

Our Lady of Peace Catholic School

Preschool Program Plan



Mission Statement & Philosophy

To provide an environment that nurtures growth and learning.

Goals and Objectives

- Provide learning opportunities that facilitate the development of the whole child (social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and physical) in a nurturing environment.
- Help children prepare for kindergarten by focusing on their unique interests, abilities, and needs.
- Provide an environment that is stimulating, educational, caring, clean, healthy, safe, and fun.
- Develop supportive relationships with parents, guardians, and families.
- Develop and maintain a qualified and nurturing teaching staff.
- Be creative, innovative, and a leader in the delivery of early childhood education.
- Provide a setting that is inclusive and fosters diversity.
- Work cooperatively with the community to serve children and their families.
- Maintain the highest ethical and professional standards and practices.

Program Philosophy

It is our goal to provide a variety of experiences and opportunities for the social/emotional, cognitive, physical, spiritual, and language development of preschool children. Through learning activities and play, each child will be encouraged to grow at his or her own rate. Children will be encouraged to imagine, explore, invent, create, interact, and express ideas and feelings. A child's work is play!

The classroom is child-centered in order to foster development through creative play choices. The teachers prepare the environment for children to learn through exploration and interaction with adults, other children, and materials. The children can choose from a variety of developmentally appropriate activities set up in interesting areas around the room. Teachers flow with children to give them individualized attention and to extend their learning experience within a given area. Teachers interact with children in small groups and one-on-one allowing for individualized support with fine motor skills. Each day, large group activities are offered to help develop large group skills and a sense of community. Large muscle activities are offered on the playground, outside, in our school gym, and in our gross motor room.

Statement of Services

preschool is a mission of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church and School. The program provides a Christian, non-profit community for all preschool-age children regardless of race, color, religion, gender, nationality, or ethnic origin. We offer preschool and prekindergarten.

Children must be at least three (3) years of age as of September 1. Children must be toilet trained.

Program Details

Supervision

Children are always in sight and hearing of a staff member so that an adult can intervene to protect the health and safety of a child as needed. preschool has a 1:10 (adult:child) ratio in accordance with our license.

Children Ages

According to our license, children in preschool are aged 3-5 years. We have three classrooms: one classroom for children who are age 3 before September 1 and two classrooms for children who are age 4 before September 1. We can enroll up to 50 children.

Days and Hours of Operation

Preschool follows the Our Lady of Peace Catholic School calendar. The current school calendar can be found on the website at <http://school.olpmn.org/policies-and-information/>.

- Half day: 8:00am - 11:15am
- Full day: 8:00am - 3:00pm
- Before and after-care options are available for an additional cost.
- Families can choose 3-5 days/week (full or half days)

General Educational Method

We are a play-based preschool and we believe play is the best opportunity for children to learn during these formative years.

Outdoor Play

Outside recreation is an essential part of our program. Please send your child(ren) appropriately dressed for Minnesota weather, keeping in mind that it is often cooler in the mornings.

Oftentimes, layering works well. In the wintertime, please send a hat, mittens, snow pants, boots, and coats each day. We will try to get outdoors daily and will use teacher discretion with colder temperatures.

Quiet Play & Rest Time

A variety of quiet, child-directed activities are provided each day. Each classroom has a book corner, a variety of puzzles, coloring/art projects, and other age-appropriate activities that allow students to engage in quiet play.

Each preschool student enrolled in a full day will rest quietly for a minimum of 30 minutes after lunch.

Lunch & Snack Time

Children will have a healthy snack each day. A monthly snack schedule can be provided upon request. Milk and water will be provided daily.

OLP does provide a school lunch program for families who are interested. Please see the school website for detailed information about this program and to create your account. Lunch will include a main entrée, a selection of fruits and vegetables, and milk. For children who bring lunch to school, we encourage you to follow the USDA Requirements.

Sample Daily Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change

7:45-8am	Morning Arrival (drop off at Door 2W)
8-11:15am	Free Choice Time
	Large Group/Morning Meeting
	Specialist Classes and large muscle activities
	Snack and Bathroom Break
	Centers
	Outside Play Time
11:15am-12:15pm	Lunch and Recess
12:15-3pm	Rest Time
	Free Choice Time
	Centers
	Outside Play Time

Conferences/Student Progress

Two parent-teacher conferences will be held during the school year: one in the fall and one in the spring. The child's intellectual, physical, emotional/social, and language development will be discussed. Parents will review a written assessment of their child at each of the conferences.

Curriculum

Our Lady of Peace's preschool has a play-based curriculum that develops important readiness skills while nurturing the child and encouraging cognitive, physical, social, and emotional

growth. This curriculum enables the children to gain essential life skills through dozens of role-playing experiences focused on kindness, empathy, taking turns, responsibility, sharing, paying attention, and patience.

The curriculum is comprehensive and fully integrated complete with all the literature, hands-on components, family engagement, assessment, and teacher support needed for a full year of quality experiences. All materials are hands-on and support developmentally appropriate practice for three, four, and five-year-olds.

- **Physical Development:** To provide many opportunities for children to use and develop their gross and fine motor skills through the use of
 - outdoor large muscle equipment which includes a slide, climbing apparatus, grassy area, and fresh air
 - indoor large muscle equipment including a rocking boat, slides, tunnel, mats, and a parachute
 - organized group games that involve moving muscles
 - art activities which include using scissors, glue, paint, crayons, markers, pencils, and paper to use at all times
 - variety of sensory activities both in the classroom and outdoors time that align with best practices and needs for children this age
 - classroom activities that include access to blocks and puzzles
- **Intellectual Development:** To provide many opportunities for children to use language, math, science, and social studies skills through the use of
 - math manipulatives such as puzzles, calendars, matching objects, stringing beads, scales, numbered pegs, and matching cards
 - globes, maps, books portraying our culture and others, books with multicultural characters, dolls from different cultures
 - books (read daily), flannel board stories, flannel board letters, sandpaper letters
 - discussion time, show and tell, language-rich room with labels on most objects and areas, singing songs, finger plays, poems, and prayers
- **Social Development:** To provide opportunities for children to interact with each other and adults by
 - creating an environment with open spaces and learning centers to provide constant movement and a variety of contacts
 - giving children the opportunity to make choices about their learning
 - greeting children daily at arrival and departure
 - providing free-play time
 - providing good role models to children in words and actions
 - guiding behavior in a problem-solving way
 - participation in Morning Meeting
- **Emotional Development:** To promote a healthy self-image in each child by
 - showing respect for each child through words and actions
 - choosing a child helper each day
 - using puppets, pictures, and songs to show emotions

- providing dramatic play equipment including kitchen set and dishes, dress-up clothes, tool set, dolls, grocery cart, mirror, stuffed animals, puppets, table and chair
- promoting Catholic values through prayer, songs, books, and posters

Because preschool is an integral part of Our Lady of Peace School the students have the opportunity of taking classes from specialists in the areas of art, music, Spanish, library, and physical education on a weekly basis.

Each year, school administrators and the preschool teaching team will review the preschool program and policies to ensure good programming and fiscal administration. Any changes made to the Program Plan during the school year will be communicated.
