

# Messiah Lutheran Early Childhood Program

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[www.messiahnetwork.org/school](http://www.messiahnetwork.org/school)

## Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum Overview

Preschool Classes for children who are 4 by August 1 and will be entering Kindergarten during the next academic year.

### **Overview:**

Discovery, exploration, and age-appropriate introductions to academics are key as we embrace being four years old. Through the use of themes, children engage in many different experiences as they learn about the world that God created around them. Using a variety of activities, children will explore math, literacy, science, creative representation, music, social skills, and much more.

A large-motor room and outdoor playground are incorporated into lesson plans as well. Opportunities for parent involvement are encouraged and available in a variety of different experiences.

### **Purpose:**

At Messiah Lutheran Early Childhood Program, we will strive to share the love of Jesus in all we do, as well as:

- Provide pleasant social and developmental experiences in a classroom setting
- Promote a healthy attitude toward school and group activities
- Encourage creative expression in a classroom setting
- Offer activities for developmental growth
- Build self-esteem and self-confidence
- Encourage self-control and growth in self-regulation
- Provide faith-building opportunities

### **Goals:**

By the end of the school year, our goal is that each child will:

- Know that Jesus loves him/her
- Have acquired age-appropriate social skills
- Successfully use a variety of art and writing media (scissors, crayons, glue, paint, pencil, etc.) and have a strong understanding of writing abilities (such as writing own name, numbers, alphabet letters, etc.)
- Have acquired a solid foundation for literacy and reading success
- Have acquired a love of school and desire to learn

- Have experienced success in areas that are of interest to him/her

### **Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum:**

Our Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum is taught thematically and includes components of the Missouri Early Learning Goals, as well as Curriculum Goals from the Lutheran Elementary School Association of St. Louis (LESA). We weave the message of faith into all subject areas throughout the day.

Each week there is a specific topic or theme on which the children study and learn. Other areas incorporated into each theme include: Bible stories, math, science, literacy and reading, art and music, physical education, Spanish opportunities, and much more!

### **Religion:**

God is the creator of the world. He is our friend, and He loves us very much. We can respond to God's love by praying and showing God's love to each other. We will listen to stories from the Bible and sing songs of praise to God. Students will:

- Listen to stories from the Bible and learn their significant meanings
- Daily participate in Jesus Time or Chapel
- Come to know Jesus as their friend and Savior who died and rose for them
- Know God the Father as Creator who always loves them
- Learn what it means to show God's love to others throughout the day

### **Science:**

Pre-Kindergarten students are encouraged to develop their sense of wonder and make observations and predictions while exploring different materials to discover God's world around them. Students will experience the following:

- Hands-on activities which explore a variety of scientific concepts
- Experience the life cycles of animals, such as frogs and butterflies
- Observe insect life
- Learn about weather
- Grow plants and learn how to take care of God's creations
- Explore science tools, such as droppers, magnets, and magnifying glasses
- Learn about nutrition, exercise, and dental health
- Participate in a variety of other outdoor learning experiences around our school facility

### **Math:**

Children are naturally curious and have a built-in desire to learn first-hand about the world around them. They want to make sense of things and find out how things work. Math concepts are taught throughout each theme as well as by using practical application through everyday activities. Math concepts included in the curriculum include patterning, graphing, counting, calendar, sorting, and numeracy. Experience with beginning addition and subtraction is also taught.

### **Language Arts:**

Children are exposed to a variety of literature, including nursery rhymes and poetry. We offer a strong exposure to phonemic awareness activities and serve as the foundation for extended learning of phonics and early reading skills. A “Letter of the Week” will be taught and children will learn all letters of the alphabet, both lower-case and upper-case. In addition, students will:

- Engage in conversations about real life experiences and current events
- Participate in opportunities which allow children to increase their listening abilities
- Be given opportunities to speak to the whole class (public speaking and self-esteem building)
- Experience countless exposure to the written language, where children are read to on a daily basis and learn to appreciate good literature. Books are available throughout the classroom
- Participate in emergent literacy activities including fingerplays, rhymes, and songs
- Experience use with words that have meaning to them, including some sight-words
- Utilize pens, paper, and pencils, as well as other materials, that provide opportunities for writing and pre-reading skill growth
- Much more!

### **Art, Music, and Creativity:**

Pre-Kindergarten students have opportunities to create with a variety of art medium. Children are encouraged to create their own unique works of art and have frequent access to the Art Center supplies with a large variety of materials. Each weekly theme includes special projects that children create. Some projects are displayed in the classroom or hallway, and others are sent home. Music is covered in each classroom daily and includes songs, rhythm instruments, movement, and music enjoyment.

### **Large and Fine Motor Development:**

Large motor skills are developed with classroom games and movement activities, recess, and gym opportunities that include running, hopping, galloping, marching, balancing, ball skills, parachute, bean bag activities, and much more.

Fine motor skills are developed through the use of writing experiences, lacing, stringing (beads, buttons, etc.), drawing and painting, working with playdough, completing puzzles, puppet use, construction with blocks, and much more.

### **Social Growth:**

Children are encouraged to develop their social skills, share, and communicate their feelings and wants. They are encouraged to begin to develop empathy. Self-help skills, such as dressing and cleaning up after oneself, are also stressed. We strive to foster a warm environment of a classroom community where each child knows he/she is a valued member.

This is a general overview of what happens in our Pre-Kindergarten classes.  
For more detailed information, take a look at our Curriculum Guide, or give us a call!

You are encouraged to make a personal visit and tour at Messiah Lutheran School!  
Please contact us to schedule a visit!

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God's Blessings!

