

# **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER PRESCHOOL**

## **PARENT HANDBOOK**

### **A WELCOME TO OUR PARENTS**

The Presbyterian Church of the Master Preschool extends a very warm welcome to you as family and to your child as an individual. We shall strive in every way possible to make our relationship with you and your family satisfying and rewarding. Most parents are deeply concerned not only with physical, mental, emotional, and social growth, but with spiritual growth as well. We shall endeavor to guide your child's development in those areas of growth by presenting a program of enrichment to his/her everyday experience.

An equally important role of the church preschool is that of strengthening Christian family life by increasing the parents understanding of their child and his/her needs. This is done in many ways; through speakers for our parent program, through counseling between staff and parents as often as is helpful, through observation of a child in perspective or comparison with other children of the same age, through a selected choice of books in the school library, and through the general participation which makes for Christian fellowship and understanding.

All the staff members must be Christians who are trained and experienced in Early Childhood Education. They must be willing to participate in professional workshops, which are offered several times a year and be willing to continue to extend their education in Early Childhood Education and Child Development. The most important requirements are the intangible qualities. These are some adjectives, which might be used to describe a few of the qualities, which we require of our teachers: warm, loving, conscientious, humorous, sparkling, understanding, Christian perspective, delightful, accepting and healthy. In a word - a mature individual who loves to work with young children. We search for a blend of skills and talents, so that we can affect team teaching. We feel we have succeeded and we are most proud of our staff. We encourage your friendship with these delightful and creative people.

The door to the Director's office is always open and our campus has an open-door policy. Feel free to come in and visit at any time. The Director is here to listen and help in any way possible with your problems and your joys concerning your children. Your welcome will always be a warm one.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER PRESCHOOL  
EXCERPT FROM BY-LAWS  
FEBRUARY 6, 2020**

**ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY**

- A.** The purpose of the preschool shall be to help the child grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically through Christian nurtured and enriched experiences as a supplement to the home environment. The preschool is a ministry of the PCOM's Children's Ministry and therefore share mutual goals, functions and purpose in raising children in Christ.
- B.** This organization shall be non-profit and non-commercial.
- C.** Employees of the preschool shall be required to have a professed belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and their personal Savior. A written statement confirming this shall be submitted at the time of application and included in the employees personnel file.
- D.** The philosophy under which the preschool shall operate is the belief that:
  - 1.** We believe each child is God's unique creation and should know the joy of feeling valuable and loved.
  - 2.** We honor each child's development in cultivating new skills at their own pace.
  - 3.** We celebrate each child's freedom while giving them healthy boundaries and teaching them to respect the rights of others.
  - 4.** We celebrate God's world by teaching each other to discover and enjoy God's good creation.
  - 5.** We count on our staff and teachers to nurture each child in their life and faith, and to teach them the love of Jesus Christ.

**ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

- A.** The preschool serves the community and is therefore open to the public without regard to race, religion or ethnic origin.
- B.** Registration in the preschool shall be according to the following order:
  - 1.** To children of members of the Presbyterian Church of the Master.
  - 2.** To children who are currently attending the preschool.
  - 3.** To children whose family previously had children attending the preschool.
  - 4.** To the general public.
- C.** As vacancies occur, membership quotas will be filled as names appear chronologically on the appropriate waiting list.
- D.** Enrollment shall be open to those who are:
  - 1.** Between the ages of 2 years, 9 months (on the first day of school) and 5 years 9 months.
  - 2.** Potty trained.

3. Ambulatory.
  4. Able to communicate his or her needs.
- E. Children who have special physical, emotional, social, or psychological needs shall be accepted if it is determined through an interview by the director and subject to approval by the preschool Committee that:
1. The preschool is able to meet their needs, within the scope of daily preschool activities.
  2. There will be no adverse effect upon other children either through the direct behavior of the child or by taking away staff time needed by other children.
  3. Children with special needs shall be limited to one child per classroom.

#### **ARTICLE IV DISMISSAL**

- A. A child may be dismissed (temporarily or permanently) from the preschool for any of the following reasons:
1. Continued class disturbance and misbehavior, or an inability to adjust to a group situation.
  2. Causing bodily harm to himself/herself or to other children.
  3. Failure to meet potty training requirements as follows: a child who has two bowel movements in his/her pants is subject to removal from the preschool.
  4. If it is determined that a child be removed from the preschool:
    - a. The parent may pay the child's tuition for the month, thus holding his/her place in the classroom.
    - b. The child will be removed from the preschool and his/her place will be filled by the next child on the waiting list. The child's name would then be placed at the top of the waiting list.
  5. If a child's parent is deemed by the Preschool Director to have behaved inappropriately.
  6. All parents will honor the Personal Rights Belief form in the registration packet.
- B. Before dismissal takes place:
1. Parents will be notified of the problem and a conference with the preschool director will be held.
  2. The child may be placed on probation.
  3. The Preschool Committee Elder (or Chairperson), the Associate Pastor, and /or Senior Pastor of the church will be advised of the situation.
  4. If the above steps fail to resolve the problem, then dismissal will take place.

#### **HOURS, HOLIDAYS, TOURS, AND PICK-UP PROCEDURE**

**HOURS: 8:45 AM to 11:30 AM**

We ask your cooperation with our time schedule. The teachers have a number of necessary duties to perform before class time, and we do not open the doors before 8:45 AM or 11:30 AM. Doors will remain open during drop off from 8:45- 8:55. At 8:56, the doors will close and you will need

to remain in the courtyard until circle time is complete. We will not interrupt circle time. If you cannot arrive before 8:55 then you will wait until 9:15 to enter the classroom. During pick up time, if you cannot be here by 11:40 your child will automatically be checked in to Lunch Bunch and you will be charged \$10 for that day. Pick up time is 11:30.

Children are to be signed in/out with full legible signature. You will be issued a 4-digit approval pick up code from Brightwheel. This code is not to be share. Only the person assigned the code can use the code to check a child in and out of the classroom. As the parent, you are responsible for setting up an approved pick up list through Brightwheel. This is in addition to providing approved pick up names and phone numbers on pages 4 and 11 of the registration packet. State law requires that an adult accompany the child until he/she has been admitted to the premises. The children enrolled in our program and any other child you are responsible for **MUST** be in your care and close proximity to you at all times. At no time is it acceptable for a child to be out of your reach, line of sight or wandering on their own.

Your promptness at 11:30 AM is both important and appreciated. Children become apprehensive if they have been left and forgotten. If you find you will be late, call and let us know so we may reassure your child. Your child will be in his room at pick-up time. When you arrive at pick-up time, please wait in the foyer until the door is opened to the playground. When the door to the playground is open, you are to walk to your child's classroom and wait until a teacher opens the door. The teacher will hold the door open with the sign-out iPad in her hands. Once you have entered your code and signed out your child or any children that you may be picking up, the teacher will call their names to be dismissed from the circle. The teachers need to supervise the children at this time, so if you need to talk to one of them, please wait until all of the children are gone, or make an appointment with her through the office. Be sure that your child has all his/her belongings with him/her when you leave the preschool. Please exit campus promptly as we have a tight schedule to keep.

### **TOURS**

Prospective parents and children must tour our campus before the registration process begins. No child will be accepted into our program without a tour. Tours take place on most days at 9:15 and 10:00am. Please call the preschool office to schedule a tour. There are no guarantee tours for walk ins.

### **CHILDREN'S ART WORK**

Please don't say to a child, when he/she shows you his/her treasure creation, "Well, what is it?" If a comment is called for, simply tell him/her that you like the design, or choice of colors or "My, you must have had a fun time today!" or "What a colorful painting, Johnny, would you like to tell me about it?" Remember, the joy of art to a child is in the **PROCESS**, not the **PRODUCT**.

### **ADULTS WHO CALL FOR THE CHILD**

If someone, other than those listed on your information sheet, is to pick up your child, be certain to give this information to the preschool office or the teacher. The teacher cannot release your child to a stranger. When picking up your child or a car pool, each child must be signed out at the classroom. When someone new comes to pick up your child, the teacher will ask for his or her name and check to see if that name is on the list of individuals that you have authorized to pick up

your youngster. If the name is listed, the teacher will then ask to see the person's driver license before releasing your child. The pick-up person must have 4-digit code issued from Brightwheel.

## HOLIDAYS

We follow the holiday schedule of the Capistrano School District. The PCOM Preschool Annual Calendar of Events lists all of the holidays. These will always be noted in the Miss Vanessa's NEWSLETTER, which comes out at the beginning of each month. Preschool is closed two additional days each year so that our staff may attend professional seminars or in-service training. These days will be announced at a later date.

## PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

Our preschool curriculum will be built around monthly focuses and concepts. Music, science, art, manipulatives, and literature are chosen to reinforce the unit of study. The teacher will also provide opportunities for dramatic play, self-expression, and social interaction. Cognitive growth, reading readiness, and number concepts will be integrated into the program through 'games' and 'fun' activities. We learn through play, using whole body, kinesthetic, auditory, visual channels and incorporate loose parts. Each child will be given the freedom of choice and his/her choice will be respected.

Sensory motor development is a very important part of our curriculum and will be included in our daily program.

Classroom activities also include Bible stories and Christ-centered songs. Chapel will begin in October.

## BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are treated very simply. It is often an overwhelming experience for a child to have too much attention focused on him/her. We emphasize the sharing of birthday excitement with **giving**, rather than **getting**. On your child's birthday celebration day, please have your child select his/her favorite book from home, bring it to school and share with their class. We do **NOT** celebrate birthdays with outside food of any kind. The teacher will give him/her a birthday crown to wear. **Please send party invitations to school for distribution.** Every child must receive a birthday invitation in order for distribution to take place.

## SHARING TIME

Most children like to bring a treasure from home. This is a fine opportunity for him/her to be the center of a group, and relate what is of interest about his treasure. Wonderful language development, development of self-confidence, and experience in taking turns, all come from this simple daily routine. Books, and nature objects may be brought at any time. If you wish to send a toy, pet, or other object, please check first with the teacher for your child's specific share date.

**Do not bring – GUNS, WEAPONS, OR WAR TOYS.** They will be sent home. No technology on campus. This includes, computers, tablets, phones, watches or any other technological device. Also, no fragile toys, no mouth toys “gum, candy, balloons, whistles.” It is wise to keep a favorite bedtime item at home. If damaged, it could cause more problems than it’s worth! The teachers always appreciate sharing items that relate to the current unit of study, and of course, any special day, visitors, or experience, is great to share about.

## **CONFERENCES**

To facilitate better parent-teacher conferences the preschool will be closed to accommodate all conferencing needs at the end of February. You will be scheduled for a conference the same time your child normally comes to preschool. Our mid-year start class/students will not have a conference. Children are not allowed to attend the conference and child care is not provided. The teacher will also be available for conferences at other times of the year if you feel a conference is necessary. **Please do not telephone teachers at home.**

## **HEALTH**

The preschool is only prepared to care for children who are well. All children entering the preschool are required to have a pre-admission physical evaluation (LIC 701).

**Health Policy:** Your child should stay at home if he/she has any of the following:

6. A cold that is less than five days old.
7. Red throat or earache.
8. Swollen neck glands and frequent coughing
9. Runny nose or fever (within the last 24 hours)
10. Unexplained rash or skin disease.
11. Tonsillitis or other communicable disease.
12. If he/she acts listless, drowsy, and headachy, has a flushed face, lack of appetite, or shows any behavior that is noticeably out of the ordinary.
13. Upset stomach, loose bowel movement or vomiting during the night. (within the last 24 hours)
14. Eye infections/pink eye
15. Head Lice

In case of illness or accident occurring while the child is in preschool, the following procedures will be observed:

1. Call parent immediately.
2. If parent cannot be reached, the person in charge will decide the next step according to the circumstances and seriousness of the situation. She/he may do any or all the following:
  - a. Contact person or persons listed by parent to call in emergency.
  - b. Call doctor listed by parent.
  - c. Call 911.

There are first aid supplies and a comfortable place for your child at all times at preschool.

We request you notify us immediately in case of communicable diseases. Our policy is to send home an "Exposure To" notice to our families. This permits you to be alert to the fact that your child may have been exposed to... say measles, strep infection, mumps, chicken pox, etc. We will not disclose the classroom.

### **PEANUTS, TREE NUTS & ALL OTHER NUTS MUST REMAIN OFF CAMPUS**

Since there are so many children who are highly allergic to peanuts, and tree nuts, we do not serve or permit these products or other products that may be processed in a factory that might contain these products in our facility or equipment that may have come into contact with these allergens. An updated allergy list will be posted each year. List of allergies will be posted and announced via email.

### **DAILY SNACK**

Please pack your child a healthy completely nut free snack everyday they are on campus. We encourage two healthy food groups and an ice pack to keep items cold. Please label your child's lunch bag and water container with his or her name.

### **ESSENTIAL OILS**

Please keep all essential oils off campus. Do not send your child to school wearing essential oils. We have staff and others on campus with sensitivities to these fragrances.

### **CHILDREN'S CLOTHING**

All removable clothing must have your child's name on it. We can help your child keep track of their jackets and sweaters only if they have his/her name on them.

It is most important to consider what the child will be doing at preschool when dressing him/her. Remember that he/she will be climbing, painting, digging in sand and toileting himself/herself. We emphasize having good experiences with materials rather than keeping clean. Appropriate clothing would include shorts, sun suits or sundresses when warm; long pants or old play dresses, if cold. Managing buttons, buckles, belts and straps commonly found on some clothing, can be difficult to master but elastic waist bands on **boxer type shorts**, jeans or cords are much easier. We help children in their independence in dressing by selecting clothing they can manage.

**Long dresses** prevent freedom of activity. Please save them for rainy days or birthdays.

**Hard sole boots are not allowed;** (Boys or Girls) they hurt unwary playmates and resting neighbors. Most important of all, they are unsafe on the climbing equipment. They are too clumsy and slippery. Thongs are also dangerous. **Tennis shoes or regular closed shoes are mandatory.**

The preschool emphasis is to help each individual child to achieve his/her full potential. Parents and preschool, working together, can make this possible. We encourage your participation in the following ways:

### **GUESTS ON CAMPUS**

Helping is encouraged at least once a year. See how he/she relates with his/her group, how they relate to himself/herself. Observe their relationships with adults in the preschool. There is time for

a conference with the teacher to discuss what you have observed and his/her growth in general. Please make arrangements with your child's teacher.

We would love to have guests help us with a few events on campus.

- Fire Fly/Scholastic Book Orders
- Christmas Pageant
- Book Fair
- Year End Concert

If you are interested in any of these areas, or wish to explore them further, please check with the office. I know you'll have fun with us, while sharing your child's world.

### **OUCH REPORT**

Parents will receive an Ouch Report if their child gets hurt at school such as skinned knee or scrape on the arm. Because head injuries can be serious, it is recommended that all head injuries be evaluated by a physician.

The policy of PCOM Preschool regarding injuries is as follows:

***If a child has any type of head injury on campus*** no matter how minor, even if there is no sign of trauma or crying, the child will be brought to the office. The child's eyes will be checked and the child will receive a frozen sponge to place on the area. The parents will be called. If we are unable to reach the parent, we will leave a message on their voice mail. The teacher will also put an OUCH REPORT in the child's tote/backpack. If the child should sustain a serious injury that need immediate attention, the paramedics would be called and the parents would also be contacted.

### **PCOM PRESCHOOL ETIQUETTE FOR PARENTS**

1. Please be on time! Please sign your child in and out with full signature. A teacher will be greeting everyone at the classroom door. When you bring your child to school, please say goodbye at the classroom door, even if your child cries, do not go into the room to try to comfort your little one. He or she will only cry harder. The teachers will take care of him or her.
2. If your child arrives late and school is already in session, enter the classroom quietly after 9:15am so that the mood and atmosphere is not altered and the children are not distracted. Please be sure that you have signed in with full signature. Your child will be welcomed and received by the teacher without interrupting the class.
3. Please say goodbye to your child quietly at the threshold. Your child probably prefers the same simple goodbye ritual each day.
4. Keep sibling children by the hand so that they do not disrupt the class or run away to the playground. You must supervise your children at all times! The playground is closed at drop off and pick up.



5. If you want to speak to the teacher please be patient. Remember her first obligation is to her students. If she is involved with the children in circle time activities, either talk to the assistant teacher or wait to speak to the teacher at pick up time.
6. Please do not congregate outside the classrooms with adult conversations. The foyer and courtyard are appropriate places for parents to get to know each other.
7. Return for your child promptly at 11:30am. It hurts, angers, and sometimes frightens children when the other children's parents arrive and their parent is not there, too. Telephone the school if you'll be late.
8. Remember, the teachers have a great deal of work to do after the children leave so don't detain them unnecessarily. The teachers are always happy to give you as much time as you need if you call the office. We can schedule time for the two of you to get together.
9. Please exit the playground promptly after pick up.

### **2020-2021 IMMUNIZATION AND MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The following immunization are required for entrance into preschool:

- \* 3 polio shots (OPV or IPV)
- \* 4 DTP/DTaP/Td
- \* 1MMR (measles, mumps and rubella)
- \* 1HB- must be on or after child's first birthday. It is usually the fourth shot that satisfies this requirement
- \* 3 Hepatitis B
- \* 1 Varicella

**\*\*\* PCOM PRESCHOOL DOES NOT ADMIT ANY CHILD WITH A PERMANENT MEDICAL EXEMPTION.**

The following medical tests are required:

- A physical (form LIC 701 in registration papers)

**\*\*\*\*** If your child is on a vaccination schedule. We need original documentation on letterhead or temporary medical waiver from the attending physician of the vaccination(s), and the scheduled date to be given. The documents must have physician's signature and stamp. If your child does not get the vaccination on the scheduled date on file, you have ten days from the scheduled date to get the vaccination. If you fail to do so, on the 11 day, the child must remain off campus until the vaccination is given. If the original schedule changes in anyway a new schedule must be updated and brought to the office on the day the schedule changed or the next day your child is sessioned for class. We must have a new schedule updated prior to their next sessional day. We will review each incomplete file every 30 days.

### **A MORNING AT CHURCH OF THE MASTER PRESCHOOL**

Our day begins at 8:45 AM. All children are greeted at the door. Children go to their rooms and gather on the rug with their teacher and classmates for approximately 15 minutes of class meeting

time. This is a time of greeting and song, sharing, introduction of the curriculum, or general 'talk-about.' Groundwork can be laid at this time for the choice making that follows.

Our program is semi-structured. During the first half of the morning three groups will be outside for free play, process art, and motor development. The other three groups will be inside their rooms, which are arranged into invitational interest centers.

All groups return to their classes at mid-morning for rest and snack time. The children are encouraged to be responsible for washing up and take turns being helpers (napkin, cup, snack servers, etc.). We do a great deal of cooking and it all tastes fantastic! Before snack time is a brief but relaxing rest period. Children need and enjoy this quiet time and companionship of resting with their friends. A simple grace is said before eating. Conversation at snack time is often guided towards the unit of study or interesting events, and is thoroughly delightful.

After snack time, the groups who were outside take their turn inside, and vice versa. At 11:15 AM the groups return to their own rooms for story or music time, and collect their treasures to be ready for their parents at 11:30 AM. We do ask the parents to wait in the foyer, in front of the welcome wall until the door is opened to the playground, so as to not disrupt a story in progress, or whatever, for the rest of the group. **Please remember the playground is closed at all times during school drop off, pick up and Lunch Bunch.**

Offered during outside time are a variety of activities. After a 45-minute set up, the playground transforms into a loose part haven on exploration. Quiet play or make believe on the lawn under the tree; art activity, such as easel or other types of painting, clay or finger-painting, woodworking, sand play with water (weather permitting) to use for 'cooking' or making rivers, dams and lakes; doll clothes washing; swings and rope ladders, tricycles, bikes, scooters and wagons, imaginative play on the platform climber, climbing on the climber, tending the garden, ball play and related visual perception activities, obstacle courses and balance boards. This outdoor play is essential to the development of preschoolers and offers an opportunity to enjoy the natural wonders of our world. The blue sky, clouds, growing things, insects and birds. Teachers will help the children become aware of God's creation and our need to take good care of it.

Inside time offers a wide range of free choice, from curling up with a good picture book in the reading nook to constructing an elaborate mansion in the block area. The rooms are arranged with invitational interest centers, ranging from quiet to noisy areas. Free choice art, such as collage, crayons and chalk, play dough, scissors and paste are offered. The teachers encourage the children to use the materials in their own way, staying in the background as much as possible. She does not stress technique or press for a finished product. We value process art not product art. Also available is the play house and dress-up area, which fosters delightful and involved dramatic play; an area for table top toys, chosen to develop fine hand manipulation as well as to encourage problem-solving; a large science area with things to be investigated, as well as nature shelves that change often with the seasons and related studies; and music player on the rug for our 'song and dance' specialists.

Music, an important part of each day, is used in a variety of ways. The teacher uses stories and listening tapes. She provides instruments for rhythm bands. She teaches songs and imparts the joys of singing, and helps the children compose their own simple songs. Dancing and expressive movement are an enjoyable and irreplaceable part of our program. Parents are encouraged to share their individual musical talents with our children.

At all times, the teacher is on hand to assist and guide rather than interfere. The children are encouraged to investigate, research, and to solve their conflicts through talking to each other about what is bothering them rather than striking, pushing, or being verbally aggressive. If the child really needs to be away from the group, he/she may go to the Director's office and play with the toys there. He/she is free to go back to his/her group when he/she feels able to handle himself/herself with his/her friends. This is **not** a punishment; just a quiet time to allow him/her to collect himself/herself.

### **TEACHER TIME**

The teachers' time and attention belongs to the children. Please, no unnecessary visiting with them when you bring or call for your child. This is a very busy time. A conference can be arranged conveniently for both you and the teacher. Please let us know by note or phone if you wish to have a conference. Also, when you leave the room with your child, it is not necessary to ask him/her to say goodbye to his/her teacher. This has been done before your arrival.

### **REGISTRATION FEE**

The annual registration fee must accompany the admission form. It is **NON-REFUNDABLE**. Your child's place will be held in order of date of receipt of this form and registration fee.

### **ENROLLMENT FEE**

The enrollment fee is 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the annual tuition. It is your last month's tuition installment paid in advance. It is refundable until July 15<sup>th</sup> of the present school year. Prepaid tuition is refundable on a pro-rated basis determined by the number of sessions in the school year divided into the annual fee on the following conditions: (1) 30 days written withdrawal notice is provided; (2) at such time that a new student fills the vacancy. The enrollment fee will not be refunded if a student is withdrawn after April 1, 2021.

### **TUITION INSTALLMENTS**

Tuition Installments are due the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month and are considered delinquent on the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. You will be invoiced directly from Brightwheel 10 times per school year. June 1, 2020 enrollment (June 2021 paid in advance) September 2020-May 2021. Tuition payments received after the 5<sup>th</sup> will be assessed a \$15.00 late fee unless prior arrangements have been made. Tuition may become no more than 15 days in arrears. At this time, without some evidence of good faith on the parent's part, the child will not be admitted into class and could possibly be dropped from the class. Tuition payments need to be paid through Brightwheel. **NO CASH, PLEASE.**

## **RETURNED CHECKS**

Returned checks will be charged a fee of \$15.00.

## **EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS**

Parents receive a list of suggested items to send to school in a zip-lock gallon storage bag with the child's name on the outside written with a permanent pen. This is your child's personal survival kit. These kits will be stored in the classroom and returned to the child at the end of the school year. In addition to these kits, the preschool maintains an ample supply of bottled water, which is rotated on a regular basis, crackers, juice, and first aid supplies. The staff is certified in CPR and first aid. Earthquake and fire drills are part of our safety procedures.

## **Lunch Bunch/Early Drop Off**

Our Lunch Bunch program is a fun and interactive extra block of time for the children to enjoy lunch, conversation, and play with their friends. Lunch Bunch is offered M-F from 11:30am-12:45pm with the exception of one Monday per month due to staff meeting and holidays. Lunch Bunch is \$10.00 per day. Please be on time for pick up. Early drop off is available from 8:00am - 8:45am. Please see form in preschool office.

## **WE LEARN BY DOING**

We are here to make every event of the day and each happening during the day a real learning experience for your child. Of course, preschool is not a substitute for a good home, but it supplements and enriches the home in the following ways:

- Group experiences help children learn to live and work with adults other than their parents.
- Preschool gives children a wide selection of materials and activities not usually available to home and affords the child the opportunity to use them freely and creatively.
- Working in a group helps the child learn and respect their own rights and those of others.
- Children learn from each other... when they see other children being independent, resourceful, or creative, they are encouraged to do the same.
- The preschool provides a wide range of experience on the young child's level, including stories, music, creative activities, science, motor development, enrichment programs, etc. in order to lay the groundwork for later school experiences.

- We recognize that we have a three-fold responsibility, to the child, to his/her parents, and to be an extension of the Christian nurture of the church.
- We shall give to each child affection, acceptance, and approval; so that he/she may grow emotionally, physically, spiritually, cognitively, and socially.
- And perhaps the most important of all... we will have fun with your child. We want him/her to know that school is a happy place to be.

**When I easel paint I learn:**

1. To develop my imagination and creativity.
2. Hand-eye coordination.
3. To distinguish and purposely create shapes.
4. To express my feelings and ideas.
5. That my ideas have value.
6. Relationships of space and size.
7. Concepts of symmetry balance and design.

**When I cut with scissors I learn:**

1. To control the small muscles in my hand.
2. Concepts of shape, size, color and location.
3. To exercise my imagination and creativity.

**When I scribble and draw I learn:**

1. To hold a pencil or other drawing implement and to control the pressure.
2. Hand-eye coordination
3. To exercise my imagination and creativity.
4. That my ideas have value.
5. Concepts of shape, size, color and location
6. To express myself with words when describing my drawing.

**When I finger paint, I learn:**

1. To exercise my imagination and creativity.
2. About how colors mix to make new colors (science)
3. Concepts and shape, size, color and location.
4. Hand-eye coordination

5. An acceptable way to make a mess, and have fun sharing ideas with others who are near.

**When I paste, glue, and collage I learn:**

1. To exercise my imagination and creativity.
2. Concepts of shape, size, color and location, and design, relevant to reading.
3. About different texture.
4. How to create patterns and designs, a math skill.

**When I play with play dough or clay I learn:**

1. To see the shape against the background of the table, a reading skill.
2. Concepts of shapes, sizes, length and height.
3. To see negative space when cookie cutter shapes are taken away.
4. To express feelings, especially negative feelings with squeezing and pounding.
5. To exercise my imagination and creativity.
6. That the amount of a substance remains the same even when the shape changes.

**When I play with sand I learn:**

1. To exercise my imagination.
2. Concepts of size, shape, and volume, empty and full.
3. How to use tools.
4. To solve problems.

5. Concepts of warm and cool, wet, damp, and dry, heavy and light.
6. How to play socially with others.
7. To create my own patterns and symbols, reading and writing skills.
8. To observe changes, a science skill.

**Examining objects at a nature table helps me learn:**

1. New vocabulary.
2. Concepts of texture, color, weight, and size.
3. To group objects into categories.
4. To observe likenesses and differences.
5. To appreciate nature and develop a sense of wonder.

**When I sort things, I learn:**

1. To notice details, likenesses, differences and to form categories, essential reading and math skills.
2. Concepts of color, size, and shape.
3. Numeral concepts more and less.
4. Logical reasoning.

**When I string beads I learn:**

1. Hand-eye coordination.
2. Concepts of color, shape, and location.
3. Number concepts like more, less, longer, and shorter.
4. To create and reproduce patterns.
5. Pride in accomplishment.

**When I play with pegboards I learn:**

1. One to one correspondence, one peg for one hole, a math skill.
2. To make and repeat patterns, a math skill
3. Possible left to right progression, a reading skill.
4. Concepts of addition as I add one peg at a time.
5. Colors.
6. Symmetry, shapes, order, and design.
7. Hand-eye coordination.

**When I do cooking projects I learn:**

1. About nutrition, tastes and food groups.

2. How heat and cold change things.
3. Concepts of volume and measure.
4. Vocabulary.
5. Whole-part relationships, math concepts.
6. Awareness of my own and other cultures.

**When I play with blocks, cars, and trucks I learn:**

1. Concepts of shape, size, length, and location, all reading and math skills.
2. To create and repeat patterns, a math skill.
3. To exercise my imagination.
4. To express ideas.
5. To cooperate with others.
6. To solve problems.
7. About the properties of wood.
8. To see myself from a different perspective, that of a giant.

**When I play on riding toys I learn:**

1. Strength, balance, and large muscle coordination (legs, torso and arms).
2. To use my energy in a constructive way.
3. Concepts of speed, direction, and location
4. To use my imagination as I pretend to be different characters and to make different "road" noises.
5. To negotiate and take turns.
6. Self-confidence, as I master new skills.

**When I play on climbing equipment I learn:**

1. Physical strength, coordination, and balance.
2. To use my imagination.
3. To cooperate with others when involved in group play.
4. To solve problems.
5. Self-confidence as I develop new skills.

**When I participate in circle time activities I learn:**

1. To listen, sit still, and understand spoken words.
2. That my ideas added to the discussion have value.
3. To wait when others are talking.
4. New vocabulary words.
5. To remember the words of songs and poems I have learned.
6. The names of others in the group.
7. To cooperate and be considerate of the needs of others.
8. To help plan what we will do and what we will need to do it.

**When I look at books and listen to stories I learn:**

1. That learning to read is important and enjoyable.
2. That letters on a page represent words.
3. To express my own thoughts, feelings and ideas better.
4. To exercise my imagination.
5. To interpret pictures to represent words and ideas.
6. To listen well to spoken language.
7. To make my own stories.
8. To handle books with care.
9. To recognize certain words when I see them in print.
10. To use more complex language patterns in my own speech.
11. To follow the development of thoughts and ideas in the plot of a story.

**Reading to children frequently is one of the surest ways to ensure that they themselves will become eager and capable readers.**

**When I sing songs I learned at school I learn:**

1. Principles of music and rhythm.
2. Vocabulary.
3. Memory skills and sequencing.

4. To be conscious of others.
5. Various concepts emphasized in songs.
6. "Auditory discrimination" recognizing differences in sounds, necessary for learning to read.
7. Awareness and identification with my culture and other cultures.

**When I play rhythm instruments I learn:**

1. To be conscious of rhythm in music.
2. Concepts of fast and slow, loud, and soft.
3. To express myself in new different ways.
4. Listening skills.
5. "Auditory discriminations" recognizing differences in sounds necessary for learning to read.
6. To interpret and understand signals and cues.

**When I play letter games I learn:**

1. To recognize and name upper- and lower-case letters.
2. To associate letters with the sounds they represent.
3. To recognize my name and other words.

**When I dance I learn:**

1. Balance and coordination.
2. To be conscious of the moods and rhythm of the music.
3. To express myself physically.

**When I play with puppets I learn:**

1. To express my ideas with words.
2. To take on the role of someone else.
3. To use voice tones as well as words.
4. To use my imagination.

**When I play in the dress-up corner I learn:**

1. To be flexible in my thinking and to make decisions.
2. To express myself with my words.
3. To try different adult roles.
4. To solve social problems through negotiation with friends.
5. To sort and organize playthings.

6. To improvise and use things in a symbolic way to represent something else, abstract thinking.
7. To carry out my ideas with the cooperation of other.
8. To exercise my imagination and creativity.