

Welcome to Lakewood Christian Preschool

We're so glad to have you as a part of our school family. A love for children and the desire to serve the families in our community led to the establishment of our Preschool in 1978 by Mary Graves-Neufeld. Our program was developed to provide a safe, nurturing environment where children learn that they are loved by God, that school is an exciting place to be, and where they can develop confidence in their abilities.

Care and preparation have gone into making your child's early school experience positive, well balanced and Christ centered. Our program provides learning experiences in an atmosphere of play to encourage your child's spiritual, social, physical, and cognitive growth. Our teachers are well trained in early childhood education and continue to keep current and challenged in this field. We are certified in CPR and pediatric first aid and committed to providing a secure, supportive and loving environment.

You are your child's first and most important teacher and we're looking forward to a wonderful year as we work together to meet the educational and spiritual needs of your child. The information in this handbook will help you throughout our school year. Please read it carefully and keep it as a reference.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child. It is a privilege to work along side you as we watch them grow and learn.

Sincerely,

Lori Mylar
Preschool Director

Mission Statement

To serve the families of our church and community by providing an enrichment program for young children that emphasizes learning through play, a developmentally appropriate curriculum, and a genuine respect for each child's unique character and individual growth rate. Our program is based on the truths of God's Word (the foundation of all learning) taught through Bible stories, guided conversation and by example. Parents are valued as a child's first and most important teachers, and parent education is a vital component of our program.

Psalm 78:4,6,7

...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done.

...so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands.

Our Educational Philosophy

To sum up the complex phenomena of learning and development in a few words is a difficult task. Simply put, we believe that children learn best in an environment that is safe and loving, where they can initiate meaningful activities that are age appropriate and teacher supported, in an atmosphere of play. This is the "developmental" perspective of early childhood education. It is an individual process that follows each child's own timetable within a predictable age range.

The developmental process encompasses the whole child:

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

We provide activities that help develop both large (legs, arms, back) and small (fingers, eyes) muscle control. These physical activities build neurological pathways in the brain that are necessary before the child can successfully proceed to the higher levels of formal education.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We plan activities (dramatic play, conversation, creative story dictation) that help children make sense of the world around them while they learn to care for others and develop the important skills of cooperation and problem solving.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Guiding and encouraging children through activities and situations that help develop confidence, self-help skills and a better understanding of self, family and culture.

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

Working with each individual child's strengths and needs, we strive to provide activities that promote a life long love of learning by encouraging creativity, curiosity, and the growth of the child's emerging skills in literacy, language, investigation and math.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

In simple, age appropriate ways, through Bible stories, prayer, the Christian example of their teachers and by encouraging the development of positive character traits (kindness, obedience, forgiveness), we provide opportunities for each child to grow in their understanding of God and His love for us.

Schedule for the First Days of School

The first two (2) days of school are minimum days:

Monday, September 10, Monday-Wednesday-Friday students will attend

Tuesday, September 11, Tuesday-Thursday students and Monday-Friday (5 day) students will attend.

On the first day of school, each child will attend for only half a session. Please plan to stay with your child. Your presence will greatly contribute to a secure beginning. There will be no extended care on the first two days of school.

You will receive your First Day date and time at Parent Orientation. You will be able to make changes at that time.

Regular Daily Procedures

The parent, or a person designated by the parent, will sign-in the child on the appropriate class list at the front desk and accompany the preschooler to the preschool hallway. Each morning, please stay with your child until the preschool director or your child's classroom teacher has greeted him or her.

At the close of each school day, please sign-out your child on the class list at the front desk. Children may only be released to their parents or a person 18 years of age or older, designated by the parent and recorded on a permission sheet filed in the preschool office.

It is important to be on time to prevent your child from missing important activities each morning or from becoming anxious when he or she sees other children leaving at the end of the day.

Please notify us in writing of any changes in your address, phone number(s), emergency contacts, pick-up authorizations, etc. When you arrive at Preschool in the morning, please tell the director or secretary and the child's teacher of any changes. We will ask for picture identification from anyone we do not recognize who comes to pick-up a Preschool child. Please be sure we have the necessary information each day to reach you in case of an emergency.

Smooth Sailing

Tuition

Tuition is divided into ten monthly payments. The first tuition payment is due by June 10, preceding the school year. The remaining payments are due on the first of the month from September through May. A \$15.00 fee will be charged for payments received after the tenth of the month and for returned checks.

Payments may be made in the Preschool office Monday through Friday (except for school holidays) or online at *Gradelink.com*. If you mail your payment, please mark "Preschool" in the lower left corner of the envelope and on the memo portion of your check.

- Please make your check payable to Lakewood Christian Schools Preschool or LCS Preschool.
- Note on your check "Preschool Tuition."
- If you make a cash payment, please bring the exact amount as we don't usually have cash to make change.

Parent Fellowship

The parents of all the children enrolled in our Preschool are members of our Parent Fellowship. Members have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Meet with the Director before enrolling their child in Preschool.
2. Attend each regular membership meeting. (We ask that at least one parent attend each meeting.) Please see our school calendar for dates.
3. Observe their child at Preschool one morning during the year.

The parent-child observation mentioned above will be scheduled between January and June. Parents observe from 9:00-10:30 AM and complete an observation sheet. A parent-teacher conference will also be scheduled on the day of your observation.

Clothing

Please dress your child in comfortable play clothes. Preschoolers will be painting, climbing, jumping, running, and playing in sand. We hope they will be completely engaged in these activities without concerns about their clothing. Please dress your child in clothing that promotes positive role models and healthy play. We've found that some action character clothing can contribute to aggressive play or cause fear in young children.

It is important that your preschooler wears shoes that are safe and will not inhibit active outdoor play. Closed-toe, rubber-soled shoes are necessary. **Please keep boots, sandals, flip-flops, and party shoes for other occasions.**

Please put your child's name in their jackets, sweaters, umbrellas, lunch boxes and backpacks.

Sharing Time

Children may bring items from nature (seashells, flowers, leaves, rocks, caged small pets, or photographs) for our *God's Wonders* table in each class. Please keep in mind that these objects may be handled by preschoolers. All toys, candy, gum and money need to stay at home. The concept of sharing is learned in a classroom setting where the toys belong to all of the children.

Each child will need:

1. A hand towel with their name printed on it.
2. A change of clothes (an older pair of shorts, shirt, underpants and socks) folded and put into a gallon sized Ziploc bag, marked with their name.
3. An earthquake kit (see handout from Parent Orientation.)
4. A baby picture and a picture of their family.

These items will be returned at the end of the year.

We also greatly appreciate a box of tissues and/or a container of wipes for use in your classroom. You can probably guess that we go through these items very quickly.

The Lunch Bunch

From pick-up time, 11:45 a.m., until 12:45 p.m. your Preschooler may bring a lunch from home and stay an hour longer with our Lunch Bunch.

A Lunch Bunch ticket for 12 lunch dates may be purchased in the Preschool office for \$50. Milk, juice and water are provided by Preschool to go along with a lunch brought from home. The 12 lunch dates may be used consecutively or spaced throughout the school year. When your child has used all the lunch dates on their ticket, a new ticket may be purchased.

Our Lunch Bunch Schedule

11:40 - Noon	We use the restrooms and wash hands. We'll sit together in our outdoor play area when weather permits. A play area will be set up indoors on rainy days.
Noon - 12:20	We thank God for our food and then eat our lunch together. During lunch we talk together about our day at Preschool, and sometimes we discuss good manners and healthy eating habits.
12:20 - 12:40	Outdoor play: balls, games, blocks, bikes, etc.
12:40 - 12:45	We cleanup and play together until each child is picked-up. It is important that you arrive on time, 12:45 pm. Preschoolers are worn-out by this time and ready to rest.

Suggestions:

Preschoolers do not usually eat big lunches. A half sandwich or a small yogurt, fruit, one cookie, and a drink (which will be provided), are plenty. Candy, sodas and toys will be sent home. Lunchables look SO yummy, but are rarely as good as they look. Also, children absolutely LOVE getting notes in their lunch from you!

Please do not send a thermos as they so often leak and attract ants. Preschool will provide milk, 100% fruit juice and ice water each day. Please send ONLY food your child can easily open and clean-up all by themselves. We'll be there to assist and encourage!

Lunch Bunch begins on the third week of preschool each fall, except for those children enrolled in our extended care program, and space is limited.

Celebrating Birthdays at Preschool

Birthdays are very important to Preschoolers. We celebrate every child's birthday by singing to the birthday child and saying a prayer of thanks to God for His loving care of our birthday friend.

If you choose to, you may celebrate your child's birthday at Preschool by helping in the following ways:

1. Provide a small, nutritious birthday snack for your class (15 children, 2 teachers).
2. Donate a birthday book.

Birthday books are kept in the office. Miss Heidi can help you with your choice. There are many reasonably priced paperback books. Purchase the book at the preschool office, take it home and read it to your child. Then, on the day of your child's celebration at Preschool, wrap the book and bring it to school as your child's gift to preschool. We will write in each book "Presented to my school by _____, in honor of my 4th/5th/6th birthday, xx-xx-20xx." We appreciate all the books donated over the past years. They have provided wonderful reading experiences for many, many years.

Important Guidelines

Note: It is necessary for birthday snacks to be nutritious. Fruit, cheese, trail mix, vegetables, frozen yogurt, mini muffins, popcorn, are all good choices. Cups and napkins are provided by school, or you may bring birthday cups and napkins.

If your child's birthday is during the summer, you may choose another date to celebrate during the school year.

Not every child will celebrate with a snack brought from home or a Birthday Book. This is not an obligation. We will acknowledge every child's birthday throughout the year as we eat together during our daily snack time.

Invitations to birthday parties may be passed out at Preschool only if the whole class or all the girls or all the boys are invited.

Note: Balloons, party favors, candy, cupcakes, cookies, and sugary punch are not appropriate for our Preschool.

Curriculum Outline for the Year

Month	Emphasis	Bible Emphasis
September	Summer Fun	Creation
October	Ourselves: body awareness five senses height - weight family	Stories of Joseph
November	Colors and shapes Autumn	Stories of Moses and the children of Israel. God's gifts and His loving care.
December	Christmas Jesus' birthday	Stories of the Annunciation, Jesus birth, shepherds, wisemen. God's best gift, His Son.
January	Winter Transportation	The boyhood of Jesus.
February	Friendship-Valentine's Day Animal Friends Wild Animals (Pre-K)	Jesus, our best friend. Stories of Jesus healing and helping others.
March	Insects (bugs) Spring	Stories of Jesus' miracles.
April	Easter - Jesus is living! Farm Dinosaurs (Pre-K)	Stories of Resurrection, Ascension and Second coming.
May	Mothers Community Helpers: mailman, police officer doctor, nurse, firefighter(5's) and others according to occupations of parents in the classes.	Stories of Jesus (3's and 4's) Stories of David
June	Dads Our Country	Stories of Jesus (3's and 4's) Stories of David (5's)

Lakewood Christian Preschool

Foundational Truths

1. God made all things.
2. God loves me.
3. The Bible, God's Word, is true.
4. Jesus is my friend, helper, and example.
5. Prayer is talking and listening to God.
6. God hears and answers my prayers.
7. Jesus, the Son of God, died for my sins and lives forever.
8. I become God's child by believing in Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit then lives in me.
9. God has a home for me in heaven.
10. God wants me to love others.
11. God wants me to love, thank and praise Him.
12. God is always good, kind, right and all powerful.
13. God is my Heavenly Father.
14. God is everywhere all the time.

Lakewood Christian Preschool

Earthquake Preparation

We're making additional preparation for earthquake safety by asking each family to bring the following items:

- 2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., pull-top can of tuna, fruit, beans, meat or similar items.
- 2 6 or 8 oz. can of juice or bottled water.
- 2 Granola or breakfast type bar (please no chocolate).
- 2 Small pkg. of tissue or hand wipes.
- 2 Plastic spoons or fork.
- 1 Sweatshirt or Solar Blanket (available at sporting goods).
- 1 A picture of your family.
- 1 Note from Mom or Dad to comfort and reassure your child.

Please adjust the kit items according to personal considerations. The items must have a shelf life of 9 months. All kits will be returned to parents in June. **Our storage is limited and prohibits anything larger than a one gallon Ziploc bag.** Please put items in a tightly sealed ziploc bag to prevent ants and label with your child's name.

Helpful Ideas for Preschool Parents

It is almost impossible to judge beforehand just how your child will react to his or her first Preschool experience. Some adjust within an hour, others may take a few weeks, while still others fit in well at first and then need help later.

These are suggestions, gathered from some various experts that may be helpful.

- In preparing your child for Preschool, be careful of overselling the experience or of confusing your child with too many details of what school will be like.
- In the classroom, pay attention to your own child (it is hard for your child to share you with others).
- The adjustment period will vary greatly in individual children. Discuss with the teacher the steps your child seems ready to take in this new experience.
- Expect your child to be tired and fussy the first few weeks. He is making a vast adjustment. Please don't get discouraged.
- Don't expect great concentration at first, especially in younger children.
- It will take some time for routines to be established. Cooperation in routines will be encouraged, but not demanded.
- Children's rate of growth varies, as well as their interests, abilities and personalities. Don't be uncomfortable if your three-year-old does not paint, climb, cooperate, etc. as well as other children---even younger children.
- When he seems ready to say goodbye, tell him that you are going to leave to do some other activity with which he is familiar, and then leave. Please don't try to avoid tears by leaving without saying goodbye, and always leave him/her with the assurance that you will return soon. Try to return about 15 minutes earlier than the normal time school is over during the first days of school, so that your child doesn't feel forgotten when he sees other children leaving with their family.

Just put yourself in your child's place, and try to understand how your child feels being left with all new faces of children and adults in a new environment.

Points to Remember While Observing Your Child As They Interact with Other Children

From LBCC Childhood Learning Center

- A. Playmates - The playmates your child will find in Preschool are:
1. Children who are near his age.
 - a. They are interested in the same toys and activities.
 - b. They want to play near and with other children.
 - c. They have the ability to do the same or similar thing and tend to develop in similar ways.
 2. Children who have their own individual differences in personality and rate of growth.
 - a. Each child has specific as well as general needs for social and emotional growth.
 - b. Each child needs to play with others to develop self-confidence, self-respect and basic skills.
- B. Playthings - The playthings your child will find in Preschool are:
1. Raw materials from which he can make things (sand, clay, paper, wood).
 2. Tools with which he can make things (shovels, sand, toys, crayons, paints).
 3. Equipment of many uses (blocks, boards, ladders, boxes, etc.).
 4. Equipment to help in his physical development in climbing, pulling, lifting (steps, wagons, blocks, etc.).

Generally speaking, the equipment provided is on the level of the child's development. He is helped to use it to the best of his ability so that he has success. He will have some failures and will be helped to learn from them. His use of the equipment helps him to develop physically, socially, emotionally and mentally.

- C. Relationships - Your child's relations with other children and adults in the group give him a sense of belonging, strengthen his confidence, and help him to realize how others feel.
1. It may take some time for your child to feel "at home." You need not feel disturbed, for by observing and playing alone for awhile, he will gradually accept the group experience.
 2. For the child, watching is a form of participation. It is usually a stepping-stone to activity.

3. You may wonder why your child is not told what to do after he is welcomed into the group. Left to do what he feels safe in doing, his own interest will gradually draw him into the group situation when he is ready for it. If he can start in this way, he will have taken the first steps toward learning self-reliance. It is a revealing process to the adult since his aptitudes and interests are manifest in his efforts to become a part of the group.
4. Each of us is revealing himself constantly: we to our children - they to us. Even young children may learn to know us while we try to know them. They often observe us while we watch them. As we learn to observe them more accurately, we can guide them more wisely.
5. Note all distinguishing conduct such as initiative, imitation, and curiosity.

Note: You may notice increased fatigue, aggressiveness, or dependence in your child at home for a short while after he starts Pre-School. These are natural reactions and will pass. Give him a little extra rest, attention, and affection to help him through the period of adjustment to the new experiences.

6. Early recognition of symptoms of jealousy, fear, flippancy, self-pity, withdrawal, etc., provides a chance to use wise guidance, which will prove invaluable to later happiness.

D. Learning Techniques With Objects - How do we try to help a child learn the use of playthings?

1. Supply suitable playthings.
2. Arrange experiences which will give ideas for play.
3. Help him to think things out for himself even if they are a little hard - to grow to be self-reliant.
4. See that the child learns to handle himself and equipment with satisfaction to him, and that too many failures are avoided. Both success and failure teach us as nothing else can.
5. If toys are being broken and badly used, help the child to find a better way to use them. The plaything or the child may be removed from the group if he is not having a constructive experience.

Your child needs to be resourceful so that he can play without depending on grown-ups, either by himself or with the other children, depending on his age. Organized games are seldom, if ever, used at this age, because they tend to inhibit unique expression in each child and his resourcefulness.

E. *Social Guidance and Techniques* - How is your child helped to have wholesome relationships with other children?

1. By learning a few rules of the group, such as:
 - a. All playthings belong to the group.
 - b. Things may not be taken from children who are using them - taking turns is a way of giving each child everything.
 - c. Play which is dangerous or disturbing may not be carried on.
 - d. As often as possible, children settle their own differences. Timid children are encouraged to defend themselves. Bullies are helped by leaving the group for a time. Whenever guidance will help, the teacher participates.
2. By encouraging spontaneous play. Equipment may be arranged so that group effort becomes possible.
3. By removing a child from the group when he is unable to cooperate in an acceptable way. Arranging for him to return soon to the group and showing him better ways of behavior.

Try To Avoid:

1. Visiting with other class members or the teachers.
2. Laughing at or interfering with any activity of the children.
3. Making any comment concerning a child in his presence.
4. Gasping or exclaiming if a child is hurt or in danger, as your excitement may cause the situation to be serious.
5. Directing a child's play.

You Can Cooperate by:

1. Protecting any child in an emergency.
2. Being especially quiet during snack time, rest period, any story or music. It is disturbing to both teachers and children if there is confusion at these times.

You Need Not Be Disturbed if:

1. Your child is shy or timid.
2. He/she refuses snack or does not lie quietly during the rest period.
3. If he/she does not join the "listening C" times during the first days.

Your child may have to study his new environment and appraise these new experiences before he participates actively.

You Need Not Be Embarrassed if:

1. He takes toys from others.
2. He refuses to take turns or share.
3. He hits or pushes.

These are learning situations for your child. If his social learning was complete, he would be a superior adult now.

Words of Encouragement from
Long Beach City College Early Childhood Development Center

In general, during the days building up to the first day of preschool, try to set a pattern of cheerfulness and serenity. The grown-up who understands young children, guards herself against feeling hurt over what a child may do. She does not take young behavior personally, but sees it as a part of growth and learning. She is interested in the changes which a child is able to bring about. As far as possible, she will see that each child has a chance to practice the behavior that seems to be of special importance to him at the time, whether it be with playthings, getting along with other children, learning to control himself, or taking care of himself. None of these things can be learned simply by telling him to do them. He must have a chance to experiment with a variety of materials and in many situations. He should be free to derive his own unique satisfactions from them and from association with adults and with children both older and younger than he. He needs to feel accepted and appreciated for spontaneous behavior which meets his own needs and those of the group. He needs specific praise to know that he is valued by others.

Long Beach Community College

Child Development - Parent Education

Spiritual Development in Preschoolers

Preschoolers are learning:

...About God

God made all things.
God made me.
God loves me.
God cares for me.
God uses people to care for me.
God is with me all the time.
God hears me when I pray.
God knows what is best for me.
God forgives me when I am sorry.

...About Jesus

Jesus is God's Son.
God sent His Son to earth.
Jesus was once a child, growing
as other children do.
Jesus is now in Heaven with God.
Jesus loves me.
Jesus is my friend.

...About the Bible

The Bible is God's book
The Bible is a special book
The Bible is true
The Bible tells about God and Jesus.
The Bible tells me how to do what is right
.

...About Home

God gave me my home.
God gave me my father, mother,
sister, brothers.
God gave me my grandparents
and other relatives.
I can help at home.

...About Pleasing God

God wants me to be kind.
God wants me to share.
God wants me to love everyone.
God wants me to obey my
Parents.
God wants me to be a helper.

...About The Church

I can learn about God at church.
We have happy times at church.
God's helpers work here.
I can help at church.
I can bring gifts here to show I
love God.
I can invite people to my church.

...A World View

God loves all the children in the world.

Some children do not know about God.

I can tell friends and neighbors that God loves them

I can share what I know about God with others

I can pray for others

MANUSCRIPT WRITING GUIDE SHEET FOR PARENTS

Manuscript writing is introduced to most children in Kindergarten. One of the major reasons for not teaching writing sooner is that the coordination and fine muscle development needed for writing are a part of the developmental process involving growth and maturity.

A first step in writing is observation, and Preschool children do have the opportunity to observe as the teacher writes their names on their art work and as she records simple captions or stories which they will occasionally dictate to her. The child's name is printed in the upper left-hand corner of the paper, taking the child's eyes to the left and building a reading readiness skill.

Your child will also be encouraged each day to paint, draw and write his name and other symbols, activities that build fine motor skills necessary for writing and reading.