

Question and Answer Sheet: Zion Early Childhood Education Center

3 and 4-year-old Preschool Programs

“The Mission of Zion Lutheran School is to prepare today’s young learners to be tomorrow’s Christian leaders.”

Q: Does Zion offer preschool to both 3 and 4-year-olds?

A: Yes, Zion does offer both a 3 and 4-year-old program. Our 4-year-old classes meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 12:30-3:00PM or Monday thru Friday mornings from 8:00-11:30AM. Our 3-year-old program meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:30-3:00PM. Zion has the advantage of having our 3’s and 4’s in separate classes so we are able to teach to the developmental level of each age group.

Q: How old does my child need to be to attend preschool?

A: Zion follows the guidelines set by the State of Illinois regarding who is able to attend preschool. Children must be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2016 to attend preschool for the 2016-2017 school year. We do not make exceptions to this guideline. Students that do not meet the state set guidelines are welcome to attend our daycare once they turn 3 and are potty trained if there are openings.

Q: Does my child need to be potty trained to attend preschool/daycare?

A: **Yes, your child does need to be potty trained.** We understand that accidents may occur and request that all parents send extra clothes in their child’s backpack daily in case of accidents.

Q: Is Zion a safe place for my child?

A: Yes, Zion takes pride in its safety precautions taken for the safety of all children. Our preschool classes have a 10 to 1 student/teacher ratio. Zion has a secure locked front door and all entry into the building is granted by the secretary or other staff. Zion has security cameras which are monitored and recorded. Zion has a fenced in playground and a phone system in each classroom that also doubles as an intercom system. The phones are taken out to recess in case of any emergency. All of Zion’s staff is CPR, AED and first aid trained. All preschool classes participate in fire and tornado drills throughout the school year. The preschool room is equipped with a fire escape door if the need should ever arise.

Q: What will my 3-year-old learn in preschool?

A: First and foremost your child will learn that they are God's forgiven child dearly loved by Him. 3-year-olds learn the basics of the school environment such as; sharing, getting along with others, cleaning up after themselves, how to follow directions and how to listen to a story. 3-year-old preschoolers are exposed to letters, numbers, shapes, colors and many other skills as they learn about the world around them through play, learning centers, books, themes, activities, songs and movement, projects and hands-on activities that strengthen fine and gross motor skills.

Q: What will my 4-year-old learn in preschool?

A: First and foremost your child will learn that they are God's forgiven child dearly loved by Him. 4-year-old preschoolers learn letter recognition, writing and letter sounds along with phonemic awareness activities to prepare them for the challenge of learning to read in Kindergarten. Math skills such as; counting, number recognition, writing, patterning and graphing. Children learn skills through play, learning centers, songs and movement, stories, hands-on activities that strengthen fine and gross motor skills, projects and theme activities.

Q: How will my child learn about God?

A: Zion preschool uses the Concordia Publishing House religion curriculum which teaches basic Bible stories. Christ centered activities are always at the core of our curriculum no matter the subject. 4-year-old morning preschoolers attend chapel each Wednesday with K-8 students and have a chance to lead the service once a year.

Q: Besides the daily academic activities, will my child have a chance to play and interact with the other students?

A: Research shows that children learn through play. Zion preschool students begin each class with a chance for "free play" where they can interact with other students while participating in pretend play activities. This is an opportunity to learn and put into practice social skills needed throughout your child's life. Children also participate in learning center activities as part of the learning through play process. Zion preschoolers use the playground as weather permits and have access to the school gym if weather is adverse.

Q: Will my preschooler be exposed to any technology?

A: We have a computer in the classroom that is used periodically to access things for the class to view and in small groups to explore educational games that reinforce skills that have been taught. We also have apple products that are used in center activities or to reinforce a skill one on one with the teacher. We continually strive to integrate technology in our classrooms on a developmentally appropriate level for the preschool students we serve.

Q: What is the cost for my child to attend preschool?

A: 4-year-old morning preschool: \$125.00 per month (paid for 9 months/ \$1,125.00 per year)

4-year-old afternoon preschool: \$90.00 per month (paid for 9 months/ \$810.00 per year)

3-year-old preschool: \$70.00 per month (paid for 9 months/ \$630.00 per year)

Fulltime daycare/preschool combination- \$120.00 per week (rate becomes effective January 5, 2015) Weekly rate includes daycare, preschool and lunch.

There is a \$75.00 non-refundable registration fee due at the time of registration.

Q: What do I need to have in order to register my child for Zion's preschool program?

A: You will need to bring a completed preschool registration form and the \$75.00 non-refundable registration fee to our registration evening on Monday, April 11. Please see the registration sheet for information regarding exact registration times. Before beginning preschool or daycare you will need to provide a current doctor physical and shot records. We do not require a birth certificate.

Q: If I have further questions, whom should I ask?

A: If you have further questions, please call Mrs. Kleckner or Mrs. Cook at 635-2446 ext. 02.