



St. John's Lutheran Preschool Class Descriptions

St. John's believes that development takes place throughout the child's day, and that each moment of the day has a purpose. "Play with a purpose" is the primary concept upon which our all of our preschool curriculum is based. We believe that this type of play is the child's most valuable learning tool and the means to developing self-awareness, confidence, and problem-solving skills.

Preschool (2's): *For children who will be two years old by August 31st*

Our two's classroom is designed with opportunities for the children to explore the world around them and create, learn, and grow, using their five senses. Simple bible stories and songs help these young children learn that God made them and loves them. Basic "care and share" classroom concepts are introduced, such as sharing, taking turns, entering and exiting play, and being kind to others. Concepts such as shapes, colors, and counting are introduced in a fun, interactive, and playful way. The children enjoy learning, playing and art activities in safe indoor and outdoor spaces.

Preschool (3's): *For children who will be three years old by August 31st*

Our three's curriculum is designed to expose children to a wide variety of experiences and incorporates all styles of learning. In the classroom, the children learn through structured activities, classroom projects, and self-regulated play with peers. We nurture and encourage each child's spiritual development through worship, prayer, and bible teaching. We strive to foster and encourage each child's natural progression of development, while exposing them to a language rich environment, beginning math concepts, pre-writing and letter formation activities, fine motor and gross motor activities, art, dramatic play, music, and social interaction.

Pre-Kindergarten (4's): *For children who will be four years old by August 31st*

Pre-Kindergarten is designed to offer children the academic foundations needed to be successful in Kindergarten and beyond. We encourage the children to explore their environment, ask questions, and cultivate a love of learning at an early age. Academic concepts such as counting, letters, numbers, and writing, are introduced using fun, multi-sensory approaches. Our language rich classroom environment supports all learners by clearly stating and demonstrating the expectations for classroom behavior and introducing concepts that will lay the foundation for their school experience. We nurture and encourage each child's spiritual development through worship, prayer, and bible teaching. We use evidence-based materials such as "Handwriting without Tears" and standardized developmental checklists to form the basis of our academic curriculum.

Junior-Kindergarten (5's): *For children who will be five years old by November 30th*

Junior-Kindergarten is designed for students who may be of chronological age to enter Kindergarten but would benefit from a "year of grace" to grow and mature. It is an intentionally designed learning environment that mimics the Kindergarten classroom but allows time to explore topics of interest more deeply, while eliminating the expectation that the child must master all of the concepts. The Junior Kindergarten learning environment is primarily academic, and includes weekly enrichment opportunities in fine arts, music, physical education, educational technology, and science in addition to our regular daily program. We also nurture and encourage each child's spiritual development through worship, prayer, and bible teaching. Our goal is to use multi-sensory techniques to provide the children with practice and support them in their academic skills, self-regulation, and social interactions with peers, as well as meet standards of Kindergarten readiness.