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**North Hampton  
Jolly Jaguar Preschool**



**Parent Handbook**

**2007 – 2008**

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September 2007

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the North Hampton Jolly Jaguar Preschool. We are looking forward to working with you and your child. One of the goals of this program is to have parents and teachers working closely together to meet the needs of each child. Assisting children to achieve their potential is the most important goal that we as teachers and parents can have.

As parents, the role you play with your child is vital to his/her development. You are invited to ask questions, visit the program, and become involved. We consider cooperation and communication between the home and school the key to your child's development and success. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.

This booklet has been written to assist you in becoming familiar with the program. Hopefully, it will answer many of the questions you may have concerning procedures.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Karen Frisbee  
Director of Pupil Services

Bethany McIver  
Preschool Teacher

## ***NORTH HAMPTON JOLLY JAGUAR PRESCHOOL***

The Jolly Jaguar Preschool provides a safe and nurturing environment which promotes the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of young children in a child-centered environment. We believe that all children have diverse natures, interests, and capabilities that should be developed to their full potential. We accept the challenge to address each child as an individual. We are dedicated to providing experiences which are developmentally and cognitively appropriate to ensure that all children are challenged and inspired. Our integrative approach focuses on the process of learning which will give the children the tools to help them become successful and responsible learners.

We believe that children learn in an environment which is safe, supportive, and based on trust and respect. We acknowledge the necessity of physical and emotional well-being as a foundation for all learning. We value diversity and appreciate differences. Each child is an integral part in a community of learners.

We believe in the power of teamwork and value the entire community's role in educating our children. We value communication and a partnership that comes together to listen, share knowledge, and plan in order to achieve our common goals.

### ***WHAT DO WE DO IN PRESCHOOL?***

***Self-Help Activities*** are integrated throughout the day and foster independence as children learn to take responsibility for their personal belongings, classroom materials, and the environment.

***Circle Time*** is a group time in which we share our ideas, plans, and observations. Circle Time activities are designed to stimulate children's thinking, enrich their language and social skills, develop their listening skills, and expand their attention spans.

***Story Time*** is designed to help children develop an appreciation and enjoyment of literature. Reading activities enhance children's vocabulary and comprehension skills as well as expand their understanding of concepts and content.



***Music Activities*** promote children's listening skills, creative expression, and social skills.

As children move to the beat of the music, they explore and practice important developmental skills. Singing helps children develop new vocabulary words, practice words they

already know, create and imitate sounds, recognize and repeat patterns, and compare sounds to each other. Large muscles are developed as children express the mood of what they hear with their body movements.

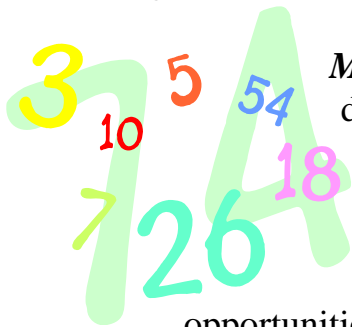
**Gross-Motor Activities** give their muscles – as well as engage in fun, healthy jumping, and climbing. development such as balance awareness and control. As developing control over their



children the opportunity to use their imaginations – as they exercises, such as running, Outside play promotes physical and coordination skills and body children play outdoors they are bodies and movements.

**Fine-Motor Activities** help improve small muscle development and eye-hand coordination. Eye-hand coordination is a critical skill. Children need their hands and their eyes to learn to work together. If they are to write, color, button, zip, and cut they must be able to have the two working together accurately. Some common items found in the fine-motor/manipulative center include beads and laces, puzzles, and Legos. Crayons, markers, and scissors located in the Art Center also help to develop these skills.

**Art Activities** help children creatively express their thoughts and feelings. They help reinforce fine-motor skills and concept development in areas such as colors, shapes, and size relationships. Our art activities focus on the process of the task and not on the final product. Art is about encouraging creativity in children. Open-ended art activities and materials give children opportunities to develop their own ideas and use their own designs. In doing this, they develop creative thinking skills and they learn to problem solve.



**Math Activities** offer children hands-on opportunities to develop problem-solving skills and such concepts as counting (rote and one-to-one correspondence), sorting objects by one or two attributes, and matching/identifying simple shapes.

**Science Activities** offer children many hands-on opportunities for observation, exploration, investigation, making predictions, and experimentation. Through simple activities children build a foundation for future scientific learning.

**Literacy Activities** provide children with meaningful interactions with books and print. Books give children the opportunity to respond to various forms of literature, to follow simple story lines, to predict outcomes, and to retell a familiar story. Children develop their literacy skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) by reading books, writing stories, retelling stories using props (e.g. puppets and flannel board pieces), and listening to a variety books on tape.



**Dramatic Play** Activities help children express themselves, role play, practice life skills, improve social skills, build vocabulary, and solve problems through interactive and imaginative play.

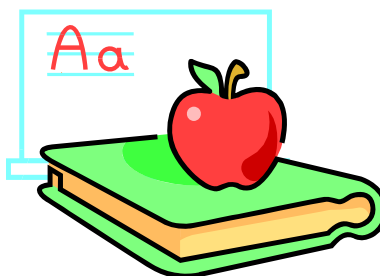
**Block Play** gives children experience with many different concepts, such as shape and size discrimination, spatial relationships, number skills, balance, organization, cause and effect, and classification. Cooperative play skills, problem solving, and creativity are also promoted in block play. Through block play and block construction children experiment with their own ideas-growing, learning, and developing skills in the process.



**Sand and Water** Activities allow children to experiment with textures and the properties of different substances.

These activities also promote the development of other skills, such as math, science, language, and fine-motor.

**Snack Time** encourages healthy eating habits and provides children with the opportunity to try new foods. Social skills and polite manners are also promoted during snack time.



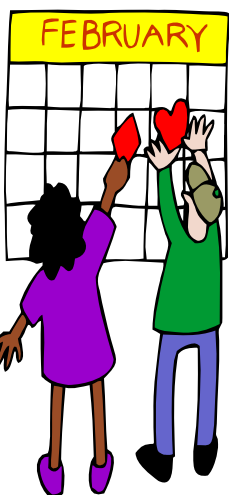
## ***WEEKLY SCHEDULE***

Each child attends 5 days per week.

AM Preschool—(Monday through Friday), 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

PM Preschool—(Monday through Friday), 12:15 p.m.– 2:45 p.m.

We follow the SAU #21 school calendar for holidays, vacations, and teacher in-service days. We will begin August 29, 2006 and end June 15, 2007.



School cancellations are announced on WOKQ (97.5).

Cancellations and delays will also be posted at [www.cancellations.com](http://www.cancellations.com). When accessing information, you will need to use zip code 03842 (Hampton) for all schools. Please use these methods for determining what is happening:

If North Hampton School is cancelled, then AM and PM Preschool is also cancelled.

If North Hampton School calls a one-hour or two-hour delay, there is **no** AM (morning) Preschool, but the PM (afternoon) Preschool **will** be in session.

## ***SNACK***

There is a \$35.00 snack fee per semester, due the first week of September and February. Snack time is used as a learning experience for the children, as we incorporate self-help skills, social skills, literacy skills, and math skills. We also provide opportunities to participate in many cooking activities throughout the year.

## ***TRANSPORTATION***

Parents of tuition children must provide their own transportation.

AM (morning) Preschool begins at 8:30 a.m. If your child is going to be late or absent, please notify the school office by 8:15 a.m. (964-5501).



PM (afternoon) Preschool begins at 12:15 p.m. If your child is going to be late or absent, please notify the school office by 12:00 noon (964-5501).

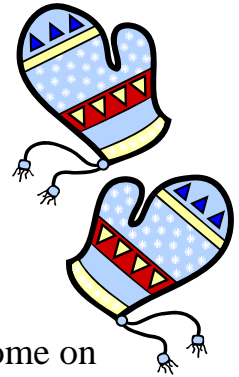
Please notify your child's teacher in writing if your child will be picked up by someone other than his/her usual ride. Children will not be released without written permission.

## ***DRESS***

Please label your child's belongings. All children should come to school dressed for active play. Please dress your child for the weather, since we will be having outdoor play daily (with the exceptions of rain and bitter cold conditions).

If your child wears winter boots to school, please send in a pair of shoes to change into. Sneakers are best, as slippers are too slippery.

An extra set of clothing is needed in case of water spills, painting, or other mishaps. Please send an extra set of clothing in a bag with your child's name on it. We will store this set at school. Clothing should include: socks, underwear, pants, and a shirt. A sweat suit or elastic pants seem to work best to accommodate the change of seasons and growth throughout the year.



A backpack is helpful to carry projects and school announcements home on a daily basis.

## ***HEALTH***

A tired or sick child has trouble learning and participating in school. Sick children do not belong in school for their own well-being, and that of others. If your child shows signs of being ill, it is best to keep him/her home from school until he/she is well.

If your child has any of the following symptoms, he/she is best kept at home.

chills

persistent cough

diarrhea

fever (99.6+)

runny nose

vomiting

sore throat

eye infection

headache

earache

stomachache



If you are in doubt, please call Julie Cyr, School Nurse, at 964-5501. Contact her also, regarding any medication that needs to be administered during school hours.

If your child becomes ill at school, you will be contacted. If we are unable to contact you, we will contact the person designated on your emergency card.

## ***MEDICATION POLICY***

Should a child need to take medication during school hours, a parent's written permission is needed. If possible, we ask that medication be scheduled before or after school hours.

Medication to be given at school must be sent in the original container obtained from the pharmacy. The label must include the child's name, name of medication, directions for administration, physician's name and date. You may want to ask your pharmacist for a labeled bottle just for school.

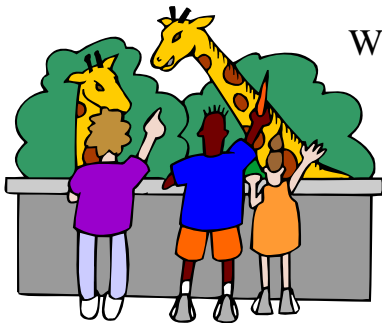
Non-prescription medication must be in the original container. The child's name and the date must be clearly marked on the container.

A note from the parent should accompany the medication stating the reason the child is receiving the medication, the amount to be given, and the time it should be given.



Medication that is sent to school unlabeled or without written parental permission will not be administered to the child. This is for the protection of the child to be sure that the correct medicine in the correct amount is given.

## ***FIELD TRIPS***

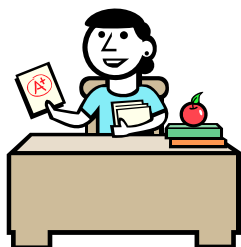


We plan a couple of community trips throughout the school year. Field trips help children become aware of the world around them and are an important part of the child's experiences. If you have any suggestions, by all means, let us know.

You will be notified in advance of all field trips. A permission slip will go home and must be returned before the day of the field trip. The permission slip will tell you what, when, and where the children will be going and when they return.

We welcome and encourage you to join your child on these fun-filled trips. We are always looking for chaperones.

## ***VISITING***



We encourage you and your family to visit school. We have an “open door” policy. If you would like to observe a particular activity or meet with your child’s teacher, please call ahead to arrange for an appointment. You must check in at the office when you arrive.

## ***PARENT INVOLVEMENT***

Parent involvement is vital to a successful early education experience. Parents are the child’s first and most important teachers. We offer a variety of ways for you to be a part of your child’s program.

- Sharing a skill, occupation, hobby, or activity
- Reading a story or teaching the children a new song
- Participating and/or facilitating in classroom activities and centers
- Preparing materials at home for the classroom
- Chaperoning a field trip

## ***FEEES***

The fee for AM (morning) and PM (afternoon) preschool is \$75/week. You will receive a bill in October and February. If you would like to make other arrangements (e.g. quarterly bills), please call Nancy Tuttle at the S.A.U Office (926-8992).

There is also a \$25.00 non-refundable application fee.

There is a \$35.00 snack fee for each semester. This is due the first week in September and February.

Payments are to be made by check or money order. Please make checks payable to North Hampton School.

## ***PARENT LENDING LIBRARY***

During the 1997-98 school year, North Hampton School received grant monies to develop a parent lending library. There are a variety of resource activity guides to assist parents with the development of young children. These materials are located in the preschool room.

