

PATC PARENT HANDBOOK

2021-2022

Updated 8/4/2021

Welcome Letter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to *Preschool at the Creek*, a weekday preschool program at Richland Creek Community Church! Our program exists to provide you and your child an exciting Christ-centered preschool education. We will strive to provide the loving care and guidance that your child needs as he/she grows and develops while instilling biblical principles.

The Bible teaches us that the discipleship and education of our children is primarily the responsibility of parents (Deut. 6). Therefore, we are here to "assist" you in educating your child. We will always encourage parents to ask questions and become very involved in their child's educational process. Cooperation between parents and staff will contribute to a successful experience for your child.

This handbook is designed to help you understand our program's mission as well as the policies and procedures under which we operate. This weekday preschool was established to share the Gospel of Jesus, teach biblical principles, and provide a learning environment that will help preschoolers grow in all areas of their lives (Luke 2:52).

We will make every effort to inform you of any changes that take place in the Parent Handbook. Thank you in advance for your support as we work together toward a successful experience here at *Preschool at the Creek*.

I look forward to getting to know all of you and your sweet children this school year!

Sincerely,



Jessica Gibson
Weekday Preschool Director

*All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be
the peace of your children (Isaiah 54:13).*

Mission Statement

Preschool at the Creek seeks to instill excellence in academics, character, and service to God and others in a fun and safe Christian Environment.

Educational Philosophy of the Program

Preschool at the Creek is a Christian preschool that emphasizes Christ-centered teaching. The Bible is the foundation for all activities and subject matter that your child will be exposed to.

We believe that the early years of your child's life are the foundation upon which future learning depends. "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Our aim is to provide an environment where your child will experience the love of Jesus through their preschool experience. Recognizing the importance of balanced growth, our staff will provide your child the opportunity for cognitive, emotional, physical, social, and spiritual development through our curriculum. We are committed to providing biblically based, age-appropriate experiences to allow each child to progress in these areas at his/her own level of ability, while enjoying feelings of success. This is primarily done through hands on activities and positive Christ-like role modeling of the staff.

Statement of Belief

To view the Statement of Belief for Richland Creek Community Church please visit our website at <https://richlandcreek.com/about-us/what-we-believe/>.

Purpose and Goals

- ☞ Help preschoolers understand God's purpose, plan, and love for them.
- ☞ Provide an academic atmosphere in which children are encouraged to be productive and creative learners.
- ☞ Develop an appreciation for education and a love of learning.
- ☞ Educate the whole child – cognitively, emotionally, physically, socially, and spiritually
- ☞ Develop quality friendships in a safe and comfortable environment.

- ☞ Develop a sense of responsibility and independence by teaching developmental skills and strengthening decision-making skills.
- ☞ Develop the ability to work and play in groups, as well as independently and promote healthy relationships with peers and adults.
- ☞ Effectively prepare your child for success in Kindergarten.

Registration Fees

There is a registration fee that **must** be paid at time of registration. Registration fees will be paid annually. This is a **non-refundable** fee and is not part of your tuition payment for the upcoming school year. These fees will cover operating and supply costs for the school year. Your Registration Fee will be deposited once your child has been **offered** a space at *Preschool at the Creek*. If you are not offered a space, your registration fee will not be deposited.

Monthly Tuition

Child's Age	Program Days and Hours	Registration Fee	Monthly Tuition Fee
Turned TWO by 8-31-2021	TuTH / 9am - 12pm	\$200.00	\$200.00
	MWF / 9am - 12pm	\$250.00	\$250.00
Turned THREE by 8-31-2021	TuTH / 9am - 12pm	\$200.00	\$200.00
	MWF / 9am - 12pm	\$250.00	\$250.00
	M-Th / 9am - 12pm	\$300.00	\$300.00
Turned FOUR by 8-31-2021	MWF / 9am - 12pm	\$250.00	\$250.00
	M-Th / 9am - 12pm	\$300.00	\$300.00
	M - F / 9am - 12pm	\$335.00	\$335.00

Classroom assignments will be determined at a later date

All families enrolled at Preschool at the Creek agree to adhere to the following financial policy:

- ☞ Preschool at the Creek is operates 9 months per school year with **equal monthly tuition payments**.
- ☞ Tuition is due on the first day of every month, starting September 2021.
- ☞ Your tuition fee will **not** be prorated for any days missed for holidays, sickness, vacation, or inclement weather.

- ☞ All tuition payments should be placed in your child's folder to be turned in on the 1st of each month or paid online. You can make a payment with a personal check, cash, certified check, money order, or online in response to your invoice that will be emailed to you each month. All checks should be payable to *Preschool at the Creek*. Please indicate your child's name in the memo area of your check.
- ☞ Tuition will be considered late on the 10th of the month. There will be a **\$10.00 late fee** for all late tuition payments. **If all tuition and fees (including late payment fees) are not paid by the last calendar day of the month, your child will be considered withdrawn from Preschool at the Creek.** *Preschool at the Creek* reserves the right to dismiss any family for nonpayment of tuition or fees.
- ☞ There will be a \$25.00 fee charged on all returned checks. After the second returned check you will be asked to make all future payments with certified check or money order.
- ☞ **A two week written notice is required if a child is going to withdraw from the program. Monthly tuition payments cannot be refunded or prorated for early withdrawal.**

Registration/ Enrollment Procedures

Enrollment operates on a "first come first serve" basis; once all spaces have been filled, there will be a waiting list formed for each class.

The following items are due at registration:

1. Registration Fee (personal check, cash, cashier's check or money orders ONLY and please note your child's name in the memo).
2. Completed and Signed Registration Form

The following items must be completed and returned on the 1st day of Enrollment:

1. Child's Application
2. Child's Medical Report
3. Immunization History
4. Parent Handbook Acknowledgement Form
5. Discipline and Behavior Management Policy
6. "Getting to Know You" Questionnaire
7. Media Release Form
8. Student Directory Form
9. Financial Responsibility Policy
10. Covid Disclosure

Future registration times for the **2022-2023** school year will be held in **January 2022**. Details regarding future registration dates and procedures will be given at a later date.

Preschool Orientation

Orientation for the 21-22 school year will be on August 31st. Please see your enrollment packet for your assigned times.

Arrival/ Departure Procedures

Preschool at the Creek will continue to follow all mandates as far as visitors entering the building. At this time, we will use carpool for both morning drop off and afternoon pick up.

Preschool drop off will begin at 8:50am. We are not allowing visitors in the building at this time, please use the carpool line for drop off. Upon arrival, you'll enter the church parking lot via Burlington Mills Rd, following the carpool line around the front of the church and into our preschool parking lot. Once you pull up to the orange cones, put your car in park and take your child out of the car. While standing beside your car, a teacher will come and walk your child to class. Please arrive by 9:05 so that we can promptly begin our preschool day.

Dismissal will begin at 12:00. You will need your assigned carpool tag on your rearview mirror for pick up. At 11:50am, a member of our admin staff will begin calling the names of the cars at the front of the line. We will use walkie talkies to call into the classrooms. A teacher will then walk your child to their car. Please stand outside of your car and be prepared to load your child into the car quickly.

Your child will not be released to anyone that does not have the Preschool at the Creek carpool tag in the window. If someone arrives to pick up, but does not have the carpool tag, we will ask them to park while we check their ID and verify that they are on the pick up list for your child. We will not release your child to anyone not on file prior to pick up.

If for any reason we feel that the safety of the child is compromised by the state of the person picking up your child, we reserve the right not to release them. In the event that such a situation should occur, the child will be held in the Director's or a pastor's care and the proper authorities will be notified.

Preschool at the Creek cannot be held responsible for proper car seat placement. This is the responsibility of the parent/guardian picking up the child from school.

Please remember to **DRIVE SLOWLY** and **WATCH CAREFULLY** for children when entering or leaving the church campus.

Late Pick Up Policy

Our teachers use the time after school for classroom sanitation and preparation for the following day, so it is crucial that your child is picked up no later than 12:00 pm as the planned school program is completed at this time. If a parent does not arrive and sign

out a child before 12:05 pm, a late charge will be added to their account. **The late fee of \$1 per minute will be charged starting at 12:05 pm.** A written notice will be issued to you and the fee can be paid in addition to the next month's tuition. An abuse of this grace period is grounds for dismissal from the program.

Sickness Policy

The intentions of our sickness policy are to reduce the spread of illness among children and teachers. We also want children to have the proper amount of time at home in order to fully recover. We want to partner with parents so that we can sustain a healthy and safe environment for everyone. We are continuing to follow all CDC and NCDHHS mandates.

Therefore, if your child is displaying any of the following symptoms they will not be permitted to attend school. In addition, **your child must be symptom free (without medication) for 24 hours before returning to school.** If your child is prescribed an antibiotic, they must be 24 hours into their dosage before returning to school.

The symptoms are as follows:

- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Head Lice (*child must be nit free and approved by Director prior to reentering classroom*)
- Skin rash, excluding diaper rash
- Red, watery eyes or discharge in eye
- Fussy, irritable behavior, or your child's inability to perform all of the day's regular activities
- Covid-19 Symptoms (recommended by the CDC)
 - o Cough
 - o Nasal Congestion
 - o Sore Throat
 - o Shortness of Breath
 - o Fatigue
 - o Headache
 - o Myalgia
 - o Poor Appetite
 - o Diarrhea
 - o Vomiting

If your child becomes ill while at school or exhibits any of the above symptoms, the Director will contact you immediately to pick your child up from school. If you are unavailable, your emergency contacts will be called.

If you have traveled outside of the country, we ask that you follow the CDCs recommended quarantine period.

Medication will not be administered by staff members

If your child should need medication on campus due to allergies (Epi-pen, Benadryl etc.) you will need to fill out a medication release form. Turn this form in to the Director along with the medication that will be held in the preschool office.

Discipline and Behavior Management Policy

We follow the North Carolina Division of Child Development guidelines for our Discipline Policy. It is as follows:

Praise and positive reinforcement are effective methods of the behavior management of preschool children. When children receive positive, nonviolent, and understanding interactions from adults and others, they develop good self-concepts, problem solving abilities, and self-discipline. Based on this belief of how children learn and develop values, this facility will practice the following discipline and behavior management policy:

We:

- DO praise, reward, and encourage the children.
- DO reason with and set limits for the children.
- DO model appropriate behavior for the children.
- DO modify the classroom environment to attempt to prevent problems before they occur.
- DO listen to the children.
- DO provide alternatives for inappropriate behavior to the children.
- DO provide the children with natural and logical consequences of their behaviors.
- DO treat the children as people and respect their needs, desires, and feelings.
- DO ignore minor misbehaviors.
- DO explain things to children on their levels.
- DO use short supervised periods of "time-out".
- DO stay consistent in our behavior management program.

We:

- DO NOT spank, shake, bite, pinch, push, pull, slap, or otherwise physically punish the children.
- DO NOT make fun of, yell at, threaten, make sarcastic remarks about, use profanity, or otherwise verbally abuse the children.
- DO NOT shame or punish the children when bathroom accidents occur.
- DO NOT deny food or rest as punishment.
- DO NOT relate discipline to eating, resting, or sleeping.

- DO NOT leave the children alone, unattended, or without supervision.
- DO NOT allow discipline of children by children.
- DO NOT criticize, make fun of, or otherwise belittle children's parents, families, or ethnic groups.

"Time-Out"

"Time-out" is the removal of a child for a short period of time (3 to 5 minutes) from a situation in which the child is misbehaving and has not responded to other discipline techniques. The "timeout" space, usually a chair, is located away from classroom activity but within the teacher's sight. During "time-out," the child has a chance to think about the misbehavior which led to his/her removal from the group. After a brief interval of no more than 5 minutes, the teacher discusses the incident and appropriate behavior with the child. When the child returns to the group, the incident is over and the child is treated with the same affection and respect shown the other children.

Emergency Procedures

Preschool at the Creek conducts fire and tornado drills. Each classroom has an emergency evacuation route posted in the classroom. In case of a fire, the class will evacuate to an assigned area outdoors. In case of a tornado, the children will be evacuated to the inner wall of our lower level, away from all doors and windows.

In the case of a larger disaster or prolonged evacuation we have developed an emergency plan designed to meet the needs of the preschool. Numerous PATC staff members are trained in First Aid and CPR, as are several members of our pastoral staff, who will support teachers and students as needed. If at any time your emergency contact information changes, notify the office immediately.

Student Accidents

If your child is injured while at school, your teachers and Director will evaluate the extent of the injury. For light scrapes, bumps, and bruises, first aid (soap, water, ice and/or Band Aid) will be administered by a staff member. An incident/ accident report will be completed for all injuries and signed by parent and by staff member. A copy of this report will be kept in the child's file, as well as a copy for parent to take home. If it is determined that treatment by a doctor is needed, we will make every effort to contact you. In the event of an emergency, we will make sure that your child receives the necessary emergency treatment until you can be reached. Each child must have an Emergency Consent Form signed by the parent on file in the office. Your authorization of the preschool to contact your family physician and to take whatever emergency medical procedures are deemed necessary is part of this agreement.

Attendance

While attendance is not required, we do strongly suggest that your child maintains a consistent schedule in order to benefit properly from the program.

Snacks

Every parent will be expected to pack a snack and a water bottle for your child each day. Students will have one snack time during their preschool day. We suggest that snack be kept as nutritional as possible; fruits, whole grains, yogurt, apple sauce, crackers etc and be filling as they will only eat once while at school. Please write your child's name on their snack and place in their book bag each day.

Preschool at the Creek is a PEANUT-FREE ENVIRONMENT, so please DO NOT bring any snacks with ANY peanut products in them. This includes items that are prepared in the same factory as peanut products.

Food Allergies

All children's allergies should be listed on registration and enrollment forms and confirmed with the teacher and Director. Please make a complete list of ALL foods that your child can not consume. All children's allergies will be posted clearly in all classrooms. Please be sure to notify your classroom teacher of allergies/ the change in allergies as well.

Special Celebrations/ Birthday Celebrations

Special Celebrations

Throughout the year we will have times where we have special celebrations (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, etc.). A sign-up sheet will be posted on ProCare when necessary.

Birthday Celebrations

We are more than happy to celebrate your child's birthday at school. Due to current Health Regulations, we cannot allow outside food items to be brought in and parents will not be able to attend birthday celebrations in school. However, you are welcome to bring goody bags or treats that can be sent home with the class. Your teacher will be sure to make sure their birthday is a special day at Preschool. **When this mandate is lifted, we will update this policy.**

Thank you in advance for being kind, compassionate, and sensitive when passing out birthday party invitations. **If you are not able to invite the entire class, please mail/email your invitations.**

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, Preschool at the Creek will relay information regarding closings or delays to the parents in the following manner:

- Sending out our decision in an e-mail to our parent distribution list
- Sending a notification via ProCare
- Posting our decision on WRAL's website - our name appears as **Richland Creek Preschool**
- Posting our decision on Preschool at the Creek's Facebook page
- Posting on our website: www.richlandcreek.com/patc

As always, our goal is to keep all of our children, families and teachers as safe as possible while still making appropriate decisions regarding the preschool schedule.

School Closure

Preschool at the Creek follows all Government mandated closures. We will notify via Email, ProCare and our Preschool Facebook page in the event of any closures.

Preschool at the Creek is not obligated to refund tuition payments due to unexpected closures.

Covid Policy

The Government has given us direction to call our local Health Department should anyone in our school be diagnosed or come in contact with someone with Covid-19. At that point, they will begin contact tracing and give us instruction as to who has to quarantine and for how long.

If you, your child or someone you have come in contact with has Covid-19, it is your duty to notify our school so that we can take the proper actions. If you travel outside of our country, your child must stay home from school for 2 weeks.

Each student must return their signed Covid-19 waiver prior to the start of school.

Our staff are required to wear masks. Masks are optional for the children. School supplies will not be shared, each child will have their own and all supplies will be sanitized at the end of each day. Our classrooms and toys/ equipment will be properly sanitized at the end of every day.

We reserve the right to close school at any point due to Covid-19.

At this point, masks are still required in childcare facilities for adults. Masks are optional for preschool aged children but mandatory for any adult that enters the building. We will update this policy as it changes.

Dress Code

It is recommended that all children wear washable play clothes. The children will be involved in outdoor play as well as messy art projects throughout the day. Although we try our best to keep clothing clean, we cannot guarantee that your child's clothes will not get dirty. Please have your child wear shoes that they can run and climb in.

Children are very impressionable; therefore, we ask that your child's clothing does not display violent play figures or any inappropriate logos/ print. The Director will determine if something is inappropriate or offensive.

All children are required to keep a complete change of clothing in their book bag in case of an accident. Label each item with your child's name and place them in a plastic zip lock bag also with your child's name. If these clothes are used, be sure to replace them for the next school day. Please do not forget to change out extra clothes as the seasons change.

All jackets, sweaters, coats, hats and boots must be **clearly marked** with the child's name. Many children wear identical clothing and without a name in each garment it becomes difficult for the teachers to identify its owner. The school will not be responsible for any lost clothing.

All children must wear closed toe shoes. Socks must be worn at all times with shoes and closed toe sandals. Closed toe sandals must also have a back strap for support.

Special Circumstances

All students must be able to communicate needs to their teachers. The child must understand and speak enough English to tell a teacher if something hurts, that they need to use the restroom, that they are sick or hurt, or in the case of any other emergency. All children must be able to transition on their own from class to playground, gym, and chapel. We are not equipped to handle medical equipment at this time.

Toilet Training

Toilet training is a parental responsibility that sometimes enters into your child's preschool day. As your child begins to toilet train at home we will continue to aid in this process at school. We ask that until your child has had several successes at home with both BM and wet trips, please continue to put them in a pull up or diaper. Once they have become very successful at home in underpants, you and your teacher can then decide if your child is ready for underpants at school.

Signs of readiness include, but are not limited to: asking for diaper changes when they become wet or soiled, an understanding of opposites, the ability to dress and undress themselves, and the ability to communicate their needs clearly.

Please be sure to place your child in clothes that are easy to remove when going to the bathroom. Many toilet accidents are prevented if children can unbutton or unbuckle pants and belts without a struggle. For the younger children do not dress them in overalls or body suits and don't include belts, snaps, etc. "Pull-on" type clothes with elastic waists that can be easily manipulated by the child is preferred.

All children entering into the three through five year-old rooms MUST be toilet trained prior to the beginning of the school year.

Gross Motor Play and Safety

We believe that Gross motor play is very important for the development of any child and we have set aside 20 - 30 minutes for recess/ Physical Education per day. Please remember to dress your child appropriately in both clothes and shoes that they can run, climb and play comfortably in. Gross motor play rules are set and reviewed with children at the beginning of the school year, as well as daily reminders.

Chapel

All children will attend Chapel lead by our Children's Pastor, Pastor Mike Dowd, on Monday or Thursday. During Chapel we will have a time of worship, learn a Bible lesson and sing songs of praise.