

# St. Martin's Lutheran Preschool

## Parent Handbook 2017–2018

606 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Office Phone: 512.476.4037

School Hours: 7:15 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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**Welcome to St. Martin's Lutheran Preschool for the 2017-2018 school year!** Saint Martin's Lutheran Preschool offers age appropriate curriculum and learning-center based classrooms in an interactive environment for exploring new horizons. The Preschool is a twelve-month program offered Monday through Friday to children ages 18 months through Pre-Kindergarten.

Saint Martin's Lutheran Preschool seeks to meet the needs of young children and their families by providing an educational program that addresses all areas of development—intellectual, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual. A highly qualified and experienced staff joins with parents to promote the healthy development of the whole child. Staff members devote hours of planning and preparing for teaching and nurturing the children in their care. **Our mission at St. Martin's Lutheran Preschool is to facilitate your child's awareness and understanding of the world around them and to foster a positive self-image and respect for others.**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Saint Martin's School Board:** The School Board meets quarterly, or as needed. The Board determines policies and procedures that are positive and productive for the Church and School. The Board is in charge of raising money for scholarships, assessing scholarship needs, approving the budget, and supporting the Director. The School Board has also delineated the qualifications by which teachers are hired.

**School Calendar:** A school calendar is provided at the beginning of the school year. Updates will be published in our monthly newsletter, monthly calendars, or by e-mail. We acknowledge that school closings may interfere with family schedules and we apologize in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause.

**Professional Development:** Saint Martin's recognizes the need to provide quality education and care for all children and teachers involved in our program. Each teacher is required to participate in 24 hours of professional development on an annual basis, including 1 hour on the prevention and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

**The Daily Program and Teaching Strategies:** The administrators, teachers, and parents of the Preschool share a common commitment to provide a top quality Early Childhood Program that reflects knowledge of and respect for the unique learning styles of young children.

The following ideas are intrinsic to the Saint Martin's program:

- Young children thrive in a warm and loving environment. The staff's commitment is to provide an environment where children may become comfortable, happy, relaxed, and involved in classroom activities.
- The daily schedule provides for a balance of individual/group activities, active/quiet play, large/small exercises, and indoor/outdoor learning experiences. Activities at each age-level are carefully planned to be developmentally appropriate.
- Young children expend vast amounts of energy, time, and effort exploring and making sense of their immediate environment. The staff supports and encourages this spontaneous learning by providing a meaningful classroom setting and by taking advantage of "teachable moments."
- The staff respects the concept that young children "learn by doing" and therefore provide hands-on learning experiences. Many sensory experiences are also planned so that children will have opportunities to touch, hear, see, smell, and taste as their perceptual abilities are developing.
- Classrooms are busy, noisy, happy, creative places where play is valued as a vehicle for learning and advancement in all areas of development.
- Young children learn through self-initiated and staff-initiated activities. Learning centers are provided to give children opportunities to make choices, solve problems, and experiment with autonomy. "Circle Times" or "Together Times" are also an important part of each day. Here the children learn how to participate in a group setting while listening to stories, singing songs, or sharing ideas.
- Good health, cleanliness, and nutrition are emphasized.
- The teachers and staff strive to implement these and other good practices of Early Childhood Education in a positive atmosphere.

**Christian Education:** Christian Education is seen as a vital part of the daily program. Children will pray before meals, sing songs to God, celebrate major holidays of the Church year, and hear stories suitable for their age. Christian values will be honored in our curriculum and modeled in our behavior.

Our children will enjoy "Children's Chapel" once a week during the 9-month school year. The children will sing songs and hear stories from the Bible. Parents are always welcome to join the group.

**Guidance and Discipline Policies:** We are committed to helping children learn to express and manage their feelings, cooperate with other children, and negotiate their own conflicts. **We believe discipline must be:**

1. Individualized and consistent for each child
2. Appropriate to the child's level of understanding
3. Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

A caregiver may only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction, which include at least the following:

1. Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior
2. Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements
3. Redirecting behavior using positive statements
4. Using brief supervised separation or time out from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development, which is limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age.

There must be no harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment of any child. The following types of discipline and guidance are prohibited:

1. Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment
2. Punishment associated with food, naps, or toilet training
3. Pinching, shaking, or biting a child
4. Hitting a child with a hand or instrument
5. Putting anything in or on a child's mouth
6. Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child
7. Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language
8. Placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet with the door closed
9. Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods of time for the child's age.

Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Chapters 746 and 747, Subchapters L, Discipline and Guidance

The goal of guidance at Saint Martin's is to teach the child acceptable behavior while helping him/her to become self-guided/self-disciplined. Early childhood is a time of both emotional and cognitive growth. During this time children are just beginning to learn how to resolve conflicts in their daily lives. In the younger end, many children do not have the verbal skills to resolve these conflicts and will resort to physical means to get their point across. This is considered developmentally appropriate and in these situations the teachers and parents must work together to teach/model correct behavior.

## **TUITION**

**Tuition:** Tuition rates are established by the School Board and vary depending upon the child/teacher ratios required for each age-

level. These rates may be adjusted on an annual basis as determined by the Board. Tuition is divided into equal monthly payments and will not be reduced due to student absences, vacations, weather-related closures or School holidays.

Prorated tuition for incoming students not attending a full month is calculated as follows: Monthly tuition divided by 20, multiplied by the number of days attending. **We do not prorate for the month once your child has started the program.**

**Tuition Payment Policy:**

**Regular Payment Plan Schedule:**

- Tuition is to be paid on the 1st of each month.
- Late fees will be assessed beginning on the 5th of the month if fees are not paid.
- The initial late fee will be \$20.

**Split Payment Plan Schedule:**

- 50% of tuition is paid by the 1st of each month.
- 50% of tuition is paid by the 15th of each month.
- Late fees will be assessed beginning on the 20th of the month if fees are not paid.
- The initial late fee will be \$20.

**If the account is not paid in full by the end of the month, the student's enrollment may be discontinued. Payment in full on the overdue account will reinstate the student only if space is available. If the payment is not made in full, the account will be turned over to a collection agency for recovery of funds.**

Checks may be deposited in the metal locked box located outside the Preschool Office  
You may pay online at [www.saintmartins.org](http://www.saintmartins.org) or at the kiosk located in the church lobby.

**30-Day Notice:** A 30-Day Notice is required when you are leaving the school. Forms are located in the office. Failure to fill out the notice may result in additional tuition charges.

**Late Pick-Up:** Parents are expected to arrive on time to pick up their children. A fee of **\$1 per minute per child** will be incurred if children are not picked up on time.

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

**Enrollment Procedures:** Saint Martin's Lutheran Preschool is open to all children regardless of race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. Parents of prospective students are encouraged to make an appointment to visit and observe the Preschool in session and to discuss any questions they might have with the Director.

To register a new or returning student into the program a completed Registration Packet is required and the **non-refundable Annual Fee** must be paid at the time of registration.

\*The children enrolled in our program must meet the applicable immunization requirements and vision/hearing screening requirements as outlined in: *Minimum Standards for Childcare - Sections 746.613-746.629.*

Parents are responsible for providing any updated information.

**Placement:** Children are placed in classes according to their age as of September 1 of the current school year. Children entering the

18mth program must be able to walk. Children entering the 3 yr old program must be potty trained.

**Promotion Policy:** It is the policy of the Preschool to promote children at the beginning of each school year.

## CURRICULUM

**St. Martin's Approach:** The curriculum-based Preschool program is designed to address the cognitive, physical, social, and language development needs of the students. The environment is child-centered and one in which children learn through experience and discovery. Children, through a child centered environment, learn:

- To use self-discipline
- To talk and listen effectively
- To solve problems and make decisions
- To accept responsibility for their behavior
- To share and work with others
- That they are important as individuals.

**Curriculum Guides**

- 18 month olds -- Wee Learn
- Two-year-olds -- Wee Learn and Scholastic's Clifford the Big Red Dog
- Three's -- Frog Street Press, Handwriting Without Tears, and Let's Find Out
- Four's -- A Beka Book and Let's Find Out

**Specialty Areas (18 Month Olds and Two's):**

**Music, Library, and Chapel**

**Specialty Areas (3's, and 4's):**

**Music, Spanish, Library, Chapel, Stretch & Grow (PE), and Computer** (taught by the teacher)

**Class Schedule:** The teacher will prepare a daily schedule indicating when each circle time, academics period, or required subject is taught. A copy is kept in the Preschool Office. Each parent should receive an initial copy and any revisions.

**Homework:** Preschool children will occasionally have "homework," such as bringing an item in or wearing a certain color. Parents are encouraged to read to their child daily. Parent support and involvement in their child's education is vital to the child's success.

**Nap:** Preschool children will have a required naptime after lunch. Children need to bring the following nap items:

- \*a small pillow
- \*a crib-sized sheet
- \*a lightweight cover

**Please label all items and bring in a reusable grocery bag or tote. They will be sent home every Friday to be laundered.**

## STUDENT LIFE

**Adjustments to School:** Adjustment to school is smoothest when preceded by an informal visit to the school. Children entering later in the year should also have an opportunity to visit the class with a parent before being left for a full day.

Always tell your child good-bye, even when he/she may have become involved in an activity. If there is a separation problem, teacher and parent may cue each other as to when the parent may

leave. Generally, once the parent has exited, a child is easier to calm and integrate into the daily activities. **Please limit your drop-off to 5min.**

When a child is new, he/she may not readily participate in the class activities. Be aware of the activities on the weekly lesson plans posted outside each classroom so that you can ask relevant questions about your child's day.

Daily reports are sent home for 18mth olds during the 9 month school year and for twos until the Christmas Break. Diapering times are posted inside the class near the changing table.

The Preschool always uses our "floaters" or hall monitors as our substitute teachers.

**Belongings from Home:** Children are allowed and encouraged to bring items from home to be shared at "special times". Children are encouraged to bring items that they have made, found, or experienced.

Children may share books or CD's with classmates but we ask that you do not bring DVD's to share. All items from home must be labeled with the child's name. Items strictly prohibited include pretend weapons, make-up, candy, and gum. **Such items will be secured by the teacher and returned to the parent at the end of the day.**

**Clothing:** Please dress your child comfortably, in washable clothing suitable for active play and appropriate weather. Girls are required to wear shorts/tights under their dresses. Children wear smocks during painting and other messy activities, but accidents do occur. Please keep in mind that children do not need the pressure of worrying about getting "special" clothes dirty. Clothing should encourage self-help skills. Shoes should be well fitting and safe for playground activities--tennis shoes or shoes with rubber soles are best. No sandals, crocs or open-toed shoes. **Children wearing inappropriate shoes will not be allowed on the playscapes.**

A complete change of clothing (pants and shirt or dress, socks, and underwear) should be available in the child's "cubby" at all times. Please replace these items with clean ones as they are used, as seasons change, or as your children grow. Clearly label all items with the child's name.

Children in diapers should bring a pack of disposable diapers. Those children potty training should bring plenty of training pants and extra clothing.

**Potty Training:** Saint Martin's teachers will support and encourage families during the potty training process; however, it is not the teacher's responsibility alone to teach this essential life skill—it can only be achieved through a partnership with the parent. See our **Potty Training Handbook** for more information.

**Outdoor Participation:** **Outdoor play is an integral part of the child's day. Except in extreme weather, all children will participate in both inside and outside activities.** Administration will determine outdoor activities based on several factors: temperature, wind chill, heat index, and age of the children. A written medical excuse from the child's physician must be provided if the child's outdoor play must be restricted.

**Playground Rules:**

- State Standards mandate that children be supervised at all times by an adult while on the playground.
- Children must wear closed-toed shoes on the playground.
- Signed permission slips are required to apply sunscreen and insect repellent that is supplied by the parent.

**Attendance:** Parents are responsible for children arriving to School on time. The early portion of the morning involves some of the most challenging activities of the day, at a time when children are most responsive. Punctual arrival allows the program to meet the children's needs more effectively.

**Children may not be dropped off during nap time.**

**Arrival and Departure:** Because of our concern for the physical and emotional well being of your children, we have established the following rules:

- Please remember to slow down and be cautious when driving through the parking lot. The speed limit is 5mph. The fire lane needs to remain open at all times, including inclement weather.
- For the safety of Saint Martin's children and staff, **all students, parents, and staff must enter through the 16<sup>th</sup> Street door.** This door has a keypad for access by key fob for parents and church members. 1 key fob will be given per family, an additional key fob can be purchased for \$25. Please do not allow strangers to enter the building with you, either have the person press the buzzer to talk to staff or walk the person to the school or church office—please do not leave anyone alone to wander the halls. Help keep our campus secure and safe by ALWAYS closing any gate or door that leads to the exterior of the School campus.
- **Parents should closely accompany children from the minute they exit their car until they reach the entrance to the School. Please do not allow them to exit the car and run freely through the parking lot into the building. Please do not allow your children to run in the School hallways.**
- No child may be left unattended in a car for any length of time on Saint Martin's property.
- Children must be escorted into their classrooms and left with their teachers. Licensing requires that the parent sign their child in and out each day.
- Children will only be released to the person(s) listed on the Release Form. Please come to the Preschool Office if any addition or deletion needs to be made.
- **End of Day Pick-Up.** 18mths and 2's will combine in a classroom downstairs. 3's and 4's will combine in Room 312 for an educational video / small group activity.
- Once you check your child out for the day, we ask that you leave the building. Children may not play in the classrooms as they have been sanitized and made ready for the next day.
- The 16<sup>th</sup> Street door will remain locked until 7:15 each morning—early arrivals will need to remain outside the building until the door is unlocked.

Please alert your child's teacher to any change in your child's schedule and any unusual event or situation that might affect his/her day at school. We ask that you notify the Preschool if your child will not be attending due to vacation or illness. Please keep in mind the Preschool does not pro-rate fees due to illness, vacation, or closings.

**Lunches/Snacks:** A hot lunch and two snacks are provided daily for all students. Students may bring sack lunches if they do not wish to eat on a particular day but there is no refund for not using this service. Milk is provided free of charge for all students.

**Saint Martin's is a Nut-Free environment.**  
**Due to the severity of nut allergies absolutely no nut products are allowed.**

Morning snacks will be provided between 8:30 and 9:00—this is NOT breakfast, but a snack. Any child not present during this time period will miss the morning snack. If arriving after the snack time, you may bring food from the outside and sit in the cafeteria while your child eats. NO outside food may be served in the classroom.

Afternoon snacks are based on health requirements for young children and all ingredients are checked to prevent any child with allergies from being excluded from the snack.

Parents are NOT allowed to bring in snacks for their child unless it has been approved by the School Office.

**Parties:** All class parties are to take place at the afternoon snack time. Date and time for the party will be determined by the School.

**Birthdays:** A birthday is an important event in the life of a child and a classroom community. The teachers will be happy to help you celebrate this special day. Parents who wish to bring refreshments should make arrangements in advance with the teacher. All birthday parties will be celebrated at the afternoon snack time. Please **no party favors**.

Invitations to birthday parties held away from campus may be distributed at School as long as **all** children in the class are included.

**School Pictures:** School pictures will be taken during the fall and spring semesters of the regular school year. The pictures will be taken during the regular school day. You are under no obligation to purchase the pictures.

**Medications:** Should your child require medication during a school day, the parent must sign the Medication Form from the office and complete the information required. All medication must be in the original container and clearly labeled with the child's name.

**Please bring a dispensing spoon, cup, or dropper to administer the medication.** All medications and forms need to be dropped off at the Preschool Office and will then be distributed by school staff to the child's teacher for administering the medicine. **The staff member administering the medication will record the time and amount administered.** All over the counter medication that states, "consult a physician" for the child's age range must be accompanied by a physician's prescription.

**If your child has had fever during the night, please do not medicate them and send them to school. By the time the medication wears off and the fever returns, you have exposed**

**the class and the teacher. Please take responsibility for your child when they are ill.**

**Water Activities:** During the 9-month school session, children do not participate in water activities other than water tables in the classroom. During the 3-month summer session children will participate in splash days twice a week. No wading pools are used at Saint Martin's Preschool.

**Animals:** All animals placed in classrooms as pets, must follow the *Minimum Standards and Guidelines of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services - Sections 746.3901, 746.3903, and 746.3905.*

## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Chapel:** Children at Saint Martin's enjoy weekly Chapel time with songs and stories from the Bible.

**Music:** Saint Martin's children enjoy music on a daily basis. Each classroom has a radio/CD player that the teachers use to enhance their daily teaching practices. The children have music twice a week with the Music teacher from Sept. to May. Students and teachers sing, play simple instruments, and experiment with creative movements.

**Physical Education:** Once a week, during the 9-month school year, Stretch and Grow will provide the Four-year-old and Three-year-old classes a structured program in the gym. The program is specially designed for Preschool aged children.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** This year our afternoon vendors will be:

- Dance Associates - dance and movement.
- Stretch and Grow Sports Camp - during the 3 summer months
- Sportball - indoor sports lessons

Enrollment in these outside agencies is separate and not included in the monthly tuition. Ask for more information and enrollment forms in the office.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

**Role of Parents:** Quality Early Childhood Education occurs when parents, teachers, administrators, and the Congregation work together as a team. Your suggestions, comments, and goals are important. Parents are welcome to visit the office and discuss any questions or concerns with the Director.

**Communicating with Teachers:** If you need to contact a teacher, please call the School Office. Teachers are not allowed to answer texts, emails, or phone calls from parents on their private cell phones during the school work day. Unauthorized use of a cell phone during work hours can result in dismissal.

**Communication and Notification:** The school uses email, monthly digital newsletters, parent bulletin boards and other postings to notify parents of upcoming events and closings.

**Other Opportunities for Parents:**

- Parents may serve as Room Volunteers to help organize special events during the school year. Room Volunteers also assist the teachers with planning parties, and arranging other enrichment activities.
- Parents are invited to share hobbies, careers, cultural celebrations, or other interests with the children. Arrange the day and time with your child's teacher.

- Parents may also volunteer to help with special projects or to allow teachers to mentor other teachers on staff.

**Progress Reports:** All age groups will receive performance reports in September, January, and May.

**Parent- Teacher Conferences:** Scheduled conferences will be held for the four year old classes in the spring. In addition to these scheduled conferences, you are encouraged to make an appointment with your child’s teacher or the School Director any time you have a question, concern, or idea to share.

**Spring Conferences- Four-year olds**

- Parents and teachers will discuss the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development of the child as seen over the course of the school year.
- Parents and teachers will discuss the plans for the upcoming year so that the child will have a smooth transition to Kindergarten. The Director or Assistant Director may be called in for consultation when necessary.

**SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

**Visitor Procedures:** To ensure the safety of the children, ALL visitors to the school, including Parents and volunteers, are to sign in at the Preschool Office. At the end of the visit, visitors must sign out before leaving. Parents are welcome to visit at any time during the hours of operation to observe their child, the center or program activities.

**Pick-Up Authorization:** Children are allowed to leave only with persons on the Pick-up Authorization List. The parent/guardian must make arrangements with the office for additional persons to take the child. Verbal permission is not acceptable. The parent must add the person to the list or send a written request specifying dates and times. Everyone picking up must provide a picture ID to be photocopied.

**Dispensing Medications:** All medications are to be left in the School office in their original containers. Parents must sign the Medication Authorization Form and clearly mark the medication with the child’s name. Person administering the medication will sign and date when dispensing the medication.

**Custody Cases:** St. Martin’s Lutheran Preschool shall protect the safety and right of the child according to the court order. The school will not assume any legal responsibility or liability if such a document is not on file. Parents in these circumstances are advised to notify the Preschool Office.

**Licensing:** St. Martin’s Lutheran Preschool is licensed by the state of Texas. A copy of the Center’s most recent Licensing inspection is posted on the parent board outside the Preschool Office. A copy of Minimum Standards is available for you to review in the Office and online at <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/> For other information call the childcare information hotline at (800)862-5252 or our local Licensing office at (512)908-9585.

**Gang-Free Zone:** Under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1000 feet of St. Martin’s Lutheran Preschool is a gang-free zone, where criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to harsher penalty.

**Breastfeeding:** Parents who are breastfeeding may use the Church Nursery (room 207.) Parents have the right to breastfeed or provide breast milk for their child while in care.

**Pest Control:** As part of our commitment to provide your child with a safe, pest-free learning environment, St. Martin’s Lutheran Preschool may periodically apply pesticides to help manage

insects, weeds or pathogens. Pesticide applications are part of our integrated pest management (IPM) program, which relies largely on non-chemical forms of pest control. Pesticide applications on St. Martin’s property are made only by trained and licensed technicians. Should you have any questions about the preschool’s pest management program or wish to be notified in advance of pesticide applications, you may contact the school office at (512) 476-4037.

**Child Abuse Prevention:** We are invested in keeping children safe. If you suspect your child has been abused or neglected, report the situation immediately. Call the Abuse/Neglect Hotline at (800) 252-5400 or make a report through the DFPS’s secure website: [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org). St. Martin’s Lutheran Preschool is obligated to report any evidence of child abuse or neglect, our staff receives annual training in the identification and prevention of child abuse.

**Weather Related School Closing:** In the event of hazardous weather conditions or other emergencies and subsequent school closings, please listen to your local TV station and check the website at [www.saintmartins.org](http://www.saintmartins.org) .

**ST. MARTIN’S WILL CLOSE FOR HAZARDOUS WEATHER WHEN AUSTIN ISD CLOSSES IF AUSTIN ISD CALLS FOR A DELAYED START, ST. MARTIN’S WILL OPEN AT 10 AM**

An email will be sent out updating families of any changes. If adverse weather conditions necessitate closing the school once classes have commenced, we will update information on the recording on the school line at (512)476-4037 and all parents will be notified that children are to be picked up immediately.

**Parking Lot Safety Precautions:** Normal traffic guidelines apply, but there are additional traffic rules which must be observed if we are to keep all of the children safe.

- The speed limit in the parking lot is **5 MPH**.
- Do not double-park. Park only in designated spaces.
- The “**red zone**” is reserved for emergency vehicles **AT ALL TIMES**.
- Never leave children in the car unattended.
- Be aware of “entrance” and “exit” signs.

**Emergency Preparedness Plan:**

**In Case of Fire:** Staff will escort students outside via a predetermined route as posted in each classroom. All classes will meet on the 16<sup>th</sup> St. sidewalk and await further instruction.

**In Case of Severe Weather:** Staff will escort students to a predetermined room in the basement as posted in each classroom. Once sheltered, classes will await further instruction.

**School Evacuation:** Saint Martin’s has a reciprocal agreement with First United Methodist Church. In the event of the need to evacuate our building, the school staff will exit our building as they would during a fire drill, lead the children south on Rio Grande to 12<sup>th</sup> Street, turn left and continue to the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca where the church is located. Upon arrival staff will contact parents to inform them of the evacuation and of our location.

**In Case of Lockdown:** Code Red will be announced. Staff will escort children to nearest room and lock door. Staff will cover door window with paper. Once in place staff will keep children calm and quiet until given further instruction.

**\*\*18mos and 2s classes will walk using a rope, 3s and 4s will walk two by two\*\***

**Medical Emergencies:** In the case of illness or injury during school hours, the following procedures will be followed:

- Staff will attempt to contact one or both parents.
- If parents cannot be reached, designated persons in the child's file will be contacted.

When a child needs immediate medical attention and a parent cannot be reached, a staff member will contact the child's doctor and upon their recommendation will take the child to the doctor's office or the nearest emergency room. All expenses incurred are the responsibility of the parent.

**Allergy Awareness:** If your child has been diagnosed with a food allergy, additional medical paperwork is required. Please contact the Preschool Office to obtain the required forms. Parents should also verbally discuss their child's allergies with the teachers in the class and the cafeteria manager.

**Special Problems:** If your child has any special problems such as existing illnesses, previous serious illnesses, injuries and hospitalizations during the past 12 months, or any medication prescribed for long-term continuous use, please contact the Preschool Office to provide additional details. Child daycare operations are public accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title III. If you believe that such an operation may be practicing discrimination in violation of Title III, you may call the ADA Information Line at (800) 514-0301 (voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TTY).

**Dismissal Policy:** St. Martin's Preschool has the right to dismiss any family that we feel is a compromise to the well being of the school.

**Family Dismissal Policy:**

- In the event a parent/school relationship conflict arises, the director and family will meet to resolve the issue.
- If the issue continues, and the well being of the school is at risk of being compromised, members of the school board and director may ask the family to find childcare elsewhere.

**Biting Policy:** Biting is often a misread and misunderstood action. Biting is a behavior that is often linked to a child's developmental age. Biting has been described as a form of sensory exploration and communication. The act of biting is most often experienced in the Toddlers and Twos' stages of development.

**Biting Policy for Ages 18mth and Two**

- 1<sup>st</sup> bite- Anonymous incident reports to both families.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> bite- Incident reports and Teacher/Director decide on a plan of redirection.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> bite- Parent conference with Teacher and Director
- Failure to work with the school on changes could result in dismissal.

**Biting Policy for Ages Three, Four, and Five**

- 1<sup>st</sup> bite- Anonymous incident reports to both families.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> bite- Parent/Teacher/Director meeting to discuss the behavior.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> bite—Child will be sent home for the remainder of the day.
- 4<sup>th</sup> bite—conference with parents that may result in dismissal from the school.

**Illness Policy:** **A child who is ill belongs at home.** The child must be free of fever, vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before they can return to school.

**In order to protect the health of all children attending Saint Martin's, we have the right to refuse a child who we think is not well enough to participate or might be contagious to other children and staff members.**

Please notify the school at once if your child has a communicable disease or has been exposed to one. If a child has a contagious disease a plan of action is posted on the door and a letter is sent home.

As stated in *Minimum Standards and Guidelines of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services – Section 746.3601:*

An ill child must not be admitted for care if one or more of the following exists:

1. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in child-care center activities including outdoor play;
2. The illness results in a greater need for care than the caregivers can provide without compromising the health, safety, and supervision of the other children in care;
3. The child has one of the following, unless medical evaluation by a health-care professional indicates that you can include the child in the child-care center's activities:
  - a. Oral temperature of 101 degrees or greater, accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness;
  - b. Rectal temperature of 102 degrees or greater, accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness;
  - c. Armpit temperature of 100 degrees or greater; accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness; or
  - d. Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness such as lethargy, abnormal breathing, uncontrolled diarrhea, two or more vomiting episodes in 24 hours, rash with fever, mouth sores with drooling, behavior changes, or other signs that the child may be severely ill; or
4. A health-care professional has diagnosed the child with a communicable disease, and the child does not have medical documentation to indicate that the child is no longer contagious.

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***Parental Notification:*** Parents will be notified in writing when there are any changes in Policy.