



Little Quakers Academy

401 Elm Drive Plainfield, IN 46168
www.painfield.k12.in.us

2023-2024 SPECIAL PROGRAM PRESCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to Little Quakers Academy

Developmental Preschool Morning or Afternoon Program

We would like to thank you for choosing PCSC Little Quakers Academy (LQA). We are committed to your child's academic, social-emotional development, and physical growth. It is our goal to provide a variety of exciting and stimulating activities each day so that your child can progress toward self-respect, concern for others, and a desire to learn. This handbook has been prepared especially for you, the parent of a child enrolled in our morning or afternoon preschool. You will find our policies and operating procedures explained here. By reading this handbook, you will be prepared for your family's enrollment in our program.

MISSION STATEMENT

Bringing joy to learning

GUIDING BELIEFS

PCSC Little Quakers Academy believes that:

- Children are never too young to learn
- Decisions are made to positively affect the whole child
- Learning experiences will develop independence, curiosity, decision-making, cooperation, creativity, and problem solving skills
- Our preschool classrooms will support a nurturing learning environment
- Parents will be actively involved with their child's experiences at LQA

LQA ADMINISTRATION & STAFF

Jacki O'Bradovich, Preschool Director

Andrea Hapenny, LQA Administrative Assistant

Beth Shepperd, Director of Special Education

ENROLLMENT/ADMISSION POLICY & PERIOD

All LQA students must be Guilford Township residents. LQA is free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, disability, gender, national origin, or ethnicity.

DOCUMENTS DUE AT THE TIME OF ENROLLMENT

Online registration must be completed using a desktop computer; it will not work if you use the PowerSchool mobile app. If you are registering your child for the first time in Plainfield, you will need to provide the documents listed below. These may be uploaded through our online registration process. If you prefer to bring them to school in-person, please call the school to schedule a time to do so.

1. Birth Certificate
2. Immunization Records (may be faxed to 317-203-4525)
3. Proof of Residency* (it is necessary to provide option A along with B and/or C)
 - a. Current lease/rental agreement, purchase agreement, or property tax statement
 - b. Active and current utility bill
 - c. Valid IN Driver's License/State ID with current address (or copy of parent driver's license or state ID)
4. Registration/Materials Fee (cash, credit/debit card, personal check, money order, cashier's check made payable to **Clarks Creek Elementary**). The registration fee is what will hold your child's spot.

* If you are currently living with a relative or friend, you must complete a Shared Residency Form and provide 2 proofs of their residency.

2023 -2024 FEES

Annual Program Fee: The annual program fee for the half-day program is \$50.00. You will receive a statement to collect these fees from the treasurer. These fees are non-refundable and cover program materials. The \$50 annual fee is due at re-enrollment for subsequent years.

Insufficient Funds: If a personal check is returned for insufficient funds or account closure, a \$20.00 returned-check fee will be assessed in addition to the full amount of the check. If two checks are returned for one student account, LQA will require future payments to be made with cash or money order.

Late-Pick-Up Fee: If a child is picked up after the dismissal time, a late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be assessed and is due upon receipt of statement.

STUDENT'S EXTENDED LEAVE

If your child will be gone for an extended amount of time, you must notify the teacher, director, and secretary.

2021-2022 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Morning Session – 8:50 - 11:20 AM Bus Riders

9:00 - 11:30 AM Car Riders

Afternoon Session – 1:00 - 3:30 PM

The 2023/2024 school year will offer a morning or afternoon preschool program that follows the Plainfield Community School Corporation calendar. Your child's class time is determined by your address.

SUPPLY LIST

Parents/Guardian will get a letter and supply list from your child's teacher by mail prior to the start of school. Supply lists will also be given at initial case conferences.

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

LQA will utilize The High Scope Curriculum. This researched-based curriculum has been found to lead to positive outcomes for students as they progress through school. The High Scope Curriculum aligns with the *Indiana Foundations for Young Children* and addresses the following:

- Language, Literacy, and Communication
- Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development, Health, and Well-Being
- Math, Science & Technology, Social Studies, and Arts

Parents/Guardians can expect a progress report with an update to IEP goals at the end of each quarter and an academic/social report card in October and May.

Daily activity offerings will include:

- Creative arts
- Blocks
- Dramatic play
- Sensory activities
- Manipulatives
- Science and inquiry of the natural world

- Literature
- Music and movement
- Outdoor play
- Snack

The classroom teacher will strive to maintain a balance between:

- Child-directed and teacher-directed activity
- Structure and flexibility
- Group needs and individual needs
- Program goals and children's interests
- Security and risk-taking
- Familiarity and challenge

Special Education

The Plainfield Special Education link on our web page has a lot of valuable information to help you better understand what makes special education "special." The site contains information and resources to help in a variety of ways. However, please do not hesitate to ask questions at any time during the process. (<https://www.plainfield.k12.in.us/o/special-education>)

Timeline

An Overview: Article 7 and the IEP Timeline



Day 1	The public agency (school) receives a request (preferably written) from the parent requesting a comprehensive educational evaluation for their child, and parent gives consent for this evaluation. See 511 IAC 7-40-4 (d)
Day 2-10	The public agency has up to 10 instructional days to provide the parent with written notice regarding the request for their child's educational evaluation. The notice will either propose to do the evaluation with a description of the evaluation procedure, or refuse the request with an explanation of the parent's rights to contest the refusal. See 511 IAC 7-40-4 (d & e)
Day 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the parent requests a copy of the educational evaluation prior to the CCC meeting in the initial evaluation request letter, the school must provide a copy of the evaluation to the parent not less than five (5) instructional days prior to the initial CCC meeting. See 511 IAC 7-40-5 (h) The parent can also request that the public agency explain the educational evaluation results to the parent prior to the CCC meeting. See 511 IAC 7-40-5 (i) The parent should receive "adequate notice" regarding the date, time, and place of the CCC meeting. See 511 IAC 7-32-4 A CCC meeting must be scheduled at a mutually agreed upon time and place. See 511 IAC 7-42-2
50 days later	Within 50 instructional days of receiving parental consent, the school district must evaluate the student and hold the first CCC meeting to discuss evaluation results to determine whether the child is eligible for special education and related services. See 511 IAC 7-40-5 (d)
Day of the CCC meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCC meets to develop an individual educational program (IEP) designed to meet the students' unique needs. Including Present Levels of Academic and Functional Performance, annual goals, special education and related services, accommodations, state and district test participation, transition services (14 years of age and older), progress achieved, and projected dates of services See 511 IAC 7-42-6 Parents must provide consent in writing to initial IEP.
Up to 10 days after the CCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any member of the CCC can submit a written opinion regarding the IEP that will remain in the student's educational record. See 511 IAC 7-42-6 (j)
11 days after the IEP meeting or sooner	The proposed IEP will be implemented as written if parent has provided consent. See 511 IAC 7-42-8 (b)
1 year after IEP	Annual Case Review - A review of the IEP occurs at least once a year with a CCC meeting. However, parents can request a CCC meeting to revise the IEP at any time. See 511 IAC 7-42-9 (a)
Up to 10 days after the CCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any member of the CCC can submit a written opinion regarding the IEP that will remain in the student's educational record. See 511 IAC 7-42-6 (j) In order to preserve the previous IEP or take advantage of "stay put," a parent has 10 days after the IEP meeting to decide if they agree or do not agree to the IEP. See 511 IAC 7-42-8 (2)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagreement should be submitted <u>in writing</u> to the school no later than 10 instructional days after meeting either requesting another meeting or requesting formal dispute resolution.
3 year educational reevaluation	The public agency has to consider reevaluation for each student with an IEP at least every three years unless both the parent and public agency agree it is not necessary. However, a parent or public agency can request an evaluation any time during the three year period if additional information is needed to address special education and related services. See 511 IAC 7-40-8 for more information.
Modification of IEP	Changes can be made by the CCC at a scheduled CCC meeting. Changes can also be made without a CCC meeting if the parent and public agency agree to collaboratively develop a written document to amend or modify the current IEP. See 511 IAC 7-42-9 (e –g) for more information.
Independent evaluation	If the parent disagrees with the evaluation conducted by the public agency, the parent can request the public agency pay for an Independent educational evaluation (IEE). The public agency has the right to approve or deny the request for an IEE within ten business days of a parent's request. See 511 IAC 7-40-7 for more information.
Dispute Resolution	Special education law provides protections for parents and students to insure that they have input as members of the CCC. Parents have options for formal dispute resolution during all stages of the special education process. A complaint can be filed for a procedural violation. See 511 IAC 7-45-1. Mediation can be requested when the parent and school cannot reach consensus. See 511 IAC 7-45-2. A Due Process Hearing can be initiated by the parent or the school in some situations. See 511 IAC 7-45-2.

Revised October 28, 2013

The following information is provided for guidance purposes, and does not constitute legal advice. It is intended to provide a general background of the special education process. If you are seeking answers to legal questions, please be sure to consult with a competent attorney prior to taking any legal action.

Individual Education Plan Information

- Referred to as “IEPs”
- Authorized under Indiana Article 7 and Federal Law IDEA
- Written to detail present levels of educational performance, determine areas of deficit and need, determine eligibility for special education services and to write goals, services, and supports for eligible students
- Building level oversight by the Public Agency Representative (principals, assistant principals, counselors) and the Teacher of Record
- Director of Special Education: Beth Shepperd

SCHOOL BASED SPEECH THERAPY

School-based speech therapy is provided if a student qualifies with a language impairment and/or speech impairment. An evaluation will need to be completed to determine if a student meets eligibility requirements.

Speech and language therapy addresses areas such as receptive/expressive language, pragmatic language, articulation, and fluency. These areas are addressed to help a student clearly communicate his/her wants and needs in the educational setting.

The speech-language pathologist works closely with school team members on addressing individualized goals. Quarterly reports will be sent home to provide information regarding progress towards a student's goals. An annual case conference is held yearly to discuss progress and areas of need.

SCHOOL BASED PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

School-based physical and occupational therapy are related services provided in the educational setting. When appropriate, the therapist conducts an evaluation to determine if a student qualifies for these services.

Physical therapy focuses on improving gross motor skills that allow the student improved accessibility and participation in their education. When a student qualifies for physical therapy services, it is necessary to provide a physician signed script before we can begin providing direct care services. It is also necessary to update the physician script each year to continue receiving services.

Occupational therapy addresses fine motor and sensory skill development to allow the student improved participation and independence in classroom activities and self-care needs. Unlike physical therapy, occupational therapy does not require a script from a physician.

The physical and occupational therapists work closely with school team members on addressing individualized goals. Quarterly reports will be sent home to provide information regarding progress towards their goals. Physical and occupational therapy updates are also included at the annual case conference.

SCHOOL CLOSURES & INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

School Closure: Plainfield Community School Corporation will communicate the plans for the 2023 - 2024 school year in regards to snow days. If Plainfield closes due to inclement weather, LQA may have an E-Learning Day. In the event of E-Learning, refunds will not be issued.

Delays: If PCSC operates on a 2-hour delay, the morning and afternoon preschool will follow a delay schedule:

- Morning Session: 10:50 AM - 12:20 PM
- Afternoon Session: 1:50 - 3:20 PM

STAFFING

Preschool classes will be taught by:

- Licensed special education teachers
- Licensed preschool or elementary education teachers
- Certified teachers with Early Childhood credentials
- Professionals with, at minimum, Associate Degrees in Early Childhood or Child Development Associate credentials

Class sizes will have an approximate student-teacher ratio of 8:1 during the delivery of the preschool curriculum.

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

Immunizations: Each child should have the immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver. If a child does not have the necessary shots or waivers, the Preschool Director may remove the student or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law. *Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the school nurse.* Each student shall provide documentation of

immunizations that complies with the rules set forth by the Indiana State Board of Health pertaining to adequate dosage and age.

If you have chosen to exercise your waiver and not fully vaccinate your child, it is your responsibility to be completely knowledgeable of the symptoms of any diseases for which your child has not been vaccinated. If you choose to exercise your right to an immunization waiver and your child exhibits any of the symptoms of these diseases, you must notify the Preschool Director immediately and keep your child out of school until your family doctor, in conjunction with the State of Indiana Department of Health, determines it is safe for your child to return. Understand in advance that this time period may be as long as two months, depending on the circumstances.

Illness: Regular attendance is important to your child's learning. However, in the interest of all children, the school requires that children be kept out of school for 24 hours after the final episode or symptoms in the following situations:

- Fever over 100 degrees (without medication)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Discharge in or around the eye
- Undiagnosed skin rash

Please use good judgment as to whether your child should attend preschool on a given day. A child who has not slept well or refuses to eat needs extra consideration as to whether he/she would benefit from attending school.

If your child develops symptoms of an infectious disease such as mumps, measles, chicken pox, conjunctivitis, or impetigo shortly after being in class, please call the Clarks Creek Nurse at 317-203-7770 and LQA secretary at 317-754-2375.

If your child appears ill or becomes sick at school, the teacher will assess the condition, take his/her temperature, and notify the parent immediately. The child will be separated from the group and comfortably cared for and supervised until parents arrive.

Absence: If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the preschool office at 317-754-2375 with your child's name, class, and reason for absence. If your child is being treated with an antibiotic, he/she should have received treatment for at least 24-hours before coming to school.

Accidents & Injuries: Minor bumps and scrapes will receive appropriate first aid. If an emergency injury or illness occurs, parents will be contacted immediately. It is important that all

emergency contacts and phone numbers are up to date at all times. Please call the preschool office with any changes as they occur.

Medication Procedures: Whenever possible, we ask that all medication be given to children at home. We understand that this is not always possible. If medication must be administered during the school day, the following policy applies:

- **Prescription Medication:** When it is necessary for a child to take prescription medicine during school, Indiana rules and regulations must be followed. No early-morning (before 10 AM) or late-afternoon (after 2 PM) medications will be dispensed by preschool staff. Parents will be responsible for the first dosage and any late afternoon dosages. No medication will be given or dispensed by the school nurse or any other school employee without written permission by the child's legal guardian and the child's physician. The original prescription container can act as the physician's permission. Medication prescribed for any child must be brought to the preschool office and left there in the original container bearing the original pharmacy label which shows the following information:
 - Prescription number
 - Date filled
 - Physician's name
 - Child's name
 - Directions for use
- **Non-Prescription Medication:** Over-the-counter medication cannot be administered or dispensed without written permission from the child's legal guardian. Parents will complete a form providing the name of the medication, dosage, time to be given, and date to discontinue. Over-the counter medication must be brought to the preschool office and kept there in the original container bearing the child's name.

The preschool office should have a record of the student's allergies and medical needs. Parents of students whose activities are to be restricted in any way should file a doctor's statement with the preschool office. It is vitally important that each student's enrollment record includes an emergency contact. This is a number at which someone can be reached in case of an emergency when the parent is not immediately reachable. Arrangements should also be made by the parents for a place where we may send a child who becomes ill at school. A parent must sign these forms. Arrangements should be made for your child to be picked up as soon as possible by you or anyone that is on the emergency pick up authorization form.

Head Lice: While incidences are infrequent, a student may become infested with head lice. When a student is discovered to have lice, the school nurse or principal's designee shall follow these guidelines:

- The parent will be notified and the child will be sent home for treatment. The parent will be given written instructions on ways to treat head lice to prevent further outbreaks. These instructions include steps for killing the lice and removing the nits (eggs).
- The child's classroom will be inspected and treated if necessary.
- The child's cubby will be inspected and treated if necessary.
- The child's siblings will also be checked for head lice. If siblings attend another school, the school will be notified so the above procedures can be followed.
- The parent must accompany the child back to school the next day after treatment so he/she will be re-checked for head lice. If more lice are found, the parent must take the child home for an additional treatment.

NOTE: Unfortunately, nits (eggs) found after treatment have not always represented dead eggs, and lice infestation has reoccurred. It is important to follow the guidelines and remove the nits.

SAFETY & SECURITY GUIDELINES

Children learn best when they feel safe and secure. We do everything we can to make sure that students and staff members not only feel safe, but that they are safe.

Here are a few highlights of the safety measures the Plainfield Community School District, Clarks Creek, and LQA have put into effect:

- The Plainfield Community School District and Plainfield Police partner to provide a school resource officer to monitor Clarks Creek's campus
- Clarks Creek is equipped with a panic button that communicates directly to the county-wide emergency dispatch unit
- Clarks Creek conducts monthly fire drills, seasonal tornado drills, an annual earthquake drill, and quarterly lockdown drills
- All staff members receive annual safety protocol training

You will be provided with information from the Preschool Director during the summer months with the school years' entrance and exit procedures.

Release of Children: LQA will only release children to their parents and the people who have been authorized in their emergency and pick up authorization forms. If a child has a protective order, a copy must be in that child's file in the LQA office. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform any person that may be unfamiliar with our preschool procedures that they will be required to present identification before a child will be released to them.

Emergency Drills & Procedures: Fire and tornado evacuation plans are posted in each classroom. Fire drills are practiced one time each month and tornado drills are practiced one time each semester. Lockdown drills occur throughout the year.

Child Not Picked Up: All children must be picked up by the end of the morning or afternoon session. We ask that you arrive before the end of the session. If you are running late, please call the LQA office or Clarks Creek so we can inform your child and alleviate any concerns. Please remember, if a child is picked up after the morning or afternoon dismissal time, a late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be assessed and is due upon receipt of statement. A child who is habitually picked up late may be dismissed from LQA.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT & DISCIPLINE

LQA utilizes positive behavior management techniques. Teachers instruct children as to what they should do rather than telling them what not to do. For example, “We must walk inside the building” instead of “no running.”

Staff will use positive reinforcement while supervising children, encouraging them to cooperate and continue using appropriate behaviors. Children will be redirected to an alternate activity if their behavior continues to be inappropriate. An example is when a child is doing something that could hurt others or themselves or is destroying property and choosing not to use problem-solving techniques. Teachers will continue to be active listeners and support the child with conflict resolution. Parents will be notified of the behavior management strategies used and receive an incident report. If a child’s behavior is unmanageable within a group setting, parents will be consulted and an individual behavior plan will be developed and implemented.

The overall behavioral goals of the program are for students to learn to maintain self-control, understand behaviors have consequences, learn problem solving skills, and learn how to interact with other children in a socially acceptable manner. These skills will enable students to demonstrate the necessary readiness for kindergarten.

SCHOOL ATTIRE

Please send your child to school in play clothes. Wearing clothes that cannot get dirty will inhibit your child’s interactions with materials. Tennis shoes or other sturdy shoes are preferable. We discourage the wearing of sandals, slip-ons, or dress shoes due to safety concerns. We plan to play outside every day, therefore, please dress your child for the weather.

ITEMS FROM HOME

Generally, toys from home are discouraged. If your child needs to bring something from home to help make the transition to school easier, he/she will be encouraged to keep it in his/her cubby.

SNACKS

Snacks will be offered family- or community-style with parents being responsible for bringing in enough snacks to serve their child's entire class on a predetermined schedule. All snacks must be store bought and brought in original, sealed containers. We encourage healthy snack choices, and a list of options will be provided by your child's teacher.

FOOD ALLERGIES

If your child has a specific food allergy that you would like the school cafeteria to be aware of, you must notify the Food Service Director and teacher in writing. If there is a need to substitute the appropriate food/beverage item for a specific food allergy, please submit the following in writing to the Food Service Director:

- An identification of the medical or other special dietary condition which restricts the child's diet
- The food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet
- The food or choice of foods to be substituted. A recognized medical authority must sign a permission note for this substitution. If you have any questions regarding food allergies, please contact the Plainfield Food Service Director, Kelly Collins, at 317-838-3662.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Birthday Parties: Your child's birthday is a very special day for you, your child, and LQA. We will recognize your child and celebrate his/her day with special recognition in class. Birthday treats can be provided for each class member. Treats need to be prepackaged and store-bought. Please check with the classroom teacher for an up to date headcount. Please do not pass out invitations at school for private parties.

In-House Field Trips: The LQA program offers several in-house field trips to enhance your child's growth and development. Examples include U-Paint, Silly Safari, Little Clinic, library, Police Department, and Fire Department.

Family Events: Parents will have opportunities to participate in family events in and out of the classroom. Examples include the Thanksgiving Feast, Winter Holiday party, PTO events at Clarks Creek, field day, Walk-a-thon, and LQA graduation.

OUTSIDE POLICY

Outdoor time is an integral part of the curriculum. Children will be expected to play outside so they can experience all types of weather. Students may go outside when temperatures are above 30 degrees. Make sure your child brings a coat, hat, mittens, and boots (if necessary) on appropriate days. If the outside temperature reaches a heat index of 90 degrees or higher, teachers will use their discretion to take children out.

CHILD ABUSE

As required by law, any staff member who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse must immediately report such fact to the county department of social services or local law enforcement agencies. Child abuse is generally defined as non-accidental physical or mental injury caused by the acts or omissions of the child's parents or caretakers, including physical abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and sexual abuse.

PHOTOGRAPHS

From time to time during the school year, our website staff, teachers or school personnel will take pictures, video, or audio of groups of students during their school activities. These pictures or videos may be posted to the district or LQA website, social media, teacher websites, or in newsletters. If parents do not want their child's pictures or videos posted, they must indicate their decision on the LQA signature page at enrollment.

COMMUNICATION

Effective and frequent communication is a key to a successful preschool experience. We ask that parents interact with LQA on many levels.

LQA Classroom Newsletter: Preschool teachers will send newsletters home periodically by email or in folders to inform parents of curriculum covered, upcoming activities, as well as a recap of the school week.

Weekly Folders: Parents will receive folders every Friday filled with student work, school/district news, as well as community news.

LQA Joy News: Parents/guardians will receive an electronic newsletter from the Director about upcoming events, school, and district news.

Website/Social Media: LQA will share information with families and the community via the LQA website and other forms of social media.

Clarks Creek and Little Quakers PTO News: Parents/guardians will receive information from Clarks Creek Elementary PTO.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Conferences may be scheduled by the teacher or requested by the parent/guardian on an as-needed basis.

Phone/Email: Please be sure your phone number and email address are kept current by notifying the LQA office staff immediately whenever a change is made. We encourage the use of email when possible for communication purposes. However, please do not send time-sensitive information via email, as it may be 24 hours before a teacher or staff member is able to respond. Phone calls are the best mode of communication if there is an emergency or immediate need to contact LQA personnel.

Parent Square: Your child's teacher may communicate information, pictures, or videos to parents using the Parent Square App.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

LQA welcomes and encourages parents, grandparents, and caregivers to visit the preschool and volunteer when they have time. In order to maximize this experience for both you and your child, it is important that these visits occur during optimum times of the preschool day. We encourage you to speak with your child's teacher regarding the different opportunities you might have to volunteer or visit your child throughout the school year.

VOLUNTEER POLICY

As part of our security procedures, all Plainfield Schools employees and volunteers must complete and pass a background check. We use Safe Visitor Solutions to manage this process for us. It's simple, quick, and affordable. To complete your volunteer background check application, please go to the following website:

<https://secure.safevisitorsolutions.com/Safe/Volunteer/plainfield2807/volunteer> Please allow

at least two weeks prior to volunteering. This must be done in order for volunteers to be included in the classroom and at special events where one would have contact with students.

Volunteer times may only occur during the scheduled preschool day from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Volunteers must contact the classroom teacher to make arrangements to set up a volunteer time. Volunteers will not be permitted to come to the classroom unless they have made prior arrangements with the classroom teachers. Volunteer times are determined by the classroom teachers. Activities assigned to volunteers will also be determined by the classroom teachers.

If at any time a volunteer notices any inappropriate or concerning behaviors of other students, they should notify the teacher or classroom staff. These students are to be addressed by preschool personnel only.

VISITORS

Due to our concern about the safety and protection of our children, we require that all visitors check in at the Clarks Creek Elementary main office, show valid ID, and receive a visitor's badge before going to any part of the school or preschool.