



CORALWOOD PARENT HANDBOOK 2024-2025

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CORALWOOD PARENT HANDBOOK 2024-2025

Coralwood's Vision

Coralwood—Setting the Standard for Excellence in Early Childhood Education for All Students.

Coralwood's Mission

Our mission is to educate in a safe, nurturing environment.

Coralwood's Values:

- “ All students can learn.
- “ Each student is unique.
- “ Learning is a lifelong process.
- “ A safe environment is required for learning to take place.
- “ Parents and community share responsibility for learning.
- “ High expectations improve the learning of all students.

Coralwood's Purpose: The purpose of Coralwood School is to provide a specialized inclusion environment in which to work in conjunction with families to provide students with a strong academic and social-emotional foundation and instill in our students a life-long love of learning, confidence in their abilities, and respect and acceptance of others.

Coralwood's Culture

At Coralwood, the social-emotional development of our students and creating intentional awareness are critical in order for our students to be ready to learn. If the heart is not ready, the mind won't be ready. **At Coralwood School, we have a culture of Coralwood Caring.**

Focusing on Lerner's 6 C's of Positive Youth Development builds a strong social-emotional foundation for our students.

Lerner's 6 C's

Competence: The ability to act effectively in school, in social situations, and at work

Confidence: A sense of self-worth and mastery; having a belief in one's capacity to succeed

Character: Taking responsibility; a sense of independence and individuality; connection to principles and values

Connection: A feeling of safety, structure, and belonging; positive bonds with people and social institutions

Contribution: Active participation and leadership in a variety of settings; making a difference

Caring: Sympathy and empathy for others; commitment to social justice

Competence feeds confidence, which becomes character, which makes it easier to make connections with others, and through those connections I can contribute. Richard M. Lerner

Welcome to Coralwood. We are happy you have chosen Coralwood for your child. Coralwood is an exciting place for Preschoolers, PreKers, and Kindergarteners to learn and grow. We hope you have a great experience. Please do not hesitate to stop by the front office or call if you have concerns.

The first week of school parents will be permitted to walk their child to their classrooms in the morning. Starting the second week of school, parents will need to kiss their child good-bye in the front lobby and allow the child to walk to their classrooms independently. There will be staff on hand to assist and to supervise in the hallways to make sure children get to the classrooms safely.

Appointments

If your child needs to be checked out of school or is returning from an appointment, it will be necessary for your child to be checked in/out in the front office. Please try to schedule most medical/dental appointments after school or toward the end of the school day. Mornings are prime "learning" time for young children.

Arrivals (Tardies) and Early Pick-up

Please have your child here on time each day. When your child is late, it disrupts the instruction of the entire class. We understand that at times your child might have an early morning or afternoon doctor or therapist appointment which might cause your child to be late for school or need to be picked-up early. In these cases, parents will need to come directly to the front office to sign their child in/out. Parents will not be allowed to walk their child to their classroom or go to the classroom to pick up their child early. A staff member will escort your child to/from the classroom. This is necessary to prevent disruption to the classroom instructional program. Early pick-ups after 2:00 p.m. cause confusion and disruption in the classroom as staff are assisting students in packing up at the end of the day. **Any parent arriving after 2:00 p.m. to pick up their child will need to wait until students are dismissed at 2:25 p.m.**

Attendance

Coralwood School is not a daycare center and provides your child with a quality educational program. All grade levels teach to established standards. In order for your child to benefit from this exceptional instructional program, it is very important that your child be at school every day, except for illness. Family vacations should be scheduled during normal school breaks.

Excessive unexcused absences, early check-outs, and tardies can jeopardize your placement at Coralwood School, as good attendance is a condition of enrollment for students chosen through the School Choice lottery and stated in your letter of acceptance.

Carpool

If your child arrives or departs by car, please follow the carpool procedures below. Please remember that the speed limit on campus is **10 MPH**. This is for the safety of all students. Please do not speed off campus after you have dropped off/picked up your child. We have about 250 young children on the campus and their safety is paramount. You must have a car seat or booster seat for your child. This is the law and we often have police officers visit the school to ensure all our children are properly secured in a car seat or booster seat.

YOU MUST HAVE A CARPOOL TAG VISIBLE. STAFF WILL BE MATCHING THE INFORMATION ON A CHILD'S BOOKBAG TAG TO THE CARPOOL TAG. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR CARPOOL TAG, THE CHILD WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE VEHICLE AND YOU WILL NEED TO COME TO THE OFFICE TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION.

CARPOOL PROCEDURES

All grade levels will have carpool drop off/pick up in front of the school under the awnings. That means that drivers will have to drive around (past Diagnostics through the back parking lot and then exit the parking lot and turn right into the driveway). Do NOT drive directly into the driveway, you MUST go around the school through the parking lot to avoid head-on collisions.

BUSES and DAYCARE VANS TAKE PRIORITY AND ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY. PLEASE LET THEM THROUGH!

Parents will be responsible for securing their child into their car seat/booster seat. Staff will not buckle children in.

To keep the carpool line moving, if you need to speak to a staff member, please park your car in the parking lot and come in to speak to staff.

Parents should not use cell phones when in the carpool line—it is dangerous!

Parents- You must wait for a staff member to get your child out of your car and hold their hand to walk them in. You cannot just let your child out of the car. You must wait for a staff member. Your child must exit out the passenger side of the car or you need to take your child out, walk them to the sidewalk, and wait for a staff member to come hold their hand. Do not just let your child walk alone. It only takes a second for a child to dart back to the car for one last hug or forgotten item, and a preventable tragedy to happen.

Carpool will be:

PreK and Kindergarten - 7:30-7:55 a.m. for morning drop-off, afternoon pick-up will be 2:30-2:45 p.m.

Preschool- 3 yr. olds- 8:45- 9:00 a.m. for morning drop-off, afternoon pick-up will be 1:00-1:15 p.m.

Please be on time to pick up your child in the afternoon. Staff often have professional development, trainings, grade level meetings, faculty meetings, or parent meetings that they must be on time for after school.

Communicating with the School

You may communicate with the teacher via e-mail or school phone. Teachers have been directed not to give out their personal cell phone or home phone numbers.

Teachers check their messages throughout the day. However, during instructional time teachers are not available to speak to you on the phone. If you have an emergency and need immediate assistance, please contact the front office at 678-874-6003. **If your child is in a classroom with two teachers, please email both of them when sending an email in the case that one might be absent that day and not present to read the email.**

Communication folders go home with students each day. If your child leaves home in a less than happy state due to unusual circumstances, please drop the teacher a note. Sometimes extra attention can turn a child's day around.

Conferences

Teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with you. During the school year there will be four Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled. Please schedule conferences with your teacher when the notice is sent home. You may also ask for a conference any day before school or after school with your teacher (except on Wednesday and Friday afternoons). Child care is not provided by the staff during conferences.

Please remember that drop off/ pick up times are not a good time to have a lengthy conversation with your teacher as she has several children in her care who she must supervise closely and cannot be distracted or divide her attention.

Confidentiality

All information regarding your child's assessments, instruction, progress, medical information, special ed. documents/IEPs (if applicable), family needs, behavior, etc., will be handled with the appropriate confidentiality. Information will be shared only with those staff requiring the knowledge to better serve your child and your family.

Coralwood- Hawthorne Partnership

Feeder school options for students with special needs will be based on the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). In order to matriculate to Hawthorne Elementary School for first grade from Coralwood, a student must have been served full-time in a co-taught setting during the current school year and must have shown adequate growth in grade-level curriculum standards without the need for additional instructional support models such as Resource. In addition, the student must be able to follow classroom rituals and routines with minimal assistance.

Departure

Our goal is to return your children home safely each day. Students leave school by bus or carpool. *If you would like for your child to leave school with a friend or relative, it will be necessary for you to send a note in to the teacher and the driver if the student rides a bus home.* Frequently students tell their teacher that they are to go home with a friend or that a parent will be picking them up. **If the teacher does not have a note from the parent, the student will be sent home in the routine manner.**

Preschool students leaving at 1:00 p.m. must give notification by 12:30 p.m. and PreK and Kindergarten must give notification by 1:45 p.m. each day if there is a change in the mode of transportation home. Please call the front office with these changes and do NOT email the teacher. They may not have a chance to read emails before dismissal.

Notification after these times could cause your child to be sent to the wrong location.

Dress Code

Coralwood follows the student dress code of the DeKalb School District. Children at this age are working on dressing and undressing themselves independently, and we as educators support their efforts. Clothing with tricky fasteners is not appropriate for school. Please send your child to school in clothing that he/she can put on and take off with minimal to no assistance. Students should be dressed in comfortable play clothes with shoes for running, jumping and skipping (i.e. shoes with shock absorbing soles and backs). **Flip flops, between the toe sandals, Crocs, Croc-like shoes and "dressy" shoes with hard soles are inappropriate for school.** Shorts under dresses or skirts makes playtime more comfortable for our students. Coralwood spirit wear is always appropriate. Students have recess every day. **Sneakers or athletic shoes are the best and safest option for our students.** Please dress students appropriate for the weather. Students go outside for recess so it is important to have sweaters/jackets/coats for when the weather turns cool/cold.

Emergency Closings

Notification of school closings will be given by local radio and television stations. The district may announce school closings as late as 6:15 a.m. if unsafe conditions exist. In the case that students need to be evacuated from Coralwood School due to fire, bomb threat, or other dangerous situations, they will walk with Coralwood staff to the next street, Coralwood Court. This is our "reunification site." Parents may meet us at that location should the school need to be evacuated. If the school needs to be evacuated due to loss of water or electricity, the students will be transported to Oak Grove Elementary, Lakeside High School, or other school designated by the district. Parents will be notified by email through School Messenger as to our location. **It is very important that parents opt in to receive messages from School Messenger.**

Early Dismissal

In the event of an early dismissal, all teachers will call parents who carpool/drive their students to school first. Next, teachers will call parents of students who ride school buses. Dr. Castelle will also try to send out a School Messenger email to parents.

Emergency Phone Numbers

We must be able to reach you by phone should your child become sick or have an accident. If any of your telephone numbers change, please let the teacher know of the change. We need to have at least three contact numbers. You are encouraged to give the teacher names and numbers of relatives and/or friends who could assist in the event of an emergency. If you should have a change of address, please notify the front office.

Food

Treats for the class may only be brought in for a child's birthday or on the two designated party days (see Parties). Please do not randomly bring in treats for the class if it is not your child's birthday or for one of the parties. Other parents may not appreciate their child getting extra foods or sugary sweets without their permission or knowledge.

Health and Illness

One of our goals is to keep the children and teachers *healthy*. When your child is ill, it is imperative that you keep him/her home. **Students with high temperatures, diarrhea, vomiting, or any communicable disease should be kept home. Students should not return to school until they have been fever free without medication, and free of diarrhea and/or vomiting for 24 hours.** Please know that we do have some medically fragile children at Coralwood and an illness can prove life threatening. Please keep your child at home if he/she is ill.

Please see the Appendix for Health and Illness guidelines

Should your child become sick, you will be contacted to come and take your child home in a timely manner.

If your child will need medication given at school, the parent/legal guardian must complete an authorization and instruction form entitled "Authorization to Give Medication at School". All medication (even over the counter drugs) requires a physician's signature. The completed form must accompany the medication to school. Please see Ms. Anchors, Nurse, to obtain a copy of the form.

Instructional Program (including progress reporting and assessments)

An educational program should encourage the total development of each individual and should promote intellectual curiosity, independence, objectivity and creativity in students. At Coralwood the instructional program ensures that each student will experience the enjoyment of a challenge, the excitement of success, and the development of a good self-image. This is accomplished by employing innovative teaching strategies, cooperative learning, and exposing the students to the curriculum. Assisting children in their development requires the promotion of child engagement, independence and mastery across all developmental domains.

All grade levels teach to established standards. For Preschool and PreK, these standards are the **GELDS (Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards)**, and Kindergarten follows the state's **Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)**.

Young children learn by playing. Play is an important tool for the Preschool and PreK student. Teachers are expected to use play for instructional purposes. We take pride in our "hands on" learning and student generated work.

Preschool students' progress is monitored using our Coralwood Preschool Assessment which aligns to the GELDS standards. Parents are given progress reports in August, October, December, March, and May.

PreK students' progress is monitored by weekly data uploaded by teachers into the Work Sampling Online System Assessment. This assessment system measures children's progress across 69 indicators in seven domains of learning aligned with the GELDS. Parents meet with teachers in December and May to review and receive a Narrative Summary Report on their child's progress.

Kindergarten students' progress is monitored using the GKIDS (Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills) which is aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). Progress reports are sent home every 4.5 weeks (in Sept., Oct., Nov., Feb., March, and April). End of semester report cards are sent home in January and May. In addition, the MAP assessment is given to students three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring). This assessment is used to see if a child is making adequate progress on benchmark skills in reading and math. Reports are sent home to parents.

Special Needs students' progress is also monitored using data collected on IEP goals/objectives. Parents receive progress reports every 4.5 weeks related to their child's progress on their IEP goals/objectives.

Lost Items

Please **put your child's name on all articles of clothing that you do not want lost.** The backpack and lunch box should also have the child's name in/on it. Favorite items should have the student's name in/on them. Lost and Found is located in the office.

Lunch/Breakfast

MEAL PRICES FOR 2024-2025

Breakfast- \$1.70 (Reduced breakfast price for those who qualify: \$0.30)

Lunch- \$2.85 (Reduced lunch price for those who qualify: \$0.40)

We do NOT refrigerate or heat up any meals brought from home. You will need to send hot foods in a thermos and put ice packs in your child's lunchbox if it needs cooling.

Students may bring lunch from home and you are welcome to join your child for lunch. If you plan to eat a school lunch with your child just send in a note so you are included in the lunch count. Always come by the front office and sign in before joining your child for lunch.

SchoolCafe.com allows parents to add money to their children's accounts using a credit or debit card. Once an account is established, parents can check balances and fund their children's accounts online via their secure website. Parents must have their children's seven digit student identification number to establish an account. Parents who do not have access to the Internet may pay by phone or fax. The sign-up form is available from the school's food service manager and should be returned to the address listed on the top of the form. Of course, payments to student accounts will continue to be accepted at the schools.

PreK and Kindergarten students eating breakfast at school must arrive by 7:45 a.m.

If you are in need of financial assistance for school meals, please apply for Free/Reduced meals at <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/school-nutrition/fr-meal-applications/>

Media Center

All Coralwood students visit our library weekly for story time and age/developmentally appropriate instruction in information literacy and library citizenship. All students may check out books weekly for use at home. Parents will receive a letter from our librarian, Virginia Stratton, outlining the library program and policies in greater detail. Please understand that DeKalb County School policy requires parents to pay the replacement cost of lost or damaged library materials. Payment for lost/damaged books must be made with cash.

Epic Reading, an online reading program, is offered to all students as an additional resource to develop reading skills: main idea and details; constructing meaning and comprehension; evaluating information; literary elements; and vocabulary usage. Reading is done at home with parents/guardians/caretakers.

Coralwood PTO and Coralwood Foundation

Our PTO and Foundation help to make Coralwood a great school. You are expected to join the PTO and volunteer for any of the many committees to assist with supporting the school and your child. The PTO and Foundation are involved in special events at the school and fundraising. It is a great way to meet other parents and learn the names of your child's friends. The PTO and Foundation help close the gap between what funds the district budgets for Coralwood and what is needed to provide excellence in education and student growth.

Parent Involvement Policy

Active parent involvement is expected at Coralwood. There are many ways parents may become involved in the school. Parents may help in classrooms, provide supplies for activities, serve on committees, share skills and interests with students, or contribute food for the many special occasions celebrated at the school. Volunteering to serve on the Coralwood PTO, Coralwood Foundation, and/or Principal's Advisory Committee are also ways to be involved in school wide needs. Participating in the school wide reading program helps to bridge school and home. Communicating frequently with your child's teacher and reading information daily that is sent home are important ways for parents to be involved. **Please see Coralwood Parent Job Description in the Appendix.**

Parent Observations in the Classrooms

Parents may observe classrooms beginning the fourth week of school. It will be necessary to schedule an appointment with the front office for an observation when the principal or the principal's designee is able to accompany them. Most parent observations are limited to 20 minutes. Most observations will take place in an administrator's office or conference room via video remote on an iPad (using FaceTime, Zoom, etc.). This is to limit distractions during instructional time. The rights of all students to privacy and to a proper learning environment must be strictly observed. Parental visits should not be for the purpose of "monitoring" a teacher. If the parent has questions

regarding the observation, they should be properly addressed to the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Lead Teacher for Special Education (LTSE). Communicating with the teacher, staff, or therapists during instructional time will not be allowed. Please schedule a conference time for a follow up conversation if needed. If at any time during a visit, the administrator considers the parent's activities to be other than in the best interest of the students being served or disruptive, the administrator may terminate the visit.

Private Practitioners

Many of our students have private therapists and we are happy to consult with them at parent request. Private therapists may observe the classroom for 20 minutes when the principal or the principal's designee is able to accompany them. Instructional time cannot be used for consulting with the teacher, staff, or school therapists. If the private therapist wants to speak with the teacher or the school therapists, a time should be arranged at the end of the school day and parents should have signed a release form.

Private therapists or other private service providers not under contract with DeKalb County School District may not provide services to students on the Coralwood campus at any time.

Parties- School

Coralwood students have two parties a year – Winter Holidays and Valentine's Day. Birthday refreshments sent by parents must include all students in the child's class and must be served at lunchtime. No candles or latex balloons are allowed in the cafeteria or classroom. **Please see list of the Top 10 Choking Hazards in the Appendix.**

Recess and Outdoor P.E./ Motor Class

Heat and cold stress are environmental hazards. Because of their unique physiology, young children are more susceptible to temperature extremes and their health effects. Children have greater surface area-to-body mass ratio than adults. Therefore, children do not adapt to extremes of temperature as effectively as adults when exposed to heat stress or to cold. Children produce more metabolic heat per mass unit than adults when walking or running. They also have a lower sweating capacity and cannot dissipate body heat by evaporation as effectively. In cold weather, because they are less able to regulate their body temperature than adults, children can quickly develop a dangerously low body temperature and become hypothermic.

Heat-induced illness and cold injury are preventable and children's safety is our priority. Coralwood School has the following guidelines in effect to determine if children will be taken outside for recess or Motor class. Staff are to check accuweather.com for the most up to date temperature. If the "Feels Like" temperature is below 40 degrees or above 90 degrees, students will stay inside. Also, children will stay inside if the Air Quality Index (AQI) is 101 (Code Orange) or higher.

We understand the need for children to be active and get plenty of physical activity. When the weather conditions are not conducive for outdoor activity, we will utilize the gymnasium for recess, Motor, and P.E. classes. Therefore, our children will get opportunities for the exercise and physical activity that they need while being safe from extreme temperatures.

Retention and Transition to Next Grade Level

All students transition to the next grade level at the end of each school year. Retention at Coralwood for inclusion classes is not an option. Any student in the inclusion classroom needing to repeat Kindergarten will need to repeat this grade at their home school.

Safety

Your child's safety and education are our primary responsibilities. We require that ALL PARENTS/VISITORS sign in/out in the front office when visiting the campus and obtain a visitor's tag. If you do not have a visitor's tag on, expect to be stopped by staff and directed to the front office. We do not want any adults on the campus that we are not aware of due to safety concerns. Please make it a habit to visit the front office when you first arrive on campus.

School Rules

We rely on everyone to help teach all our students to be good citizens. Students and teachers will collaboratively develop classroom rules for their class the first week of school. Please help your child understand the rules for his/her classroom.

The Team

Parents are a very important part of the educational team. We value your input and suggestions. Your child's classroom teacher will be meeting with you to discuss your child's progress and to inform you about opportunities you will have to participate in the classroom. *Educational research indicates that parental involvement impacts student achievement.*

In addition to your child's teacher, there may be support staff working with your child. Paraprofessionals will assist the teacher in the classroom and are a significant part of the team. Speech/Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Recreational Therapist, Media Specialist, Behavior Specialists, and PE/Music/Art/STEM teachers may work with your child's class. Other therapists, specialized teachers (Vision, Mobility, Hearing Impaired, etc.), and support personnel may also work with students who are in need of these services.

The Lead Teacher for Special Education (LTSE), Assistant Principal, and Principal are part of your child's team. Please come by the front office any time with questions, suggestions, concerns or success stories. We value your support and partnership in working together this year. **Please see the Right to Know Professional Qualification of Teachers and Paraprofessionals letter in the Appendix.**

Vacations

Family vacations should be scheduled during normal school breaks. Absences for vacations will be counted unexcused. Excessive unexcused absences will be reported to the social worker.

(The rules in this handbook were in place at the time of printing however, that does not preclude any change in rules after printing; updated rules or

procedures can be added as necessary and will be communicated in courier, School Messenger, and/or the Coralwood School website.)

Revised 7/2023

See Appendices on the next pages for:

- Coralwood Parent Job Description
- Health and Illness Guidelines
- Top 10 Choking Hazards
- Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals

Appendix

Coralwood Parent Job Description

Coralwood is a hands-on community. All parents are expected to be actively involved in their child's education as well as the activities of the school and the supporting organizations—The Coralwood Foundation and the PTO.

Coralwood is a great learning environment because of the dedication of its staff and the support of its community. Parents receive a high quality, specialized education for their children.

Parents are encouraged and expected to ensure the continuation of this school and its environment through support both financial and physical.

The following are minimum qualifications for the Coralwood parent:

- Complete all home activities assigned by the teacher.
- Read to your child for at least 20 minutes each day.
- Volunteer in the classroom.
- Support the school with your time, talent, or treasure.
- Be an active member on a committee of the PTO, Foundation, or Principal's Advisory Committee.
- Contribute to the annual Coralwood Challenge.
- Volunteer and/or attend the annual fundraisers.
- Share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences with the administration and leaders of the Principal's Advisory Committee, Foundation, and PTO.
- Play with your child for at least 30 minutes each day. Cell phones and other communication/electronic devices should not be used during this time.
- Bring your child to school on time every day.
- Schedule all vacations during regular school breaks. Six unexcused absences will automatically generate a letter to the parent and be referred to the social worker.
- Attend parent conferences.
- Provide school supplies as requested.

Health and Illness

One of our goals is to keep the children and teachers healthy. When your child is ill, it is imperative that you keep him/her home.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF COMMUNICABLE ILLNESS:

Any of the signs or symptoms below may indicate the beginning of an acute illness.

- Flushed face, not related to exercise or other physical activity.
- Runny nose, excessive sneezing or coughing, sore throat, earache, swollen glands.
- Watery or glassy appearance of eyes.
- Unexpected sweating, pallor, blueness of lips or fingernails.
- Rash, “bumps” or other skin changes, including discharge such as pus.
- Body temperature above 100° F orally on repeated checks.
- Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.
- Pain on urination.
- Swelling of any part of the body.
- Stiff neck.
- Sudden onset of severe headache.

Should your child become sick, you will be contacted to come and take your child home in a timely manner.

CONTAGIOUS ILLNESSES AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES:

Any child who is sick needs to be at home to receive individual attention.

FEVER: Child is to remain at home until the child’s temperature has been normal for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications

EXCESSIVE DIARRHEA AND/OR VOMITING: Child is to remain at home until resolved.

CHICKEN POX: Child is to remain at home for approximately 7 to 10 days. The child may return when all lesions have crusted.

HEAD LICE: Child is to remain at home until treated. Please notify the school of this problem so that we can check for other cases in the same classroom/grade level.

IMPETIGO: Child is to remain at home until lesions are treated and covered with a clean dressing.

PINK EYE: Child must be treated with a prescription from the doctor/health center. (Over the counter medications are usually not adequate.)

RING WORM: Child must be treated by family physician or health department. Child under treatment may attend school.

If you have any questions whether your child should come to school, please call nurse Marilyn Anchors at 678-874-6007.

Top 10 choking hazards

Popcorn, peanuts and nuts

A child's airway is approximately the size of her pinky finger, which means small snack foods, such as popcorn or nuts, could easily get lodged. These foods are particularly hazardous as we often leave kids unattended while eating them, and they'll often devour them by the handful.

Whole grapes

Small, round objects like grapes can get stuck in the airway, so slice them lengthwise in quarters when serving them to small children. Kids up to four years old are still learning how to chew and swallow properly and can be easily distracted while eating, which can cause choking. When cutting grapes in half for children who are a bit older, do so lengthwise so they are no longer in the shape of a ball.

Hot dogs

Instead of cutting a hot dog into rounds, cut it once lengthwise so it no longer has its round shape.

Raw carrots

Cut raw carrots into matchstick-sized pieces. For young children, cook and chop carrots before serving. Although convenient, the perfectly round shape of a baby carrot makes it particularly dangerous if it's not cut lengthwise.

Hard candies

Any hard candy is dangerous, but small, round candies are the perfect size and shape for getting stuck in the airway. Avoid giving these to kids younger than four, and don't let your child walk or run with candy in his mouth.

Latex balloons

Latex balloons are the most common cause of non-food choking deaths in children. Popped or broken pieces of a balloon can completely seal your child's airway. Never leave your child unattended with a filled balloon as it might pop in your absence.

Apples

Chunks of apple can easily become lodged in the airway. Always supervise your child while eating.

For young children, cut apples into matchstick-sized pieces. For older children who prefer larger pieces, consider leaving the skin on, which will encourage them to chew more thoroughly.

Peanut butter

Like latex balloons, a chunk of peanut butter can create a seal around the airway. Don't give large dollops. Instead, spread peanut butter thinly on bread or crackers.

Small toys

Small toys, especially round ones like balls and marbles, are dangerous for young children. A good rule of thumb: Avoid giving kids younger than three any toy that can fit through a toilet paper roll.

Coins

Although children can certainly choke on coins, they're more likely to be ingested accidentally rather than cause true choking, where the airway is obstructed. However, a coin can become lodged in the esophagus, which requires medical attention. Be particularly mindful of pennies, which are left lying around more commonly now that they are out of use.

Also- marshmallows and chewing gum are on the top list of choking hazards for children!

Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals

August 7, 2023

Dear Parents,

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Students Succeeds Act, the Coralwood School would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/ or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

* Whether the student's teacher—

- has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
- is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.

* Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/ or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact the Principal, Dr. Melanie Castelle, at 678-874-6003.

Sincerely,

Melanie Castelle

Melanie Castelle, Ph.D.

Principal