



Parent Handbook

2025-2026



Little Fish Preschool at St. James and Prince of Peace Welcomes Your Family!!

The beginning years of a child's life are full of curiosity and excitement over learning about the world around them. The primary goal of Little Fish Preschool is to provide a Christ-centered atmosphere for children to develop socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually. Little Fish Preschool recognizes each child as a unique individual and works to develop this uniqueness through the love and enjoyment of learning and playing together. Little Fish Preschool is licensed by the state and has state certified teachers.

Little Fish Preschool Goals

- To provide a Christ-centered atmosphere for children to develop socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually and intellectually.
- To form a partnership between parents and teachers to lay a strong foundation by embracing our Catholic faith and to develop a love for Jesus and knowledge of the presence of God in our lives.
- To recognize each child as a unique individual with special gifts and talents.
- To develop communication and interaction skills through spoken language activities and group interaction.
- To offer a wide variety of "hands-on" activities and developmentally appropriate learning materials to help children learn at their own pace.
- To give children the confidence and skills necessary for a successful Kindergarten experience.
- To protect the child's health and safety.
- To develop self-control, self-direction and independence.
- To develop language skills and understanding of virtues.
- To encourage each child to understand how to "LET YOUR JESUS LIGHT SHINE!"

Preschool Class Options

Little Fish Preschool provides 3 different classes to meet the development stage of your child.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning Class

8:15-11:15

Ages 4-5

Tuesday/Thursday Morning Class

8:15-11:15

Ages 3-4

Must be 3 by July 31st

Must be potty trained

Monday-Friday Afternoon Class

12:15-3:00

Pre-Kindergarten Class

The doors will open 5 minutes prior to each class time. Please be prompt in picking up your child. Please walk your child to the classroom. Holiday/Vacation days will be set according to the same schedule as Kearney Public Schools, with some exceptions.

NEW After Preschool Care at St. James Monday through Friday from 3:00-5:45!

Snow Days/Cancellations

Weather related closings will be posted on NTV, along with e-mail notification at the director's discretion.

Transportation

Transportation to and from preschool is the responsibility of the parents/guardians. The teacher must have written permission from the parents/guardians to release a child to anyone other than the parents/guardians, regular carpool driver or person(s) listed on the authorization form completed at the beginning of the school. The director/teacher may ask for driver's license identification to verify the person transporting the student from Preschool.

Clothing/School Bag

A REGULAR size school bag should be carried to and from school every day. Your child will use this bag to carry important papers and projects to and from school. The child's name should be clearly marked on the outside of the school bag. Place an extra set of clothes in a Ziploc bag inside your child's backpack (just in case ☺). Please dress your child appropriately for preschool, making sure clothing is comfortable and washable. Preschoolers get very involved in activities and should not be concerned about staying overly clean. Tennis shoes are best - PLEASE NO FLIP FLOPS. Please send mittens, hats, etc., when weather conditions are cold for outside play.

Parent Involvement

You, as parents, are your child's primary educators. All Little Fish Preschool teachers are so very thankful to serve your family in the education and formation of your child! We are in a partnership to provide a strong foundation for your child and much effort will be put towards trying to keep information flowing between us. Parents/guardians are encouraged to be a part of their child's preschool experience. Please visit daily with your child about what happened in school and check their backpacks for notes and projects. There will be opportunities to help at school parties and go on field trips. You are always welcome to visit the Preschool!

Information/Communication

Open communication between home and school promotes the growth and security of the child. A good home/school working relationship is essential. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to visit with the teacher/director through a meeting time, email, text message, notes, phone call, whenever questions, concerns, or suggestions arise. A monthly newsletter and monthly calendar will be sent home to keep you informed about the program and activities.

Snacks

Preschoolers are very active learners and snack time is important to little tummies. Snack time is also a time to practice sharing, giving thanks to God and learning about nutrition and table manners. Each child will have 2-3 opportunities to provide snacks and milk to his/her classmates. A sign up through a web service, SignUp Genius, will be sent for you to sign up to bring snacks according to your schedule. A list of healthy snack suggestions will also be sent home. Please check labels to make sure sugar is not the main ingredient in the snack you are sending. State law prohibits the serving of powdered milk and home canned products. Please NO cake or cupcakes. THANK YOU for your involvement in snacks! The children really enjoy it!!

Food Allergies

If your child has a food allergy, it is the responsibility of the parent to inform the director/teacher. Please inform the director/teacher of what your child is allergic to, how he/she reacts if exposed to the problem food, and what to do if the child has a reaction. If necessary, please provide a different snack for your child. The director/teacher will be conscious of what the child comes in contact with at preschool and will be trained in CPR and First Aid. If an EpiPen is deemed necessary, the director/teacher will be trained and an EpiPen will be stored in a locked room at Preschool. Please provide a written statement from the prescribing health care professional with a description of symptoms that need to exist in order for the medication to be given/applied. The health care professional **and** parent/guardian needs to provide written permission to the Director/Teacher. The Director will inform substitute teachers and volunteers at a staff orientation about any allergies and procedures. A note will be in the snack basket notifying parents of what foods to avoid when bringing snacks.

Disciple of the Week

Each child will have the opportunity to be the "Disciple of the Week." The Disciple of the Week is responsible for bringing snacks for each day of the week their class meets. During their special week, children are encouraged to bring an item from home each day of class to "show and tell" the class. He/she will also have the opportunity to share more about what makes them unique. The snack basket will be sent home the week prior to their special week with additional information.

Illness

All children are encouraged to attend regularly, however, please keep your child home if they are ill or have a fever. It is advisable not to send a child back to school until the fever has been gone for at least 24 non-medicated hours. Please call or text or email the teacher or director if your child will be absent (308-224-6507). Licensing requires the exclusion of any child who has an illness associated with a fever or any communicable condition (diarrhea, ringworm, impetigo, head lice, pink eye and scabies).

Enrollment

Every enrollment is conditional. No child will be allowed to remain in school if:

1. He/She places others in physical or psychological danger.
2. He/She is abusive in tone or gesture.
3. He/She is out of control.

Meet and Greet/Open House

It is important that your child feel comfortable on the first day of preschool. To assist in this process, each child and their parents will have the opportunity in early August to make an appointment with the teacher to meet at the preschool for a special first visit.

In addition, if your family has been part of Little Fish for previous years, an Open House will be available for your child to drop off supplies and get hugs from the teachers. A letter will be sent in the summer announcing the date.

Tuition

The preschools are fully funded through tuition, not parish donations.

Tuition is to be paid by the 10th of each month. The first payment is due at the time of the Meet and Greet. Tuition is as follows:

MWF morning class.....	\$165.00/month (\$1600/year)
TTH morning class.....	\$135.00/month (\$1350/year)
M-F afternoon class.....	\$215.00/month (\$2100/year)
After Preschool Care.....	\$170.00/month (\$1700.00/yr)
or if picking up by 4, reduced rates available.	

You can pay monthly, yearly, or by semester. If paying monthly, automatic payments are encouraged.

A non-refundable \$145.00 registration fee will be required to hold a place in the class and help cover curriculum costs.

Field Trips/Special Visitors

Field trips and special visitors enhance the preschool learning experience. Transportation to and from the field trip destination will be the responsibility of the parent. If a child becomes ill while on the field trip, the parent will be notified. Parent contact information and a First Aid kit will be carried at all times when the class leaves the preschool grounds. In case of an emergency or accident, parents will be contacted. Look for more information in the monthly calendar and newsletter.

Please reach out with any questions, concerns or suggestions! I would LOVE to visit with you!

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