

Sonshine Christian Preschool

14515 Harvey Oaks Ave, Omaha, NE 68144

402-208-7333

Director Tammie Dickens

www.sonshinechristianpreschool.org

Welcome to Sonshine Christian Preschool!

We look forward to getting to know you and your child. Our mission is to ensure a Christian based, safe, hands-on, developmentally appropriate, fun learning environment that meets the needs of the whole child...physical, spiritual, emotional, social, and intellectual. This is done by providing a variety of experiences in art, children's literature, music, dramatic play, fitness, cooking, and gross motor activities. We provide an environment where children can discover for themselves, become self-directed and independent, and experience activities that will help them grow and develop.

Registration

Registration for the following year of preschool in opens February for parents with children currently enrolled. The following week, registration will be open to the public. We accept registration during this time on a first come basis. A place will be held for your child when the registration form is completed and given to the director along with a \$70.00 nonrefundable registration. Information concerning registration dates will be sent home in your child's bucket and on the website.

Hours

Our classes are offered Monday-Friday from 9:00am to Noon/11:30. Please do not drop your child off early, our teachers meet each morning before class to review the day ahead and to spend time in prayer. It is important that your child never be left unattended, so we ask that you never leave your child in the classroom before a teacher arrives. It can be very stressful for your child to be left after school has finished, please make sure you are here on time.

Tuition

Tuition is due the first day of the month, after the 7th there will be a \$25.00 late fee. If tuition and fees are not paid in full by the 14th, your child will not be allowed to attend school. No credit is given for missed days due to absences, holidays, snow days or vacations. Checks should be written out to Sunshine Christian Preschool and placed in the tuition box. A 30 day written notice must be given upon withdrawing your child prior to the end of the school year. Monthly tuition is based on one set amount for the entire year of school and is divided over the nine months of school in equal amounts.

PRESCHOOL 1 CLASSES (3 to 4 year olds)

Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am-11:30am
\$115.00/month or yearly \$1035.00

PRESCHOOL 2 CLASS (4 to 5 year olds)

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
From 9:00am-Noon
\$150.00/month or yearly \$1350.00

PRESCHOOL 3 CLASS (4 to 5 year olds)

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00am-Noon
\$180.00/month or yearly \$1620.00

Dress Code

We do many activities at preschool that are not "good clothes" friendly. Please keep this in mind as your child gets dressed for preschool. Clothing should be weather appropriate and comfortable.

Please DO NOT send your child to school in flip flops or any open toed shoes, they are can be DANGEROUS and will not be permitted on the playground.

A Change of Clothes

We love messy activities! When the weather is warm, we love the water! Although we encourage you to bring us your potty-trained child we understand that is not always possible. For all of these reasons, we ask that your child carry a change of clothes in a zip-lock that can be kept in their bucket. Please mark your child's name clearly on the outside of the bag. Don't forget to change the extra clothes to something appropriate as the weather changes.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

The safety of your child is extremely important to us, for this reason, a member of our staff will be at the door each morning to greet you and to make sure that your child reaches his/her classroom safely. After our staff member leaves the front door, the door will be locked and remain locked until class is dismissed. If for any reason you need to get back into the school before the doors are unlocked, please call the preschool office and a staff member will meet you at the door. You may pick up your child directly from their classroom. It is important for us to know who is picking your child, so please let us know when this changes.

We will release your child to NO ONE without written permission from you if they are not on your child's enrollment form. If we feel it necessary, we will ask for identification before releasing your child.

Some of you may have trouble walking your children in because of other children in your car. We realize the difficulty in unloading and reloading little ones for the short time it takes to walk your children to their classroom. We don't want any children to be left alone, so let the director know that your child will need to walk in on their own, so that our staff member at the door can be waiting for your child as she/he comes in and be waiting at the door for pick up.

*****Emergency Pick up location-if for any reason your child would need to be picked up in a school emergency (ex. Fire) our safe location is the basketball hoop in the parking lot. We practice fire drills once a month and this is the safe location the children practice.*****

Absences

If your child is absent from school, please notify the teacher ahead of time if it is a planned absence or call or text the office at 402-208-7333.

Enrollment Forms and Shot Records

All forms are due during your child's first week of school. We must have emergency contact information at all times, so please be sure to update the staff of any changes in your contact information throughout the year.

State regulations dictate that the shot dates must be given or if for any reason you choose not to have your child immunized you must send in an affidavit printed from the Health and Human Services System website instead of the Shot Record form. ****Please see our office as we also have forms available*****

Illness

If your child is ill on their preschool day, please notify the school. Be respectful of the health of other students when deciding whether to send your child to school.

Please keep your child at home if:

They are taking an antibiotic less than 24 hours.

They are running a fever of higher than 101.0 or have had one within the last 24 hours.

They have a cold that is less than 4 days old.

They have a discolored nasal charge.

They have a frequent cough.

They have unidentified rashes, head lice, or pink eye.

They have vomited or had diarrhea 2-3 times or more in the past 48 hours.

They have been exposed to a communicable disease, such as chicken pox.

They are fussy, cranky, tired, or just generally not themselves.

Medication cannot be given out except by special permission. If your child needs medication, please see the director.

For the well being of all of our children and staff, we ask that you not bring sick children into the building at any time. If you need assistance during drop off or pick up, while you wait in the car with your sick child, please call the school office and a staff member will walk your child from their class out to you.

Allergies

All allergy information should be listed on your child's enrollment form. However, it is important that you discuss this information with your child's teacher so that we understand the severity of your child's allergies. We have staff members who have current training in infant/child CPR, First Aid, and the use of an Epi pen. A staff member with this training will be present at all times. Epi pens should be given to the director with your child's name clearly marked on the box AND written instructions from the doctor. They will be kept in your child's classroom.

Classroom Schedules

Arrival

Small motor development

Circle Time-Music, Story(Concept for the day or week)

Snack

Center Play/Art

Gross Motor-Outside on Playground or in the Big room

Dismissal-Story, music

There are times when there are changes to the daily schedule. We may have a special activity for the day such as chapel, fitness, special cooking activity or science. The times and order of activities may be moved according to the needs of our class.

Snacks: Sunshine is a Peanut Free Zone!

Children take turns bringing snacks. Each child's teacher will keep a sign-up list outside their classroom door. It is important to communicate with the teacher to find out about any allergies in your child's classroom. Children love snack preparation. Any snacks requiring age-appropriate preparation would be a fun addition to your child's cooking days.

Please check with your child's teacher. Some suggestions are apples or applesauce, bananas, grapes, oranges, peaches, pears, plums, raisins, or strawberries. Birthday treats would be an exception! You do not need to send napkins, cups, or drinks. The school provides these.

If your child has a food allergy, please give your teacher detailed information as to how severe it is. This communication is vital at snack time because our staff is not always in control of what foods are brought by other students. Consider sending a small supply of appropriate snacks for your teacher to keep in reserve for your child to eat should someone else bring a snack they are allergic to. The information you provide your teacher with will also be important at cooking times.

Cooking

Each week, your child will have the opportunity to cook with their class. All cooking activities will be fun and age appropriate. Working together pouring, mixing, spreading, cutting, and eating helps build math skills, learn cooperation, develop small motor skills, and add to a fun-filled day! If you would like to help with or provide a cooking activity for your child's class, please let your teacher know.

Fitness

Children who attend Preschool 2 and 3 Classes will take part in a fitness class.

Each class will have one fitness day where they will spend 15-20 minutes in an activity that actively engages them physically followed by a short health lesson. They will learn about healthy eating, parts of the body, the importance of physical activity, how the heart works, and many other things.

We want to teach our students how to live a healthy lifestyle as we feel this is important to the development of the whole child.

Art

Every day your child will be given the opportunity to do an art project. Preschoolers develop from the head down and from the midline out. Art helps them develop the small muscles needed for learning to write and the hand/eye coordination needed for both reading and writing. Our art projects will not only encourage that development, but also will nurture your child's creativity. There is nothing more self-esteem building for a child than to be able to say, "I did it all by myself!" Being creative is a great stress release at any age! As your child shows you their art project, a good thing to say would be, "Tell me about your project." In a great book *Don't Move the Muffin Tins* by Bev Boss, she reminds us that art is the "process, not the product."

Buckets

We ask that your child carry a bucket each day to preschool instead of a more traditional backpack. Buckets are easy for a preschooler to put things in; wet art projects wipe clean from a bucket; they hold lots of things; and they are easy to carry. Allow your child to help pick out their bucket then decorate it with stickers or paint. Be sure your child's name is clearly visible. A simple cleaning bucket will be an important part of your child's preschool day. Be sure and check your child's bucket daily for important information and artwork. Your child will be bringing home buckets of fun!

Music and Stories

Our children will never leave preschool without a story in their mind and a song in their heart. Literature and music play important parts in the development of the whole child. Some days we will come together as a school for music and creative movement. Other days, we will have music in our own classes. Our teachers offer many musical talents -including a certified Gymboree teacher - so sharing them with the children and each other should prove to be a time filled with lots of fun and laughter! Some days we will stay together for a story, depending on the teacher's plan for the day. At story time, your child will hear a Bible story, a great children's book, occasionally an appropriate video, or a flannel story.

Chapel

Each week, our Preschool 2 and 3 classes will come together for chapel. This is a time for prayer, singing and listening to a Bible story or lesson presented by one of our staff members or even a Bible story acted out by one of our classes. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to read a Bible story or share some spiritual music with us can contact the Preschool Director in order to make scheduling arrangements.

Giving Tree

We have a donation program called the Giving Tree that serves as a wish list for the Preschool. The tree is painted on a mural in the Preschool entryway. Staff members put donation requests on apples, leaves, snow-flakes - or whatever fits the season - and place them on the tree. Families are not required to donate, but can do so whenever they wish to.

Items will be marked with the teacher's name making the request. If you would like to donate those items, pull the requests off the tree and return them with your donation to any staff member or preschool office. Items without a name are requested for the whole preschool.

Please continue to check the Giving Tree throughout the year as new items will be added whenever they are needed by the staff. Thank you for your kindness!

Field Trips

Only our Preschool 2 and 3 classes will leave the premises for field trips. We have some walking field trips, and you are always welcome to walk with us. If a field trip is too far to walk, we will schedule a bus to transport the teachers and students. If there is extra space on the bus, parents may be able to ride with us for a nominal fee. Field trips are not included in tuition and will require a fee for each student that attends. If a parent chooses to attend a field trip, we ask that you find alternate care for siblings.

We will also bring some great field trips and activities right on the Premises. Offering these new experiences and hands on learning activities with their friends is a great way to enhance your child's learning environment.

Strollers

For fire safety reasons, no strollers will be allowed inside the building. In case of an emergency our children may not be able to pass around them, therefore causing a DANGEROUS hazard.

Snow Days and Holidays

We will use the Millard Public Schools as a guideline for snow day closings, Sonshine will also be closed as well when Millard Schools call for a half day closure. Holiday breaks will be determined by the Millard Public School calendar. Sonshine Christian Preschool will also be closed on Good Friday.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences will be held during school hours, for our Preschool 2 and 3 children only. On conference days, there will be no school for the children. Parents will meet with their child's teacher for 15 minutes. Information concerning dates and times will be posted on the website. You can also see the school calendar for conference dates. Supervision for your child will be provided during conferences. Our conferences will provide parents with information on kindergarten readiness and answer any other questions you may have.

Sonshine Times and Scholastic Book Orders

The Sonshine Times is our monthly online newsletter. It includes information regarding past and upcoming events at the Preschool, snack schedules, and reminders or requests from the staff. We do a Scholastic Book Order once a month giving you the chance to purchase some great books for great prices. Each Scholastic purchase helps earn more books for the Preschool. Please be sure and check our website weekly as this will be our primary form of communication with our families. All dates for upcoming events, activities and school closings will be posted on our website calendar.

Playground

Your family is welcome to enjoy the playground before or after school hours, but we ask you to do so safely.

--Children must NEVER be left unsupervised on the playground - an adult must be inside the playground fence whenever children are playing.

--Please do not allow your children to climb on or over the retaining wall.

--Our playground slide is a feet first, down only slide. Please do not allow your children to walk or climb up the slide.

--Children are not allowed to jump off of the swings or the large climber.

--Please close doors and windows on Dillon's House!

Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

Sonshine Christian Preschool assures the safety and security for all children, staff and property. The preschool staff uses positive redirection and reinforcement for a child who is having difficulty playing in an area. Many times a young child is simply trying to find the words to use and helping them navigate this situation is so important.

Tentative Fall Classroom and Door procedures for Fall 2021

We are and will continue to follow the CDC guidelines and policies for schools.

We ask, especially, if your child needs medicine to come to school, they should be kept home.

*****If a child has a positive Covid test we ask you notify the school immediately. All parents will be notified of a positive test as we are also required to report to the Department of Public Health. At that time, our actions will be determined by many factors and each individual case will most likely have different circumstances.

2. Parents will be allowed in the building at drop off this year. We do however encourage your child to walk in on their own! For pickup, children can be picked up at the door as we did last year. We will do our best to make this an easy transition and we appreciate your patience when it comes to getting them in and out of school.

*****The first couple weeks of school can be a tough transition for many children even in the best of times. If returning children to Sunshine feel comfortable to walk in on their own, we encourage them to leave you with a goodbye outside the door...leaving room for parents of new children! Our goal would be to have children walking in on their own to minimize contact for everyone as the year goes on!

3. Hand sanitizer will be given as soon as the kids enter the classroom and when we leave. Staff will have access to hand sanitizer and cleaning products throughout the day but they will be out of reach of the children. We will be cleaning surfaces during the day and extensively after classes. Children will also be washing hands frequently throughout the day.

4. Children do not need to wear a mask however if your family choice is to wear a mask we will do our best to help them. If you choose to send your child with a mask, please help make sure they know how put it on and off by themselves and practice at home wearing it for a regular class period time.

As I write this, things seem to change daily but our goal is to keep a healthy and safe place for your children. Thank you for your support!

GRIEVANCES

In the event that you have a grievance with some aspect of Sonshine, which has not been resolved to your satisfaction, you may present your complaint to the School Board. Our Board President is Rick Strevey. He may be reached at 402-445-2288