

# Welcome to Bright Start Preschool

It is the purpose of the preschool to provide a happy, healthy, Christian atmosphere in which children may grow emotionally, physically, socially, and intellectually.

## **Our goals are to help each child:**

- Learn social skills
- Share equipment and adult attention
- Grow in verbal expression
- Make a smooth transition from home to school
- Clean up after oneself
- Improve ability to complete tasks
- Develop an early appreciation of nature
- Experience the joy of books
- Participate in group activities
- Acquire pre-kindergarten skills (scissor handling, listening skills, pre-reading, turn taking, etc.)

Bright Start Preschool provides a loving and safe Christian environment for your child. Preschool can be an important factor in generating a lifelong love of learning and aiding the transition into kindergarten.

# All about Preschool

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

Children three - six years of age and **toilet trained**.

## **REGISTRATION:**

Enrollment is for the year on a first come, first serve basis. A child is considered registered when the non-refundable registration fee is paid.

In July/August, you will receive three forms to be filled out:

1. Medical Form
2. Enrollment Form
3. Consent Form

All forms should be returned by the first day of school. The medical form is kept on file and is good for two years. All children must be current on immunizations.

All church members receive a 10% discount on tuition.

Families with multiple children in the program receive a 10% discount for the second child.

**Tuition is due the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month** or can be prepaid for the semester/year. If the month's tuition has not been paid by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, a **\$10.00 late fee** will be assessed. Although some months are short due to vacation days, each month averages four weeks. **Checks should be made payable to Bright Start Preschool.** Tuition may be mailed to Bright Start Preschool, 818 Vermont Street, Quincy, IL 62301 or placed in the tuition box hanging in each classroom.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

4 Day Class: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (8:45am – 11:15am)  
3 Day Class: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (8:45am – 11:15am)

## **PARKING:**

Parking is available in the lot to the east of the church. As always, when children are present, please drive carefully.

## **ARIVAL and DEPARTURE:**

Our teachers are ready for students to arrive at 8:45am. **Doors will open at 8:40am – no sooner!** Safety is a top priority so always bring your child to the classroom and make sure the teacher knows your child has arrived.

Please pick up children promptly at 11:15am. Small children become anxious when parents do not arrive on time. If you have an emergency, please call to let us know that you will be late. Again, safety is of utmost importance. No one will be allowed to remove your child from school without your permission.

Doors to the preschool hallway are locked between the hours of 9:00am – 11:00am. If you arrive late or need to pick up your child early, please knock or call the preschool (222-6586) and a staff member will let you in.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Regular attendance at preschool is important. This develops good habits for later life. Only healthy children should be sent to school. **If any illness or symptoms are experienced in the past 24 hours (fever, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, eye discharge) your child should not attend school.** If your child will not be attending, please call us.

## **WITHDRAWAL:**

If it becomes necessary to withdraw your child for any reason, please notify your child's teacher. The space is yours for as long as you need it, but it helps us let people on our waiting lists know how to plan.

## **CLASSROOM RULES:**

- Be kind to one another
- Follow safety rules so no one gets hurt
- While on a walk, children must stay with the group and follow our traffic safety rules.
- While playing in the school yard, children will stay in the designated area in order to be seen and cared for when help is needed.
- At snack time, we wait until everyone is served, use good manners, and clean up after ourselves.
- At circle time, everyone should participate and take turns talking by raising hands.
- Everyone should sit quietly during story time
- After free play, everyone helps pick up toys
- Our toys are shared by all, so everyone must take good care of them
- Gum chewing and eating candy are not allowed in class.

## **DISCIPLINE:**

Positive behavior is reinforced. Redirection is utilized when necessary. An age-appropriate environment, varied activities, and a consistent schedule help provide pleasant days for all.

## **SNACKS:**

Parents take turns supplying nutritious snacks for the children each day. To help us plan ahead, we have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the classroom. Involve your child in snack choices!

Please send nutritious snacks. Here are some suggestions:

- Bananas, apples, grapes, strawberries, oranges cut into appropriate sizes
- Mini Muffins
- Cookies (animal crackers, graham crackers)
- Goldfish Crackers
- Other snack crackers (can be served with cheese)
- Applesauce
- Yogurt

NOTE: Homemade snacks can no longer be accepted due to state regulations. All food must be prepackaged and unopened. **We will make an exception for birthday treats.**

**Please make us aware of any food allergies!**

## **BIRTHDAYS:**

Children enjoy having their special day noticed. Summer birthdays may be celebrated in May or on your child's half birthday. Please confer with the teacher so that two celebrations will not occur on the same day. For your child's birthday, you can sign up on the monthly snack calendar to bring a special treat (If possible, please no cupcakes. They are messy and hard to eat for young children).

## **CLOTHING:**

Since preschool children are happiest when they are active, they are encouraged to wear play clothes to school. We like to get messy sometimes. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather each day. We will go outside if the temperature is at least 32 degrees. For safety reasons, children are required to wear rubber soled shoes in the classroom (NO flip flops, please). We encourage the children to be self-sufficient. Keep this in mind when choosing their clothing.

## **CURRICULUM:**

Though the daily schedule may vary, each day usually includes:

ART: Our art is process rather than product oriented. Individuality is appropriate and encouraged through exploring a wide array of media (paint, clay, markers, etc.). Creativity is a goal as is fine motor development which is important as a pre-writing skill.

CENTER TIME: Center time consists of a carefully planned environment offering a wide variety of play areas (dramatic, sensory, academic, manipulative, science/nature, writing, etc.) Social and pre-kindergarten skills are being developed. Because children are at different stages of development, their use of play areas will vary.

CIRCLE TIME: Circle time provides opportunities for group learning – singing, finger plays, exploring of age-appropriate topics ranging from science to social skills to kindergarten readiness.

GROSS MOTOR: Daily physical activity (running, jumping, hopping, balancing, climbing, obstacle courses, and group games) is vital to development.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS SKILLS: Writing, letter recognition and sounds, number concepts, shapes, colors, reading, etc. are areas included in our daily activities. Since children are developing at different rates and come to us with different levels of experience, we hope to challenge each child and meet his/her needs for growth. As an example, a child who is not yet interested in writing will benefit from finger dexterity and strength building activities such as squeezing play dough and putting together manipulative items such as nuts and bolts. A more mature child may choose to stay at our writing center using various utensils, stencils, rulers, etc. Each is a pre-writing experience.

3 Day Class: Upper case letters & sounds, numbers 1-10, colors, shapes

4 Day Class: Upper/lower case letters & sounds, sight words, numbers 1-20, colors, shapes

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION is incorporated into our curriculum through stories and snack time prayer. Christian living is stressed rather than church doctrine. We want children of every faith to feel comfortable.

**We look forward to working together with you and your child. Please feel free to pass along any information that will be mutually helpful. We are eager to know each child and will do our best to help your child grow and develop through the preschool experience.**