

# Welcome to Good News Preschool!

In early childhood children learn best by using all of their senses to experience the world around them. Our program is designed to promote cognitive, emotional, physical and social growth with an emphasis on Kindergarten readiness. We are excited and grateful that your family has chosen our school for your child's preschool years!

## **CURRICULUM**

Good News Preschool uses a Bible based curriculum which incorporates developmentally appropriate activities into thematic, weekly units. Our preschoolers experience a wide range of activities designed to stretch their imaginations. Centers in each classroom promote individual and cooperative play, imagination and creativity, constructive ideas and self-expression. A wide range of centers such as literacy, music, math, science, blocks, manipulatives, dramatic play, art and sensory are offered on a rotating basis to enhance the weekly units. The pre-kinder curriculum is designed to provide children with all the necessary skills needed for Kindergarten readiness. We have a word of prayer before meal time and a children's weekly chapel is offered.

## **TUITION AND FEES**

Registration and supply fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Registration will not be accepted without the registration fee. The supply fee is due in full on or before "Meet the Teacher" Orientation which will be held the week before school starts.

### Registration Fee:

Current Members: \$90 by 1/31/17  
\$100 by 2/28/17  
\$120 after 2/28/17

New Members: \$100 by 2/28/17  
\$120 after 2/28/17

Supply Fee: \$75 per year for 2 days per week  
\$90 per year for 3 days per week  
\$110 per year for 5 days per week

Tuition amounts are based on the total number of days offered for each program and averaged into a monthly rate; therefore the amount is not flexible. Absence from school due to illness or holiday is not a cause for reduction in monthly tuition. Full tuition is due on

the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, September through May. A late fee of \$20 will be charged if tuition is not paid by the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month. Additionally, a late fee of \$5 may be assessed for late pick up of children (after 1:05 pm). An additional \$2 fee will be assessed for every minute after 1:10 pm. There will be a returned check fee of \$30.

Tuition: \$190 per month for 2 days per week (Mon/Wed or Tue/Thurs)

\$240 per month for 3 days per week (Mon/Wed/Fri or Tues/Thurs/Fri)

\$330 per month for 5 days per week (Monday-Friday)

Sibling discounts: \$15 off tuition for each additional child.

**If for any reason you need to withdraw your child from Good News Preschool, a written notice must be submitted to the Director by the first of the month prior to the month you are dropping.**

### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

At Good News Preschool, our school day begins at 9:00 am and concludes at 1:00 pm. Our school year begins the Monday after Labor Day and concludes the Friday before Memorial Day. During the school year, we will follow the Leander ISD calendar for holidays, teacher workdays, and school closures due to inclement weather. In cases where Leander ISD delays the start of the school day Good News Preschool will not be open. Please refer to local media for inclement weather updates.

### **ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

Children should arrive and depart each day through the front entrance to the church. Arrival time is at 9:00 am. We ask that you not drop your child off prior to 9:00 am as teachers are preparing their rooms for the day and are unable to adequately supervise children during this time. Children must be signed in by an adult each day and must be left in the care of a staff member.

Dismissal time is 1:00 pm. Children must be signed out in their classrooms by an adult, making sure that the staff is aware of each child's departure. Children will only be released to a person whose name appears on the child's authorization form, or whose name has been given prior approval by the parent or guardian. Please notify the Director immediately if there are any changes. Children will not be released to anyone under the age of 17 even if it is a sibling. For safety reasons, persons unknown to Good News Preschool staff will be required to present identification. When a child is picked up for the day, the child is then to be supervised by the adult who is picking him/her up. The child is to remain with this person and will not be allowed to roam the facilities unsupervised.

Please be considerate of our teachers by picking up your child on time. We realize emergencies arise when you least expect them. If such an emergency should occur, please contact the Director immediately by calling 512-535-8090.

*Persons delivering and picking up children are advised that it is unlawful to leave young children unattended in a motor vehicle.*

### **LUNCHES AND SNACKS**

Teachers and children will have lunch together at a designated time each day. Please send your child with a lunch from home that he/she can easily eat without assistance. Lunches must also include a drink. Please do not send foods that need to be refrigerated or heated. Lunch boxes and individual containers, including sippy cups, must be labeled with your child's name. We welcome all nursing mothers at any time during preschool hours and we will provide a comfortable place for you.

We also ask that you provide your child with a snack and drink each day. We encourage dry snacks that are nutritious in nature.

According to the *Texas State Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers*, research has shown that 90% of choking deaths occur in children younger than four years of age.

Examples of foods that present a risk of choking include, but are not limited to:

- Hot dogs sliced into rounds
- Whole grapes
- Hard candy
- String cheese
- Raw peas
- Dried fruit
- Pretzels
- Chips
- Popcorn
- Marshmallows
- Chunks of meat larger than can be swallowed whole

**If your child's lunch contains any of these items, please make sure they are cut accordingly, especially grapes, hot dogs, and string cheese.**

## **CLOTHING/DIAPERS/PERSONAL ITEMS**

Children should be dressed in comfortable, easily managed play clothes. We ask that you avoid anything the child cannot personally manipulate when going to the bathroom and anything the child (or parent) fears getting dirty.

Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play in cool weather. Remember to label all jackets, hats, gloves, etc.

For those not yet potty trained... Due to our limited storage space, we are unable to keep entire packs of diapers/pull ups for each child. Instead, we ask that you please fill a large zip lock bag with diapers or pull ups individually labeled with the child's name. This bag will remain at school and will be sent home to be refilled when it is empty.

Please send your child with a backpack or small tote bag each day. This bag should be labeled clearly with the child's name and should contain the following:

- 2 extra diapers or pull ups, individually labeled with the child's name (for those not yet potty trained). Good News Preschool will provide generic wipes. If your child has sensitive skin, please feel free to send your own wipes and make sure to notify the teacher that you have done so.
- A complete seasonally appropriate change of clothes including underwear, socks, shirt, and shorts or pants. Each item should be individually labeled with your child's name.

Children should leave personal items such as candy, gum, money, jewelry, or toys (except for show-and-tell items) at home.

## **DISCIPLINE**

When necessary, children will be disciplined in a considerate, quiet manner so that they may learn from the situation. Children are taught what is expected of them, and good behavior is recognized and encouraged. As much as possible, children are guided to assure their appropriate participation in every activity. If a child persists in inappropriate behavior after reminders and redirection, the child may receive a brief, supervised separation either near or away from the group. Children will be sent to the Director's office only as a last resort. At this point, a parent may be called to discuss the next appropriate action. The staff will monitor behavior and inform parents of significant difficulties or changes in behavior patterns. A complete discipline and guidance policy is attached.

If a child displays physical harm or other aggressive behavior, the following procedure will be followed:

- 1<sup>st</sup> incident—child will be given a warning and the time out policy will be implemented (see below)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> incident—child will be put in supervised separation with the Director and parents will be contacted.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> incident—a conference will be scheduled with the Director, teacher and parents where a Plan for Success will be created.

### **-Time Out Policy**

It is the philosophy at *Good News Preschool* that children should not have time outs as a punishment, but rather as an opportunity to assess and redirect behavior. If a child is acting aggressively or inappropriately the following actions will be taken to modify the behavior:

- Child will be separated from classmates to have one-on-one time with the teacher.
- The teacher will acknowledge their emotion and its roots, and work with the child to come up with alternate positive actions.
- Child will be reintroduced to the class environment.
- Child will be monitored to see the changes in effect.

### **-Biting**

The Preschool Director will personally communicate with parents concerning the issue. Biting issues, as well as aggressive behavior, will need support from home to help end the situation. If the situation does not improve, a parent conference will be scheduled with the Director and a plan of action will be formed. If biting or aggressive behavior continues, a child may be subject to dismissal from the program. All decisions will be made on an individual basis.

Policy for the biter-

- First time a child bites- child will firmly be told 'no biting' along with a conversation on making a better choice, and the child will be separated from the other children but still stay in the room. The sit out times will be based upon the age of the child. Parents will be notified verbally at pick up and via a Behavior Management form.
- The second time and thereafter when a child bites the child will be told 'no biting' and will be separated from the other children outside of the room with another caregiver (teacher, aide or Director). The sit out time will be based on the child's age. Parents will be called and the incident will be documented on a Behavior Management form.
- If a child has bitten 2 times in one day, the parents will be notified to pick up the child from preschool.

Policy for bitten child-

- Love the child, hold them, hug them and calm them.
- The bite will be washed with soap and water and ice will be applied if needed. Parents will be notified verbally and via a Behavior Management form the day the bite occurs.

When a biting situation occurs, parents of both the biter and the child bitten will be notified in writing but the identity of each child will be kept confidential for the sake of the child. This can be an emotional time for both children and parents, so all measures are taken by the school to diffuse ill feelings.

## HEALTH

Children enrolled in Good News Preschool must have on file evidence of an annual physical examination and current immunization record. A health form signed by your doctor and immunization records must be submitted to Good News Preschool before the child may attend class. A TB test is not required for your child to attend. At Good News Preschool we do not require our students or teachers to be vaccinated. If you choose not to vaccinate you must provide the State Issued Notarized Affidavit. All children ages 4 and older are required to submit a Vision and Hearing Screening conducted by their doctor.

A child who exhibits the following may NOT come to school:

- A temperature of 99 degrees or higher within the past 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea (even because of medicine) within the past 24 hours
- Discharge from the eyes
- Nasal discharge that is not clear
- Spots, bumps or rash of unknown origin

Children becoming ill after arrival at school will be placed in an area away from the other children and the child's parent will be called immediately to pick up the child. If you are not available, the person listed on your emergency contact information form will be notified. Please make sure that your contact information is kept up to date.

**After an illness, a child should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to preschool.** In accordance with state regulations, the preschool office must be notified when a child has had any communicable disease such as mumps, measles, chicken pox, or pink eye. Parents will be notified if there is such an illness in the school. For the protection of all children, a doctor's statement may be required following an illness.

**Good News Preschool will NOT dispense medicine to any child at any time.**

In the case of LICE: If your child should become infected, please notify the teacher or Director as soon as possible so that the classroom can be treated and other parents notified. The child will remain anonymous in these notifications. If nits or lice are found on your child, you will be notified for immediate pick-up. He/she may return to school following proper treatment.

All Good News Preschool employees are trained in first aid and CPR. In the event of a medical emergency, the staff will call 911 to report the emergency and request aid. The staff will then notify the parent or emergency contact, and a member of the staff will ride with the child to the designated emergency room.

A copy of the illness and exclusion criteria from the Minimum Standard Rules for the State of Texas from the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services is available upon request.

### **BIRTHDAYS/SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

Parents may provide a treat for the class on their child's birthday. Please notify the teacher of your plans in advance. Party invitations may be distributed in class only if ALL children in the class are invited to the party. Classroom treats should be items that do not need to be cut or sliced and is not overly messy (cookies, lightly frosted cupcakes or donut holes work well).

Classes will hold seasonal parties and special events throughout the school year. Parents will be asked to sign up for items to bring to each party as well as occasional requests for parental help during these activities.

### **SAFETY**

Parents should report any unsafe conditions or concerns to the Director. If the condition is under our control, we will attempt to correct the situation as quickly as possible. If the condition is the responsibility of a parent, the Director will notify the parent of the concern and work with the parent to correct the condition.

Good News Preschool has emergency procedures in place in the event of fire, tornado, etc. All staff members are trained in these procedures to insure your child's safety. Practice drills will be staged throughout the year. Evacuation routes are posted in each room.

#### **-Off site Relocation**

In the event that we are required to evacuate the property, Directors, teachers and aides will escort all classes out the safest doors, through the shared parking lot to

Cottonwood Creek Nursing Home located at 1500 Cottonwood Creek Trail, Cedar Park, TX 78613, (512) 259-4259.

### **CHANGES AT HOME**

Sometimes things happen at home that can cause changes in a child's behavior at school. It is helpful if the teacher knows when something out of the ordinary is going on so that we may understand the reasons for the child's behavior and accommodate them through the transition. We want to be in close communication with all of our families, so please keep us informed. We care deeply about the welfare of your children and will help you in any way we can.

Please inform the Director immediately if your home address or phone numbers change. This applies to work numbers and numbers/names of emergency contacts or persons you have approved to pick up/drop off your child.

### **GENERAL**

Children ages 18 months-5 years are eligible for enrollment. Good News Preschool does not discriminate against any race, color, national or ethnic origin. Registration begins each spring for fall classes and continues until classes are full. Children are placed on waiting lists for full classes. Parents will be notified of space availability as soon as possible. Payment of the registration fee assures your child's spot in the class.

Parents will be notified in writing of any policy or tuition changes before the change is to take place.

If you have any questions or concerns about our policies, procedures or program activities, please feel free to call and make an appointment with the Director. For problems in the classroom, parents should schedule an appointment to speak with the teacher. For unresolved conflicts, please make an appointment with the Director.

Parents are welcome to visit our facility at any time during hours of operation to observe our program activities without having to secure prior approval. We encourage parents to volunteer by participating in special activities. Parents will be notified in advance of those activities and appropriate times to volunteer.

Copies of the State Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers, as well as our most recent licensing inspection report and contact information for the local licensing office are available in the preschool office. You can also visit the Texas Department of Family and



Protective services website at [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us). The child abuse hotline may be reached at 1-800-252-5400.

Please be aware that under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1000 feet of a child-care center is a gang-free zone where criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to harsher penalty.

Good News Preschool is a gun free zone.

**Please sign the acceptance of these guidelines, the parental consent statements and the Discipline and Guidance Policy (all in the registration packet) and return to the preschool Director.**