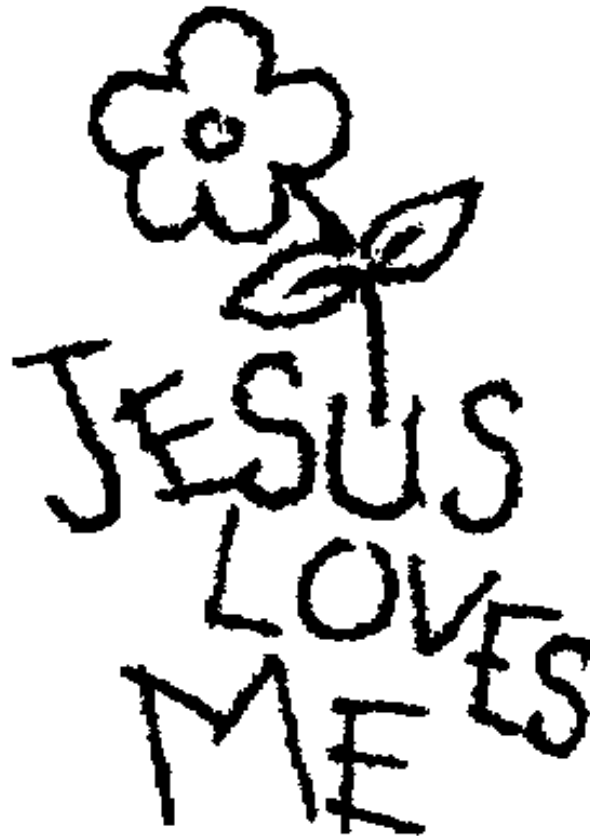


St. John's Lutheran



**Three Year Old
Preschool Handbook**



Welcome to our St. John's church and school family! We are glad to have you with us and hope you will soon feel comfortable and realize that you are a vital part of St. John's Lutheran School.

DEVELOPMENTAL POINT OF VIEW

The preschool at St. John's is based on the Developmental Point of View defined as follows:

The Developmental Point of View means understanding that growth is orderly, structured, and predictable. Each child has a cycle of development that is particular to humans, and each child will pass through this cycle. In this way each child is like every other child.

The Developmental Point of View means accepting children as total being. Their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual aspects of development depend on and support each other. These parts are not separate, and one cannot be stretched ahead of the others without upsetting the balance.

The Developmental Point of View means appreciating that readiness for any task has its roots in the biological/ maturational make-up of the child. We cannot produce, hurry, or ignore readiness. When children are ready, they will be born, walk, talk, and read.

The Developmental Point of View is a respect for the total "humanness" of children.

In Developmental Preschool the children will paint, move, sing, create, and learn many things through experiences. They will not work in workbooks or be asked to learn to write and read. Developmental Preschool will have a separate curriculum from kindergarten.

GENERAL GOALS OF PRESCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S

1. To acquaint the child with God and His love for him as the cornerstone of self-esteem.
2. To provide a caring, nurturing environment whereby a child sees himself as an individual of worth and uniqueness.
3. To provide a child with positive daily experiences so as to bring about an "I can do," and "I will try" attitude.
4. To help a child to function independent from his family and home and feel success.
5. To help a child develop relationships with "preschool friends" and refine social skills.
6. To build a positive attitude towards school and learning. New learning experiences are fun.
7. To increase a child's listening, observing and directional skills to set the tone for more formal growing and learning experiences.
8. To form a good liaison between home and school to benefit the child.

SPIRITUAL EXPOSURES

The overall goal is that young children will know Jesus as their Savior. Our monthly chapel service, along with daily simple Bible stories, songs, puppets, crafts, object lessons, fingerplays, are a variety of some of their experiences. It is our desire to nurture the child with God's love.

GOALS:

1. To develop a personal relationship with God.
2. To share God's love in relationships with others.
3. Appreciate God's wonder in our relationships with the world.

LOOK AT THEM LEARNING!

Learning with Art Materials

Pre-reading Skills: As children work with art materials, they make many choices. They visually discriminate between colors as they draw and paint, between shapes as they make collages and work with construction paper cutouts, and between textures as they work with fabric scraps. This ability to visually discriminate is a skill children need in the early stages of reading in order to discriminate between forms.

Pre-writing Skills: Children exercising the small muscles in their hand and fingers as they work with crayons, scissors, and paintbrushes. These fine motor skills prepare children to hold and control pencils when later forming letters and words.

Self-Expression: Art materials provide children with a safe way of expressing thoughts and feelings that they are not prepared to verbalize.

Learning through Sensory Table Play

Basic Science and Math Concepts: As children work at the sensory table, they are learning that the sensory items can be poured into different containers and it takes more beans/corn, etc. to fill a larger container. They can weigh the containers and see that one is heavier than the other.

Emotional Development: Sensory play has a soothing effect on many children. The feeling of the sensory items as they slide through their fingers help children to relax and relieve tension.

Learning through Block Play

Basic Math Concepts: Preschoolers gain skill in estimation as they consider how much space they will need for a block structure, how many blocks they will need to complete a block structure and how many blocks they will need in order to build a tower as tall as their neighbors. Children learn about balance and classifying as they group blocks according to size and shape.

Learning with Books

Pre-reading Skills: Children begin to understand that the symbols we recognize as letters have meaning, that sentences are read in a left-to-right pattern and that illustrations, as well as words, can be “read” for meaning.

LOOK AT THEM LEARNING! (continued)

Learning through Dramatic Play

Emotional Development: Dramatic play offers children safe avenues to explore their fears, anger and anxieties. By pretending to be doctors, kings, ladies, etc. they are given the opportunity to work through many of the issues they confront in their own lives.

Learning through Outdoor Play

Language Skills: As children climb, swing, run, and slide, they are talking, using language to create rules, and singing rhymes.

Social Skills: They learn to work at and resolve dilemmas such as who will have the next turn on the swing.

Learning through Group Time

Readiness Skills: The child learns to sit in a group and listen to the teacher and other children talk. Attention span increases, social skills develop (such as keeping hands to oneself) and the child's participation helps develop self-esteem and self confidence.



HIGH/SCOPE KEY EXPERIENCES

These experiences occur most often in active learning situations in which children have opportunities to make choices and decisions, manipulate materials, use language in personal meaningful ways, and receive appropriate adult support and guidance.

Social And Emotional Development

Making and expressing choices, plans, and decisions
Expressing and understanding feelings
Taking care of one's own needs
Understanding routines and expectations
Recognizing and solving problems
Being sensitive to the feelings of other persons
Building relationships with children and adults

Cognitive Development

Representation:

Recognizing objects by sound, touch, taste, and smell
Imitating actions and sounds
Relating pictures, photographs, and models to real places and things
Role-playing, pretending
Drawing and painting

Language:

Writing in various ways (drawing, scribbling, letter-like forms)
Having one's own language written down and read back
Reading in various ways: recognizing letters and some words
Having fun with language: listening to poems and stories

Classification

Sorting and matching
Noticing and describing how things are the same and how they are different
Distinguishing between "some" and "all"

Seriation:

Comparing along a single dimension: longer/shorter, rougher/smooth, etc.
Arranging several things in order along some dimension and describing the relationships: longest, shortest, etc.

HIGH/SCOPE KEY EXPERIENCES (continued)

Number:

Comparing number and amount: more/less, more/fewer
Counting objects as well as counting by rote (1-10)

Space:

Fitting things together and taking them apart
Learning to locate things in the classroom
Distinguishing and describing shapes

Movement:

Moving with objects
Expressing creativity in movement
Following movement directions

Time:

Starting and stopping an action on signal
Experiencing and describing different rates of movement
Experiencing and comparing time intervals
Using conventional time units, and observing that clock and calendars mark the passage of time

SCHEDULE

- 8:50-9:00 a.m. Children log in with clothespin on chart. They will look at books, puzzles, or other quiet activities for a few minutes.
- 9:00-9:25 a.m. We will gather together for Jesus Time. We will open with prayer, have a Bible story, sing some songs, say a Bible verse, and close with prayer. We will visit the Sanctuary for Chapel once a month.
Mystery Box and calendar.
Art and any special center activities are explained.
- 9:25-10:25 a.m. Work Time at centers (2 sensory tables, block corner, art center, math/science centers, writing center, book corner, dramatic play, and kitchen). The children will be working with an adult during part of this time on special projects for the day.
- 10:25-10:30 a.m. Children help clean up the room.
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Group Time (story and activities pertaining to the story or theme for the day. Units for the year: (Who Am I?, Family, Bears, Autumn, Feelings, Magnets, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Fairy Tales, Winter, Nursery Rhymes, Health, Wind, Easter, Spring and Plants.)
- 10:45-11:00 a.m. Snack and fill book bags.
- 11:00 11:10 a.m. Large Muscle (outside on the playground or play in classroom during inclement weather).
- 11:10-11:15 a.m. Closing song with instruments.

Children thrive on routine and knowing what is going to happen next is very important. This is our basic schedule. On occasion, the schedule will be adjusted to meet the needs of the day.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Age

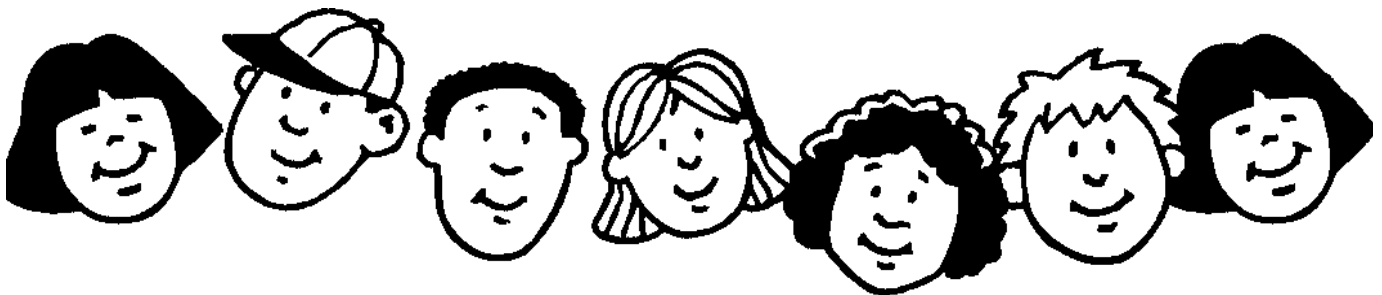
All children must be three by September 30th 2009 in order to enter the Three Year Old Preschool.

Forms

A number of forms must be completed by the parent before the child may attend the first day of class. These forms must be completed at the time of registration. A Preschool Preview provides the opportunity for the child to meet the teacher and become acquainted with the classroom environment. Any information which is missing from your child's forms may be completed at the Preschool Preview. In order for your child to be considered enrolled in the Three Year Old Preschool, a \$100 (non-refundable) commitment fee and the Three Year Old Enrollment form **must** be paid and turned in to the office.

Financial Commitment

By enrolling your child, you are personally accepting the responsibility for the timely and full payment of all registration fees and tuition for your child. If someone other than you is responsible for payment of all or any part of the fees or tuition for your child, then it is your responsibility to make arrangement, in advance, acceptable to the school office before you will be released from personal liability for this obligation.



GENERAL INFORMATION

The following is provided to answer some of your many questions. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Miss Mayer at home or at school.

Home Phone: (937) 642-2181

School Phone: (937) 644-5540 x122

Clothing

It is suggested that your child wear play clothes to school. We will be using water, sand, glitter, paint, and glue. While normal precautions will be taken (i.e. paint shirts), accidents can happen. Also, play type of rubber soled shoes must be worn. Feel free to have your child wear summer clothes if the weather is hot in the fall and spring. Shorts are acceptable. On nice winter days we may go outside, so please send your child to school in coat, hat, and gloves or mittens. It is a good idea to place your child's name inside his/her coat. Our room is adequately heated, but long sleeved shirts in winter are a good idea.

Snacks

Nutritious snacks are requested. Suggestions are cheese/crackers, popcorn, fresh fruit, banana bread, veggies/dip, cereal mix, muffins, jello, pudding, etc. When it is your child's birthday you may send cupcakes, cookies, etc.

Supplies

Supplies have been purchased for use by your child. A large bookbag (with a folder inside), with the child's name printed on it is needed. Please have a folder inside the bookbag for daily communication papers.

Student Evaluations

In November and March, each child will be tested one-on-one to evaluate gross motor, fine motor, cognitive, and social skills. Opportunities for parent conferences will be held in November and March.

Inclement Weather

Delay, whether fog, or ice, **do not affect the preschool classes.**

Parents provide the transportation, therefore they are the decision makers. Preschool classes **will be cancelled when Marysville AND/OR Fairbanks close due to inclement weather.** Local TV stations such as Channel 4, 6 or 10 (www.10tv.com) will show up to the minute cancellations. ****On those "iffy" weather days, please check the TV between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m.****

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

At times, there may be reasons why a child is withdrawn from our program. If for any reason (financial or personal) a parent decides to withdraw their child from the class, we need to be informed at least **10 days** in advance to keep our records in order. Please notify our school secretary; Charlene McKay if you are planning on withdrawing your child. She may be reached at 937-644-5540 x100 or cmckay@stjohnsmarysville.org

Also, if a child has **not** been attending class for more than 10 school days, and we do **not** receive information regarding the reason for absence, we will assume the child has withdrawn from the program and will take their name off the master list.

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

St. John's Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school administered programs.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

Parents are requested to bring their child into and out of the school/church building. Please notify the teacher if a different person will be picking up your child. Authorization Forms that were filled out with the enrollment papers, must have any guardian/caregiver written on the form in order for us to release your child to them. This is for safety reasons and would encourage you to let the teacher know if a name needs to be added or deleted from the Authorization Form. We **will** check ID's when a new person first picks up the child that we do not recognize, for the safety of the child and school. Thank you.

PARENTAL ROLE

You are the most important people in your child's life. Your support and encouragement of school and church activities are vital to develop good attitudes in your child.

Try to check your child's book bag each day. All important notes and news will be in the bag. Each day the teacher will be sending home a note about our activities for that day. It would also be rewarding to your child if you could find an "important" place to display your child's preschool projects for a short period of time.

You are welcome any time in the preschool room. Extra help is appreciated. At the Three Year Old Preschool Preview in September, a sign-up sheet will be available for anyone who is interested in helping. This could be on a regular or occasional basis. Some of you may not be able to help because of other commitments, but sometimes a relative, friend, or neighbor is interested in helping. Please check with these people before you give me their name.

HEALTH RULES

If your child has a sore throat, cough, ear ache, discharge from the ear or nose, skin rash, eye infection, or a temperature above 98.6 degrees, he/she should **NOT** come to school. Please consider the other children your child will come into contact with, and use your better judgement and keep your child home.

Please notify the school office or the teacher when your child has a communicable disease, so that the other parents may be warned that their child may have been in contact with it.

For the following diseases your child should be kept home from school for the indicated number of days:

CHICKEN POX. Excluded 10 days from first appearance of rash.

MEASLES. Excluded 5 days after appearance of rash.

MUMPS. Excluded until all swelling has disappeared.

No written excuse is needed if your child has missed school. **Please call the school office secretary; Charlene McKay at 644-5540 x100, the morning of the day your child is sick.**

COMMUNICATION

A brief newsletter/plans will be sent home each day. Any other news going home will also be placed in your child's bag. Please read all notes sent home. To facilitate communication from parent to teacher, please pin any notes to the outside of your child's bag. Thank you.

*Every child born into the world is a new thought of God,
An ever-fresh and radiant possibility.*

Kate Douglas Wiggin

*A child more than all other gifts
That God can offer to man
Brings hope with it, and
Forward-looking thoughts.*

William Wordsworth

Children are indeed a precious gift from God. We pray that the Three Year Old Preschool program at St. John's is an effective tool for you as you continue to nurture and feed your child spiritually. May your child continue to grow in his/her love for God and become all that God intends them to be.