

Community Presbyterian Preschool
400 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, VA 23669 (757) 851-1292

Statement of Purpose

"Let the children come to me", says our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 19:14)

In this call Community Presbyterian Church recognizes a responsibility of the church to minister to the needs of the youngest members of our community. They need a place to grow mentally, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. We, as Christ's Church, commit ourselves to support this ministry. The Preschool will be a place where all God's children will be treated as members of God's family, where love, cooperation, caring and forgiveness are taught and experienced.

Philosophy

The education of children is a joint effort between the home, the church and the school. We believe that children learn best by interacting with others through play, music, art and an age-appropriate curriculum. Our commitment is to provide a loving Christian atmosphere for children to begin their early education. We will strive to promote positive social relationships between students and teachers, a play environment that teaches children through their individual interests and capabilities, and a safe, wholesome preschool experience in preparation for moving on to a more structured learning environment.

General Information

Community Presbyterian Church is located at 400 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, VA, on approximately six acres of a corner lot. The Preschool operates from eight rooms inside the church. All tuition funds received are used to pay the staff's salaries and reimburse the Church for preschool related expenses. The balance is then reinvested into the school (curriculum, equipment, materials, toys, etc.). We admit children of all races, denominations and ethnic backgrounds. In addition to the classroom teacher there will be assistants providing support.

Community Presbyterian Preschool operates under a Religious Exempt Status. We are required by the Virginia Department of Social Services to meet standards they have deemed necessary to run a Church operated preschool in the state of Virginia. We are subject to yearly building, health, zoning, and fire inspections.

The Session, consisting of eight elders, retains control over the operations of Community Presbyterian Church. The Preschool falls under the authority of the Pastor and the Session. A Preschool Committee, including a Christian Education Elder, the Preschool Director and Assistant Director oversee the Preschool. The Director, Mrs. Lori Ward, acts as the principal. Mrs. Teresa Schmidt acts as Assistant Director and Treasurer. They have authority over the teachers and students with regard to the day-to-day operations. In addition, they will make joint decisions regarding all financial matters.

Our faculty is hired based on their education, training, experience and Christian lifestyle. They must be able to communicate with children in a loving, positive manner. In accordance with the Department of Social Services, all staff members are given a release by a medical doctor stating that they have no disabilities that would interfere with their ability to care for children in a preschool environment. A criminal background check is done on each of the teachers and assistants prior to employment. Multiple staff member certified in first aid, CPR and emergency medical treatment will be on the premises at all times.

Operations and Procedures

Community Presbyterian Preschool is open from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday. Children arrive as early as 8:45 to 8:55 AM, dependent on their assigned class and should be walked into their classrooms. After 9:10 the building will be locked down. They will be picked up at 12:00 from their designated outside door. We request that our preschooler's siblings not be left in your cars in the parking lot unattended while the preschoolers are walked into the building. A period of center time and free play is provided to help transition into the school day. Children arriving late to school are deprived of this crucial time to unwind. If your child will be leaving the building with anyone other than their parent or normal caregiver, a written notice should be sent to school with the child or a phone contact MUST be made with the Director or the child's teacher in advance. Anyone other than the child's normal caregiver should bring an I.D. in order to pick up a child. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up promptly at noon.

Late Pick Up Policy

Parents or caregivers are to arrive in time to pick the children up at the designated door at 12:00 or 12:05, dependent on their class schedule. When a child is not picked up by their designated time, the child will be held in the Preschool office until the parent arrives. Fees will be assessed as follows: \$1.00 per minute from 12:05 until 12:20. \$2.00 per minutes from 12:20 thereafter. The fines will be added to your child's account and must be paid within 10 days.

Enrollment Procedures

An enrollment form must be filled out in its entirety and a \$75.00 non-refundable registration fee must be submitted. The parents or guardians will be required to present one of the following: the child's birth certificate, a notification of birth (hospital, physician or midwife record), a birth registration card, or the child's passport. In addition, we will need a current copy of the child's record of immunization by August 1st. If you are able, please bring those documents with you at the time of registration. Documents must be submitted in order for your child to start school.

Potty Training

All children enrolling must be completely potty trained. They should be able to use the bathroom independently. The bathrooms are monitored by the staff. The staff will be available to assist the children with buttons and snaps. Occasional "accidents" should be an exception. An "accident" is a slip in the child's normal ability to control themselves.

Classroom Placement

Parents must specify, on the enrollment form, which program they desire. Children must meet the age requirements of that particular program. Children must be at least three years old prior to Dec. 31, 2024 to be eligible for enrollment. Final placement of children will be the responsibility of the Director.

Annual Tuition

Tuition is based on an annual fee. You may pay for the entire year by August 1st or you may take advantage of our 10 month installment plan. If you utilize the installment plan, your first payment is due August 1, 2024 and the final payment will be due on May 1, 2025. Payments are due on the 1st of every month. Your non-refundable registration fee of \$75.00 is due immediately upon returning the enrollment forms and will "reserve" your child's position in a given class until June 15. At that time the non-refundable material fee is due. If these fees are not received by June 15, your child's name may be removed from the roll. In the event of military orders prior to September, the material fee will be refunded. The "Tuition Contract" is included with your enrollment forms.

Sick Policy

We respectfully request that parents keep a child who is ill at home. If your child has a fever, stomach pain, nausea, diarrhea, or any other contagious illness, they will not be admitted to school. Your assistance in helping us prevent the spread of disease to others is appreciated. If a child becomes sick while at school, the parent (or a friend/relative listed on the emergency card) will be called to come and pick up the child from preschool. Your child should not return to school following an illness until they are fever free for 36 hours and/or 24 hours have passed since beginning an antibiotic. Likewise, if your child has thrown up or has had diarrhea, they should not return to school prior to 36 hours from the last time they vomited or had a loose stool. The CDC recommendations regarding COVID quarantine are frequently being revised. A 2024-25 policy will be established in August of 2024, based on the current recommendations from the CDC and our licensing office.

Dress Code

Community Presbyterian is a FUN school! We will be painting, playing and getting messy on a regular basis. Please dress children in clothing that is comfortable and in outfits that they can be "messy little children" in! Children should also be dressed appropriately for outdoor play. Please refrain from open-toed shoes (sandals) as they are a hazard on our playground. Unless it is raining or we deem the temperature too cold, the children will participate in outdoor playtime year-round. Tennis shoes should be worn on PE days.

Inclement Weather Conditions

Should inclement weather arise, we will follow the decision Hampton City School makes with regard to closing school or opening late. If the television or radio announces that Hampton is closing school, you will know we will also be closed. If Hampton City School announces a one (1) hour delay, we will also open one hour late. If Hampton City School announces a two (2) hour delay, we will not be opening at all. If Hampton City Schools announce an early release and we are already at the school, we will remain open until our regular pick-up time.

Snacks

Snack time is set aside daily for the children. Please send a light snack in with your child each day. Some suggestions include: fruit, granola, cereal, vegetables, 1/2 sandwich, cheese, crackers, or popcorn. Any non-sweet snack will be acceptable. You may also include a juice, water or milk (either in a box container or thermos with a flip-top lid). No sodas please. Lunch boxes are encouraged but not required.

Behavior and Discipline

It is expected that children behave appropriately. Part of the socialization and learning process involves communication and interaction with others in a positive, respectful way. We encourage proper behavior with positive reinforcement. It is expected from time to time that a positive attitude adjustment may be necessary. It may include a verbal correction, redirection or a partial loss of playground time. Physical violence of any kind; biting, kicking, hitting, will not be tolerated. Any child inflicting violence on another student or teacher will be removed from the classroom and a parent conference with the teacher/director may be necessary. If behavior problems remain unresolved, Community Presbyterian Preschool reserves the right to withdraw any child that interferes with the healthy growth and learning process of others.

Chapel Service

Students will participate in a weekly chapel service, where we will introduce basic Bible stories and principles. The most profound Biblical truth that we can share with our children is the simple truth that "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so". It is not our intention to "teach" religion, but to share Jesus' love with each child that is entrusted in our care. Chapel, which is approximately fifteen minutes, includes a monthly Bible memory verse, a Bible story, worship songs, and birthday blessings. In addition to chapel, teachers will share simple Christian object lessons, Bible story books and blessings in the classroom.

Physical Education

Children will participate in a PE program once a week. Our instructor leads the children in developing their gross motor skills and stresses the importance of exercise. The class includes music, balls, hula-hoops, tunnels, parachutes and many other activities to make PE a fun and exciting program. Children should wear tennis shoes on PE days.

Music

Music is an important part of the preschool experience. Children often learn through rhythm and motion. Once a week our music instructor will lead the children in group music activities. In addition to this group time, music is often used in the background while children play and do arts and crafts. It is used in our P.E. program and in Chapel. Little children love to sing and they will get plenty of opportunity to "make a joyful noise" at Community.

Library

Reading is fundamental to a good education. Reading to your children is one of the best ways to nurture them and their imagination. Our desire is to assist you in exposing your children to the joy of reading by providing a library class each week. The librarian shares an interactive story and allows the children to check out a book for the week. We place a "Community Presbyterian Preschool" sticker on the back to help you identify which books are ours and need to be returned.