

General Information

NCCS Child Development Preschool Program offers **mixed aged** classes of 3-5 year olds.

At this time our classes are scheduled as follows:

- 2 day a week class Tuesday and Thursday
- 3 day a week class Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- 5 day a week class Monday - Friday

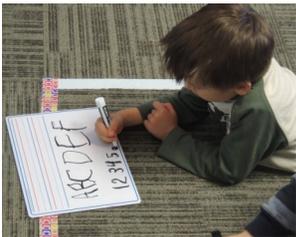
Morning class 8:30-11:00 Full day class 8:30-2:30

All preschool classes are limited to 20 children with two teachers (if a class has less than 10 children enrolled there may be 1 teacher in the classroom). We try to have at least one parent in the classroom during each class session also to assist the teachers.

Why mixed age classrooms? Past & current research has shown that there are many benefits for mixed aged classrooms. Social development is enhanced, and leadership and pro-social behaviors are increased. Children whose knowledge or abilities are similar but not identical stimulate each other's thinking and cognitive growth. The research is indicating that interaction between less able (younger) and more able (older) children benefit each individual both academically and socially. There is less competition and more peer learning in a mixed age environment. Mixed aged groupings give the class a more family feel.

School Supply List: There is a school supply list given out prior to the first day of school.

Snack: Children bring their snack from home in a small, durable container. Snacks should consist of one or two healthy food items, and a drink. Snacks should not be the size of a lunch.



Children must be potty proficient and 3 years old before start of school.

*"...Whoever welcomes the little child in my name welcomes me..."
Luke 9:48*

Afternoon

The afternoon preschool class will be an activities based program that will extend the curriculum and learning from the morning portion. Your child will be doing hands-on projects that are relevant to, and designed to meet his/her own interests. Each day, your child will write and draw in a journal, as well as access specific learning stations independently at their own rate and ability. These stations will be designed to meet all the different learning styles. A full list of our curriculum goals is available if you would like to see a copy.



Homework

You might laugh at this subtitle, but research (and my own experience) shows that consistently reading to your child is extremely beneficial. Please read to your child at least once a day. Although this is not required, it is **STRONGLY** encouraged! Also, I will set out "homework" packets each week that consist of a collection of worksheets that go along with our concepts we are learning. Your child will earn a prize out of our prize box whenever he/she returns it completed (there is no "due date").

Assessment

Preschool children are not given letter grades like the rest of the NCCS students, but I record their ongoing development and learning in a portfolio binder for each child. I send a weekly private picture link to all of the parents with my weekly newsletter, and I use some of these pictures in the portfolios to show learning and growth.



Discipline

The word Discipline comes from the same word as disciple—meaning pupil or learner. The definition of discipline followed at the NCCS Preschool is one of instruction. We strive to be positive in our approach as we guide each child toward understanding his/her freedom within the limits. We are very loving in our approach to discipline.

A concerned-loving teacher; a varied and interesting preschool program; a non-competitive environment; understanding of child development; and prayer help to minimize “discipline problems.” The children learn about “self-control,” and how they can be in control of themselves. The limits and rules for personal and group conduct are explained to children in an understandable manner in and in concrete terms. Clear instructions are given as needed when new activities or pieces of equipment are introduced. We strive for consistency in the classroom. We have found that we don’t have to deal with too much misbehavior in our program because children are busy, engaged, and having fun with the learning process.

At times, all young children do some testing of the limits and in return need the security of firm, loving guidance from adults. Choices, redirection, and if needed a brief “renewal time” (i.e. sitting down until the child gains control) are guidance techniques that are used by the NCCS preschool. What will not be utilized at the NCCS Preschool is any type of physical punishment, name calling or any degrading language, restriction from snack, nor distant isolation. Each child is valued as an individual and different approaches may be taken with different children. Respectful behavior is modeled by the teachers in order for children to learn how to treat each other.



*Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belong to such as these.”
Matthew 19:14*

ALTERNATIVES TO PUNITIVE DISCIPLINE

Anticipate trouble
Give gentle reminders
Distract to a positive model
Inject humor
Offer choices
Give praise and compliments
Offer encouragement
Clarify messages
Overlook small annoyances
Deliberately ignore provocation
Reconsider the situation
Point out natural or logical consequences
Provide renewal time
Give hugs and caring
Arrange discussion among the children
Provide discussion with an adult

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Policies such as health policies, financial policies, arriving/picking up children, parking, etc. will be discussed in our preschool parent orientation prior to the first day of school. Additional policies are discussed in the NCCS Parent/Teacher Handbook (to be distributed by NCCS).

All questions regarding registration and financial arrangements are addressed by the NCCS main office.