



SOMSD Preschool Program Orientation | July 2020

Dr. Melody Alegria, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services
Leroy Johnson III, Supervisor Preschool Education

Preschool Orientation Agenda

- ★ **Health and Wellness**
- ★ **Curriculum and Schedule Overview**
- ★ **Preschool Intervention & Referral Services**
- ★ **Special Services**
- ★ **Partner and Partnerships**
- ★ **Special Programs and Enrichment**

On behalf of our preschool staff, we would like to welcome all families to the South Orange and Maplewood School District's Preschool Program! This orientation session will provide you with an overview of our preschool program. Our preschool capacity for the 2019-2020 school year allowed us to provide a high-quality preschool experience for approximately 222 students in four schools. As we continue in our preschool expansion efforts, we look forward to increasing our capacity for the 2020-2021 school year and hope to serve approximately 342 students within 6 sites.

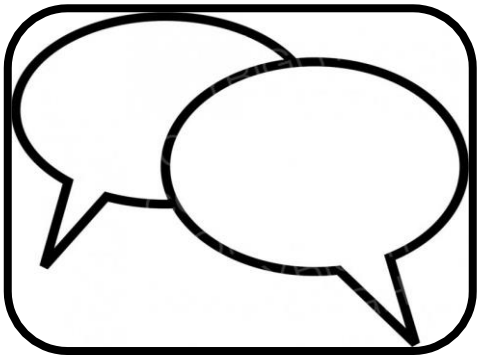
All of our sites utilize the same researched-based curriculum, Tools of the Mind. Our schools also provide unique culminating experiences that are tied directly to our curriculum's themes. Student access to these experiences are provided through program and enrichment activities such as field trips, family engagement opportunities, community resources, and many more.

Before we begin our orientation session, we would like to point out that the information provided throughout our presentation is based on a typical school year. As a result of Covid-19, modifications to certain experiences within our program may be made based on updated federal, state and local guidelines. The safety and well-being of our staff and students remains a high priority of ours. As we begin to plan for the 2020-2021 school year, families will be provided with more information and expectations leading up to our first days of school. We are very excited to receive our incoming families and would like to thank you for your participation in today's preschool orientation session!

Dr. Melody Alegria, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services
Mr. Leroy Johnson III, Supervisor of Preschool Education Programs



What We Value



Keys to Success:

- Positivity and inclusivity
- Acknowledgment of individuality
- Community building
- Teaching self-regulation
- Teaching social & emotional skills
- Environmental input



What We Value

- Creative, imaginative, play-based learning
- Positive self-image, self-confidence, responsibility
- Consideration and compassion
- Lifelong learners



Health and Wellness



Health and Wellness



Nurse Steffi
sgolden@somsd.k12.nj.us
973-378-2086 x7502

Nurse Overview

School Nurse

The certified School Nurse serves students in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, providing basic emergency care, caring for minor injuries, teaching health classes, screening students for various health conditions, communicating children's health needs to teachers and staff, providing health counseling, and administering medications. Height, weight, hearing and vision are also assessed during the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact the Program Nurse at 973-378-2086, ext. 7503, if you have any questions, concerns or updates regarding your child's health and wellness.

When To Keep Your Child Home

Please keep your child home if he/she exhibits any of the following:

- Moderate to severe pain or discomfort
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Temperature of 100 degrees or more (Temperature should be normal for 24 hours before returning to school.)
- Sore throat or severe coughing
- Red eyes with discharge
- Infected, untreated skin patches
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Skin rashes lasting more than one day
- Swollen joints and pain
- Visibly enlarged lymph nodes
- Stiff neck with irritability and/or fever





Regular school attendance is an important factor in children's social and cognitive development. Regular school attendance can provide children with various enriching opportunities and experiences that are beneficial to their social development and relationships with peers and adults. Excessive absenteeism, whether sporadic or consistent, can have long term effects on a child's educational path starting in the preschool.

The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants & Young Children



rmilliga@somsd.k12.nj.us



Schedule and Curriculum



School Day

Applecore Learning

- ❖ 8:45AM - 2:45PM
- ❖ Half days: 8:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Le Petit Academy

- ❖ 8:30AM - 2:30PM
- ❖ Half days: 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Montrose Early Childhood Center

- ❖ 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
- ❖ Half days: 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Zadie's of the Oranges

- ❖ 8:45AM - 2:45PM
- ❖ Half days: 8:45AM - 11:45 AM

DAILY SCHEDULE



Mystery Question
Opening Group
Movement
Make Believe Play Block
Small Group Literacy
Recess & Lunch

Quiet Time/Rest
Large Group Literacy
Snack
Small Group Math/Science
Free Time
Closing Group

Tools of the Mind

- Research-based
- Helps young children develop the
 - cognitive
 - social-emotional
 - self-regulatory
 - and foundational academic skills needed to succeed in school and beyond



Tools of the Mind

Teachers focus on creating a classroom in which instruction reflects children's learning capacity, rather than age-level expectations

Children play a large role in transforming environments

Developmentally Appropriate Practices



What is Self-Regulation?

Without Self-regulation:



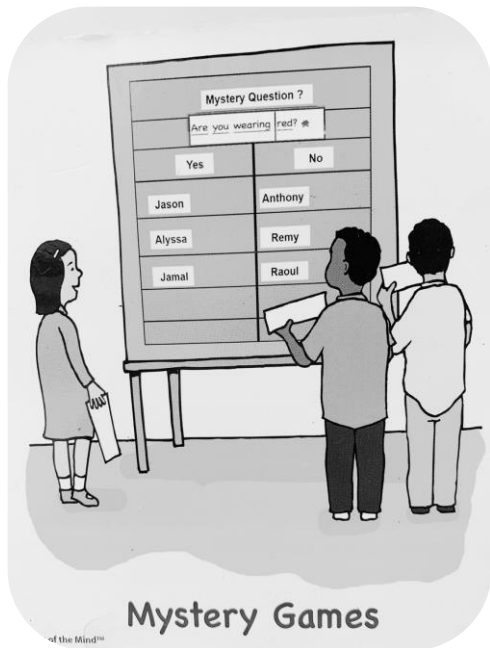
Children have a hard time waiting, sharing materials and toys. They may know the 'rules' but can't yet inhibit behaviors.

With Self-regulation:



Children can take turns, share materials, and wait. They can use strategies like asking for something they want, or playing with something else while they wait.

Visual Schedules



Transportation

- District transportation only for those with IEPs
- Attendance and timeliness are important!



Special Services





**Dr. Melody Alegria,
Assistant Superintendent of
Special Services
malegria@somsd.k12.nj.us**

Special Education Parent Liaison

Each school will have a Special Education Liason.

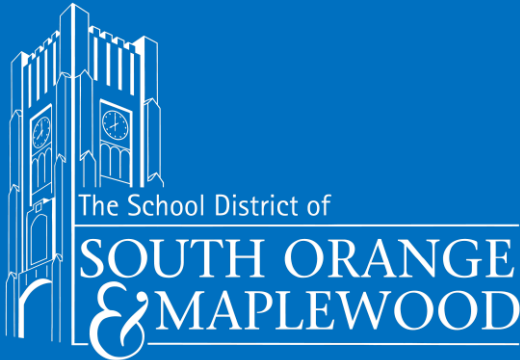
Building administration will provide additional information



Parent Advisory Council
for

Special Education

Partners and Partnerships





Some preschools have a Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO), a Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) or a Parent Committee. For preschools that don't, as interest in parent involvement increases, there is the opportunity to start one. Please contact your child's school for more information.

Programs and Enrichment

Applecore Learning

- Music (Move & Groove)
- Maplewood Public Library
- Guest Performers
- Field Trips
- Before and Aftercare Program

Le Petit Academy

- Yoga
- Music & Movement
- Story Time With Maplewood Librarian
- Family Engagement
- Field Trips
- Before and Aftercare Program

Montrose Early Childhood Center

- Maplewood Public Library
- Community Soccer
- In-School Field Trips
- Family Engagement
- Guest Speakers and Assemblies

Zadie's of the Oranges

- East Orange Public Library
- Field Trips
- Onsite lending library
- Family Engagement and guest speakers
- Before and Aftercare Program

Additional Information



Mealtimes in school

Healthy snacks must be sent daily

30 minute lunch period

Order or send healthy lunch daily

There is a no food-sharing policy



2020-2021 Preschool School Supplies



SOMSD Preschool School Supplies 2020-2021

September 2020 - each student is asked to bring:
1 (8-12 count) <i>Washable-Crayola Broad Conical Tip Markers</i>
1 (8-12 count) <i>Washable Crayola Fine Line markers</i>
1 pack <i>My First Chunky pencils</i>
1-pack pencils-regular #2
Smock or oversized shirt for painting
6 <i>Purple</i> glue sticks-dries clear
2 boxes of tissues
2 packs of unscented wipes
2 rolls of paper towels
1 <i>Crayola</i> washable 16 count watercolors
3 4 oz. cans of <i>PlayDoh</i>
2 plastic pocket folders
1 box of <i>Crayola Pip-Squeaks Skinnies</i> Washable Markers, 64 count
6 dry erase markers (any colors)
Play-Doh (10 PK, assorted colors)
Students with last names A-L ONLY: Plastic utensils Paper plates
Students with last names M-Z ONLY: Napkins Small Dixie Cups

First Days of School

- Class assignments will be provided to families by Labor Day
- **First Day: Meet & Greet Tuesday, September 8, 2020**
(Families visit with students)
- **Second Day: Full Day Wednesday, September 9, 2020**
(Students only)





Please visit us on our District's preschool website for more information and answers to frequently asked questions

Preschool Homepage: <https://www.somds.k12.nj.us/district/preschool-program>

Preschool FAQ Guide: <https://bit.ly/PrekFAQ>

Contact Us:

Applecore Learning 973-763-1700

Mrs. Stacy McKenzie, Director | Smckenzi@somsd.k12.nj.us

Le Petit Academy -973-378-3500

Pauline Lacey-Woode, Director | placey@somsd.k12.nj.us

Montrose Early Childhood Center 973-378-2086

Mrs. Bonita Samuels, Principal | bsamuels@somsd.k12.nj.us

Zadie's of the Oranges 973-395-5112

Mrs. Winifred Smith-Jenkins, Director | wsmith@somsd.k12.nj.us

Preschool Nurse 973-378-2086 x7503

Steffi Golden | sgolden@somsd.k12.nj.us



Thanks for Viewing!

