

Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church

Preschool Handbook 2022-2023



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Jarvis Preschool

Welcome

Welcome to Jarvis Preschool. We are glad that you have chosen our program. This handbook has been written to describe our program, goals, policies, and the myriad of practical details that go into making each school day happy and successful. Please keep it for reference, as it will answer many of your questions. Please feel free to talk to the director at any time.

Programs available for 6 weeks old through Pre-K.

Birth date cutoff is August 31.

A registration fee equal to one month's tuition must accompany each application for acceptance.

This is not refundable if your child is accepted in our program.

Students will be selected on the following priority system:

1. Children of staff and Preschool Committee
2. Children currently enrolled
3. Children of church members not currently enrolled
4. Siblings of current students
5. Siblings of former students
6. General public, first-come basis



Jarvis Preschool Statement Of Christian Intent

The Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church Preschool Program operates as a part of the Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church's education program. The school seeks to develop and promote

Christian attitudes and character in the children enrolled in the program. Christian emphasis permeates the entire program through Chapel, Bible Stories, songs, and other activities. Boys and girls have opportunities to learn through their experiences in a Christian environment as they share, take turns, and play together. The school will not alter its religious education policy or allow any child not to participate in Chapel.

Jarvis Preschool welcomes all children who would benefit from our program. However, our facilities, equipment, staff training, and ratio numbers limit our ability to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, hyperactive behavior, or severe visual, auditory, or physical impairments. Therefore, admittance and continuance in our program will be considered and reviewed on an individual basis by the Director and the Preschool Board.

Our Philosophy of Learning

In a caring and positive atmosphere, we create a warm and happy place for preschoolers to learn. As we bridge the gap from home to school, we guide children to a continued good self-image while building social skills in a school setting.

Sensory, motor, perceptual and language skills are introduced through materials and activities which are both child-centered and teacher-directed. Work is planned which emphasizes *the process rather than the product*, fostering a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Based on the theory that *children learn through play*, classroom routines encourage active involvement, meaningful experimentation and reinforcement through repetition. Schedules are designed with balanced structure and free choice, as well as active and quiet times.



Recognizing that *children grow in predictable stages*, we treat each child as an individual, working from the level each child has attained and moving forward a step at a time. We teach a *love of learning* by allowing children to experience their own stage of development and helping them to feel *success without pressure*.

TUITION

We do not send out bills for tuition. Tuition is due on the first of each month, payable September through May- the registration fee is not part of the yearly tuition. The registration fee is nonrefundable or transferable. Tuition may be paid yearly, quarterly, or monthly by check payable to Jarvis Preschool, money order, or cash (receipts are written for cash only unless requested). Tuition is due for the entire 9 months to keep your account current, even in the event of extended vacations or absences. Account

balances must be zero by May 10th in order to be in good standing to begin the program the following Fall.

A mailbox is located next to the Preschool office in the hall. Please put your check in the box by the 1st of the month with the child's name and tuition number (i.e. #1 - #9). If paying in cash, please put cash in an envelope listing the amount along with the child's name, class, and tuition number. If you plan to be gone or your child is sick when tuition is due, you may mail the payment to 510 South Washington St., 27858 Attention: Jarvis Preschool.

Our school is totally self-supporting. Supplies, salaries, maintenance, and food must be purchased out of tuition income. A \$10 late fee will be charged for tuition not paid by the 5th of the month. This step is regrettable to us, but our budget is an essential part of our program. Continued delinquent payment will result in student dismissal. Mrs. Jenny Bridgman is our Preschool bookkeeper. A \$25 fee will be charged for returned checks. If we receive two returned checks, cash payment will be required.

Late Fee Policy

Students left after their designated pick-up times will be charged a late fee (late fees begin at 12:00pm, Lunch club late fees begin at 1:00pm).

12:00pm- 12:10pm \$5.00 late fee

12:10pm -12:20pm \$10 late fee

After 12:20pm \$1/minute will apply and will be applicable to the entire time

Late fees are payable to the teacher AT THE TIME OF PICK UP.

Supply Fee

We want to be able to expose your child to as large a variety of art media as possible. Materials costs have risen yearly, and we hope that you can understand the need for this extra fee.

Our yearly Supply Fee is due in September and will be noted in your welcome back email sent out in July.



Staff

The school is staffed by professional teachers and assistant teachers. The teacher-child ratio is kept low so that each child will have close personal guidance. Teachers are selected on the basis of their

credentials, personality, love for children, and ability to work with young children. They are warm, sensitive, and understanding, and have experience working with preschoolers.

School Hours

The school hours will be 8:55am to 12:00 noon for our two, three, and four year olds and 9 to 12 for our babies and tadpoles.

Please bring your child to their classroom during the **first week** of school. It seems to work best for everyone if parents leave as soon as possible, “kiss and go.”

After the first week of school, an assistant will be at the entrance gate from 8:55 am until 9:10 am (weather permitting) to help your child through the drop off line if they are in the 3 or 4 year old classes. In case of bad weather, the assistant will be waiting at the side door of the sanctuary (beginning of the drop off line). Parents of tadpoles and two-year-olds are asked to bring their child to the classroom every morning. Two year olds may not be dropped off at the gate. **Do not leave your child if a staff member is not present.** If you allow your child to play on the playground before school begins you must remain with them the entire time. Please make sure you are off the playground and outside the gate by 8:50. On bad weather days, the 3 & 4 year old classes will be dismissed from the church sanctuary side door and tadpoles and two year olds from their classrooms.

Please do not drop your child off before 8:55 am. Teachers use this time to make sure the classroom is ready for the day. Make certain that your child is being supervised by an adult before you leave. **Pick up time is between 11:45 and 12 noon. Please be prompt.** If you are not in the drive through line or at the gate by 12 noon, your child will be taken into the building. Parents must walk up to pick up a child.

For your convenience and safety, parents of children enrolled in the 3 year old, and Pre-K classes may use our drive through line for drop off and pick up. Please pay careful attention to the walkway area on the right side of the drive through and cross walk in front of the gate. Please stop AT the crosswalk where an assistant will be waiting. Children will be unloaded only on the passenger side of the vehicle, so please install car seats and boosters accordingly. Watch carefully for those crossing from the parking lot. Drive to the end of the driveway if you need to “buckle up”. This will free the area for the next car.

If you would like to walk up to pick up your child, please wait at the gate and a teacher will bring your child to you. Please do not stop in the drive through and talk to children over the fence or pick up over the fence. If you need to speak to your child’s teacher, please wait until all children have been picked up to enter the playground or make an appointment for a conference.

Parents and other siblings or friends are NOT allowed on the playground UNTIL all children have been released. We see the security and safety of the children in our care as our top priority!

Parking in the drive through lane presents problems. We ask for your cooperation in helping us eliminate any traffic congestion.

Weather permitting, two year olds will be dismissed from the corner playground across from the Library. Parents, siblings, and friends may not enter the two year old playground. Your child will be brought to you. We welcome you to stay and play, but please wait until all children have been released.

Parking: The Jarvis UMC lots are used for many programs throughout the day for a variety of purposes (Bible study, funerals, scouts, choir, meetings, etc.). All cars that are parking in the lot for drop off, pick up, or for visiting the school during preschool hours when you are present in the building must have a Jarvis Preschool sticker visible on the vehicle. These can be picked up in the office. This does not entitle cars to be parked in the lots for work, dining, shopping, the library, etc..



Discipline and Guidance

At Jarvis Preschool the term guidance is used for several reasons. It is a positive term and implies working WITH the child to develop internal control of his/her behavior. Our goal is to encourage the children to become creative, independent, responsible, and socially mature human beings. This involves learning to make responsible choices and accepting the consequences of such choices.

Guidance takes several forms:

1. Environment – A place designed for children. The furniture is child-sized with lots of hands-on experiences.
2. Logical Rules – Such as keeping our hands to ourselves and taking care of the learning environment. These are discussed with the children, as well as why such rules are needed.
3. Curriculum – Is developmentally appropriate, based on the children's interests and level of readiness.
4. Positive Behavior – We reinforce the behaviors we encourage. We catch them being "good!"
5. Redirection – Often interesting a child in another activity can eliminate a potential difficulty. We might ask a child to help us or send them to a different area to play.
6. Positive Reminder – Telling the child what we want them to do, rather than using "no" or "don't".

7. Thinking Time – Occasionally a child needs to be removed from the situation for a brief time allowing them to consider alternate behavior.

Any on-going situation will be discussed with the parents to ensure a cooperative approach. Please feel free to discuss any question or concerns with the teacher or director. In the case of extreme problems or unruly behavior that affects the classroom and cannot be resolved, the preschool reserves the right to dismiss the child.

Health

Medical and Emergency Information Forms must be on file before your child can enter school.

We are concerned about the health of every child in our program. To keep all children as healthy as possible, we ask you to keep children at home if there are any signs of:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Fever greater than 100F
w/out meds within the past
24 hours | 8. Vomiting w/out meds within the
past 24 hours |
| 2. Purulent nasal discharge (colored) | 9. Constant cough |
| 3. Diarrhea w/in the past 24 hours | 10. Coup |
| 4. Stomatitis/Herpangina | 11. Chickenpox |
| 5. Rash – excluding eczema | 12. Bronchiolitis |
| 6. Influenza | 13. Conjunctivitis (pink eye) |
| 7. Impetigo | 14. Minor trauma, necessitating an
altered activity schedule |

If a child exhibits any of these symptoms at school we will call you to pick the child up. When called, you (or an alternate emergency person) are expected to pick your child up IMMEDIATELY. This is to protect the health of your child and his/her classmates. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Contagious diseases must be reported to the school by the parent as soon as the illness has been diagnosed so that other parents may be notified of the exposure. When a potentially contagious illness occurs, exposure will be noted on the bulletin board next to the exterior classroom door. Notes may be sent home to parents in some cases. We would also like to know if your child is going to be absent for several days for trips, etc. so we can ensure they have completed any special crafts before they will be out.

After your child has been ill, you must adhere to the following guidelines when determining whether or not your child is ready to return to school. Please refrain from entering the building when you, the parent, are sick if at ALL possible and keep sick siblings from entering the classrooms.

Children may return to school when the following have happened:

- Mood, appetite, behavior and activity are again normal.
- No fever for 24 hours or more
- Antibiotics (if prescribed) have been used for a full 24 hours (48 hours in case of strep)

Vomiting, diarrhea cleared for 24 hours
Frequent coughing and/or excessive nasal discharge has been resolved
Pain (earache, cramps, headache, etc.) has been resolved

Immunizations must be up to date. Parents or guardians must provide a child's certificate of immunization before the first day of school. Children who are behind in their shots may be enrolled but must prove they are trying to get the needed vaccines and are meeting scheduled appointments. A note from the child's pediatrician will be required in such cases prior to enrollment. Updated forms are required to be turned in to the school as updated throughout the year. Jarvis Preschool does not accept religious exemptions for immunizations.

Questions regarding immunizations and what shots that are needed: please contact your local health department or contact the NC Immunization Branch at (919) 707-5550 or visit www.immunize.nc.gov.

Injuries

Minor injuries will be treated with soap, water, ice, and band-aids. Our ability to treat an injured child is limited by law. We cannot administer any medications such as Motrin, Tylenol, ointments, cremes, antibiotics, inhalers, cold medications, etc. Once exception to this is diaper cream. If parents provide and give permission for staff to administer diaper cream we can do that. Please label the tube of cream with your child's name.

In the event of a serious injury or an allergic reaction, our most critical concerns for your child are: 1) getting treatment, and 2) contacting you, the parent, or other persons listed on the Emergency Form you provide to us. Serious injuries are required by law to be treated by licensed medical personnel.

Parents will be called from preschool when any of the following occur: minor injuries that involve a fall from greater than your child's height, occur to the mouth or eyes, those that may cause scaring, are not witnessed by a preschool employee, or any serious injury to the child. In addition to placing a phone call, an Incident Report Form will be completed by your child's teacher and the Preschool Director. You will be asked to read and sign this form.

Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

Please notify us in writing of any dietary restrictions or allergies your child may have. If your child is at-risk for a life-threatening allergic reaction, please fill out an additional health form provided by our Director. Please make sure your child's teacher and the Director are aware of how to handle an emergency concerning the allergic reaction and that the appropriate Authorization Form to administer any necessary emergency medications is completed. Snacks/drinks from home will only be allowed due to a dietary restriction or allergy with a signed form from the child's pediatrician.

Clothing

Dress your child in washable, sturdy, play clothes for school. Messy art and creative activities are planned every day and your child will want to participate. Unfortunately, we haven't yet invented an apron which covers every square inch of clothing, so be prepared for some extra washing! Children will also be sitting on the floor, climbing on the playground, coming down slides, and digging in the sand. Please have girls wear bike shorts under skirts and dresses.

Tennis shoes are a good idea, because they can be easily cleaned and easily dried in case they get wet accidentally. Closed toe/sides, hard soled shoes are required. **Flip flops, sandals, rain boots, crocs, and shoes with openings are not permissible.** Teachers agree that cowboy boots and rain boots should not be worn to school. They are awkward for running and climbing and they can hurt another child during active play. Boots with rounded toes and tread (i.e. Uggs) may be worn.

All children need an extra set of marked clothing left at school. Please place this set of clothing in a plastic bag with the child's name on the outside. An extra pair of shoes is a good idea too!

Labeling

Please label all book bags, books, coats, and clothing that is extra or removable with your child's name. This is very important for the teachers in determining ownership of these items. It is also very important in helping a child learn to take care of his/her belongings.

Possessions from Home

We have a wide variety of toys and activities to keep your child busy at school. Children are not permitted to bring toys, guns, play weapons, sharp objects, gum, candy, umbrellas, electronics, or money to school (unless for a class project). Please leave in the car or in the child's backpack. Children are encouraged to bring favorite books, music, nature items such as leaves, special pictures, etc. to share. Individual teachers will notify you about their show-and-tell policy and days (this must be something that fits IN the backpack and is not an expensive object or electronic device). Children need to arrive at school after all food, gum, vitamins, and medications have been consumed. These items are not permitted in classrooms.

Birthdays



Birthday treats are optional. If you plan to bring in a treat, please notify your child's teacher ahead of time so we can plan snack around it. We will also inform you as to how many children to plan for. Parents are always welcome at their child's birthday celebration. Please keep it simple and healthy. We request white or light colored icing for cakes and cupcakes if possible. Please refrain from small plastic toppers on cupcakes, cakes, etc. as they can present choking hazards.

If a birthday is to be celebrated away from school and the entire class is not invited, please mail the invitations. If the entire class is invited, please feel free to bring the invitations to school. Please be considerate of children's feelings and comply with the above request.

Parents often donate a book, puzzle, or game to the classroom. The birthday child has the honor of giving, not just receiving, on their special day. If you wish to donate an item, the classroom teacher can give you ideas of what the class would enjoy.

Snacks and Parties

Snacks will be provided daily for your child. *No peanuts or peanut products will be served or brought in due to allergies. No peanut butter or nut treats may be brought in for parties, snacks, or gift bags. Parents wishing to send a special treat for the entire class may do so, (fruit, vegetables, cheese, muffins, etc.) but please notify the teacher in advance. **No individual snacks are permissible except for a medical problem.**

Examples of snacks served: goldfish, butter cookies, vanilla wafers, pretzels, Ritz crackers, oyster crackers, saltines, graham crackers

We serve water to drink in 5 oz dixie cups.

Teachers often coordinate snacks along with the theme of the week or month such as apples, pumpkins, a color, a letter, or a science experiment. Keep in mind that children will often remember a sweet served at a party and not a carrot served as a snack! We say this to say, we do not only feed them sweets. 😊



Class parties – Each teacher will have a sign-up sheet outside her door for parties during the year. Please choose a convenient time to host a party and sign up on the first day of school. Parents will be assigned a party to help with should one not be chosen. We encourage parents to keep these parties simple. In keeping with our Christian emphasis to celebrate the holidays, the Preschool Committee has established the following guidelines that we ask parents to keep in mind:

Fall Festival – As a Christian Preschool, our focus shall be on a happy, pretend theme excluding scary and frightening aspects such as witches, ghosts, skeletons, and blood. We ask that parents be sensitive to this in their party preparations during the month of October.

Christmas and Easter – We ask that the secular aspects of these holidays be secondary to the focus on Christ's birth and resurrection.

Sibling Policy

The teachers are so very appreciative of the time and effort that parents put in to creating a great party or field trip for our students. Due to the number of students enrolled in each class and to ensure that these students have a good experience, siblings are not invited to attend school parties, field trips, or off site parties. The party is for the preschooler in the class, and younger siblings will have their time soon! There are safety concerns with parents being able to adequately supervise the siblings in a room or area designated for a specific age while participating as a volunteer and engaging with the preschooler in the class. Insurance liability is also a concern should a sibling get hurt during a school event. We know that sometimes this will restrict a parent's ability to attend their child's class party, but we want to be consistent so this does apply to all classes. There will be many opportunities for siblings and other family members to attend school programs such as the Christmas Program and class graduation. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

Wish List

Each teacher will have a wish list of needed/wanted items posted in her room. Please choose an item if you would like to contribute to the room's needs. We will also have an amazon wish list posted on our facebook page for the preschool if you would like to contribute.

Items Needed in September

Teachers will request specific items needed for their classes in September and as needed throughout the year. Typical items are Lysol wipes and spray, baby wipes, paper towels, tissues, etc.

Arts and Crafts

Preschoolers can create many masterpieces out of discarded items. Parents may contribute egg cartons (especially cardboard), baby food jars, styrofoam meat trays, strawberry cartons, buttons, ribbon, lace, colored tissue, empty tissue rolls, yarn, scraps of material **upon teacher/director request.**

Fundraising

As Jarvis Preschool is entirely self-supporting and a non-profit organization, there will be opportunities for your family to be part of fundraisers for the school. The money raised is used for upkeep of the playgrounds, class needs, and scholarships for students.

We ask that you relink your Harris Teeter VIC cards to Jarvis Preschool.

Backpacks

Children will need to bring a backpack large enough to fit a 9x12 folder. Teachers will send home crafts, gifts, etc. and your folder will serve as your communication with the school. **Please check and clean out backpacks daily** as your child will be excited to share with you many of the things he/she has learned or created. **Please check the folder daily** as it will contain newsletters and other important information from the teacher and school.

Backpacks must be labeled with the child's name on the exterior. Rolling backpacks are not permitted.

Lockdown Procedure

Jarvis Preschool will follow a lockdown procedure in the event of an emergency where it is necessary to prevent the easy movement of persons in the school building. Jarvis Preschool will be notified by emergency personnel and will follow procedures and instructions by the city of Greenville. The Director will be the liaison with Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church and with the police and the city of Greenville. The outer doors to the building will be locked, making the preschool space confined within the church building. All windows in the classrooms will be closed, locked, and covered. All electronics need to be turned off. The Lead Teacher of each classroom is responsible for her attendance clipboard and enrollment binder, implementing the Director's instructions, taking attendance, and establishing a calm atmosphere. Teachers and assistants will remain in their rooms until the Director alerts them to move.

At this time, the Director will instruct Teachers and Assistants to take all children to the basement using the stairs nearest to their classrooms, as this the safest part of the preschool. Snack food and bottled water are to be stored in the area, and the bathrooms located near the back stairs are to be used if needed. The children will be directed in quiet activities and kept away from doors and windows. Jarvis Preschool will remain in lockdown until notified by officials, at which point the school will notify all parents that they can pick up their child/children.

Curriculum



- ❖ Is planned to meet the basic needs of 2's, 3's, and 4's
- ❖ Is both play-centered and instructional
- ❖ Language development
- ❖ Motor development
- ❖ Art
- ❖ Music time
- ❖ Weekly Chapel
- ❖ Science activities
- ❖ Cooking activities
- ❖ Number usage
- ❖ Outside play
- ❖ Readiness and phonetics (4's)
- ❖ It is designed above all to develop a positive self-image and good social interaction with others in a fun-filled, caring atmosphere.

What Do We Do In Preschool?

- ❖ **Circle time** is a group gathering during which we share our ideas, plans, and observations. Circle activities are designed to stimulate youngsters' thinking, enrich their social skills, and expand their attention spans.
- ❖ **Gross-motor activities** give children the opportunity to use their muscles – as well as their imaginations – as they engage in fun, healthy exercises, such as running, jumping, and climbing.
- ❖ **Fine-motor activities** help improve small-muscle development and eye-hand coordination. Some common items found in the fine-motor/manipulative area include puzzles, beads and laces, pegboards, crayons, and scissors.
- ❖ **Art activities** help youngsters creatively express their thoughts and feelings. They help reinforce fine-motor skills and concept development in areas such as colors, shapes, and size relationships.
- ❖ **Dramatic-play activities** help children express themselves, practice life skills, improve social skills, increase self-esteem, build vocabulary, and solve problems. And, well, dramatic play is just plain fun!

- ❖ **Music activities** promote youngsters' listening skills, creative expression, and social skills. In music, children can explore sound, volume, tempo, and rhythm.
- ❖ **Science activities** offer children many hands-on opportunities for observation, exploration, investigation, making predictions, and experimentation.
- ❖ **Sand and water activities** allow youngsters to experiment with textures and the properties of different substances. These activities also promote the development of other skills, such as math, science, and language.
- ❖ **Block play** gives children experience with many different concepts, such as shape and size discrimination, spatial relationships, number skills, balance, organization, cause and effect, and classification. Cooperative play skills, problem solving, and creativity are also promoted in block play.
- ❖ **Story time** is designed to help youngsters develop and appreciation and enjoyment of literature. Reading activities enhance children's vocabulary and comprehension skills, and also expand their knowledge base.

Learning through play

Many times when parents observe or visit the classroom, they may think the children are “just playing”. But the way children learn best is through play. As the children are going around and exploring all of the different centers, here are some of the skills they may acquire.

Language Arts (books and flannel boards)



- ❖ Increases vocabulary growth
- ❖ Develops listening skills
- ❖ Develops reading readiness skills
- ❖ Develops oral language skills
- ❖ Encourages an interest in and respect for books
- ❖ Develops an appreciation of good literature
- ❖ Develops imagination
- ❖ Increases attention span

Science



- ❖ Develops observation and discrimination
- ❖ Develops respect for the environment
- ❖ Encourages a child's curiosity

Block and building materials



- ❖ Provides practice with social skills
- ❖ Develops gross and fine motor skills
- ❖ Teaches mathematical concepts (shape, size, balance, counting)
- ❖ Increases creativity and decision-making skills
- ❖ Develops visual discrimination skills
- ❖ Provides an opportunity for role play
- ❖ Increases communication skills and oral vocabulary

Housekeeping and dramatic play



- ❖ Provides an opportunity to role play home experiences
- ❖ Increases social development and communication skills
- ❖ Develops small and large muscle coordination
- ❖ Develops self awareness
- ❖ Develops visual discrimination skills

Art



- ❖ Provides opportunities for creativity and imagination
- ❖ Develops small and large muscle skills
- ❖ Develops color concepts
- ❖ Provides a release of positive and negative feelings
- ❖ Develops reading readiness skills
- ❖ Develops pre-writing skills
- ❖ Encourages an appreciation for the arts

Sand and water play



- ❖ Develops a sense of awareness
- ❖ Develops concepts involving space, measurement, volume
- ❖ Increases fine and gross motor skills
- ❖ Provides opportunities for problem solving and creative thinking
- ❖ Encourages children to think, reason, question, and experiment

Manipulative (puzzles and other fine motor toys)



- ❖ Develops small muscle coordination
- ❖ Increases social development and communication skills
- ❖ Fosters imagination
- ❖ Teaches mathematical concepts (shapes, sizes, and counting)
- ❖ Provides opportunities for problem solving

Large muscle and outdoor play

- ❖ Develops large muscle coordination
- ❖ Increases social development and communication skills
- ❖ Provides opportunities for sharing
- ❖ Provides opportunities for role play
- ❖ Fosters safety awareness



Earlier Is Not Better

Many parents are concerned when their children aren't practicing letters and numbers. They feel that worksheets and homework will prepare their children for elementary school.

We could give your children workbooks. We could make them memorize the alphabet. We could drill them. We could test them. But if we do, your children may lose something very important.

Children who are rushed into reading and writing too soon sometimes miss important steps in learning and may suffer later on because they lack the foundation skills they need for using language. Children who are taught to read before they are ready may be able to sound out and recognize words, but they may also have little understanding of what they are reading. If they haven't been given time to play, they won't have explored objects enough to know what words (like "hard, harder, hardest") mean. If they aren't allowed to string beads, button, dress up, cut, paste, pour, and draw, they won't develop the small muscle skills they need for writing.

Because math involves more than memorizing facts (like $2+2=4$), because it involves logical thinking, children shouldn't be pushed into paper and pencil arithmetic too soon. To acquire the foundation for logical thinking, children need many opportunities to count objects, sort them into piles, and add some to a pile and take some away. It is by playing games like these that they will learn to truly understand addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication. Without these concrete experiences, children may give correct answers but probably won't understand what they are doing and why.

If children are told what to learn and memorize by the teacher, they may become more passive and dependent learners, and be less excited about learning something new. Children who are given plenty of time to play, however, learn to ask their own questions and figure out their own answers. They are responsible for their own learning. They see themselves as explorers, discoverers, problem solvers, and inventors.

From: *"A Parent's Guide to Preschool"* published by Teaching Strategies Inc.

Preschool What to Expect

Based on our experience and the advice of experts, (all, some, none) of the children in our preschool will experience (none, some, all) of the following. All are normal behaviors.

1. Your child may become overly tired and irritable on preschool days. This may cause him to be overactive and noisy. This new experience is very stimulating. Give him snack or lunch and a quiet time or nap.
2. Your child may act very differently on the days you work at school. He may exhibit very negative behavior. Don't be embarrassed or push him away. Give him the attention he needs. It is very hard for him to share you with so many others.
3. Your normally outgoing child may be very quiet at school or vice versa. Accept this and let him enter at his own pace. Many young children prefer to watch first before entering play or a group.
4. Your child may do things at home for himself that he will not so at school or vice versa, like dressing himself.
5. Your child may pick up behavior or language you dislike. This can happen anywhere, not just in school. Relax and do not make an issue of it.
6. Your child will not necessarily "play together" with other children. He will play alone or along side others. He may go quickly from one activity to another, spending little time with any.
7. Your child may come home spotted with paint or grass stains but glowing with wonder over his experiences. Don't scold, threaten or bribe.
8. Your child may suddenly not want to come to school or will want you to stay. Look for the reasons. Talk with the teacher. Don't scold, threaten or bribe.
9. Don't expect your child to be equally happy every day. We all have ups and downs. Part of preschool is learning about life and to accept its ups and downs.
10. Do not always expect your child to learn facts or complete songs, or bring home a finished product suitable for framing. He is learning skills, developing coordination and developing happy, well-adjusted attitudes towards others and life.
11. Parents – expect to watch your own child and be mostly concerned for him at first. But learn to look at and be interested and concerned for the other children, and their growth and development.

Conferences

There will be an optional conference time for all parents of to meet with their child's teacher. If you ever have a question or problem, please do not hesitate to discuss the matter with your child's teacher or director. We welcome parents to visit our school.

Field Trips

Some field trips are planned for the 3 & 4 year old classes during the school year. Parents are informed in advance and parents may be asked to accompany the class. Permission was given on the registration application of each child, but additional slips may be required. The child seat belt laws make taking trips more difficult, so often we bring "guests" to the classroom instead. Please adhere to the Sibling Policy when volunteering for a field trip. Keep in mind that teachers may not transport children to or from the school.

Potty-Training

Children enrolled in the Pre-K classes must be fully potty-trained (pee and poop). No exceptions will be made.

We would like for children entering the Three Year Old Classes to be fully potty- trained (daytime) by the first day of school. However, if your three year old is not completely trained, we will work with you in the best way we can. These children will need to wear pull ups with detachable sides and be able to verbally tell the teacher that they need to use the potty. During this time, if teachers have to change dirty pull ups on a regular basis we will call a parent to come and change the student. If continued accidents occur, we will set a conference to discuss further actions considering your child's potty training, and possibly suspend your child until he or she is fully trained. We know accidents will happen, but our 3 year old rooms are not equipped with changing stations, and frequent accidents require one of the teachers to leave the class for extended periods of time.

Please see the potty policy on the following page regarding Tadpoles and Two Year Old Classes. Cloth diapers and glass bottles/sippy cups are not allowed.

Newsletter

At the beginning of each month, Preschool parents will receive a letter from your child's teacher describing some of the activities that will be happening and main areas of classroom concentration. We hope you will find this helpful. Tadpole rooms do not have newsletters

Dropping Out

One month's notice in writing to the Director is required if you plan to withdraw from the program. Dropping Out means that the child will not be returning to the program during the current or any

following school year and any registration fees or other fees paid will be used towards the account balance. Any spots reserved for the following school years will be forfeited.

Jarvis Preschool Potty Training Policy Tadpoles and Two Year Old Classes

The preschool teachers are happy to help with your child's transition from diapers to the potty. We do feel as though we need to have a policy concerning this transition due to the sanitary issues that arise and amount of time it takes to clean up from an accident. It is also a Safe Sanctuary issue that your class must be covered by two adults at all times with less than a five minute leave of absence. The teachers are unable to sit with or continuously take the children to the potty. Personal training seats or potties may not be brought to school as these present a sanitation issue as well.

After careful consideration we have decided that children must wear pull-ups (With DETACHABLE sides), or diapers (no cloth) to school until they have used the potty successfully (pee AND poop) for two full weeks at home and at school (excluding night time). Under no circumstances will your child be allowed to potty train in regular underwear. Regular underwear cannot contain urine and feces to prevent the spread of germs throughout the school. This is to protect everyone!

We are happy to take your child to the bathroom every hour and we will remind him/her to go throughout the day. We want to do everything we possibly can to assist in this process. This is an exciting time for you and your children because they are becoming more independent and learning how to make their own way in the big world. We understand that accidents happen and are to be expected. Make sure that clothing is easily accessible for your child. Tights, pants with buttons, and other restrictive items can frustrate your child when hurrying to the bathroom. Please keep in mind that often children will show a readiness and have success for potty training at home before the signs are seen at school, and they may be trained at home and not at school. This is perfectly normal and has been seen quite often!

For the first month of wearing underwear, please send pull-ups and wipes to school for your child due to the fact that we will need to use them if they have two consecutive accidents in a day. Please keep three full changes of clothes (socks and shoes are good ideas too) in your child's cubby during this period. If you are experiencing some potty training issues please hang in there. We absolutely promise that your child will not be going off to college in a pull-up.

*This policy approved by Dr.Caroline Morgan, Pirates Pediatrics