

Tabernacle Preschool **Parent Handbook**



"...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

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Preschool During a Pandemic

This school year will require us to be very fluid with our policies and procedures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. **All policies and procedures previously in place will be SUPERSEDED by whatever the current requirements are. All policies are subject to change.** We anticipate there may be changes throughout the year, so please make sure you read all communication we send home.

Our Parent Handbook includes this special section to address specific policies/changes as a result of the pandemic. The regular section of our handbook has some strikethroughs to indicate what is different and some sections that indicate policies have been put on hold.

At this time we are following requirements set forth by the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) and the guidance of Craven County Health Department. We are providing the guidelines that the preschool will be using as taken directly from the NC DHHS and the ChildCare Strong NC Public Health Toolkit, updated July 29, 2021.

We realize that even with all the precautions, it is not possible to remove all risk of COVID-19 transmission to you or other persons. However, if we all cooperate, work together and responsibly follow the guidelines, we can certainly help mitigate the risk while giving our children a chance to fully engage in a healthy preschool environment.

Drop-Off Arrival Procedures

- Ask people with any Covid-19 exposure or symptoms NOT to enter the building
- Encourage adults to wear a face mask during interactions at arrival and dismissal. Face masks are not required of all adults but are welcome and encouraged
- Staff will be required to wear masks during arrival and dismissal
- Hand Hygiene stations will be set up at entrance

Monitoring for Symptoms

- Ask families to conduct daily home-based monitoring of symptoms before drop off and keep children home if they, or anyone in the household, is symptomatic
- Not allow anyone to enter the facility if they have tested positive for Covid-19; are showing Covid-19 symptoms (fever, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new cough, new loss of taste or smell, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea); or if they have recently had close contact (within 6 feet, for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before symptoms began) with a person with Covid-19
- Staff will conduct a health check each day of the child in the classroom before the parent leaves, to determine whether the child has had any signs or symptoms of other illness or injury, accidents, unusual events, mood or behavior changes
- Support staff to stay home if sick

Returning to Facility after sickness for child or Staff

- The Craven County Health Department will be consulted as issues arise and we will follow their guidance for each individual case. General guidelines are detailed in "COVID-19 exclusion chart/returning to child care"
- At this time exclusion from preschool is required for fever, chills, difficulty breathing, new cough, or new loss of taste or smell
- Symptoms like sore throat, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea will follow our regular sick policy and requires waiting at least 24 hours (**without medication**) to see if symptoms subside
- **One of the biggest symptoms we are asking our families to monitor is general malaise or fatigue, or just don't feel good. In that case, due to COVID-19, we ask that you keep your child home to make sure it doesn't turn into something bigger. As all of us parents know, sometimes our children are most contagious when we don't even know they are sick. Therefore, we are asking ALL families to be extra vigilant in monitoring your child and to PLEASE err on the side of caution.**

Preventing Spread in the Classroom

- Children will not be required to wear masks, but are welcome to at the parent's discretion, provided the mask fits properly, the child is comfortable with wearing the mask and is not continually removing the mask and setting it aside
- Since we will be cohorting classrooms, we will NOT be requiring social distancing of the children within the classroom
- Restrict teachers to one classroom with one group of children as much as possible.
- Keep each group of children in their assigned rooms throughout the day
- Limit mixing of children as much as possible; stagger use of communal spaces such as playground and gym; minimize items shared by groups
- Keep a designated bin for separating mouthed toys and maintain awareness of children's behaviors. Clean and sanitize toys before returning to children's area
- Discontinue activities that involve bringing together large groups of children
- Discontinue use of drinking directly from water fountains
- Limit nonessential visitors. Access will be allowed for professionals who support children with special health care needs and/or behavioral/mental health needs to provide services and/or assessment; and for early intervention service coordinators and providers for children with Individualized Family Services Plans. When providers are in the classroom, adults will be required to wear masks; exceptions will be allowed for Speech Therapists who are relying on verbal clarity and visual demonstrations as part of their support methods

Cleaning and Hygiene

- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors
- Allow time between activities for proper cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces
- Teach and reinforce hand hygiene guidance for ADULTS and CHILDREN such as washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (about as long as it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice). Monitor to ensure both children and staff are washing hands correctly. In addition to usual handwashing, everyone should wash/sanitize hands:
 - Upon arrival in the classroom in the morning
 - Before and after eating snacks
 - After blowing noses, coughing, or sneezing or when in contact with bodily fluids
 - After toileting or changing diapers
- Encourage people to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue
- Encourage people to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Incorporate frequent handwashing and sanitation breaks into classroom day
- Hand sanitizing products with 60 percent alcohol may be used in lieu of handwashing when outdoors. Hand washing should be used for diapering, eating, preparing and serving food
- Clean and sanitize all toys at the end of the day
- Consider removing soft toys that cannot be easily cleaned
- Toys and other items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized/disinfected should not be used. (Children's books are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection.)
- Clean and disinfect shared tools, supplies, and equipment
- Minimize use of shared supplies and label individual supplies and items

WELCOME!

We are so glad that you have chosen Tabernacle Preschool to be a part of your child's life. Your child is very special to us. We pray that this year will be a significant building block in your child's life. This handbook has been prepared for you so that you may better understand the program we offer. Please read it carefully and keep it for continued reference during the year. **After reading, please sign the form paper clipped to this handbook and return to your child's teacher or the director.**

Tabernacle Preschool is a private, non-profit ministry of the church. It was founded to provide a caring, Christian environment for preschool children of our church family and families in the community. The preschool gives us an opportunity to be good stewards of our building, equipment and talent.

Our program is designed to help young children develop healthy self-concepts, to become independent individuals, and to use their eager minds to explore their world. Our curriculum provides developmentally-appropriate learning activities for your child as he or she develops physically, cognitively, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Because children learn through play, many of the activities will appear to be just that; however, a learning concept is always involved. As we strive to prepare children for formal schooling, it is our goal to model and teach Christian values and to provide a Christian foundation upon which a lifetime of learning will be built.

With the family unit being of primary importance in the development of the child, we believe it is our responsibility to help foster a partnership between parents and the preschool. We will do this by establishing a mutual respect for the home-school relationship and by encouraging open communication between parents and staff. We know that you are concerned with your child's development, therefore, we encourage your feedback. Please share your ideas, praises and concerns with the staff.

If you need to contact us, you may call the preschool office at 252-636-0680 or 252-637-4166 (x301). You may also email us at susan@tabernaclebaptist.com. Information and updates are available on our church's website www.tabernaclebaptist.com/preschool and our preschool Facebook site www.facebook.com/TabernaclePreschool1.

About our program

Tabernacle Preschool is a half-day preschool program serving children from Toddlers through PreK. Class hours are from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Admissions

Children who are ages 1 through 5 are eligible to enroll. There is a class for each age group. **Each child's class will be determined by the age of the child on August 31st.** This date is the cut-off date for the North Carolina Public School System. Children do not advance during the school year when they have their birthday; they will remain with the same class throughout the school year.

The director fills the classes on a first-come, first-serve basis according to the date of enrollment. The director will place the child's name on the waiting list should the class be filled when the parent wishes to register their child. The director will also fill vacancies as they occur from this waiting list or from new registrations.

Children with Special Needs

All children are welcome at Tabernacle Preschool. If a child has known special needs at the time of enrollment, an initial parent interview is necessary to ensure that Tabernacle Preschool is an appropriate setting for the child. A special care plan will be developed with the parents to assist the staff in meeting the child's needs. A four week trial period will be given to assess the child's

adjustment to Tabernacle Preschool and to assess the preschool's ability to meet the child's needs given training, class ratio, and class dynamics.

Withdrawals

Please give a thirty day written notice if a child will be withdrawn from the preschool program.

Dismissals

The preschool reserves the right to dismiss a child for the following reasons:

- Missed tuition payments
- The inability to adjust to the preschool environment at the expense of the other preschoolers
- Behavior or needs that are beyond the preschool's ability to accommodate, given staff training, staff ratio, and physical setting

Curriculum

Tabernacle Preschool believes that early childhood should be a time of fun, love, security, exploration and discovery. Understanding that preschool children are creative and receptive, we plan a curriculum that encourages these characteristics while facilitating development and spiritual growth. Teachers use the WEE Learn and Scripture Bites Curricula as the basis for planning, while supplementing the curriculum with developmental goals in the areas of language and vocabulary, cognition, fine and gross motor skills, social/ emotional, self-help, and perception. Concepts are taught using a variety of age-appropriate teaching strategies including: learning centers, stories, songs, creative art and craft activities, games, food preparation, science and nature activities, circle time, and share time. The teachers plan visitors, field trips, and special occasions as enrichments to the curriculum. Teachers post weekly lesson plans and daily schedules in each classroom.

Teachers are continuously assessing the classroom environment and daily activities to be sure they are age-appropriate and developmentally-appropriate. As a guide, we refer to Foundations: Early Learning Standards for NC Preschoolers, a publication by the Department of Public Instruction identifying what and how a preschooler should be learning. Teachers document the child's growth and development by completing assessments twice a year.

Our staff regularly attends continuing education workshops throughout the year to keep up to date on teaching practices, learning styles, new curriculum and trends, helps and ideas for the classroom, etc. Teachers in the Pre-K classes also attend Kindergarten Readiness seminars to stay abreast of the kindergarten curriculum and to be sure their classes are preparing the children for kindergarten. Teachers in the Pre-K classes will also be introducing the alphabet using the same phonics program that the Craven County kindergarten classes use.

Christian Curriculum

Our program provides additional opportunities for each child's spiritual growth by including the following in the curriculum:

- Weekly Bible stories and Biblical concepts
- Bible memory verses
- Chapel time on the 2nd, 4th and 5th weeks of each month (**on hold at this time**)
- Emphasis of Christian teachings during Christmas and Easter
- Thanks given to God during the celebration of Thanksgiving
- No celebration of Halloween
- Prayer for snacks, in special times of need, and to praise and thank God

Basic Spiritual Foundations

Tabernacle Preschool strives to help preschoolers develop a basic Christian approach to living through example, Bible stories and prayer. Below is a list of the concepts that are used in our teaching:

GOD

God is a person.
God made people.
God loves me.
God loves people.
People talk to God.
God wants people to worship him.

BIBLE

The Bible is a special book.
The Bible tells about Jesus.
The Bible helps people know how to live.
I can learn Bible verses.
The Bible has many stories.
The Christmas and Easter stories are in the Bible.
Stories in the Bible are true.

SELF

I am important.
I am important to God.
I can do many things.
I can make choices.
God wants me to take care of my body.
I can share.

COMMUNITY

People love and care for me.
People have different kinds of work to do.
God wants people to be kind to others.
I can help people around me.
Jesus wants the people around me to love him.

WORLD

People of other cultures are different than me.
God loves people around the world.
God showed everyone His love by sending Jesus.
Missionaries tell others about Jesus.

JESUS

Jesus is God's Son.
Jesus was a baby.
Jesus had a family.
Jesus loves people.
Jesus helped people.
Jesus grew.

CHURCH

I know other adults and children at church.
I can be a helper at church.
People go to different church buildings.
People at church love and care for me.
People use the Bible at church.
People at church help people in need.

FAMILY

I am a member of a family.
Family members help one another.
My family loves me.
Families work and play together.
I can obey my parents.
God planned for families.

GOD'S CREATION

God made people.
God provides food for people and animals.
God made the earth and sky.
God made the seasons.
God wants people to care for the things He made.

Tuitions and Fees

Please contact the preschool for the current prices.

Registration Fee

A Registration Fee is required for each child. This non-refundable fee will reserve a spot for your child in the class and is due at the time of registration.

Supply Fee

There is a one-time Supply Fee to cover the cost of materials used in the classroom. In the event a child registers late, or withdraws from the program, the supply fee will be pro-rated for the time the child is enrolled in the program.

Tuition

Tuition is to be paid on a monthly basis and is due on the 1st of each month. **Tuition is based on yearly costs and divided equally for each of nine months; therefore, tuitions are not pro-rated, and refunds are not given for holidays, vacations, illness, or inclement weather.**

Although Tabernacle Preschool is a ministry of the church, the ministry could not exist without the support of tuition payments. If extenuating circumstances arise in your family, please do not

hesitate to make payment arrangements with the director. We love each family and child and would like to work with you.

Late Fee

A grace period of ten days will be given for tuition payments. After the 10th of the month, a tuition reminder will be sent home and a \$15 late fee will be assessed. If restitution is not made by the 15th of the month, the child will not be allowed to attend until payment is made. The director may also choose to fill the spot from someone on the waiting list or from new registrations. Each month's tuition must be paid for a child to continue in attendance. If a parent has extenuating circumstances, a written request for approval of delayed payment or tuition assistance must be submitted to the Preschool Board explaining the situation.

Returned Check Fee

There is a \$25 fee on all returned checks. Payment for the amount due and the returned check fee must be made in cash. After two returned checks, all future payments must be made by cash, money order, or certified check.

Extended Absences and Withdrawals

Tuitions are not refundable or pro-rated due to illness, vacations, holidays and days missed due to inclement weather. Parents must give a 30 day notice in writing when withdrawing their child from the program. Parents are responsible for all tuitions due through the notice period.

Snacks

Each child is assigned to bring a snack one time per month for his/her class. If this is a financial burden, please let the classroom teacher know. Further information regarding snacks is in the "Items from Home" section.

Optional Expenses

Early Risers *(on hold at this time)*

Children who need to arrive before 8:55 am may be dropped off at our Early Risers program. This begins at 8:00 am each morning and children may be dropped off any time between 8:00 and 8:50. Children may take advantage of this option on a drop-in basis, or register for every day. There is an additional fee for the Early Risers program, please contact the preschool office for more information.

Scholastic Book Orders

Each month your child will bring home a flyer for books to purchase. The preschool earns points for each book ordered and is able to earn books for the classrooms. While there is no obligation to buy, every purchase adds books to the classroom.

School Pictures

School pictures are taken in the fall and in the spring. There is no obligation to purchase your child's school pictures. Tabernacle Preschool does receive a commission on the pictures ordered. This money is used to purchase items to enhance our units of study.

Lunch Bunch *(on hold at this time)*

Lunch Bunch will be held once per month for your child's preschool class. Pack a lunch for your child and he/she may stay until 1:00. You must sign up, pre-pay, and provide a lunch for your child to stay. Please do not send fast food for your child's lunch. Dismissal for children staying for lunch bunch will be at 1:00. Late fees will apply for parents not arriving to pick up their child by 1:00.

Classroom Magazines

Children in the Pre-K classes have the opportunity to subscribe to Let's Find Out magazine. Teachers include these magazines as part of their curriculum planning.

Craft Bags

Children in the Toddler and Two-Year-Old classes will have available a craft bag at a small charge, for the transport of daily art projects and notes.

Additional Optional Expenses

T-shirts, class wish lists, fundraisers

Drop Off and Pick Up

Arrival

Classes begin at 9:00. Parents are to escort their child to the classroom **no earlier than 8:55**. Teachers use the time before this for class preparation. In order to benefit most from the preschool experience, it is important that your child arrives on time. Parents are encouraged to let their child walk, rather than being carried, to the classroom.

Parents with other small children or infants are welcome to form a drop off line under our portico. A member of the preschool staff will be stationed at this entrance to watch your car and other children while you quickly escort your preschooler to class. If you do not have younger children/infants in your car, **DO NOT** pull up and park under the covered drop off area; you must park in a designated space. **The covered drop off area is reserved for parents who will be leaving a child in their vehicle for our staff attendant to monitor.** Thank you for your cooperation.

- **Families will only enter the building through the Family Life Center entrance under the portico**
- We will not be taking temperatures or health assessments as families enter the building, however we ask that anyone who is not feeling well to not enter the building
- Parents are not required to wear a mask; however **masks are encouraged, welcome and appreciated**
- Adults will not be allowed in the classroom; teachers will meet you at the classroom door
- Please be considerate of other families waiting to drop off and be quick with your goodbyes
- Please be considerate of other families and maintain social distancing in the hallway
- **Parents will exit the building using only the George Street entrance at the end of the preschool hall**

Late Arrivals

- Parents who arrive after 9:10 will go to the George Street entrance and ring the bell

Departure

Teachers escort their students to the Family Life Center for dismissal at 12:00. Parents are to form a carpool line to pick up their child upon dismissal using the George Street Entrance. A carpool line will form around and under the portico and exit through the same George Street Exit. Please note that this is the only method for picking up your child unless other arrangements have been made with the director.

Carpool Line Guidelines:

- Double lanes are made under the portico
- Children are brought to the first four cars under the portico
- **Wait in/by your car for your child.** Please do not come into the building. This will help avoid confusion and congestion
- Parents are responsible for securing the child safely into the car seat
- Car tags must be visible at all times for your child's safety. If a tag is not present and a staff member does not recognize the driver, a photo identification will be required. Requests for additional car tags can be made to your child's teacher
- On rare occasions we may not be able to utilize the carpool line due to other church activities. When this occurs, a sign will be posted in the carpool area and classroom doors with instructions on where to pick up your child

Early Pick Up:

If a child must be picked up early, please arrive before 11:45. Parents should go to the George Street entrance and ring the bell.

Authorization for Release

Only individuals who are designated on the preschool enrollment forms are authorized to pick up a child. If the person picking up the child is not recognized by staff, photo identification will be required. Names may be added or deleted at any time by giving written parental permission prior to pick up. Telephone permission will not be accepted for someone not already on the enrollment form. Please notify your child's teacher of any changes.

Late Pick Up

Dismissal is at 12:00. A parent will be considered late if they arrive after the last car has left the carpool line; after which a late fee of \$1 per minute will be assessed and must be paid on the next school day. Exceptions will only be made in the case of emergencies.

Behavior Management

Praise and positive reinforcement are effective methods of positive guidance. When young children experience positive interactions with adults they develop healthy self-concepts, learn problem-solving abilities and self-discipline. It is important that we train our children in the ways of the Lord at an early age. This includes distinguishing between right and wrong. During the preschool day, staff will encounter situations where they will be part of that great responsibility. The preschool will practice the following behavior management policy:

WE WILL:

- Praise and encourage good behavior
- Set reasonable limits and expectations for classroom behavior
- Redirect and provide alternatives for inappropriate behavior
- Provide concrete positive reinforcements such as stickers, a special privilege, etc.
- Model appropriate behavior
- Listen
- Treat children as people and respect their needs
- Stay consistent in our expectations and consequences
- Ask for parent suggestions
- Use "time out" when other possible alternatives have not been successful. "Time out" is the removal of a disruptive child from a situation. It can be slightly away from the group where the child can still see the group but not participate in it, or it can be in a quiet space away from the other children. If time out is used, the child will ALWAYS be supervised.

WE WILL NOT:

- Use any form of physical punishment
- Verbally devalue a child
- Leave a child unattended

If a child is having difficulty demonstrating appropriate classroom behavior on a regular basis, a parent/ teacher conference will be scheduled. An intervention plan to address classroom behavior will be developed. If there is a question regarding the appropriateness of the preschool setting for the child, a four-week trial period may be necessary.

Field Trips

(on hold at this time)

Field trips are an important part of our curriculum. They provide fun opportunities to learn about the community and experience concepts taught in the classroom. A permission form is signed at the beginning of the school year in the Enrollment Agreement that will give consent for neighborhood walks and trips to the public library. A separate signed permission form is required for additional field trips.

Volunteers

(on hold at this time)

Parents or other individuals are invited to spend time in the classroom to observe and participate. Parents are invited to volunteer their time, talents or material to help enrich our program. If you would like to be involved, please let the teacher or director know.

Confidentiality

Student records are only open to the director, the child's teacher and assistant, and parent/legal guardian.

Potty Training

Children in the Toddler and Two-Year-Old class do not have to be potty trained. Children in the Three-Year-Old class should be fully potty trained before the first day of school. We understand that accidents do happen, but they should be the exception, not the rule. Due to the nature of the learning process in the Three-Year-Old class, teachers cannot spend time away from the other children to continuously change and clean up "accidents". Children in the Pre-K class MUST be fully potty trained and able to do toileting with minimal assistance.

Health Policy

While your child is in our care, the preschool wants to ensure that your child is protected from contagious disease and injury. The following policies have been developed to prevent and address situations that may occur:

- An updated immunization record is required for each student. Each child should be current on required immunizations.
- A Physician Statement form is required for each student indicating any special needs and stating that the child is able to attend preschool.
- Allergies should be indicated on the General Information form and/or the Physician's Statement form. Food allergies will be posted in the classroom in the snack storage area and near the sink.
- An Emergency Treatment form must be signed and notarized authorizing the preschool to seek medical care if a parent or legal guardian cannot be reached.
- Upon arrival each morning, children are to wash their hands at the classroom sink and again after toileting, before eating, upon returning from the playground and throughout the morning as needed.
- Minor injuries will be cleaned and covered. An incident report requiring the parent's signature will be completed when a child is injured. A copy will be maintained in the child's file, and a copy will be sent home.

- **During this time of COVID-19 the guidelines are very specific that ANY child with the following symptoms must remain home:**

Fever or chills
Difficulty breathing
Shortness of breath

New Cough
New loss of taste or smell

- **In addition, if your child has any of these symptoms, we ask that you keep them home for at least 24 hours (without medication) to ensure symptoms do not escalate into something else**

Sore Throat
Nausea or vomiting
Diarrhea

New Congestion or runny nose
Headache
Lethargy/Just not feeling good

- **Please do not send your child to school if he/she has any of the above symptoms and please heed the wait time below for when to return if your child has:**

- chicken pox - *child will stay out at least 7 days after the first sign of outbreak*
- diarrhea - *may return after 24 hours diarrhea free without medication*
- fever **must be AT LEAST 48 hours fever free without medication to return**
- pink eye - *may return after eye has been cleared by medication*
- rash - *may return once rash has been determined not to be contagious*
- ringworm - *may return after 24 hours on medication*
- vomiting - *may return after 24 hours vomit free without medication*
- strep throat - *may return after 24 hours on medication*

- If a child becomes ill while at school, his/her teacher will notify the parent/guardian. The sick child will wait in our designated area to be picked up.

- ***If your child contracts or is exposed to any contagious disease, please notify the director.***
- ***If you or anyone in your family tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the director immediately. We will follow the guidance of the Craven County Health Department in determining how to proceed. Every COVID-19 situation is different so it is difficult to give a blanket statement that may cover every possibility.***
- If a child exhibits the following symptoms during the school day or upon arrival, parents will be contacted to pick up the child:

Fever	Diarrhea
Vomiting	Body rash with fever
Severe coughing	Eye discharge
Yellowish skin or eyes	Sore throat
- ***Child is irritable, continuously crying or requires more attention than we can provide.***
- Parents will be notified when the preschool has been exposed to a contagious disease.
- Please be sure to maintain current phone numbers, addresses and emergency information on file. Notify the director of any changes that should be made to the child's Enrollment Agreement or medical information.

Parent Communication

In an effort to be more environmentally-friendly and cost effective, the primary communication between school and parents will be electronic, through emails, texts and class remind apps. School-wide permission forms, preschool news, etc. will also be posted on the preschool's website. To access the preschool site, go to www.tabernaclebaptist.com/preschool

Parents are informed of classroom activities through newsletters. The parent newsletter will include monthly unit topics, class activities, suggestions for parents, and any preschool news. During the interim between newsletters, updates will be sent by the teacher through the Remind App. Teachers may also communicate with parents via email and text messages.

Marker boards are posted outside each classroom for daily activities. There are also bulletin boards on the preschool hall with information on upcoming events.

Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences may be scheduled at any time. Please contact your child's teacher directly to schedule an appointment. Scheduled conferences are planned for mid-year and end-of-year. Teachers will also contact parents by phone and/or email during the first month of school.

Grievances

We want your family's experience at preschool to be a great one. Your suggestions, opinions, and concerns are important to the staff of Tabernacle Preschool and we want to address them. Please take questions, concerns, or problems first to the classroom teacher. If the concern is not resolved, contact the Preschool Director. If the concern is still not resolved, contact a Preschool Board member. Contact the church office for the name and phone number of the Board chairman.

Church / Home Communication

The staff of Tabernacle Baptist Church is committed to the families of Tabernacle Preschool. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to visit us. If you would like more information about the church, would like a visit from the Pastor or one of the deacons, or would like someone to pray with you, please contact the Preschool Director or phone the church office at 252-637-4166 (x103). Periodically information will go home regarding activities at the church. All preschool families are welcome to join us at these events. These may include worship events, special children's activities, AWANA, Bible Studies, Vacation Bible School, etc.

Items from Home

Clothing

1. Dress your child in comfortable play clothes that he/she or the parent is not afraid of becoming soiled or ruined.
2. For safety reasons, your child should wear tennis shoes or shoes with a rubber sole. **Please do not send your child to school in flip-flops, sandals or slip-on shoes. Your child must always wear closed-toe shoes.**
3. We encourage independence. Please choose clothing that your child can fasten and unfasten.
4. Outside play is an important part of the day. Plan for your child to **play outside every day** unless it is raining. Monitor the weather and dress your child accordingly. Layers are best. Please be sure that as it becomes necessary for outerwear you **send a warm coat** so that your child may play outside comfortably.
5. All clothing items must be labeled with the child's name to ensure that your child's possessions are not lost.
6. It is recommended that girls wear bloomers or shorts under skirts or dresses.
7. Hats and gloves will not be worn in the classroom but are recommended for outside play during cold weather.

Snack

1. Children will be assigned to bring snack for their class once a month. A snack calendar will be sent home before the first day of the month. A copy will also be posted in the classroom as a reminder. Snack day is a very special day for your child so please mark it on your calendar. The snack should include enough food for the entire class, teacher and assistant. If you cannot provide snack on the assigned day, please let the classroom teacher know so other arrangements can be made. If your child is sick on his/her assigned day, the teacher will provide snack from our emergency supply. When your child returns to school, please bring a snack to replenish our emergency supply.
2. Often parents want to provide special snacks for their child's birthday. The snack calendar assignments will correspond as close to your child's birthday as possible to give you this opportunity. **Please note that party themes that reflect violence, aggression or rough play will not be allowed.** Party gifts or favors may only be distributed with the approval of the Director and if all children in the class are included. Invitations to private parties will not be distributed unless every child in the class is invited.
3. The preschool or classroom will also have seasonal and holiday celebrations that may require donations. A voluntary sign-up list for items will be posted a few days before the event.
4. Promoting good nutrition is an important aspect of our preschool program. Please select foods that are low in sugar, salt, and fat. A snack list will go home with your child's snack calendar. Please send enough for the number of children in the class, as well as two teachers.
5. **We are a nut-free preschool. Please do not send snacks or lunches containing nuts or peanut butter.**
6. Water will be provided for snack for all classes. Parents may choose to send in milk if preferred.
7. If a classmate has an allergy towards a certain food, please do not send those food products. Parents will be alerted to allergies without identifying the child.

Other Items

1. A book bag large enough to accommodate your child's projects should be sent each day. *Exception: children in the Toddler and Two Year Old classes have the option of using Craft Bags supplied by the preschool.*
2. Do not send pacifiers or sippy cups with your child. Cups are provided at snack time. Children in the Toddler Class may bring in sippy cups at the discretion of the teacher.
3. **Personal toys or other items from home should not be brought to school** with the exception of an item to be shared at group time. Items shared at group time will be a part of staff planning and parents will be notified in advance of these plans. Any other items will be returned to the parents or placed in the child's cubby until time to go home.
4. Please do not send your child to school with gum.

Inclement Weather

Tabernacle Preschool follows the Craven County Public School System's scheduling regarding cancellations due to inclement weather. **If Craven County Public Schools are delayed one or two hours, Tabernacle Preschool will open at 10:00 am with regular dismissal at noon. If Craven County Public Schools are delayed three hours, Tabernacle Preschool will be closed. If public schools are closed, we are closed.**

If threatening weather begins after Tabernacle Preschool opens, and Craven County Schools are closing, we will close 30 minutes prior to the time the schools have announced. Example: Craven County schools will close at noon, we will close at 11:30.

Please refer to radio and television bulletins for this information. If possible, closings will be posted on the preschool website. You can also call the Craven County School Board at 252-514-6300, or the preschool office at either 252-636-0680 or 252-637-4166 (x301).

If Craven County Schools are utilizing remote learning, your child's teacher will contact you through Remind or text regarding closings and delays.

Revised August, 2021