



# **Malmo Pre-Kindergarten Handbook for Parents**

2022-2023

4716-115 Street, Room 15

Malmo Elementary School, Edmonton, Alberta

(780) 438-0431

[www.malmopreschool.com](http://www.malmopreschool.com)



Revised: Jan 31, 2022



<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. PHILOSOPHY OF MALMO PRE-KINDERGARTEN</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1 Purpose and Objectives	1
2.2 Play and Whole Child Development	2
2.3 Benefits of Pre-Kindergarten	3
<b>3. OUR PROGRAM</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Hours of Operation	4
3.2 Age Requirements	4
3.3 Child to Adult Ratio	5
3.4 Registration	5
3.4.1 Holding Places	6
3.5 Fees and Fines	6
3.6 Notice to Cancel	8
3.7 Field Trips	9
3.8 Discipline	9
3.9 Child Drop-off and Pick-up	10
3.10 Snacks	11
3.11 Birthdays	12
3.12 Toilet Training	12
3.13 Spare Clothes/Classroom Shoes	12
3.14 Toys	13
3.15 Outdoor Play	13
3.16 School Closures/Cancellations	13
3.17 Special Withdrawal	13
3.18 Communication with Parents	14
3.19 Health & Medical Emergency	14
3.20 Emergency Evacuation and Tactical Lockdown Plans	16
3.21 Incident Reporting	17
3.22 Supervision Policy and Practices	18
3.23 Records	18
<b>4. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES IN A COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1 Parent Job	19



4.2 Fundraising	19
4.3 Code of Ethics	20
4.4 Confidentiality	20
4.5 Respectful Learning and Working Environment	21
<b>5. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: COVID-19 FEE AND GUIDELINES</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>23</b>
Appendix A: Important Dates	23
Appendix B: Schedules of Fees and Fines	24
Appendix C: Parent Position Descriptions	26
Appendix D: Appeal Policy	31



## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Malmo Pre-Kindergarten! We are a not-for-profit, parent cooperative preschool for children ages three to five years. Our preschool is located in Malmo Elementary School.

Malmo Pre-Kindergarten is a registered not-for-profit society and operates under the Societies Act of Alberta. We are licensed as a preschool with Edmonton & Area Child & Family Services and follow the Child Care Licensing Act.

Every parent and/or legal guardian whose child is enrolled in the preschool is considered a member of the Malmo Pre-Kindergarten Parents Association (also known as the "Association"). The Association is governed by the bylaws of the Association and has a Parent Executive Board (also known as the "Board") of elected officers who hold the roles of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Co-Treasurer, Fundraising Coordinator, and Registrar or Co-Registrar. The Board implements the policies based on the Association bylaws. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who do not serve on the Board assume other volunteer positions.

This Handbook outlines the policies and procedures of Malmo Pre-Kindergarten. It will also introduce you to the preschool's guiding philosophy of "learning through play," programming details, operational guidelines, parent/guardian responsibilities, and important dates. Our bylaws can be accessed by contacting the preschool.

In this Handbook, the use of the title "Pre-Kindergarten" (official) and "preschool" (colloquial) will be used interchangeably.

## **2. PHILOSOPHY OF MALMO PRE-KINDERGARTEN**

### **2.1 Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of Malmo Pre-Kindergarten is to present a high-quality, developmentally-appropriate program based on the "learning through play" philosophy.

Malmo Pre-Kindergarten objectives are to:

- provide an opportunity for children to play with preschool children in a similar-age setting;



- offer a consistent play environment, where children can meet regularly with the same group of children and have time to develop relationships with one another and to learn about themselves;
- help build a sense of security and self-confidence;
- offer opportunities to explore and play with a wider range of materials than is available in most homes;
- encourage creativity and curiosity; and,
- allow a child to begin to make independent choices and to build on the child's interests in the world around them.

## **2.2 Play and Whole Child Development**

We believe that “learning through play” enhances the growth and development of the whole child: physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually, and creatively.

### Physical Development

Opportunities for indoor play with various recreational equipment in the school gymnasium offer the children many activities that promote large muscle development and body coordination. Weather-permitting, our preschool also utilizes the outdoor park and playground.

Small muscles and fine coordination are developed through the use of small blocks, puzzles, crayons, paints, clay, sand, water, musical instruments, and other similar activities. Children are taught body care methods and needs through special theme subjects, activities, resource visitors, etc.

### Social Development

A preschool of similar ages makes companionship possible. Under the guidance of the teacher, the school provides many experiences in playing with and alongside peers, sharing, waiting one's turn, and managing relationships and conflicts.

### Emotional Development

Children are offered a consistent routine and encouragement in an atmosphere of caring, concerned adults who are sensitive to the feelings of children.



### Intellectual Development

Various learning centers that change weekly, music/singing time, baking/cooking opportunities, field trips, and visits from special guests all stimulate curiosity and contribute to the growth of ideas.

### Creative Development

Children explore their artistic natures through daily craft activities, a painting center, and a play dough table. Our playhouse changes with each theme to allow the children a variety of imaginative play. Dramatic and creative play are also developed through puppets, musical instruments, singing, and acting out stories.

## **2.3 Benefits of Pre-Kindergarten**

The child learns to:

- express thoughts, feelings, and ideas to others;
- manage behavior in a group setting;
- compromise;
- show empathy;
- cooperate;
- express 'self' through art, music, and play;
- form friendships; and,
- become more independent and develop self-confidence.

Benefits to the parent include:

- satisfaction from participating in your child's preschool experience, understanding their routines, and learning about their play;
- being part of a strong parent network;
- witnessing your child's love of learning develop; and,
- ensuring the smooth running of the school through your involvement.

## **3. OUR PROGRAM**

Our program allows for a period of free play time where children choose their own activities from among the many learning centers designed to stimulate and challenge each child according to their individual needs and stages of development. Some of the centers are: water table, sand table, painting, arts & crafts, block building, library and story corner, play house, puzzles, and games. During free play time, the teacher,



teacher's assistant, and any parent helpers play with the children and give individualized instruction and encouragement.

After free play time, children are guided into a structured play time. This component includes circle time, music time and/or gym time, snack, and story time. The children come to know and enjoy their preschool "routine."

Our classes use both the school gymnasium and outdoor park (weather permitting) on a daily basis, as well as the school library and music room at certain times of the year.

Each month, a new theme is introduced. Special activities linked to the current theme are planned daily to further stimulate and challenge the children. These activities include guest speakers and field trips. Children are exposed to art media, music, science, books, food, people, and community experience to broaden and expand their knowledge.

Our teachers constantly assess the program, the environment, and each child in order to adapt and improve the program if necessary.

### **3.1 Hours of Operation**

Children attend half-days in either the morning or the afternoon program:

- Morning session: 9:00-11:15 a.m.
- Afternoon session: 1:00-3:15 p.m.

The days that your child attends depends on which class they are enrolled in:

- Four-year-olds: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings
- Three-year-olds: Tuesday and Thursday mornings
- Three/four-year-old combined class: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons

### **3.2 Age Requirements**

A child must turn three on or before December 31 of the current school year in order to register in the 3-year-old program. However, per licensing requirements, only children who have turned 3 years old may attend class regularly without a parent/guardian (or designated adult) accompanying them. Prior to turning three, children may participate in





"Visit Days" where they attend class accompanied by a responsible adult who remains in the classroom during the visit. Visit Days are arranged with the teacher.

A child must turn 4 on or before December 31 of the current school year in order to enroll in the 4-year-old program.

### **3.3 Child to Adult Ratio**

Classroom sizes are set to maintain a low child-to-adult ratio allowing each child the opportunity to receive dedicated, individualized instruction and encouragement. In every class there is always a teacher, a teacher's assistant, and, as required, Parent Helpers (rare exceptions are made due to illness). Malmo Pre-Kindergarten relies on the participation of parents and guardians to fulfill the role of Parent Helper when needed (refer to Section 4.3).

### **3.4 Registration**

Malmo Pre-Kindergarten utilizes online registration. Registration for the upcoming school year typically starts in January/February, with specific durations allotted for current families, followed by alumni families, and then the general public. The Board of the current school year will determine the exact date to start the registration process.

All registrations are accepted in the order in which they are received, on a first-come, first-served basis. During registration, you will be asked for your preferred class time. If there is no room in that class when your registration is processed, then your child will be placed in the alternate time slot for your child's age group, if available. Finally, if no slots are available for your child's age group, then your child will be placed on a waitlist.

The rough registration timeline is as follows, with precise dates advertised on the website and in newsletters:

1. Registration for current families (families that currently have a child in the preschool and will be registering any of their children in the upcoming preschool year) opens in early to mid-January.
2. Approximately one week later, registration for alumni families opens.
3. Finally, approximately one week after that, general registration opens.

You will be contacted by the Registrar regarding whether your child has been placed in a class or on a waitlist. If your child has been placed in a class, you will be asked to



submit your bank information form for your school fees and fines within a certain time period (see Section 3.5 Fees and Fines); failure to do so may result in your child losing their spot in the class. Bank information for fees and fines is to be submitted to the Registrar (see Appendix B) and can be emailed to the Registrar, dropped off at the preschool, or mailed to the preschool.

While we strive to contact you as soon as possible after receiving your registration, please note that our Registrar is a parent volunteer, like you, and may need some time to get back to you. This is especially true during general registration.

Registration is only available online. All information pertaining to the registration process and specific dates can be found at the Malmo Pre-Kindergarten website ([malmopreschool.com](http://malmopreschool.com)).

### **3.4.1 Holding Places**

If your child has been placed in a class, but cannot attend yet either due to age requirements or other circumstances (e.g. moving to Edmonton after the school year begins), their monthly program fees are still required to be paid. In addition, you may be required to participate in fundraising activities or a subset of duties during this period.

Some parents/guardians in this situation choose to not hold their child's place in a class, essentially suspending their child's registration until they are ready to attend. Note that this choice does risk your preferred class becoming full, resulting in your child being placed either in the alternate time slot, if there's room, or on the waitlist when you choose to reinstate their registration.

### **3.5 Fees and Fines**

Fees are monies paid to secure program placement and to fund ongoing participation in the program. As part of a cooperative preschool, there are scheduled activities (i.e. parent jobs and fundraisers) in which all members of the Association are expected to participate. These activities require families to sign up and commit to specific dates that are usually spread out throughout the year. These fine measures are to account for any loss of fundraising manpower or volunteer requirements that cannot be filled due to the vacancy.

Families who withdraw their child(ren) from the preschool program after attending for more than two (2) months may have fines calculated on a prorated basis, at the



discretion of the Board. **Note:** The Board, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to make changes to fees and fines for any upcoming school year.

There are three (3) fee categories: registration, program, and supplies.

### Registration Fee

A registration fee is paid once per child, per school year and is non-refundable and non-transferable. Payment is due (via PayPal) at the time the registration form is submitted. The registration form can only be processed if the payment is completed.

Note that the registration fee must be paid whether your child is given a spot in a class or on the waitlist. However, no bank information for fees or fines shall be due until a space becomes available in the program.

Bank information forms for program fees and fines are mandatory and due within ten (10) business days after the Registrar has provided written confirmation of a child's spot at the preschool. Failure to provide bank information for all fees within the specified timeframe will result in the child's spot at the preschool to be forfeited. Refer to Appendix B for Schedule of Fees and Fines and how to provide your Bank Information.

### Program Fee

The program fee covers the monthly, ongoing costs of the program. Refer to Appendix B for Schedule of Fees and Fines.

### Supplies Fee

The supplies fee helps to cover the cost of field trips, guest speakers, program supplies, and other program needs for each child enrolled in the program. The supplies fee is per child and will be withdrawn once the child attends their first day of preschool, typically with the withdrawal of the first program fee. For children starting after January 1, the fee is reduced per child. Refer to Appendix B for Schedule of Fees and Fines.

### Pro-Rated Mid-Session Fees

Mid-session fees will be prorated by start date and the supplies and fundraising fees for the term will be required if a student attends more than one month in a term.

### School Fines

Parents are required to provide their bank information for the following School Fines:

- Fundraising Fines



- Parent Job Fines
- Casino Participation Fine

Fines are **only** withdrawn if a parent does not complete the related duty (i.e. does not participate in fundraising activities or fails to perform their assigned parent job). Families would be notified about the missed duties and either an alternate plan is set up or a fine withdrawal notice is given. If a family continues to miss duties, the Board will be notified and the child may be asked not to attend the preschool until duties are completed.

### NSF Policy

Any bank account withdrawals that are returned NSF (non-sufficient funds) are subject to a \$25.00 NSF fee. In the event that a withdrawal is NSF, the Treasurer will provide an email notification and a paper copy via the classroom mailboxes advising of the NSF notification. The parent will be asked to respond to the notification by email or telephone and to make suitable arrangements to replace the funds and provide the NSF fee within 14 days. If no payment is received or an acceptable alternative arrangement (in the preschool's sole discretion) is not made within 14 days, the Board will be notified and may ask that the child not attend the preschool until program fees are brought up to date.

In the event of subsequent withdrawals appearing as NSF, the Treasurer will provide notification letters via email and classroom mailbox and advise that further occurrences may result in the child's removal from the preschool.

The preschool will examine NSF issues on a case-by-case basis, but reserves its ability and discretion to remove a child from the preschool for recurring and/or ongoing issues associated with non-payment of fees.

### **3.6 Notice to Cancel**

An intention to withdraw from the preschool program requires a minimum of one month written notification to be sent to the **Registrar**. The written notification shall state the last day of attendance for the withdrawn child and must be received and acknowledged by the Registrar before the first (1<sup>st</sup>) day of the month prior to withdrawal. For example, if you wish to have your child leave any time in December, then written notice of your intentions must be received and acknowledged by the Registrar before November 1<sup>st</sup>. Your child may still attend class until the last day of attendance that was stated in the notice to the Registrar. The advance notice allows the teacher to prepare for the



departure of your child and allows the Registrar time to fill the vacancy. Any withdrawals submitted with inadequate notice will result in the forfeit of one month's program fee.

A withdrawal from the preschool program prior to the start of the school year in September requires written notification to be sent by email to the Registrar one month prior (i.e. before August 1<sup>st</sup>). No fees (with the exception of the non-refundable registration fee) or fines will be cashed if written notification is received and acknowledged by the Registrar prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>. Written notification received and acknowledged on or after August 1<sup>st</sup> will result in the September program fee being cashed.

Please Note: Any notice to withdraw from the preschool received on or after March 1<sup>st</sup> will have program fees withdrawn for the unattended months remaining in the school year. This payment is required due to the preschool being unable to fill a spot that is being vacated so late in the school year.

### **3.7 Field Trips**

Throughout the year, Malmo Pre-Kindergarten offers special experiences such as field trips and guest speakers. Notice of the event will be given several days before any out-of-class field trip. The field trip notice should include: Type of event, start/finish time and date, where and how the children are traveling to/from the event, and the parent/child ratio. Parents must provide signed consent for participation in field trips. The teacher must carry portable records for any outings. Parents will be responsible for getting their child(ren) to and from all field trips.

Parents are responsible for updating the preschool about any changes regarding their child's(ren's) information so that the correct information is available in the event of an emergency, regardless if it occurs in the classroom or on a field trip.

Portable records for each child include: child's name, date of birth, home address, the parent(s)/guardian(s) names, home address(es), telephone number(s), the home address and telephone number of an alternate emergency contact, and relevant health information about the child (e.g. immunizations and allergies). Portable records will also include telephone numbers for Emergency Response Services and the Poison Control Centre.

### **3.8 Discipline**

The teachers:



- model appropriate behaviour;
- prevent incidents by redirecting a child;
- recognize and verbally acknowledge the children's efforts to get along with each other; and,
- set consistent and age-appropriate limits.

The teachers strive to be aware of what is happening at all times so that they can intervene before an incident occurs. They use "natural consequences" to manage inappropriate behaviour.

Children must be able to function appropriately in a group. If a child exhibits excessive aggressive behaviour, the teachers will help set up a positive behaviour program to help the child. If no progress is made, the teachers and the Board will decide whether the child should remain in the program (see Section 3.17 Special Withdrawal). Any disciplinary action taken will be reasonable in the circumstances.

The teacher, teacher's assistant, and any Parent Helpers work closely together to maintain a happy secure environment for all of the children. They will maintain order by:

- Attempting to redirect a child when a potentially disruptive situation is developing.
- Diverting a child's attention to a constructive activity if the child seems aimless or is intruding on another's play space.
- Reminding of respectful behavior expectations on the part of all present and to the toys, materials, and equipment in the room.

The following actions are not permitted in the classroom by anyone: Verbal, physical or emotional degradation, physical constraint, confinement, or isolation.

Classroom issues are discussed at every Board meeting, including any incidents and/or behavioural concerns, as well as applicable strategies for handling the concern.

### **3.9 Child Drop-off and Pick-up**

Parents/guardians will wait with children outside the main entrance of the school until they are met with the teachers at the class start time. The teachers will greet the children and escort them into the school.



If you are late, you must phone the pre-kindergarten classroom and someone will come collect your child. Please do not use the school buzzer. The elementary school is run separately from the pre-kindergarten.

Parents/guardians (or adults designated to pick up the child) must check in with the teacher or teacher's assistant before the child will be formally dismissed from class. It is imperative that you call the school if you realize you will be late or if somebody else will be picking up your child. Timely pick-up allows the preschool to run efficiently and allows the teachers time to prepare for the next class or the next school day. Repeated offences of late pick-ups will be brought before the Board and may result in the child being asked to withdraw from the preschool program.

Your verbal notification is required for the teachers to release your child to an alternative pick-up person other than a designated parent or the designated person(s) noted on your registration form. Photo ID will be required to be shown by the alternative pick-up person to confirm identification on the first time of picking up the child.

In the event no verbal notification was provided to the teachers, children will not be released to an unauthorized person and the parent/guardian/emergency contact will be contacted.

### 3.10 Snacks

Parents are responsible for providing their children with a light nutritious snack. Some guidelines when preparing the snack:

- We are a **nut free school!** Please ensure you do not send nuts or products that may contain nuts (like some granola bars) in your child's snack.
- Keep the snack simple - something that won't require a lot of time for them to eat.
- Please try to include at least two food groups according to Canada's Food Guide.
- Snacks that could pose a choking risk (e.g. grapes, hot dogs, etc.) need to be cut lengthwise at home.
- The snack should be put in a small container (e.g. bag, lunchbox, plastic container) that is easy for the child to handle. All food that the child doesn't eat or finish will be put back in this container and returned home.
- If you want your child's drink to be water, be sure to provide your child with a cup in their snack container, which will return home.
- Snack time will be approximately halfway through the class.



### **3.11 Birthdays**

On your child's birthday, he or she is recognized with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday". Many parents opt to send a small party favor (e.g. stickers) for each child instead of a shared snack because our school is nut free and also because our licensing requirements do not allow shared snacks to be prepared at home. Please consult with the teacher if you wish to bring something in to share with the class.

### **3.12 Toilet Training**

Children need to be toilet-trained to attend Malmo Pre-Kindergarten. Should a child's clothing become heavily soiled while in attendance, parents/guardians will be contacted to come and change the child during class.

### **3.13 Spare Clothes/Classroom Shoes**

Our classroom has limited space for storage. Please keep a complete change of clothing in your child's backpack at all times.

Your child is required to leave a pair of indoor running shoes at the preschool to wear while at the preschool. The indoor shoes should offer good support and have a non-marking sole since they will wear these shoes to the Malmo School gymnasium. It is ideal if the child can put on and take off their own shoes so laces should be avoided. Please label the shoes with your child's name and store them in the shoe pockets provided at the preschool.

Upon entering Malmo School, all parents and children are asked to remove their outdoor shoes. The preschool children and any parents staying for the duration of class at the preschool are asked to carry their outdoor shoes to the classroom and place them at the designated location provided. This effort helps the school keep their floors clean and tidy. Parents and children who are dropping off or picking up preschool children may leave their outdoor shoes at the school entrance mats for the duration of drop-off and pick-up.

### **3.14 Toys**

Children must leave their toys, jewelry, and other treasured items at home.





### **3.15 Outdoor Play**

The preschool tries to take every opportunity to provide the children with outdoor play, unless there are special activities scheduled for the day or the weather does not allow for play outdoors. No outdoor play will occur if the ambient temperature outside is below -18°C (including wind chill). The teacher will contact parents by email when outdoor play is scheduled; however, if in doubt, please dress your child appropriately to play outside. A warm jacket that zips up, snow pants, winter boots, a hat, and mittens make outdoor play much more enjoyable on winter days. On warm sunny days, we appreciate if the child has had sunscreen applied before coming to preschool and has a hat in their backpack to shade their face.

### **3.16 School Closures/Cancellations**

Malmo Pre-Kindergarten will remain closed under the following conditions:

- Malmo Elementary School is closed (including all district PD Days).
- The teacher is ill or unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances and a replacement cannot be located by the scheduled start of class.
- In other cases, the teacher and the president or vice-president must be in agreement before a class cancellation can occur.

### **3.17 Special Withdrawal**

The teacher, in consultation with the Board, is empowered by the Association to make a well-deliberated, careful, and informed decision to request that a student be withdrawn from the program. This policy would be applied where the well-being of the program is put at risk. Examples might include, but are not limited to, the following circumstances:

- Child is consistently disruptive.
- Teacher or teacher's assistant is spending a large portion of class time with the child and, as a result, taking away from the rest of the class.
- Child cannot yet meet the daily curriculum based on our 'Learning Through Play' philosophy.

Before any final decision is made, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the child will be made aware of the situation and attempts made to rectify it. A trial time period may be set to further evaluate the situation after a consultation including the parents/guardians,



teachers, and the Board. An assessment will be made and reviewed on an individual basis.

### **3.18 Communication with Parents**

Malmo Pre-Kindergarten uses emails as the main mode of communication with families. Families are responsible for providing the preschool with a current email address and checking it regularly.

Mailboxes are provided inside the classroom for each family in order to collect projects made by the children and to pass on information to other parents. A bulletin board located inside the classroom by the door keeps families informed of upcoming special days, Parent Helper days, Board contact information, etc. Any confidential information (i.e. names, phone numbers) is posted on the bulletin board inside the classroom.

If you have any concerns about your child's day-to-day classroom activities, please talk to the teacher directly. For all other inquiries, please contact the appropriate member of the Board or assigned coordinators (i.e. Parent Helper Coordinator, Parent Job Coordinator, etc).

### **3.19 Health & Medical Emergency**

#### Health Records and Allergies

A detailed list of each child's up-to-date health information is required at the time of registration. This list includes the Alberta Health Care number, all medical information, allergies, medications, and any specific treatment requirements, as well as emergency contact numbers and parental consent to emergency health care. This information is to be kept in the classroom and in a secure location that is easily accessible during an emergency.

Health care may only be provided to the child if the consent of the parent has been obtained or if the health care provided is basic first aid (i.e. a band aid placed on a small cut by the teacher). Parents are responsible to inform the teacher if their child has any changes to their health information or has been in contact with another person who may have a communicable disease.



### COVID policy

The Malmo Pre-Kindergarten requires all parents/guardians to use the COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist to determine if your child is able to attend school.

This means keeping children with symptoms home and quarantining when called for.

### Contagious/Infectious Condition Policy

If your child has been in contact with contagious or infectious diseases or conditions, parents must report this contact to the teacher so notice can be sent out to other parents. The child must not attend school until there is no longer any risk of infecting others. Examples of a contagious or infectious disease or condition might include, but are not limited to, conjunctivitis (pink eye), head lice, chicken pox/shingles, or meningitis.

A child who cannot play outside or who exhibits the following symptoms is considered too sick to attend school:

- Diarrhea or vomiting;
- Fever;
- Persistent cough, sneezing, runny nose; or,
- Infected eyes.

Children should be kept at home for at least 24-48 hours after symptoms end or until a physician's note is provided stating that the child may return to preschool.

If a child becomes sick while at school, but does not require medical treatment, parents/guardians of the child will be contacted immediately. The child will be moved away from other children, but still under staff supervision, until the parent(s)/guardian(s) arrive(s). A special mat for resting shall be provided. If the parent is unable to come, the emergency contact listed on the registration form will be contacted and asked to come immediately.

The preschool staff member (teacher or teacher's assistant) will complete a Child Care Facility Illness Incident Log Sheet which includes:

- name of the child;
- date the child was observed to be ill;
- name of staff member who identified the child was ill;
- time parent was initially contacted;
- name of staff person who contacted the parent;



- time the child was removed from the program; and,
- date the child returned to the program.

Licensing requirements stipulate that if the teacher has reason to believe that the child may be suffering from a disease listed in *Alberta Public Health Act, Schedule 1, Communicable Diseases Regulation*, the parent must remove the child from the premises immediately.

### Medication Administration

Due to the short time children are present in the program, regular medication will not be administered. Where emergency situations demand, medication (e.g. Ventolin, Epi-pen, etc.) will be administered with written permission of the parent/guardian.

If a staff member administers emergency medication, the following will be documented:

- the date and time of administration;
- the name of medication;
- dosage; and,
- staff's initials.

Emergency medication must be clearly labeled and stored so it is easily accessible to the teacher but not to the children.

### Medical Emergency

If an accident or medical emergency occurs at school that requires a child to be sent to the hospital, a member of the instructional staff will accompany the child. The parent/guardian will be contacted immediately. If staff is unable to reach the parents, the emergency contact will be notified.

Parents will be responsible for bearing the cost associated with transporting their child by ambulance in an emergency situation where the teacher deems ambulance transportation is appropriate.

The preschool's default medical center is:

Stollery Children's Hospital, Emergency Department

University of Alberta Hospital, 8440 - 110 Street, Edmonton, Alberta



### **3.20 Emergency Evacuation and Tactical Lockdown Plans**

The complete emergency evacuation and tactical lockdown plans are posted in the classroom. Please take a moment to read them or ask to see them.

In emergencies, the class will evacuate to:

Malmo Community Hall

11525 - 48 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta

Phone: 780-435-1588

For extended evacuation, all parents will be telephoned. The teacher(s) and Parent Helpers will remain with any children whose parents cannot be contacted.

Each class practices one fire drill per month. Children also practice lockdown drills with Malmo School (usually twice per year). The teacher will carry portable records for any evacuation.

### **3.21 Incident Reporting**

If an incident or accident takes place at the school, once staff have intervened and appropriately handled the incident or accident, staff will complete an Incident/Accident Report. Parents/guardians of the child/children involved will be asked to read and sign the report. These reports will be kept on file at the preschool.

A serious illness or injury to a child that occurs while the child is attending school or any incident that may affect the health or safety of a child must be reported by the teacher to licensing staff immediately.

Malmo Pre-Kindergarten is legally required to advise that in accordance with legislation from the Government of Alberta, the following will be reported immediately to the regional child care offices: an emergency evacuation; unexpected program closure; an intruder on the program premises; an illness or injury to a child that requires the program to request emergency health care and/or requires the child to remain in the hospital overnight; an error in the administration of medication by a program staff or volunteer resulting in the child becoming seriously injured or ill and requiring first aid;



the program requesting emergency health care and/or requires the child to remain in the hospital overnight; the death of a child; an unexpected absence of a child from the program (i.e. lost child); a child removed from the program by a non-custodial parent or guardian; an allegation of physical, sexual, emotional abuse, and/or neglect of a child by a program staff member or volunteer; the commission by a child of an offence under an Act of Canada or Alberta; and/or a child left on the premises outside of the program's operating hours. All incidents are analyzed annually and a report is submitted to the regional childcare office.

### **3.22 Supervision Policy and Practices**

The teacher and teacher's assistant observe the childrens' play and behaviour through their constant involvement in the classroom. In addition, both the teacher and the teacher's assistant work together to create the structure of the classroom (i.e. placement of the sand table, water table, play dough table, etc.).

The park used by the preschool has two distinct sections – one designed for younger children (ages 2 to 5) and another designed for older children. The preschool children are able to play in the park designed and structured for their age (the “small” park).

To ensure all children are accounted for, children are counted when leaving any room (e.g. leaving the classroom to go to the washroom or gymnasium). Children are also accounted for when, at the end of the class, parents/guardians come to pick them up. Only those parents/guardians who have consent may pick up their children. Refer to Section 3.9 for additional information.

Portable attendance records are used to monitor arrival and departure of each child. Once children have been dismissed from class, the responsibility of the child transfers from the preschool to the parent/guardian (or designated adult that is picking up the child) even though the Teaching staff may be present on the premises.

### **3.23 Records**

#### Childrens' Records

Completed and up-to-date registration forms are kept within the classroom. The information on the forms includes the following information: child's name, date of birth, home address, and health information; the parents/guardians' name, home address, and telephone number; the emergency contact person's name, address, and telephone number.



Parents are asked to contact the teacher if there is any change of information found on the registration form (e.g. change of address, parent cell phone number, emergency contact information, etc.).

#### Administrative Records

Any relevant information collected by the preschool through normal operational activities will be stored at the preschool for up to and including 7 years. This information includes: the daily attendance of each child and their arrival and departure times.

Evidence of each staff member's child care certification is kept onsite. Current first aid certificates and verification of staffs' criminal record check, including a vulnerable sector search, dated no earlier than six months prior to the date of commencement with Malmo Pre-Kindergarten are completed and updated every 3 years.

### **4. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES IN A COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL**

As a parent or legal guardian of a child registered at Malmo Pre-Kindergarten, you are a member of a parent cooperative preschool association. This arrangement means that the very existence of the school depends on your commitment and dedication throughout the school year. The parent body works together toward common goals, the most important of which is to provide a happy satisfying preschool experience for our children.

You are encouraged to talk to the teachers about any special interests, hobbies, work, etc. that you would like to share with the children.

Families are assigned the following annual responsibilities per registered child in the cooperative program:

- Parent Job
- Fundraising

#### **4.1 Parent Job**

Malmo Pre-Kindergarten operates by a series of volunteer positions. Each family is required to take on a position on the Board or perform a Parent Job. Some examples of parent jobs are vacuuming/mopping, parent helper coordinator, fundraising committee



member, or classroom historian. Refer to Appendix C for descriptions of the various Parent Job assignments and Board positions.

## **4.2 Fundraising**

The fundraisers for the year are announced at the annual general meeting (AGM). All families are required to participate in all fundraising events and actively contribute toward reaching the fundraising goal set by Malmo Pre-Kindergarten.

Prior to each fundraiser, the Board will establish guidelines as to what requirements must be met for the fundraiser from each family. If the requirements outlined by the Board are not met, then the fundraising fine will be withdrawn.

The fundraising requirement will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis for families that withdraw early from the school year.

Every family is required to participate in our fundraising projects as we rely on the fundraising income to set and meet our budget and also as a means to reduce our fees. The preschool typically has the following fundraisers:

- Winter Raffle;
- Sales of fundraising products (e.g. chocolates, plants, etc.);
- Casino (every 2 years); and,
- Spring Bike-A-Thon.

## **4.3 Code of Ethics**

It is the duty and responsibility of all helpers to follow the teachers' direction, provide support, and actively promote a positive learning environment.

Staff and parents should model kind and healthy behaviour for the children. No smoking is permitted on the school premises. No staff member will smoke at any time or place where child care is being provided.

## **4.4 Confidentiality**

Any information shared by a teacher must be kept confidential and shall not be discussed outside the classroom under any circumstances. Parent Helpers should avoid





making any statements about a particular child (including their own), the teachers, or the program in front of the children or parents. Any questions or concerns can be discussed with the teachers or Board outside of classroom time.

#### **4.5 Respectful Learning and Working Environment**

Malmo Pre-Kindergarten is committed to creating and fostering a respectful, inclusive, and harassment-free learning environment for all students, family, and staff.

Malmo Pre-Kindergarten follows the Edmonton Public School Board policy (EPS <https://epsb.ca/schools/goingtoschool/studentconduct/respect>, accessed Wednesday January 26, 2022) on behaviour and respect, amended as follows:

##### Understanding and Respect in our Schools

It is the responsibility of each person in the school community to contribute to a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the rights and dignity of each individual by:

- showing courtesy and self-discipline in actions and words
- seeking solutions to problems
- respecting the rules, regulations, and practices that create safe and secure learning and working environments
- demonstrating honesty and integrity
- acting in a manner that results in a positive and supportive atmosphere
- showing proper care and regard for Malmo Pre-Kindergarten property and the property of others

##### Responsibilities of Parents, Guardians and Volunteers

You can expect to be treated as a valued partner in your child's education. Interactions between you and Malmo Pre-Kindergarten staff and board should be open and respectful. In return, you are expected to:

- treat all staff and board members with respect and courtesy
- interact with other parents and children in a respectful manner
- work to resolve differences in a positive, proactive manner
- encourage your children to be respectful

Consequences for violating any program policies could include, but are not limited to:

- Declined registration
- Removal from program



- Legal action

Any incidents in contravention of this policy should be reported immediately to the Preschool. Please submit any reports by email to the President at [president@malmopreschool.com](mailto:president@malmopreschool.com).

## **5. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: COVID-19 FEE AND GUIDELINES**

Due to the unique situation concerning COVID-19, a special fee will be assigned to each student in the amount of \$25/term. This fee will cover items such as: increased cleaning regimes, increased classroom supplies, increased cleaning supplies, and special tools to keep the school functioning according to government guidelines.

Changes to existing and additional policies and protocols will be communicated via email to all parents regarding drop-off and pick-up, expectations, regulations, and guidelines. Changes have been made to our program that differ from the policies listed in this Handbook. These changes have affected the following: drop-off and pick-up; classroom visitors, including parents; Parent Helpers; Busy Bear; Cleaning Bees; field trips; access to facilities in Malmo Elementary School; and certain Parent Jobs.

Malmo Pre-kindergarten will follow *COVID-19 information: Guidance for Preschools* as provided by the government of Alberta  
<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/covid-19-information-guidance-preschool-day-care-and-out-of-school-care-child-care>

In the event of a positive COVID-19 test result within the preschool, classes will be suspended as per government guidelines. The teachers and board will contact the Malmo families and provide guidance. Depending on the health of the teachers, take-home packages and online classes may be provided. Since class suspensions cannot be controlled and must be expected, no refunds will be provided for the out-of-class time. Any other COVID-related decisions will be made at the board's discretion.



## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Important Dates

Annual General Meeting (Mandatory)	TBA September, 2022, 6:30 pm
Staggered Start Entry	TBA September, 2022
Truth and Reconciliation Day	Friday, September 30, 2022
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10, 2022
PD Day	Friday, October 21, 2022 & Monday, October 24, 2022
Class Photos	TBA
Fall Break	Friday, November 11, 2022 - Tuesday, November 15, 2022
PD Day	Monday, January 30, 2023
Winter Break	Monday, February 20, 2023 & Tuesday February 21, 2023
Teachers Convention	Thursday, March 2, 2023 & Friday, March 3, 2023
PD Day	Monday, March 13, 2023
Spring Break	Monday, March 27, 2023 - Friday, March 31, 2023
Good Friday	Friday, April 7, 2023
Easter Monday	Monday, April 10, 2023
PD Day	Friday, April 28, 2023
Victoria Day Break	Monday, May 22, 2023 - Wednesday, May 24, 2023
Spring Bike-A-Thon (Fundraiser)	TBA
Last day of school	TBA



## Appendix B: Schedules of Fees and Fines

Bank information forms for all program fees and fines are mandatory within ten (10) business days after the Registrar has provided written confirmation of a child's spot at the preschool. The Preschool will use your bank information to automatically withdraw your fees and, if necessary, any fines owed throughout the year.

The Registrar will email a Conditional Confirmation to each family once their child has been given a spot in a class. Attached to this Conditional Confirmation will be all bank forms that each family needs to print and fill out. These forms can then be dropped off during school hours, mailed to the preschool, or emailed to the Registrar at [registrar@malmopreschool.com](mailto:registrar@malmopreschool.com). Once the Registrar receives your family's bank forms within the ten (10) business days, a Final Confirmation will be emailed and your child's spot will be secured in the class.

NOTE: All personal banking information will ONLY be used by the preschool for fees and any necessitated fines for the school year as outlined in the banking forms.

The following is a schedule of what fees are taken out and when:

a. REGISTRATION FEE: a one-time payment of \$60 per child, per school year (non-refundable, non-transferrable, to be paid at the time of registration via PayPal).

b. SUPPLIES FEE: a one-time payment per child, per school year, which will be automatically withdrawn once the child attends their first day of preschool, typically in concurrence with the first program fee. The supplies fee is \$50 for children beginning before the winter break and \$25 for children starting after January 1, 2022.

c. PROGRAM FEE (September- June)

The monthly program fee will automatically be withdrawn every two months at the beginning of each of those months of the school year (Sept, Nov, Jan, March, May):

- 3-Year-Old Program (Tuesday & Thursday) – \$155 per month (\$310 withdrawn every two months)
- 4-Year-Old Program & 3/4-Year-Old Combined Program (Monday, Wednesday, & Friday) – \$185 per month (\$370 withdrawn every two months)



Alternatively, upon specific request to the Registrar, one preauthorized withdrawal may be paid for the whole school year on September 1, 2021:

- 3-Year-Old Program (Tues & Thu) – \$1550 per year
- 4-Year-Old Program & 3/4 Combined Program (Mon, Wed & Fri) – \$1850 per year

d. FINES: The following are the fines that could be withdrawn only if necessitated and with written notice. Fines are necessitated if a family does not meet the Preschool's conditions for volunteer requirements in two specific categories: The Fundraising activities for each school year or the Parent Job assigned to each family at the beginning of the school year:

- Fundraising Fines: \$200 per term
- Parent Job Fine: \$100
- Casino Participation Fine: \$200 (only applicable in years with a casino)

## **Appendix C: Parent Position Descriptions**

Sign up for Parent Positions will occur via email sign up sheet near the beginning of the school year.

Board Positions will be voted in at the AGM in September.

### **Classroom Preparation (x3)**

- Prepare fresh play dough once per month as requested by the teacher. The teacher will leave a note in your classroom mailbox when more play dough is required.
- Vice-President or teacher will supply play dough recipe and one set of supplies at the beginning of the school year.
- Complete take home craft prep for teacher as instructed, as needed, or requested by the teacher.
- Wash dress-up clothes and school materials (after Cleaning Bees), as needed or requested by the teacher.
- Prepare materials for bulletin boards and class presentations, as needed or requested by the teacher.
- Does any necessary mending of dress-up clothes.
- Complete any other classroom prep jobs throughout the school year (maintenance, gathering supplies, etc).

### **Class Historian (x1 for each class)**

- Works with the teacher to prepare the children's photo books.
- The teacher will provide instructions and the timeframe required to complete the photo books.

### **Recycle Return (x1) \*\* YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR ANOTHER JOB IN ADDITION TO RECYCLE RETURN\*\***

- The teacher supplies a parent with bag(s) of recyclables, primarily juice boxes, approximately every week or two weeks. All recyclable items need to be deposited at a recycling centre. All funds obtained are then returned to the Treasurer's envelope in the classroom.

### **Custodians (x10)**

- Follow the monthly schedule provided by the Vice-President



- Cleaning will be completed weekly on Thursday afternoons and Friday, for a minimum period of 1.5 hours; one parent/guardian is required for each day.
- Check with the teacher for detailed cleaning instructions.
- All custodians are required to submit a Edmonton Police Vulnerable Sector Clearance Check to the Vice-President.
- You cannot substitute another person to attend for your scheduled cleaning day.

#### **Parent Helper Coordinator (x1)**

- The Vice-President will provide the Parent Helper Coordinator with a contact list of all the parents for all classes and a list of the Emergency Parents who can be contacted for short notice coverage of Parent Helpers or teachers.
- If a teacher or teacher assistant cannot attend school, the Parent Helper Coordinator who will use the Emergency Parent list to arrange a Helper for that day.

#### **Fundraising Committee Member (x3)**

- Will meet with the Fundraiser Coordinator to help organize fundraisers.
- All volunteers are responsible for sharing the duties of organizing the fundraisers.
- Attend meetings to plan the event(s) as requested by the coordinator.
- Organize and run the fundraisers on the day of the event.

#### **Grant Assistant (x1)**

- Assists President & Vice-President and works with Treasurers to ensure that all requirements pursuant to grant agreements are implemented and maintained.
- Assist in entering necessary information into online grant systems, and reporting requirements outlined in grant agreements.

#### **Auditor (as required) \*\* YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR ANOTHER JOB IN ADDITION TO AUDITOR\*\***

- Once per year (August), audits the books and records of the Treasurer. The Auditor does not need a professional accounting designation/title.



### **Appeal Committee & Alternates (as required)**

- The Appeal Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members of the Association. The members shall be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, as indicated by a positive response on the Registration Form. Up to three alternate members of the Appeal Committee shall be selected on the same basis.
- As a guiding principle, it shall be the view of the Association that the resolution of any dispute within the Association shall be first through reasoned and thoughtful discussion between the parties, with an effort to reach a mutually agreeable outcome.
- In the event that such a dispute cannot be resolved, the Appeal Committee will be utilized according to the Appeal Policy in the bylaws.

### **Executive Parent Board Job Descriptions**

#### **President**

- Attends to administrative duties for all aspects of the program.
- Ensures adherence to policy and review of policy as necessary.
- Provides liaison between teacher, the Board, and parents.
- Creates agendas for and chairs general and executive meetings.
- Arranges the executive and parental meetings.
- Attends to the hiring of the teacher and teacher's assistant and preparation and signing of contracts to ensure the Association secures necessary instructional staff for the program within the resources of the Association.
- Ensures all standards are met for health, fire, and safety.
- Oversees budget of preschool and reviewing of fees for the following year.
- Plans for pre-registration for the following year and assists the new president.
- Renews operating license for the preschool.
- Is available for answering questions and listening to problems and ideas from the parents, the teacher, and any member of the public who may be interested in the program.

#### **Vice-President**

- Is responsible for assisting the president in all program matters.
- Represents the preschool when the president is not available.
- Attends all executive and general meetings and chairs them in the absence of the president.
- Helps in the preparation of the upcoming year's events.





- Is responsible for assigning Parent Jobs and liaising with parents on any requirements and/or issues. Provides job descriptions to parents.
- Provides initial instructions and class contact lists to the Cleaning Bee Coordinators, Parent Helper Coordinator, and Mopping/Vacuuming Schedulers.
- Checks in with the Cleaning Bee Coordinators, Parent Helper Coordinator, and Mopping/Vacuuming Schedulers to ensure families are participating and provides assistance and/or follow-up when required.

### **Treasurer/Co-Treasurer**

- Attends executive and general meetings and reports financial information monthly to the Board.
- Collects and deposits fees.
- Pays bills and issues receipts.
- Issues cheques for teacher's salary and makes appropriate EI and CPP deductions.
- Balances the monthly bank statements.
- Prepares monthly financial statements for the preschool and distributes copies to the president.
- Renews and pays for insurance for the preschool.
- Ensures that Edmonton Public Schools receives post-dated cheques for the year's rent—payable through Malmo School—prior to expiry date.
- Completes yearly Society Annual Return (prior to end of November).
- Prepares and presents income tax forms to the Board, then files forms for record.
- Prepares T4s and T4 summary.
- Pays Workers' Compensation fees yearly.
- Presents Financial Report and Proposed Budget at AGM.

### **Registrar/Co-Registrar**

- Accepts registrations, checks information on forms, arranges classes, and maintains a waiting list. Contacts all families to inform them of where they place.
- Prepares the class lists and keeps them up to date.
- Attends all executive and general meetings.
- Provides a hard copy of the complete registration forms to the teacher to keep in the classroom.
- Provides a hard copy of the short registration forms to the teacher to keep in the classroom and use as portable records (i.e. to have on hand for field trips outside of the preschool).



- After the AGM, the Registrar shall create a contact list for each class. These lists will be forwarded to the parents of the specific classes and to all members of the Board. Parents will use these lists to contact other parents in the same class in the event they wish to trade Parent Helper days etc. Updated lists shall be sent out if required.
- Helps in preparation of the upcoming year's events, including the annual Open House.
- Ensures that all registered families are aware of the Parent Handbook and advised to read it. The Handbook is located on the preschool website.
- Informs the teacher and Board of any changes to preschool enrollment or contact information.
- Fields any preschool inquiries received through the Registrar's email.
- Useful skills: Google Suite, MS Word (e.g. mail-merge), MS Excel.

### **Secretary**

- Attends executive and general meetings, reads and takes minutes and types these for distribution within 5 days following meetings.
- Helps in the preparation of the upcoming year's events.
- Organizes the Pre-Kindergarten's advertising/communication as required (e.g. community league newsletters, school sign board) and works with the Website Manager to post the advertising/communication on social media.

### **Fundraising Coordinator**

- Attends all executive and general meetings.
- Co-ordinates, monitors, and assists the Fundraising Committee with the organization and implementation of fundraising activities. Also advises the Fundraising Committee(s) of the monetary goal required for the year. Goal amounts are determined by the Board.
- Communicates fundraising activities to the Board and the preschool families.
- Investigates other fundraising activities that may be beneficial to the preschool.
- Provides information to the Board and newsletter regarding progression/final results of fundraising.

### **Member-At-Large**

- Provides assistance where required.



## **Appendix D: Appeal Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that any dispute regarding a decision of the Association is resolved fairly and at all times under the principles of natural justice.

As a guiding principle, it shall be the view of the Association that the resolution of any dispute within the Association shall be first through reasoned and thoughtful discussion between the parties, with an effort to reach a mutually agreeable outcome.

In the event that such a dispute cannot be resolved, the following procedures will apply.

### **Member-Member Dispute**

Either member may approach a Board Member to act as an informal mediator in an effort to reach a resolution to the issue. If, through this mediation, no resolution is reached, the aggrieved member may bring a formal complaint to the Board.

To bring a formal complaint to the Board, a member must present to the Board, in writing:

- 1) Evidence that efforts were made to resolve the issue with the other member(s).
- 2) Evidence that informal resolution was attempted, either through the informal participation of a Board member or through some other means.
- 3) Written details of the complaint. These details must be provided to the other party and the written response of the other party provided to the Board.
- 4) After receiving all such documentation, the Board may respond with written questions to either or both parties. Responses shall be given to the Board.
- 5) The Board will, to the best of its ability, review the issue. The consensus of the Board shall be the position of the Association on the issue and shall be final and binding.

### **Member-Board Member or Member-Board Disputes**

If a decision of a Board member acting in their capacity as a Board member or a decision of the Board as a whole is challenged by a member of the Association and an informal resolution cannot be reached, then the member may approach a Board member to act as an informal mediator in an effort to reach a resolution to the issue. If, through this mediation, no resolution is reached, the aggrieved member may bring a formal complaint to the Appeal Committee, as constituted in this policy.



To bring a formal complaint to the Appeal Committee, a member must present to the Appeal Committee, in writing:

- 1) Evidence that efforts were made to resolve the issue with the Board member or the Board.
- 2) Evidence that informal resolution was attempted, either through the informal participation of a Board member or through some other means.
- 3) Written details of the complaint. These details must be provided to the other party, and the written response of the other party provided to the Appeal Committee.
- 4) After receiving all such documentation, the Appeal Committee may respond with written questions to either or both parties. Responses shall be given to the Appeal Committee.
- 5) The Appeal Committee will, to the best of its ability, review the issue. The consensus of the Appeal Committee shall be the position of the Association on the issue and shall be final and binding.

Neither the Board nor the Appeal Committee shall have the ability to award financial or material settlements to a dispute, unless it is to restore an amount previously paid by the complainant.

#### Appeal Committee

The Appeal Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members of the Association. The members shall be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, as indicated by a positive response on the Registration Form. Up to three alternate members of the Appeal Committee shall be selected on the same basis.

Only one member per family shall be able to sit on the Appeal Committee or as an alternate to the Appeal Committee. No Board member or member related to a Board member shall be able to sit on the Appeal Committee or as an alternate to the Appeal Committee.

Appeal Committee members shall be notified by the Registrar of their appointment to the Committee and shall be called upon to fulfil their role on an as-needed basis.

The term of the appointment to the Appeal Committee shall be one year, or until a replacement is duly elected.

There shall be no remuneration for participation on the Appeal Committee.