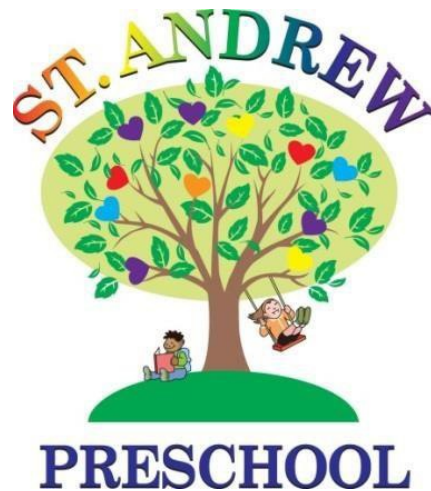


St. Andrew Preschool
Parent Handbook
2023-2024



Playing, Learning, and Growing in God's Love

1885 Bridge Road

Suffolk, VA 23433

(757) 714-2211

www.standrewpreschool.com standrewdirector@gmail.com

Dear Parents:

We are pleased to count you and your child as part of our St. Andrew family. Our primary goal is to offer your child a safe and healthy environment designed to promote development. We are here to support you in the joy of raising your child. St. Andrew Preschool offers a developmentally appropriate program that emphasizes both educational and Christian values via a “learn through enriched play” philosophy. It is a place where children are free to learn in safe and inviting classrooms by exploring, wondering, touching, playing, doing, and discussing the things that interest them.

The *Parents' Handbook* is provided to give families an overview of what to expect from our program. A quick look at this *Handbook* reveals that it contains information on the Program Philosophy, Immunization and Health Forms, Tuition Information, Behavior Management Philosophy, an overview of the Curriculum for Children, and statements of St. Andrew Policy and Procedures. It is my hope that you will take time to read the *Handbook* carefully, and will feel free to ask questions regarding any unclear points.

Working together we can set your child on track for a healthy and happy childhood, full of wonder and the joy of learning.

Please contact the St. Andrew Preschool at 757-714-2211 at any time with your questions. Thank you for your cooperation and support of the program.

Sincerely yours,

Amanda Greco, MEd.

Preschool Director

Our Preschool Philosophy

St. Andrew Preschool is a developmentally appropriate program that emphasizes both educational and Christian values via a “learn through enriched play” philosophy. Our preschool program is designed to nurture the spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual needs of children while recognizing that children are active learners. Our mission is to foster core values and educational principles by providing a loving, consistent, and stimulating environment. St. Andrew Preschool supports the notion that children learn through enriched play, and classroom experiences are created to provide developmentally appropriate and meaningful opportunities at the levels of each child.

Curriculum

Each preschool classroom uses thematic units to provide activities that foster academic development and social interactions. We believe that children learn through meaningful play and, therefore, the daily routine is centered around developmentally appropriate activities. Our curriculum is based on the Commonwealth of Virginia's Milestones and Foundation Blocks to prepare our students for kindergarten. Values such as sharing, manners, and respect for one another are established through warm relationships developed with new friends and loving Christian staff members. Quality early learning matters, so we work hard to build top-quality early learning experiences for all of St. Andrew Preschool children.

For more information on our curriculum, Children's Harbor and NAEYC, these websites contain information:

<http://www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov/documents/milestones.pdf> [http://](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early_childhood/preschool_initiative/foundationblocks.pdf)

www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early_childhood/preschool_initiative/foundationblocks.pdf

<https://www.naeyc.org/get-involved>

Class	Days	Ratio	Cost	Hours
Playful Pigs 2.5 years	2 day M/W <u>or</u> T/TH	8 students 1 Teacher	\$275	9:30am - 1:30pm
Eager Elephants 3 years	3 day T-TH	10 students 1 Teacher 1 Assistant	\$325	9:30am - 1:30pm
Blue Horse 3 years	4 day M-TH	10 students 1 Teacher	\$395	9:30am - 1:30pm
PreK 4 years	4 day M-TH	10 students 1 Teacher	\$395	9:30am - 1:30pm

State regulations require that children must be 30 months to be enrolled in the Playful Pigs class. A child that turns 4 by September 30th should be enrolled in PreK. Students may repeat PreK if Kindergarten is not an option.

A 5% discount for 2nd sibling will be deducted from tuition.

Final class placement decisions are at the discretion of the director and based on enrollment. The maximum number of students that St. Andrew Preschool will enroll is 60. The maximum number of children to be in care at any one time is 60.

In compliance with the Code of Virginia, Section 63.2-1716, St. Andrew Preschool is allowed to operate as a child day center operated by religious institutions for an exemption from licensure by meeting documentation and other requirements specified within the religious exemption law. Statements in this packet have been prepared and distributed to meet the requirements of the religious exemption law

Our Staff

Our nurturing, supportive staff members share their amazement and joy while encouraging the children's sense of accomplishment as they discover the world around them.

Here are staff qualifications and descriptions of staff that we require when they are employed.

- Minimum 18 years of age.
- Satisfactory background/fingerprint check, including criminal records and the child abuse registry.
- All workers with direct contact with children are required to read Safe Preschool Guidelines for St. Andrew Preschool and sign a document attesting to having read it.
- All workers with direct contact with children are required to complete the on-line training on recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect through the Virginia Department of Social Services.
- Staff employed must be certified by a practicing physician to be free from any disability which would prevent them from caring for children.
- Maintain current CPR, First Aid, Daily Health Observation and EMAT certification upon Director's request.
- Have experience working with preschool children in a group setting.
- Have a High School diploma or equivalency (GED)
- A Child Development Associate Credential (CDA), an Associate's or higher degree in early childhood education or in a field related to early childhood education with preschool teaching experience is preferred.

Insurance

St. Andrew Preschool is covered by liability insurance by Church Mutual Insurance Company which provides coverage in the event that someone is injured during the operation of the preschool as a result of negligence.

Description of Facilities

St. Andrew Preschool is located at 1885 Bridge Road, Suffolk, VA 23433. The building is 21,000 square feet. The preschool has 7 classrooms and 1 office for the director. The kitchen facilities are not available for use by the preschool.

Dress Code

All children should dress comfortably in clothes that are appropriate for play. Please recognize that children will be “actively learning” and clothes may not always remain stain-free. Girls should wear shorts under dresses. **Children are not permitted to wear open-toed shoes, toeless shoes, backless shoes or flip flops for safety reasons.** Children may not wear costume masks at school except at the Fall Parade.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the director will make the final decision if St. Andrew Preschool is closed due to weather conditions. Pay close attention to emails, Facebook, and the preschool website. If it is reported that Suffolk Public Schools or St. Andrew Presbyterian Church will open on a delayed schedule, St. Andrew Preschool will open 11:30 – 1:30 on that day.

Playground

Early childhood playground equipment is crucial for development. Early childhood is a time of rapid learning, and the right playgrounds for toddlers can help kids learn important skills they may not learn in classrooms. Play spaces for younger children, for example, can help encourage them to learn independence, social skills, curiosity, creativity and more.

St. Andrew Preschool's playground includes age and stage appropriate equipment. The playground equipment consists of swings, sandboxes, trike track, slides, climbing equipment, playhouses, rain barrel, bunny hutch, toy boxes, toy vehicles, shed, a school garden and various toys.

Custody Orders

Certified custody orders must be provided to the Preschool Director prior to enrollment. We must have a certified court order on file regarding parental custody matters. Any change in custody orders must be provided to the preschool immediately. No child will be released to an unauthorized adult without prior permission of the parent. (Authorized persons may be required to present identification.)

Birthday Parties

Birthday parties and celebrations are welcome during the preschool day! Make arrangements with the teacher concerning birthday celebrations. We prefer store bought goodies. You may give the teacher party invitations to pass out only if every child in the class is invited.

Therapy Animals and Other Animals

Certified therapy animals are welcome at St. Andrew Preschool. Pets/animals can be brought into the building for instructional purposes only (ex. Show & Tell, Petting Zoo). Please notify the director before bringing them into the building.

Background Checks for St. Andrew Preschool

All people, no matter what their age, gender, or ability, are children of God. Our commitment to Christian nurture means that we will provide those, in the Body of Christ, with a safe and nurturing environment, modeling Jesus' gospel to each one.

The preschool is called to be a place that reflects the open arms of Jesus. In Matthew 19:14, Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me." The preschool is to be a place of safety and nurture reflective of the arms of Christ.

St. Andrew Preschool's guidelines implement and maintain a safe environment for children and adults that will help them participate freely in the preschool's ministries and programs. Our goal is for all of God's children to feel the welcome and love of Jesus Christ.

Screening

- All preschool staff shall be screened prior to employment. Screening will include a fingerprint background check, an application, and at least two reference checks. All staff will be at least 18 years old.
- All volunteers who serve children will undergo fingerprint background checks. Any potential volunteer who refuses to undergo a background check will be prohibited from working with children.
- In Virginia, compliance with background check regulations for licensed and regulated child welfare agencies is required by law as outlined in the Code of Virginia. Background check regulations provide an important layer of protection to the health, safety and well-being of children in care.
- All background checks will be reviewed to ensure they are current and complete. Documentation showing when backgrounds were submitted and received will be kept in the preschool office. Completing background checks is a Code requirement and not just a paperwork process.

Background checks include:

- a sworn statement or affirmation,
- a criminal history record check (current requirement)
- a fingerprint based national criminal history search
- a search of the child abuse and neglect registry in Virginia, and
- For any child care program, a search of the child abuse and neglect registry in any other state a person has lived in the past five years.

St. Andrew Preschool will not hire a person known to be a sexual offender. If a staff member is arrested as a sexual offender, that person will be immediately suspended. If a staff member is convicted of being a sex offender, they will be dismissed immediately. The convicted sexual offender may not participate in any preschool programs. Any person who may pose a threat to children will be prohibited from working in any preschool functions. If any employee or volunteer is convicted of any barrier crime or found to be the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse or neglect within or outside of Virginia, that person shall notify the preschool of such conviction or finding.

Child Abuse / Neglect

The St. Andrew Staff is concerned about the well-being of all the children and their families. The preschool has a moral and legal responsibility to report any case of suspected child abuse to the Department of Social Services. All staff has been trained in reporting and recognizing child abuse and neglect. In suspected abuse and neglect cases, no evidence will be excluded on the grounds of confidentiality, including preschool records.

Leaving Children in a Vehicle

Children should never be left in a vehicle unattended. In doing so, the health of the child is seriously endangered. This could result in the immediate dismissal from the preschool program.

Confidentiality Statement

Information about any child at St. Andrew Preschool is confidential and will not be given to any except VDSS designees or other persons authorized by law.

Parents can give permission for information to be shared. Information about a child in our program will be named in a report of suspected child

Safe Preschool Components

A Crisis Management Plan for St. Andrew Preschool and a Safe Guidelines for St. Andrew Preschool states that all staff and volunteers are expected to do everything possible to provide a safe environment for all staff and students. Our policies mean to keep relationships with adults and minors safe because children are particularly vulnerable. Our staff and other volunteers need to be safe as well, and so the policies support clear boundaries necessary for these adults to be effective in their roles with their students.

Money Matters

Enrollment Fee - A \$50.00 fee is required for each student who is applying to the preschool for the first time. The Enrollment Request Fee is due at the time of enrollment. This includes siblings of currently enrolled students. This fee is non-refundable. (Except in the case of military transfer)

Annual Fee - Once your child has been offered a place in the school, an Annual Fee of \$150.00 must be paid in order to hold placement. This fee covers the costs of instructional supplies, toys, art materials, consumable items, parent functions, cleaning, furniture and preschool programs. This fee is non-refundable. (Except in the case of military transfer)

Tuition Policy

Monthly tuition is due by your child's first day of the month. If the first day of the month falls on a Friday or a weekend, tuition is due on the first preschool day of the month. September - May. Tuition is based on the preschool year, September 2023 to May 2024. The preschool accepts checks, money orders, bank drafts, Venmo, and PayPal. Place tuition payments in the Tuition Box located by the entrance to the preschool. Banks can also do a bank draft and have a check mailed directly to the preschool. No reductions in tuition can be made for absences or school closings for any reason. A late tuition fee of \$25.00 will be added if tuition is received after the past due date on the Tuition Schedule. After that, a \$5.00 per day fee will be added until tuition payment is received. Students will not be able to attend preschool beginning the 11th day of the month if payment is not received. Once payment is up to date, the student may return to class. The class slot will remain open until the last day of the month.

Withdrawals – The preschool request a 30 day notice for withdrawals from the preschool program. If a 30 day notice is not provided, parents will be required to pay for the next month's tuition to allow the preschool director time to fill that slot left. Registration and Annual fees are nonrefundable. This would not apply to Military transfers.

Fundraisers - All fundraisers are approved by the Christian Education committee and the Session of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Money raised from these events is used to enrich the current year's preschool programs by supplementing the annual fees collected. We are a non-profit school.

Collection of money – There will be no collection/solicitation of money without the express consent of the director. All requests must be made in writing and submitted to the director for approval. The only exception to this rule is the pooling of money to purchase gifts for staff.

Late pick-up - Students should be picked up on time at dismissal. We understand that occasionally a parent might be delayed from picking up their child on time. Parents must alert the school in the event of a late pick-up. In order to prevent chronic late pick-ups, late fees can be charged.

Late Fee Payment

1:25 – 1:35pm Pick Up

1:36 – 1:41pm Grace period

1:42 – 1:47pm \$5.00 Late Fee

1:48 – 1:53pm \$10.00 Late Fee

\$1 per minute after 1:54pm

St. Andrew Preschool's Potty Training Policy

Potty training is an important milestone for every toddler, and we want to be as supportive of children's efforts as possible. This being stated, parents are expected to be in the process of potty training prior to the first day of school.

Playful Pig Students (2.5-3 years old) will be encouraged to use the bathroom during the day but do not have to be fully potty trained. Children in Playful Pigs must wear Pull Ups to school if they are not potty trained. No diapers will be allowed. Pull Ups will need to be furnished by the parents.

Blue Horse, Eager Elephants and PreK Students (3-5 years old) are required to be fully potty trained. We understand that the first few weeks at a new school can be overwhelming for any child. Even children who have been trained for a long time suffer occasional lapses when they are engrossed in activities, are overtired, excited or in new surroundings. We realize that an occasional accident may occur. Please be sure that your child has a complete set of extra clothes in a labeled gallon-size Ziploc bag. Include a second Zip-Loc bag, underwear, pants, shirt and socks.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT POLICY

St. Andrew views discipline as a process of developing appropriate behaviors. Positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior in a loving, supportive environment promotes the child's self-confidence and leads to increased desirable behavior.

We use **indirect guidance** techniques:

- We give advance warnings: "You have five more minutes to play before it's time to clean up."
- We give choices: "You may paint with the other children or you may read a book in a quiet corner."
- We have routines: "We wash our hands before lunch. After lunch is a story time."
- We avoid nagging: We tell the child what we expect just once, follow it by asking the child if he/she remembers what we asked, and then offer to help the child do what was asked.
- We're consistent: We do things the same way each day so the children know what to expect and learn to trust and feel safe in their environment.

We also use **direct guidance** techniques:

- We use affirmative: "We use walking feet indoors" rather than "Don't run!" or "use your words to tell us you're angry" rather than "Don't hit!"
- We get the child's attention by crouching down to his/her level, making eye contact, speaking quietly, and asking the child to repeat the directions.
- We try very hard to be fair. We examine our expectations to make sure they are age appropriate, and we don't make rules just because an activity is too noisy or messy.
- We avoid arguments by following through with solutions that address the problem, but also offer the child a way to exit gracefully from the problem: "You can choose a quiet place to calm down or I can choose one for you."

Behavior Concerns:

We want St. Andrew Preschool to be a safe and fun environment for everyone who enters. If at any time, a child is displaying a behavior that is potentially harmful to him/herself or others (ex: hitting, biting, foul language, etc), the child's teacher will discuss the concern with the parent. The teacher and parent will partner together to work through the concern. If the behavior continues and/or increases in intensity, the Director will set up a meeting with the parents and the teacher to discuss a plan of action. If we are unable to lessen/alleviate the behavior, it is at the discretion of the Director to decide a course of action which may include dis-enrollment.

Share Your Concerns and Ideas for Change

Please share with the Preschool Director and/or the Preschool Council a concern you may have regarding the preschool or its programs as well as if you have a suggestion for a change to an existing program. Forms in office. The concern and new ideas will be shared with the Preschool Council. Depending on the decision that has been prayerfully considered, it must be approved by the Session of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Once a final decision has been reached, it is expected that no further presentation of this issue shall be made and that all participants will seek to foster the peace, unity and harmony of St. Andrew. It is hoped that such a process will reflect the Christian value of doing all things decently and in order as well as help us find ways of being an instrument of God's peace

Illnesses

The problem of communicable disease is prevalent in every group and St. Andrew is no exception. If a child becomes ill at St. Andrew, the director or teacher will immediately notify the parents. The child will be kept separated from the group until taken home. St. Andrew staff is not allowed to administer over the



counter or prescription medications except in emergencies. **Parents must make other arrangements for the care of their children when they show any of the following symptoms.**

Children will not be permitted at our school with any of the following conditions:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher within a 24 hour period.
- If the child has one or more of the following: diarrhea, earache, shows signs of irritability or confusion, sore throat, rash within the past 24 hour period.
- Vomiting on two or more occasions within the past 24 hours.
- Diarrhea – two or more watery stools in a 24-hour period.
- Draining rash or undiagnosed rash lasting over a 24-hour period.
- Eye discharge or pink eye. Children can be readmitted after medical diagnosis to rule out bacterial or viral infection, or 24 hours on antibiotic treatment.
- Fatigue that prevents participation in regular activities.
- Open oozing sores and scabs, unless properly covered and 24 hours on antibiotic treatment.
- Head lice – until treatment is effective and a follow-up check has been made by school personnel. Hair should be free of live lice and nits (eggs).

In the case of minor injury or accident, the staff will administer basic first aid. All injuries or illnesses not requiring immediate parental notification will be documented and reported to parents when the child is picked up at the end of the day.

In case of medical injury or illness requiring immediate professional care (emergency), the staff will call 911, giving location and nature of emergency. As appropriate, the staff will administer CPR or first aid measures. Parents will be notified immediately. If parents are unavailable, those individuals designated as emergency phone contacts will be notified. **All children must have an emergency medical release form on file in case of such an emergency.**

St. Andrew Preschool's Childcare Practices for 2023-2024

Here are practices that St. Andrew Preschool will reinforce and monitor based on Guidance for Child Care Programs from the CDC, the DSS and the local health department

Promote healthy hygiene practices

- Teach and reinforce hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes.
- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors - soap, hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) and tissues

Intensify, cleaning, disinfection and ventilation

- Clean, sanitize and disinfect frequently touched surfaces like playground equipment, door handles, sink handles with safe and correct applications
- Avoid the use of toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly
- Water will be served in disposable cups, but water bottles (labeled with child's name are preferred)

Monitoring and Preparing

- Encourage staff to stay home if they are sick and encourage parents, as we already do, to keep sick children home.

Plan for When a Staff Member, Child, or Visitor Becomes Sick.

- The Preschool Office will be the area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID- like symptoms during hours of operation, and ensure that children are not left without adult supervision.
- Notify local health officials, staff and families immediately of any possible cases of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality.
- Close off all areas used by any sick person and do not use them until they have been cleaned and sanitized. Wait 24 hours before we clean and disinfect to reduce risk to individuals cleaning. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible.
- Ensure safe and correct applications of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise sick staff members not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue

home isolation.

-Inform anyone exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and to follow CDC guidelines if symptom develop.

Maintain Healthy Operations

-Monitor and document absenteeism to identify any trends in employee or child absences due to illness.

-The Preschool Director will be responsible to responding to COVID-19 concerns.

-A communication system for staff and families for self-reporting of symptoms and notification of exposures and closures by email to the school director.

Closing

-Check State and local health department notices about the spread of COVID-19 in our area and adjust operations accordingly.

-If our state and local health department deemed our preschool in significant mitigation community, we will follow their recommendations for closure.

-In the event, a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is determined to have been in the building and poses a risk to the community, our program may close for a few days for cleaning and disinfection.

For further information on Covid strategies and guidance, please speak to the Preschool Director

St. Andrew Preschool's Health and Immunization Policy

Initial Entry into the Program

All children are required to have a physical (School Entrance Health Form) dated within one year of entering the program.

A complete Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Health Form, Comprehensive Physical Examination and Certification of Immunization must be received before the first day of school in order for the child to attend preschool.

St. Andrew Preschool's immunization policies are based on the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Virginia Department of Social Services. State Law (Ref. Code of Virginia, 22.1-270) requires that children be immunized and receive a comprehensive physical examination before entering preschool.

Updated Health and Immunization

If during the school year your child needs an updated health form and/or immunizations, it is the responsibility of the parents to provide these forms to the Director. The preschool office needs to be informed of the appointment date to update immunizations. Parents have 30 days after the 4th birthday to provide a copy of the updated immunization form to the preschool office. Email reminders before and after the child turns 4 will be sent from the Preschool Office. Failure to turn the updated immunizations within 30 days could result in dismissal from the program. Spots will be guaranteed as long as tuition payments are paid.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973

If a child is enrolled in St. Andrew Preschool or in the future is identified as having a disability covered under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 similar to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, St. Andrew Preschool's director will assess the ability of the program to meet the needs of the child. For further information on the Rehabilitation Act go to the following website: <http://www.dol.gov/oasam/regs/statutes/sec504.htm>

Immunization Requirements

Required Immunizations for 2.5 and 3 Year Olds

4 DTaP/DTP
3 Polio (IPV)
1 MMR
1 Varicella (Chicken Pox)
3 Hepatitis B
Hib (minimum of 2 or 3 doses)
PCV (1 to 4 doses dependent on age at first dose)

Required Immunizations for 4 Year Old and Those Who Turn 4

4 DTaP/DTP (minimum) with one dose on or after the 4th birthday
4 Polio (IPV) with one dose on or after the 4th birthday
2 MMR with one dose after the 4th birthday
2 Varicella (Chicken Pox) with one dose after the 4th birthday
3 Hepatitis B
Hib (minimum of 2 or 3 doses)
PCV (1 to 4 doses dependent on age at first dose)

Medication Administration

St. Andrew Preschool has made the decision regarding the administration of medications to a child in our program. We will not administer any non-prescription medication. We do allow the administration of Benadryl, Albuterol and Epi Pen by staff certified in First Aid, CPR.AED and AMAT for students with Allergy or Asthma Action Plans.

Asthma

In the event that a Preschool student has asthma, the following Asthma Policy will apply:

An Asthma Action Plan from the child's doctor must be turned in to the director. The Asthma Action Plan will be posted in the classroom with the student's name, photograph, asthma information, and action plan.

Food Allergy

In the event that a Preschool student has a severe food allergy, the following Allergy Policy will apply:

A Food Allergy Action Plan must be turned in to the director from the child's doctor. The Action Plan will be posted in the classroom with the student's name, photograph, allergy information, and action plan.

If the child has a food allergy, the classroom that child attends will be designated "nut-free or banana-free" for example during the school day (this includes snack and lunch). This is based on a good faith effort by the entire school, in order to reduce the chances of a life-threatening situation. Although we do not ban peanut butter in classrooms that have students with allergies, we strongly encourage parents to use alternative peanut butter that does not contain peanuts to help us create a safe and healthy environment for all our students. . These can be found in local supermarkets.

The Preschool cannot guarantee an allergen free environment, but with the implementation of the Allergy Policy, we can greatly reduce the risk of an allergic reaction occurring.

The allergic child's parent(s) will work with the school to prepare and distribute an approved snack/lunch list to the parents in the classroom. Snacks must be provided in the original packaging, so the teacher can verify ingredients. Several staff members have been trained in the use of the EpiPen.

St. Andrew Preschool Food Policy

As parents, we help our children enjoy healthy lives every day. St. Andrew Preschool does not provide food services. Picking school lunches with nutritious foods is one important way for us to contribute to our children's life-long health. A healthy lunch has the nutrients and energy children need to grow, learn and play. Eating many different kinds of food is important for good nutrition.

Include foods from at least 3 of the food groups - There are five food groups: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits, Dairy, and Protein. No one food or food group provides all of the nutrients we need for good health.

Appropriate Serving sizes – When it comes to serving sizes, think small. Small children have small stomachs that can hold only small amounts of food. The amount of food needed daily will depend on many factors, including how active your child is and how rapidly he/she is growing.

Healthy Beverage – Choose milk, water, or 100% fruit juice. Limit 100% fruit juice to no more than 4-6oz daily for preschool children. We would rather you send clear liquids to drink such as water and apple juice. Some juices tend to stain tables. If you want, the preschool will furnish cold water.

Avoid choking hazards – Round foods most commonly cause choking. The American Red Cross indicates that small, dry, hard foods and sticky or tough foods are also common causes of choking. An example is Tootsie Roll Pops.

Pack foods safely – Wash lunch boxes and ice packs each day. Use best practices when preparing foods. Keep hot foods hot by using an insulated container that has been pre-warmed with boiling water. Keep cool foods cool by using an ice pack. Chill foods in the refrigerator overnight. Packing a lunch that will be safe when your child eats is just as important as packing healthy foods. Items should be ready to eat. The preschool does not intend to provide food service. No microwave is available in the classrooms. The kitchen facilities are not available.

Allergies - Peanut allergies and other allergies are common and can be life-threatening. Accommodations will be made on a case by case basis. We do not ban peanut butter, but we do have students with severe allergies and they cannot be exposed to peanuts, peanut products or tree nuts. We ask that parents avoid packing lunches with these. Alternative peanut butters are available.

Communication



Phone numbers:

The Director's number is (757)714-2211.

The Church office is (757) 238-3550.

The emails, text messages and voice mail will be checked periodically during school hours and in the afternoons.

Email: The email address standrewdirector@gmail.com and is checked frequently. Most correspondence will be sent home via email.

Remind app: This app will be used by the director to share quick reminders and information.

Sign-Ups: Sign-Ups for special events are available on Sign- Up Genius

Websites: www.standrewpreschool.com

Flyers and reminders will be distributed on a regular basis.

Monthly calendars containing classroom specific and the school, Chapel and school wide information, will also be distributed to parents. The Bagpiper church newsletter will be sent by email.

Meetings: At any time parents can ask to meet with a teacher or the director to discuss concerns or ask questions. Afternoon times are preferred, as the mornings are full with welcoming students and getting ready for the day.

Parent/Teacher conferences: At least twice each year, the school will initiate an optional parent-teacher conference to discuss the progress of your child. You may request a conference at any other time during the school year.

Parent Feedback: We are always looking to improve St. Andrew Preschool. A formal feedback form will be distributed to all families at the end of the year.

Facebook: St. Andrew Preschool and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew Preschool – Suffolk (closed Facebook Group for preschool families and staff only).

30 Months - 3 Year Old Class

Academic Skills

- Recognition of Letters
- Recognition of numbers 1-10 (building to higher #'s)
- Recognizing the first letter of their name- building to their whole name

Cognitive Awareness

- Matching
- Alike & Different
- Colors & Shapes
- Games that use cognitive process to solve problems

Fine Motor Development

- Fingerplay songs
- Gluing and coloring
- Pincher Grasp
- Beading/threading- various other hand/eye coordination skill building

Large Motor Development

- Running & Jumping
- Balance
- Climbing
- Hopping

Social Awareness/Development

- Enlargement of language skills (becoming more verbal)
- Social interaction
- Taking turns
- Learning "Want", "Need" & "Have"
- Beginning of cooperative play

Science/Nature

- Begin to observe changes in nature & world around us
- Nature walks- "Explores"
- Perform simple, visual science experiments (color, magnets, etc.)

Spiritual Development

- Hear Bible stories from God's word
- Become familiar with Bible verses • Recognize all God has provided for us through daily prayers

Music and Movement

- Sings familiar songs
- Identifies loud and soft noises
- Moves to music
- Plays simple musical instrument

Three Year Old Classes

Academic Skills

- Recognition of Letters
- Recognition of numbers 1-10 (building to higher #'s)
- Counting & Grouping 1-5, then 1- 10 (and building)
- Recognizing the first letter of their name- building to their whole name • Tracing letter of their first name- building to whole name

Cognitive Awareness

- Matching
- Alike & Different
- Colors & Shapes
- Games that use cognitive process' to solve problems
- Sorting by color, shape, size

Fine Motor Development

- Fingerplay songs
- Gluing and coloring
- Pincher Grasp (working with markers & crayons- working up to pencils) • Beading/threading- various other hand/eye coordination skill building • Strengthening hand muscles and control

Large Motor Development

- To run, jump, hop and skip with ease and control
- Bounce balls/throwing balls & beanbags (Aiming for targets)

Social Awareness/Development

- Social interaction
- Develop friendships & understand kindness
- Following directions
- Beginning of cooperative play- taking turns

Science/Nature

- Begin to observe changes in nature & world around us
- Nature walks- "Explores"
- Perform simple, visual science experiments (color, magnets, etc.) • Children begin to become active participants in science experiments

Spiritual Development

- Hear Bible stories from God's word
- Become familiar with Bible verses
- Recognize all God has provided for us through daily prayers

Music and Movement

- Sings simple songs
- Claps hands
- Distinguishes between similar sounds
- Moves in time to music
- Begins to play simple instruments with rhythm

Four Year Old Classes

Academic Skills

- Recognition of letters in one's own name/Writing of name
- Identification of letters in alphabet/pre-writing activities
- Matching Sounds and Letters (Prereading games)
- Identifying, Counting & Grouping of #'s 1-10/1-20
- Tracing and writing numbers 1- 10
- Recognize rhymes and rhyming words
- Learns Nursery Rhymes

Cognitive Awareness

- Classifying sizes, shapes & colors, then sorting and matching
- Enhance problem-solving skills through social interaction and games

Fine Motor Development

- Cut shapes, strips and on-lines • Pincher grasp- big red pencil & markers
- Strengthening hand muscles & control
- Stencil tracing and cutouts
- Drawing people, faces- illustrating stories

Large Motor Development

- To run, jump, hop and skip with ease and control
- Bounce balls/throwing balls & beanbags (Aiming for targets)

Social Awareness/Development

- Expressing feelings in a healthy way
- Develop friendships & understand kindness
- Fostering self-esteem
- Cooperative play-taking turns & following multi-step directions
- Manners & respecting peers

Science/Nature

- Begin to observe changes in nature & world around us
- Nature walks- "Explores"
- Hands-on science activities relating to changes in weather, temperature and textures
- Using science as a means to foster other areas of development (confidence, social skills, etc.)

Spiritual Development

- Hear and become familiar with Bible stories from God's word
- Recognize all God has provided for us through daily prayers

Music and Movement

- Claps a simple pattern
- Distinguish between sounds
- Distinguish between high and low
- Moves in time to music
- Distinguishes fast and slow
- Listens and responds to music of different cultures
- Balance beam exercises