

Morning Explorers



Parent Handbook 2025-26

(Updated Feb 5, 2026)

101 Church St, Black Mountain, NC 28711

(828) 333-7205 or morningexplorers@gmail.com

www.morningexplorers.com

Focus & Curriculum

At Morning Explorers, we understand that you want your child to have the best start to their educational journey, and that starts with a safe and caring environment. Our preschool classrooms are designed to create a nurturing and stimulating space where children will be engaged and grow socially and emotionally. Through positive reinforcement, our teachers encourage each student's self-expression and confidence as they build relationships with one another. We provide activities and experiences that strengthen problem-solving skills, physical abilities, and creativity. Our curriculum is designed to challenge each child's skills in the areas of math, science, language arts, social studies, music, art, and drama.

Morning Explorers is led by compassionate teachers eager to share their wealth of experience to guide your child joyfully through preschool and prepare them for kindergarten.

Teachers, Substitutes, and Volunteers

We require background checks for anyone over 18 years old caring for children at Morning Explorers. This measure is taken to ensure the safety of our children and uphold the integrity of our program.

All teachers are certified in CPR/First Aid.

A Message from Our Teachers

We feel so privileged and excited for your child to be in our class this year! We have so many fun learning opportunities planned and can't wait to watch your child grow. Safety and keeping the children happy and healthy are our top priorities, and we depend on you, as the parent, to communicate any health concerns that may arise. We have worked hard to plan developmentally appropriate practices for your child that are safe while still allowing all children to have fun and blossom! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us. We look forward to getting to know you and your child this school year.

Tuition

\$550/month
(2025-26 school year)

Payment is due on the 1st of each month and is considered late after the 5th.

Payments can be made through our Brightwheel app online. You can also set up automatic payments.

Equal payments will be made each month. The first payment in August covers September tuition, and the last payment in May includes the extra week of school in June. These extra days are to make up for teacher workdays throughout the year and inclement-weather closure days.

Tuition is not refunded for sick days or vacations.

A NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$100 is required to reserve a space for each child. This is NOT credited towards tuition payment.

Day-to-Day Operations

Drop Off & Pick Up

Drop off begins at 8:45 am & pick up begins at 12:45pm. Children must be electronically signed in and out via Brightwheel.

Snack & Lunch

Your child will need to have a snack and a lunch packed daily.

Please separate these so they can easily grab their snack to take outdoors. We encourage and teach about proper nutrition and ask parents to send snacks and lunches that contain a protein, fruit or vegetable, and carbohydrate. Our peanut protocol depends on whether there are any peanut allergies in the class.

Bring Toys from Home

Personal toys can get easily lost or broken at school. We ask that your child's toys stay at home.

Birthdays

We would love to celebrate your child's birthday! If you would like to bring something to celebrate, please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

Bathroom

Please let us know any needs your child may have when using the bathroom at school. If your child is not yet potty-trained, we will contact you to develop a plan for how we can support the process. We will be your child's biggest cheerleaders!

Extra Change of Clothes

Please provide an extra change of clothes in a labeled "gallon size" Ziplock bag (weather-appropriate clothes, socks, and shoes if possible). At the change of season, we will return weather-appropriate clothes.

Water Bottles

Please send in a water bottle labeled with your child's name. We keep their water bottle at school in their cubby and thoroughly clean it on Friday to allow it to air-dry over the weekend. If you prefer we send it home, please let us know.

Medicine

We are unable to apply or provide any medication, sunscreen, or insect repellent.

Tote Bags

We will send their artwork and worksheets home in your child's Morning Explorer bag on Friday. Please check them regularly to see what they have accomplished and to monitor any additional communications from us. Please know we give your child lots of choices of activity sheets to do and we do NOT expect them to complete everything at school so we send them home to give you the option of having them complete them if your child desires.

Labels

Please label items your child brings to school (jackets, extra clothes, etc.)

Behavior Management

Every student automatically receives a treasure coin/point a day. A point is only taken away (after several warnings) if the child is not following our classroom expectations. When a child has 5 points, they get to pick out a treasure to bring home. Here are our classroom expectations that we teach and post in the classroom.

- 1) Be kind to others
- 2) Use listening ears
- 3) Use walking feet
- 4) Keep hands to yourself
- 5) Help clean up
- 6) Learn, Laugh and Have Fun!

Inclement Weather

We follow Buncombe County School's Inclement Weather Procedures.

Attendance Policy

If your child will be absent on a scheduled day, notification via Brightwheel App is mandatory.

Pick Up Policy

People listed as approved contacts may pick up your child.

Students MUST be signed out electronically by authorized pickup person. Use family numeric pin for authorized pick-up people who do not have the Brightwheel app. This is a safety measure for each child.

You may add authorized pick-up contacts at any time and Morning Explorers must be informed of these changes directly.

Late pick up will result in a \$1/min fee.

Cancellation & Refunds Policy

A written two-week notice is required for cancellation of services. Morning Explorers will prorate tuition to accommodate the notice. Notice needs to be submitted via Brightwheel or direct email to morningexplorers@gmail.com.

We do not prorate monthly tuition for closures due to weather or illness, unless the school is closed for more than a week.

Safety Behavior & Discipline

The safety of our students, teachers, and property must be upheld at all times.

Teachers will work with students and families to provide consistent, comprehensive support to promote positive behavioral outcomes in classrooms, on field trips, socially, and when interacting with adults and peers.

Separation from a group activity is not used as a punishment. "A Pause" is offered to help students regulate emotions and process "next steps" to successfully interact with peers in a positive and peaceful manner. Teachers are here to help students navigate social relationships and assist with problem solving.

Participation in classroom activities is expected and respectful classroom behavior is necessary for the group to benefit from lessons and activities.

Fighting and other displays of violent behavior is not tolerated and will result in family consultation. If a child's behavior becomes threatening, unmanageable, or unsafe the child will be sent home. If threatening or unsafe behavior persists without successful intervention, inclusion with the program may be terminated.

Respectful language toward peers and adults allows for productive communication. The teachers and the students are expected to uphold respectful exchange with one another.

Due to having scheduled walking field trips, it is important that teachers are made aware of possible flight risk behavior. At times, Parents may accompany children for field trips.

Release of Liability Form & Photo release

I hereby give my permission for my child (the "student") to participate in the Morning Explorers Preschool (the "School").

Participation in any program which involves physical activity exposes the student to certain risks and dangers. Accidents and injuries are always a possibility, and it is impossible to foresee and protect the student from all conceivable dangers.

I hereby affirm that my child has no conditions that would make it unsafe for him/her/them to participate in the School program.

I understand and acknowledge that I am responsible for following the School health and safety protocols and ensuring that I and my child follow those protocols.

The School protocols are, if the child has a fever ($+100.5$), vomiting or diarrhea, the child may not attend school for 24hrs. I acknowledge that there will be no reimbursement for missed days if the child is ill.

Medical Consent: I understand that the School will make every effort to contact me in the case of an emergency. I give my consent to any necessary medical treatment for my child while at the School, for emergency care situations. I accept responsibility for the costs of all such medical treatment.

____(initials) I accept

or

____(initials) I decline medical care for my child(ren)

Photography Release: School participants may be photographed or filmed by the School photographer.

Accepting below on this form allows the School to include photographs of your child in any printed material or broadcast advertising that is produced by or for the School. Your child's name will not be published.

____(initials) I accept

or

____(initials) I decline photography release for my child(ren)

I have read and understand all the policies stated above. I release the School and any of their agents or employees from any and all liability of claims for damages that might arise as a result of personal injuries received in connection with participation in the activities associated with this program. Please Return this form to the School once read and signed.

Parent's Full Name

Child's Full Name

Signature

Date