

Cochrane-Fountain City 4 Year Old Kindergarten Parent Handbook





Mission Statement / Philosophy

The primary philosophy of the 4K program is that all preschool age children will be appreciated and enjoyed for their energy, imagination, curiosity, sociability, and their creativity. By exploring and manipulating their environment, children will be able to develop at their own pace into active, learning individuals.

Goals and Objectives

Listed below are specific goals and objectives for children between three and five years of age who participate in the 4K program. All children should not be expected to reach every objective listed here during their preschool years. **THERE ARE LARGE DIFFERENCES IN DEVELOPMENT THAT ARE PERFECTLY NORMAL.** These goals and objectives are offered as guideposts for teachers and parents involved in the program. They can be modified or others may be added as appropriate.



Social/Emotional Development

Self-esteem: To experience a sense of self-esteem

- Children will continue to develop a love of learning
- Children will grow in their self-esteem, cultural diversity, curiosity, independence, and individual strengths
- Show pride in one's work
- Demonstrate confidence in one's growing abilities
- Stand up for one's rights

Positive attitude: To exhibit a positive attitude toward life

- Demonstrate trust in adults
- To be able to separate from adults
- Demonstrate interest and participation in classroom activities
- Participate in routine activities easily

Cooperative pro-social behavior: To demonstrate cooperative, pro-social behavior

- Seek out children and adults
- Understand and respect differences
- Accept responsibility for maintaining the classroom environment
- Help others in need
- Share: Respect the rights of others
- Work cooperatively with others
- Use compromise and discussion to resolve conflicts
- Children will continue to develop control of their own behavior through positive adult guidance
- Children will become increasingly self-motivated, cooperative, and able to resolve problems among themselves with minimal adult direction



Cognitive Development

Learning and problem solving skills

- Shows a curiosity and desire to learn
- Shows creativity and imagination
- Uses planning in approaching a task or activity
- Observes and makes discoveries
- Finds more than one solution to a problem
- Applies information or experience to new settings (i.e., a child who knows green and discovers grass is several different colors of green)
- Shows persistence in approaching tasks (i.e., sticks with a plan)

Logical thinking skills

- Classifies objects by physical features
- Recognizes things that belong together conceptually, rather than resemblance (i.e., hammer/nail, shoe/sock)
- Recalls the sequence of events
- Arranges things in a series (i.e., longest to shortest, heaviest to lightest)
- Recognizes patterns and can repeat them
- Shows awareness of cause-effect relationship (if you drop a glass, it will break)

Concepts and information: The earliest stages of prereading and premath development

- Shows an awareness of time concepts (i.e., lunch is before nap)
- Identifies by name a wide range of objects and events
- Makes comparisons
- Uses words to describe the characteristics of objects (i.e., surprise box)
- Shows awareness of the roles people play in society (i.e., careers, housekeeping)
- Shows understanding of why we have order and organization in our world (i.e., coats on hooks, toys in labeled areas)
- Uses one-to-one correspondence

Make-believe play

- Make believe with objects
- Takes on pretend role
- Make believe about situations

Language and emerging literacy skills

- Recalls words in a song or finger play
- Follows one and two-step directions
- Talks with other children about daily activities
- Participates in group discussions
- Shows enjoyment of books and stories
- Tells a story in sequence that makes sense to the listener
- Demonstrates knowledge of how to use a book
- Makes up a story, letter or song
- Makes increasingly meaningful drawings (journals, art projects, books)
- Demonstrates an interest in using writing for a purpose
- Uses words to communicate ideas and feelings



Physical Development

Gross motor skills

- Shows a balance in use of large muscles
- Walks up and down steps
- Climbs up and down equipment without falling
- Throws an object in an intended direction
- Catches a ball or bean bag
- Runs with control over direction and speed
- Jumps off low surfaces and over objects without falling

Fine motor skills

- Develops eye and hand coordination (i.e., crayons, scissors, glue)
- Uses small muscles to complete tasks
- Uses small muscles for self-help skills (i.e., buttons, zippers, door knobs)
- Uses writing and drawing tools with control and intention

Use of senses

- Demonstrates skills in discriminating sounds
- Demonstrates visual discrimination skills
- Demonstrates ability to discriminate by taste and smell
- Demonstrates ability to discriminate by texture

Health Guidelines for 4 Year Old Kindergarten

Required before the first day of school:

- Current immunization status per state law
- Proof of age signature page

Recommended for School Entry:

- Physical exam completed by medical doctor
- Dental exam completed by dentist
- Vision exam completed by MD or optometrist

Medications at School:

- Completed medication form and have it signed by physician
- Prescription needs to be in original labeled container
- It is administered/stored at nurse's office except on field trips



School Attendance:

- Send healthy children - keep fevers, heavy coughs, ear aches, rashes, upset stomachs, diarrhea, etc. at home until well (do not let your child talk you into school, if you feel illness is a concern -- you are the better judge for the child's health and the health of others in the class).
- Keep your child at home 24 hrs symptom free
- Do not send a child with pink eye, rash, strep, chickenpox, scabies, head lice -- these conditions are excluded from school -- notify teacher, nurse so we can take precautions to prevent the spread of these

Head Lice:

- Make head checks, home care a routine part of children's hygiene
- Help child understand that hats, combs, etc. are not good to share
- Home is the basic place to stop the spread of lice at school by the time we identify a case, it may have been present one month or more
- CFC does follow a "no-nit" procedure and children will be sent home until the hair is free of both live lice and any nits -- the close contact that young children naturally experience can easily allow for spread, making this procedure essential for our 4K program.
- Parents will be called to pick up any child found to be infested and the child must be brought back to school by the parents after treatment, clearing of nits is completed -- nurse or staff will check children before allowing return to the classroom.
- As long as head lice remains a nationwide problem, protect yourself and your children with regular checks and awareness...think about the potential for lice at home, in community activities, during travel, trying on clothes, as well as in school.

Health Staff: Liz Hoffmaster - Phone 687-4171 Ext 104

Health Staff Functions:

- General illness/injury care, referrals for illness/injury
- Liaison with healthcare agencies, providers
- Screenings - vision, hearing
- Required medication administration
- Provide answers, directions, information for parents

WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP ALL CHILDREN HEALTHY



The Bus Buddy Program

The Bus Buddy program is designed to match up older students with 4K students who ride the same bus. The bus buddies "watch over" the 4K students as they ride the bus.

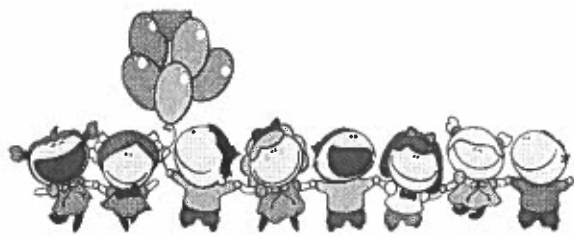
The bus buddies sit with the 4K student, help them obey and understand the bus rules and assist them off the bus and take them to their 4K classroom. The bus buddy will also do things like reminding them to not open their backpack on the bus, stay in their seat, use a quiet voice, and also talk with the 4K student about their day and when to get off the bus.

If the 4K student rides a different bus to and from school, he/she may have two bus buddies. The bus buddies usually have friends that help out if they are sick or gone. They also are good about telling the teachers of any problems on the bus and are very proud to be a bus buddy.

You may request a specific bus buddy on the bus information paperwork. We try to make sure the buddy is on the bus before the 4K student. Other considerations are: that the buddy is in the Elementary grades (K-6), if they are involved in sports and may not be on the bus, and have been a bus buddy in the past.

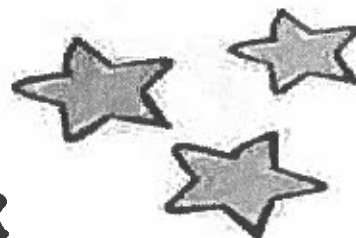
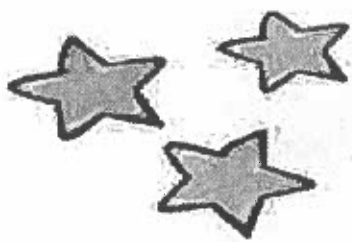
Later in the year many 4K students enjoy being more independent and will no longer want their bus buddy. This is a sign of confidence and is encouraged toward the end of the year.

This is a great program that helps the kids feel safe on the bus.



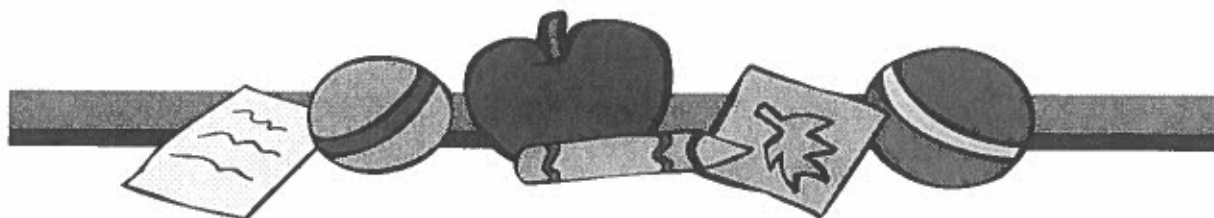
4 Year Old Kindergarten:

1. The 4K program is designed as a 5-day program. (Monday-Friday) The hours are 7:45 - 3:10. We follow the regular school district calendar. If the school has a late start, early dismissal, or snow day, the 4K program will be the same.
2. Teachers and/or paras accompany the 4K students throughout their entire day at school. Except for the bus buddy bringing them from their bus, the students always have an adult watching over them.
3. 4K is centered around the students. We teach their individual needs and as a group. Socialization and self-help skills are our top goals, but the students will also experience literacy, math, science, and many other areas throughout the year.
4. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held at the same times as other grade levels. These days are scheduled district wide. The first conference is in October and the second is in March. Progress reports will be reviewed with you at each conference.
5. 4K follows policies and procedures of the Cochrane-Fountain City School District. Please refer to the school's Student/Parent Handbook that your child will receive the first day of school in the fall for more information. The signature page for the handbook also covers field trips.
6. Safety: We have multiple precautions to keep your child safe while at school. We conduct fire, tornado, and intruder drills throughout the year. CFC keeps all doors locked during the day so that the main door is the only place someone can get buzzed in. We also have a bolt lock on every classroom door.
7. We have an open-door policy. We urge parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, etc... to come in and volunteer when convenient. You may even set up weekly times to come in and volunteer in the classroom. All volunteers will be asked to fill out a volunteer form before they can volunteer. This is also needed for field trips. Volunteer forms last for 5 years.
8. When you ask them "What did you do at school today?" you will most likely get, "nothing". When you ask them, "What toys did you play with in the gym?" or "What was in the sensory table today?" you are more likely to get an answer with some actual information. We help you do this by giving you newsletters, emails and through our class Facebook page.
9. There is a school website available www.cfc.k12.wi.us , CFC Facebook page and we each have a classroom Facebook page.



Sample day in 4K

7:45-8:40	Breakfast and/or Free play in room
8:40-9:00	Morning Meeting - Literacy program/Phonics lesson
9:00-9:15	Printing Practice
9:15-9:30	Library (story - check out book)/Show n' Tell/Action Songs Bathroom break/wash hands
9:30-9:45	Lesson/Songs
9:45-10:30	Centers/art projects - small group activities
10:30-11:00	Outside Break ~ Dress Me Appropriately! ~ or Gym
11:00-11:10	Bathroom/Wash Hands
11:10-11:45	Lunch
11:45-12:00	Story Time
12:00-12:45	Rest (music/movie)
12:45-1:30	CAP Time (Children At Play)
1:30-2:10	Large Group Activity or Journals
2:10-2:40	Snack / Book Time / Puzzles / Tub Time
2:40-3:10	Closing - Pack up / Bathroom Break / Outside
3:10	Load Bus





Items needed for the 4K program:

Backpack (large enough to hold their folder, show n' tell, lunch box, snow pants, boots, etc...) LABEL

Rest Mat (plastic mats, cloth roll-up mats, blanket, sleeping bag, rug, etc...) LABEL

An extra set of clothing (pants, shirt, underwear, and socks) *these can be changed for seasons or "growth spurts" whenever necessary.

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

(we have these, but if you'd like to purchase your own that is fine too)

One-subject spiral notebook for a journal

Two-pocket plastic folder

1 Box 10 Count Broad line markers (Crayola Classic)

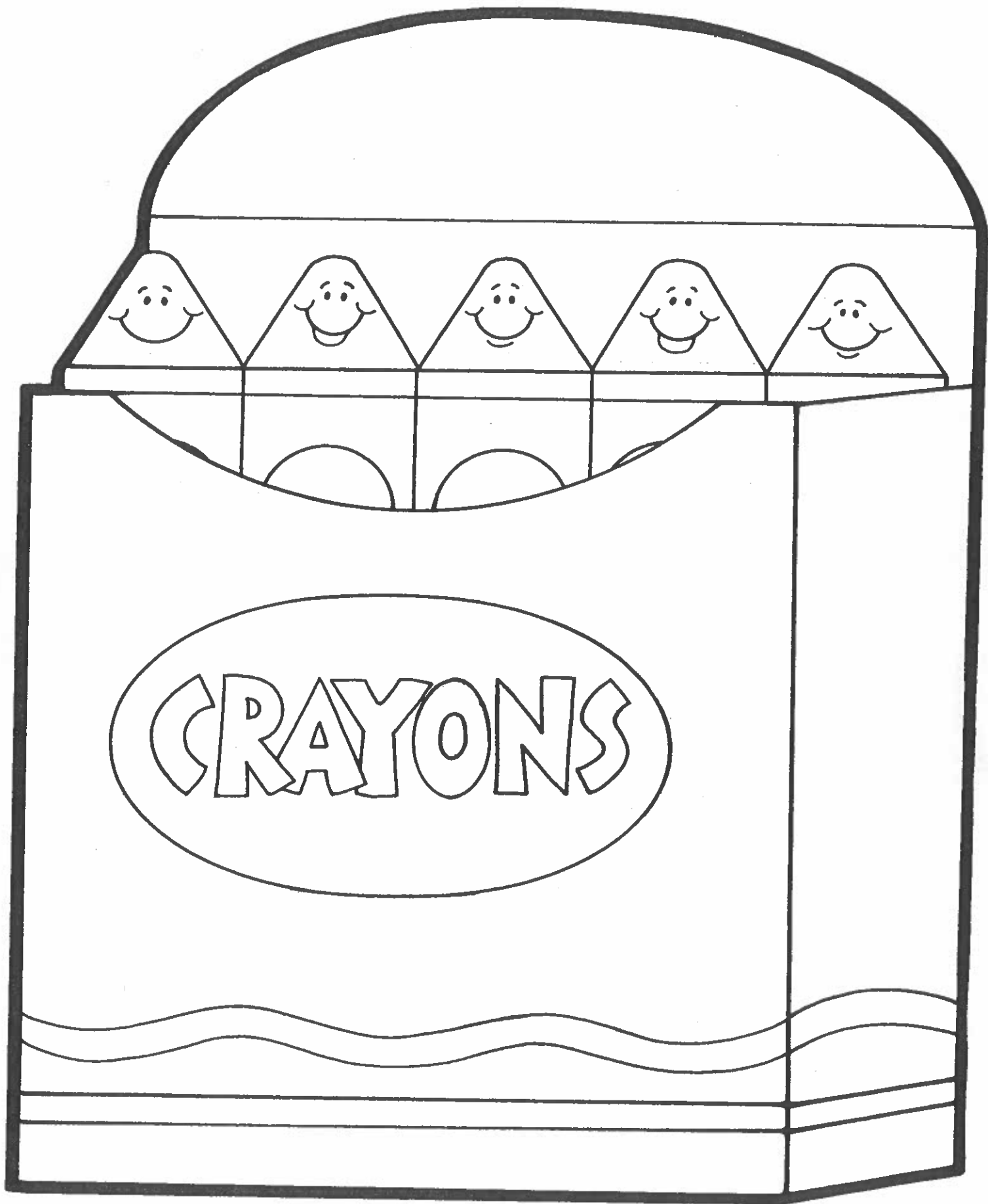
1 Box of Tissues

1 Class sized snack (enough for 15 children) - ex. cereal, pretzels, crackers, fruit snacks, granola bars LABEL

1 - Disinfectant wipes

DONATIONS:

- snacks
- markers
- smelly markers!
- play-doh
- stickers



WHO'S WHO?



Sarah Puetz
4K Teacher



Pam Prenot
4K & Special Ed
Teacher



Kelly Demers
Special Ed
Director
(family resources)



Liz Hoffmaster
Nurse



Karen Pehler
Office Secretary



Megan Bagniewski
School Registrar



Troy White
Superintendent



Amy Schaefer
Elementary
Principle

