary and secondary person or position who will ensure that, when required, internal reviews are completed. The secondary person shall be involved when there is reason to believe that the primary person was involved in the alleged or suspected maltreatment.

We will document that the internal review has been completed and provide documentation showing the review was completed to the commissioner upon the commissioner's request.

# ***Appendix B***

## ***Use of Hand Sanitizers***

Minnesota child care facility regulations require hand washing as follows:

(see Minnesota Rules, part 9503.0140, subparts 13 and 14).

- A child's hands must be washed with soap and water after a diaper change, after use of a toilet or toilet training chair, and before eating a meal or snack. Staff must monitor hand washing and assist a child who needs help. The use of a common basin or a hand sink filled with standing water is prohibited.
- A staff person must wash his or her hands with soap and water after changing a child's diaper, after using toilet facilities, and before handling food or eating.

The regulations do not specifically address the use of hand sanitizers. The use of a hand sanitizer is not a substitute for hand washing in meeting the regulation. Many hand sanitizers are alcohol based. This poses a potential risk to a child who may ingest the hand sanitizer. For this reason, we have established these policies:

1. When visible soil is present on the hands, hand washing is required. Use of a hand sanitizer is not an effective way to remove visible soil from the hands.
2. Staff members and children may not use a hand sanitizer as a substitute for hand washing as required by regulation.
3. We will obtain written parent/guardian permission for a child to use a hand sanitizer.
4. Hand sanitizers will be inaccessible to children when not in immediate use and will be stored according to manufacturer's instructions.
5. A staff person will be physically present with and supervising a child who is using a hand sanitizer. The staff person must remain with the child until the hand sanitizer has dried on the child's hands.

# ***Appendix C***

## ***References to Regulations***

### ***HIPAA, FERPA and Chapter 13***

#### **A. FERPA**

#### **Section 99.30 Under what conditions is prior consent required to disclose information?**

- a) The parent or eligible student shall provide a signed and dated written consent before an educational agency or institution discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except as provided in § 99.31.
- b) The written consent must:
  - (1)Specify the records that may be disclosed;
  - (2)State the purpose of the disclosure; and
  - (3)Identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made.
- c) When a disclosure is made under paragraph (a) of this section:
  - (1)If a parent or eligible student so requests, the educational agency or institution shall provide him or her with a copy of the records disclosed; and
  - (2)If the parent of a student who is not an eligible student so requests, the agency or institution shall provide the student with a copy of the records disclosed.

#### **B. Chapter 13**

#### **13.05 Duties of responsible authority. Subdivision 4.**

- d) Private data may be used by and disseminated to any person or entity if the individual subject or subjects of the data have given their informed consent. Whether a data subject has

given informed consent shall be determined by rules of the commissioner. The format for informed consent is as follows, unless otherwise prescribed by the HIPAA, Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, 65 Fed. Reg. 82, 461 (2000) (to be codified as Code of Federal Regulations, title 45, section 164): informed consent shall not be deemed to have been given by an individual subject of the data by the signing of any statement authorizing any person or entity to disclose information about the individual to an insurer or its authorized representative, unless the statement is:

- (1) in plain language;
- (2) dated;
- (3) specific in designating the particular persons or agencies the data subject is authorizing to disclose information about the data subject;
- (4) specific as to the nature of the information the subject is authorizing to be disclosed;
- (5) specific as to the persons or entities to whom the subject is authorizing information to be disclosed;
- (6) specific as to the purpose or purposes for which the information may be used by any of the parties named in clause (5), both at the time of the disclosure and at any time in the future;
- (7) specific as to its expiration date which should be within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed one year except in the case of authorizations given in connection with applications for (i) life insurance or non-cancelable or guaranteed renewable health insurance and identified as such, two years after the date of the policy or (ii) medical assistance under chapter 256B or Minnesota Care under chapter 256L, which shall be ongoing during all terms of eligibility, for individual education plan health-related



services provided by a school district under section 125A.21, subdivision 2.

The responsible authority may require a person requesting copies of data under this paragraph to pay the actual costs of making, certifying, and compiling the copies.

## **C. HIPAA**

### **Section 164.508 Uses and disclosures for which an authorization is required.**

c) Implementation specifications: Core elements and requirements.

(1)Core elements. A valid authorization under this section must contain at least the following elements:

- (i) A description of the information to be used or disclosed that identifies the information in a specific and meaningful fashion.
- (ii) The name or other specific identification of the person(s), or class of persons, authorized to make the requested use or disclosure.
- (iii) The name or other specific identification of the person(s), or class of persons, to whom the covered entity may make the requested use or disclosure.
- (iv) A description of each purpose of the requested use or disclosure. The statement “at the request of the individual” is a sufficient description of the purpose when an individual initiates the authorization and does not, or elects not to, provide a statement of the purpose.
- (v) An expiration date or an expiration event that relates to the individual or the purpose of the use or disclosure. The statement “end of the research study,” “none,” or similar language is sufficient if the authorization is for a use or disclosure of protected health information for

research, including for the creation and maintenance of a research database or research repository.

- (vi) Signature of the individual and date. If the authorization is signed by a personal representative of the individual, a description of such representative's authority to act for the individual must also be provided.

(2) Required statements. In addition to the core elements, the authorization must contain statements adequate to place the individual on notice of all of the following:

- (i) The individual's right to revoke the authorization in writing, and either:
  - A. The exceptions to the right to revoke and a description of how the individual may revoke the authorization; or
  - B. To the extent that the information in paragraph (c) (2)(i)(A) of this section is included in the notice required by §164.520, a reference to the covered entity's notice.
- (ii) The ability or inability to condition treatment, payment, enrollment or eligibility for benefits on the authorization, by stating either:
  - A. The covered entity may not condition treatment, payment, enrollment or eligibility for benefits on whether the individual signs the authorization when the prohibition on conditioning of authorizations in paragraph (b)(4) of this section applies; or
  - B. The consequences to the individual of a refusal to sign the authorization when, in accordance with paragraph (b)(4) of this section, the covered entity can condition treatment, enrollment in the health plan, or eligibility for benefits on failure to obtain such authorization.

(iii) The potential for information disclosed pursuant to the authorization to be subject to redisclosure by the recipient and no longer be protected by this subpart.

(3) Plain language requirement. The authorization must be written in plain language.

(4) Copy to the individual. If a covered entity seeks an authorization from an individual for a use or disclosure of protected health information, the covered entity must provide the individual with a copy of the signed authorization.



