

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PLAYSCHOOL

2020-2021 Parent Handbook

*Children are a gift from the Lord, a  
child is a reward from Him*

*Psalm 127:3*



Playschool Director/2 year old Teacher: Jennifer Geraghty

Playschool Teachers: Pre-K: “Miss” Alison,

“Miss” Libby, “Miss” Debbie, and “Miss” Mary Beth

2 Year Old Teacher: “Miss” Blake

School Phone: (731) 424-6515

Playschool Treasurer: Ms. Machele Daniel-Hall (731) 422-1591

## OUR STAFF WELCOMES YOU

There are six permanent Playschool teachers:

Three and Four Year Old Class: Mrs. Libby Carmichael, Mrs. Mary Beth Gibson, Mrs. Debbie Gomez, and Mrs. Alison Wyatt.

Two-Year-Old Class: Mrs. Blake Mize and Mrs. Jennifer Geraghty, Playschool Director.

Playschool Hours: 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon Monday – Friday  
12:00 Noon – 2:30 PM Sack Lunch (optional) Monday – Friday

Children may not be signed in and left in a teacher's care until 8:55 AM. Please respect the teachers' set up time until 8:55 AM daily

Director Office Hours: 8:15 – 8:45 A.M. Daily – Please arrange a meeting in advance  
12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M. Daily

Other times may be scheduled at the convenience of the parent and director

## OUR HISTORY

First Presbyterian Playschool had its beginning in 1971 as an offshoot of the established kindergarten program that had been in existence since the 1950's. The first teacher was Shirley Adams. G. G. Bray was hired as Director/Teacher in 1972. Originally the Playschool operated from September to May from 9:00-11:30 AM with one teacher and one "Mother-Helper."

The Kindergarten closed its program in the early 1980's due to compulsory public kindergarten. Eventually, the program expanded to include 2-year-old classes and a large 3 and 4 year-old program. The hours expanded to 9:00-12:00 PM or 2:30 PM (Sack Lunch program). A Summer Fun program was also added; this program fills the two weeks immediately following the conclusion of the regular Playschool year with a "day camp" atmosphere.

In May 2002, "Miss G. G." retired after thirty years at Playschool and Penny McRee was named Director. "Miss" Penny served as director until her retirement ten years later in 2012. "Miss" Penny served Playschool for an amazing 37 years, teaching 2 generations of Jacksonians.

At present, there are six teachers and one Secretary/Bookkeeper, Mabelle Daniel-Hall. Programs are offered either Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday for 94 two, three, and four-year-olds as well as 5 Days for 3 – 5 year olds. The Playschool has been **licensed** by the Department of Human Services and received a **Three Star Rating** under the new assessment program for daycare and preschools.

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**Important Note to Parents:** Please read this handbook thoroughly and keep it handy should you need to refer to it throughout the year. It is a mandated law that parents receive/review the Parent Handbook and sign a statement that they have received, read and agree to abide by the policies and procedures as stated.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Playschool's mission is to provide the preschool child with the companionship of children his/her own age in a Christian environment scaled to his/her needs under trained adult supervision. It is our goal that each Playschool student becomes confident in his/her own abilities and has acquired the cognitive, social and emotional skills to be successful in Kindergarten. Playschool is an approved program of First Presbyterian Church.

## PURPOSE

First Presbyterian Playschool partners with families to introduce their children to school so that they grow to love school and desire to become lifelong learners. We create a caring, cooperative school environment that promotes cultural values and supports positive relationships and respectful interaction. Every day our students have these opportunities to engage at their readiness and developmental level:

**Love** – every hug helps make new brain connections

**Faith** – appreciation and gratitude for all God has created and given

**Music and Movement** – fun connecting the brain and body

**Phonics/Reading** – reading is critical to boosting brain power

**Primary Education Program (PEP)** – guiding self-directed learning

**Language Development** (Peabody Language Development Kit) – expressive and receptive language skill building

**Spanish** – introduction to nearly 200 Spanish vocabulary words

**Numbers/Math** – learning to make sense of the world through problem solving

**Socialization skills** – developing social, language and life skills through imagination and play

**Creativity** – using many different opportunities; paints, blocks, clay, dramatic play, cutting and pasting, drawing

**Fine Motor Development** – introducing “Handwriting Without Tears” curriculum

**Quiet Concentration** – puzzles, pegboards, sensory boxes, building materials, etc.

**Gross Motor Development** – playground or gym time every day to build and coordinate big muscles

Our play based approach provides a child-centered curriculum directed by teachers in an environment steeped in love which allows children to feel safe to engage and challenge themselves to develop their knowledge at their own pace.

First Presbyterian Playschool does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender or national origin in its acceptance of students or in its hiring practices.

## REGISTRATION

Registration: Registration for Playschool occurs in March each year. Classes are filled by a lottery system based on enrollment priority. School year vacancies are filled from a numbered waiting list.

Enrollment Priority:

First priority is given to children and grandchildren of active First Presbyterian Church members.

Second priority is given to currently enrolled families.

Third priority is given to children of alumni families

Fourth priority is given to new families

A child must be 2 years old by August 15<sup>th</sup> to register for the 2 year old class. The child must be at least 3 years old by August 15<sup>th</sup> to register for the Pre-K class. Children who turn 5 prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> may not re-register. If you are interested in having your student return for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the big class; a parent teacher conference should be scheduled prior to re-registration. *All Pre-K students must be totally potty trained to attend Pre-K. (No pull-ups may be used – per DHS)*

A completed enrollment form, account information form, a non-refundable \$70 registration fee and on month's tuition are required at the time of registration. Until this information and payment are completed a child is NOT registered.

A pre-admission visit is required prior to initial enrollment. We highly recommend you schedule a visit prior to March registration.

## ORGANIZATION

The First Presbyterian Playschool meets in the Education Building of the First Presbyterian Church as an approved activity of the church. As such, we do not pay rent on the space used, which includes our classrooms, bathrooms, playground and gym. We receive limited financial support from the church, so our only other source of money is registration fees and tuition. We will pay our share of the utility costs to the church and upkeep of the Education Building and playground.

We are licensed by the Tennessee Department of Human Services (the licensing agency for daycares and preschools) and received a 3-star rating (the best!) again this year!

In 2000 and 2001, Tennessee launched a broad program to improve childcare. This program's goals are to give more information to parents and to improve the quality of childcare in the state. This new program actually includes two programs, the Child Care Evaluation and Report Card Program and the Star-Quality Child Care Program.

The **Child Care Evaluation and Report Card Program** is required for all licensed and approved childcare providers in Tennessee. During the process of renewing a license, the State evaluates a provider on seven areas of quality. The **Star-Quality Child Care Program** recognizes childcare providers who meet a higher standard of quality. Once qualified for this program, providers can receive one, two, or three stars to place on their license. Each star shows that a provider meets increasingly higher standards. In other words, the more stars a program has, the better the quality of care it offers to children.

Both programs require a **program assessment**. This part of the licensing process is new in Tennessee, and is required for both Child Care Centers and for Family and Group Homes. An assessment (an on-site observation by a highly trained Assessor) evaluates many things. For example, it evaluates the interactions between the children and staff (to be sure that it is appropriate for the age of the children). It also examines the layout and use of space and rooms and looks at health and safety practices. It even makes sure that the program includes appropriate math, language, music, and art activities.

Playschool Committee: The Playschool Committee's purpose is to support the director and the relationship of Playschool and First Presbyterian Church. In addition to approving the budget and audit results the committee approves policies and consults on conflict resolution when required.

The Playschool Committee is composed of the following:

- Mrs. Jennifer Geraghty, Director
- Ms. Mabelle Daniel-Hall, Treasurer
- Mrs. Ceil Cowles, Director of Congregational Life
- Mrs. Tausha Alexander, Parent Representative
- Parent Representative, Open position
- Mrs. Penny McRee, Ex-officio

Once a year, the parents will be asked to complete an evaluation of our program. With this frank input, we will be able to incorporate program ideas and services to better meet our families' needs.

## CLASSES and FEES

In order to keep tuition as low as possible, we operate on a very tight budget and it takes all families paying on time for us to pay bills, order supplies and purchase new inventory for your children to use. *Tuition is a yearly fee. As a convenience for families the yearly tuition may be paid in 9 equal monthly installments. Please note carefully the monthly payment schedule and penalties for late payment of tuition paid monthly.*

**2 Year Olds (Must be 2 years of age by August 15, 2020)**

Teachers: Jennifer Geraghty and Blake Mize

	Half Day (9-12) Monthly Tuition	Full Day (9-2:30) Monthly Tuition	Sack Lunch Per Diem Rate
<b>MWF</b>	\$175	\$256	\$10
<b>TTH</b>	\$128	\$183	\$10
<b>5 Days</b>	\$295	\$431	\$10

\*\*Non Church member families with 2 or more children may deduct \$5.00/month or \$45/year

Church Member Rates are as follows:

	Half Day (9-12) Monthly Tuition	Full Day (9-2:30) Monthly Tuition	Sack Lunch Per Diem Rate
<b>MWF</b>	\$149	\$230	\$10
<b>TTH</b>	\$109	\$164	\$10
<b>5 Days</b>	\$251	\$387	\$10

Non-refundable registration fee: \$70 per child.

**Pre-K Class (Must be 3 years of age by August 15, 2020)**

Teachers: Libby Carmichael, Mary Beth Gibson, Debbie Gomez & Alison Wyatt

	Half Day (9-12) Monthly Tuition	Full Day (9-2:30) Monthly Tuition	Sack Lunch Per Diem Rate
<b>MWF</b>	\$175	\$256	\$10
<b>TTH</b>	\$128	\$183	\$10
<b>5 Days</b>	\$295	\$431	\$10

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<b>TTH</b>	\$109	\$164	\$10
<b>5 Days</b>	\$251	\$387	\$10

Non-refundable registration fee: \$70 per child.

- Once you enroll your child in the program, you are reserving your space for the program. You are responsible for the full year's tuition.
- Payment for the services for which you register will be expected
- Returned checks will result in a \$15 charge.
- Members of First Presbyterian Church will receive a reduced rate.
- Grandchildren of members of First Presbyterian Church will be allowed to register on the same day that children of members do, but will not receive a reduced rate.
- Non church member families with more than one child enrolled in the program will receive a reduced rate on the second child.
- The registration fee is non-refundable and is required to ensure a place for your child.
- May tuition is prepaid at the time of registration. Should you need to withdraw your child prior to July 31 or after school begins, May tuition will be refunded. Tuition will not be refunded if Playschool must be held via Distance Learning.
- Fees may be paid to the director at Playschool at arrival times, or may be mailed to:

Ms. Mabelle Daniel-Hall, Treasurer  
 First Presbyterian Playschool  
 1573 North Highland Avenue  
 Jackson, TN 38301.

Make checks payable to **First Presbyterian Playschool.**

\*\*Your child's name should be placed on the memo line of your payment check and the check placed in a Playschool Payment envelope. If you use a plain envelope, please label it as:

CHILD'S NAME	
PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME	
SESSION (MWF or T-TH)	
TUITION _____	SACK LUNCH _____
LATE FEE _____	TOTAL _____

Money will not be taken unless labeled with breakdown of the amount paid, i.e. tuition, Sack Lunch, or other fees and in an envelope. Failure to follow these procedures may result in credit not being properly recorded and late fees assessed to your account. The Playschool Treasurer is Vicki Pope. If your payment was not properly labeled and submitted you are responsible for all resulting fees and penalties.

Tuition for each month and Sack Lunch charges for the previous month are due on the first of the month. There is a 5 day grace period. There will be a \$5.00 late fee levied on the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month if your payment has not been received, with \$1.00 per day added for each day thereafter that your account remains unpaid. If your account is not paid in full by the last day of the month; the current month's tuition plus the previous month's Sack Lunch fees, plus any accumulated late charges; your child will not be able to return to Playschool until the bill is paid, unless other arrangements have been made with the Director. Please include the late fee with your payment if your payment is not made by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month at 4:00 PM. If you choose to pay annually or several months at a time, you must pay in advance – not later. If you have paid tuition in advance, the above late fee charges apply to your monthly Sack Lunch bill.

*If you are not at playschool during the first 5 days of any month you will need to mail your payment to Machel in order to avoid incurring a late fee. Late fees will be waived only if school is unexpectedly cancelled (i.e., snow day).*

Call Machel, (422-1591) if you have any questions.

Playschool is happy to accept payments from third parties, such as grandparents. However, each child's PARENTS HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY to see that Playschool statements are paid on time. Late charges will be applied if payments are made late, no matter who is paying the bill.

Sack lunch (optional extended care until 2:30) is a separate fee and must be paid at the end of the month. **Sack lunch bills for the previous month, not paid by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month, will be noted and your child may not stay for sack lunch again until bill is paid.**

Late Pick Up Fees: Dismissal time is at 12:00 Noon or 2:30 PM. Playschool staff strives to be prompt in getting students to the carpool line and be efficient in the dismissal process. If you arrive after 12 Noon or 2:30 PM a late fee of \$1.00 per minute is assessed. Please be mindful that a preschool child may find it disconcerting to be the last one left, it is reassuring for them to see your vehicle in line with the others. In order to be consistent our clocks and watches are set using our cell phones and classroom satellite clocks.

**ALSO**, we will not release any child to anyone whom we consider to be a risk to that child's safety. Any questions, contact Jennifer Geraghty, Director.

A good preschool provides the preschool child with the companionship of children his/her own age in an environment scaled to their needs under trained adult supervision. In addition to the child-directed play and activities such as the home life corner, blocks, and kitchen area, there is provision for activities requiring special adult direction such as storytelling, PEP program, reading, use of rhythm instruments, and singing games. It is our desire that each preschooler becomes confident in his own abilities and has acquired the cognitive, social and emotional skills to be successful in Kindergarten. Some of the things that enrich a child's experience in preschool are:

1. Companionship with others his/her own age who have similar interests and abilities.
2. Learning to share.
3. Opportunities for creative expression in paints, blocks, clay, cutting, pasting, etc.
4. Quiet concentration with books, puzzles, pegboards, etc.
5. Dramatic play- doll corner, kitchen, dress-up clothing, acting out simple stories, etc.
6. Language development (Peabody Language Development Kit)
7. Music in many forms: listening, singing, dancing, and rhythmic.
8. Stories and poems with all their possibilities.
9. Outside play- use of large equipment and development of the "big muscles."
10. Number fun (pre-readiness activities with math).
11. Begin to understand letters have sounds and can make words.

In order to meet our goal to work as a support to parents we will send home PEP reports in October and February and a Progress Report for all Pre-K students will be sent home in late winter. Parent/Teacher conferences will be scheduled as requested. Progress reports are intended to help parents know where home based enrichment may be most effective.

Students in the 2 year old class will receive an assessment packet to be completed at home. Parent/Teacher conferences will be scheduled as requested.

Attendance: Promptness at drop off and pick up is expected. If a child will be absent please notify the director by email at [fpplayschool@yahoo.com](mailto:fpplayschool@yahoo.com) by 8:45 AM or call the school at (731) 424-6515 by 9:30 AM

### **DAILY SCHEDULE**

Three and Four Year Olds:

9:00 - 10:00	Free play, Art Activities, "PEP" Program
10:00 - 10:30	Clean up, Music, Spanish
10:30 - 11:00	Small Groups: Math, Pre-reading, Language Development & Snack
11:00 - 12:00	Outdoor Play
12:00	Dismissal or Sack Lunch Time

**NOTE: 3 and 4-YEAR OLDS MUST BE FULLY POTTY-TRAINED!**

Two Year Olds:

9:00 - 10:00	Free play, Art Activities
10:00 - 10:30	Clean-up, Restroom, Diaper changes
10:30 - 10:45	Circle Time (Stories, Music, Sharing)
10:45 - 11:00	Snack
11:00 - 12:00	Outdoors
12:00	Dismissal or Sack Lunch Time

### ROUTINES

**Please refer to the 2020 revised routines at the back of your parent handbook**

Arrival: We unlock the school doors at 8:55 a.m. and you are encouraged to drop your child off by 9:30 a.m. This gives them the greatest opportunity to learn and play with their friends. When you arrive please take you child to the hallway bathroom and wash their hands with soap and water. Once your child's hands are washed please sign them in at the podium. Please be sure to complete the sign in process, this helps facilitate our efforts to keep your children safe. If your child is staying for lunch please place their lunch box on the shelf in such a way as to ensure their drink does not leak. Hang their backpack and when needed their coat on the hook below their lunch box. Accompany your child to their classroom, kiss them goodbye and leave as quickly as possible. Should they become upset at your departure we will take them and give them lots of love and get them engaged in all the wonderful activities of the day. We will never let them be upset for too long, without getting back in touch with you. You are welcome to call and check in on your child at any time.

Pick Up: You are welcome to pick up your child at any time during the day. If you are picking up at a time other than our regular dismissal times please come into school to sign your child out, this insures that we know your child is accounted for. If you are picking your child up earlier than 12:00 noon dismissal we ask that you come in no later than 11:45 a.m. to sign out. If you are picking your child up after rest time we ask that you come in no later than 2:10 p.m. to sign out. Your cooperation with these guidelines will help keep any confusion about a child's presence to a minimum.

Carpool: You will be provided with detailed carpool procedures during the August back to school mandatory parent meeting. We ask that you follow those procedures at all times; everyone's cooperation is the best way to keep each child safe.

*Cell phones* are a part of life for all of us. We ask that you end your cell phone conversation before pulling up for us to load your child into your car. Your child will be full of news about their day and anxious to share with you, we encourage you to have some phone free time on the ride home from Playschool. It's a great time to connect with your child.

### HEALTH

The care and safety of your children is of utmost importance to our staff. Our staff is trained in infant/child and adult CPR and first aid safety.

When a child shows any sign of illness or possible infection, it is the responsibility of each family to keep the child home. Should a child expose the group to a communicable disease, please notify the teacher immediately. This information helps other families to be aware of and manage their health. Communicable disease exposure is a risk of attendance in a school setting.

The Playschool **cannot** care for sick children. If a child is clearly uncomfortable and not able to participate in activities, a parent will be called to pick up the child. If a child displays any of the symptoms listed below at school you will be called to pick up your child. Your child should then remain at home until symptom free for at least 24 hours.

Teachers are not allowed to give medication to children. If your child is on medication and must have it during school hours, you must come to school to administer it.

If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, please be sensitive to the health of our children and families in the Playschool community by keeping your child at home.

- Fever over 100 degrees in the last 24 hours
- Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting in the past 24 hours
- Yellow/green nasal discharge, as this indicates infection
- A contagious skin condition such as impetigo (Should be treated 48 hours and should not be draining)
- Pinkeye (until treated with antibiotics for 24 hours)
- Chickenpox (until all sores are crusted over)
- Productive cough
- Allergies with a secondary infection
- Common Cold

Health Immunization Policy: ALL Playschool students must be current and in compliance with the Madison County and State of Tennessee Health Department immunization requirements. All students must provide a “school form” record of immunization signed by their pediatrician, even if they have not been vaccinated. If a religious exemption is the reason for non-immunization, it must meet the State of Tennessee standards for religious exemption and the notarized exemption form must be turned into Playschool. Non-immunization for medically valid reasons must be confirmed with a signed statement from your child’s pediatrician of record. Please contact the Madison County Health Department (423-3020) should you have specific questions regarding these policies.

Students who do not meet these standards may not participate in Playschool.

(subject to changed based on COVID-19 concerns and closures)

August	Parents' Meeting held via Zoom
September 8, Tuesday	Playschool Begins
October 8 & 9 Thursday & Friday	Fall Break
October 29 & 30, Thursday & Friday	Halloween Parties
November 23 & 24, Monday & Tuesday	Thanksgiving Parties
November 25 – 27 Wed. – Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 18 – January 3	Christmas Break
January 4, Monday	Classes Resume
January 18, Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday
February 11 & 12, Thursday & Friday	Valentine Parties
February 15 & 16, Monday & Tuesday	President's Day/Winter Break
March 9, 10 & 11 Mon., Tues., & Wed.	Playschool Registration
March 15 – 19 Monday - Friday	Spring Break
March 31 & April 1, Wed. & Thursday	Easter Parties & Egg Hunts
April 2 & 5 Friday & Monday	Easter Break
May 4 & 5, Monday & Tuesday	Cinco de Mayo Celebration
May 17-21 Monday - Friday	Summer Fun

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When adverse weather conditions occur causing changes in public and private school schedules, Playschool will **email you as well as post the information on our Face Book page**. You will receive this information as soon as a change in schedule is made. If you do not receive a notice then school will be held as usual.

**Please refer to the 2020 revised Snack and Party guidelines at the back to this Parent Handbook**

**Snacks:**

There will be a monthly Snack Calendar posted on the bulletin board adjacent to your child's classroom. Any time you would like to share snack, feel free - just sign up for a day. Your children love to bring snack because they are recognized and thanked by their classmates.

If your child's birthday month is approaching ask Miss Debbie or Miss Libby to put your child's name on the calendar so you don't miss the day you want. If your child has a summer birthday and you would like them to celebrate at school, we suggest you celebrate their ½ birthday, if desired.

We appreciate any and everything you do to help us provide a variety of snack experiences for your children. *Be sure to check with us about current food allergies of the students. State of Tennessee regulations regarding snack outline that snack must include two food groups, be food appropriate for pre-school age children and cut up in small pieces.*

**Please do not bring any treat with icing; including cupcakes and cookies.** This includes cupcakes and cookies from Wal-Mart, Kroger and Shirley's Bakery. (Shirley's will leave the icing off of cookies if you make that request when you place your order)

**Party Planning:** We ask the Mothers to help with one party during the year. A Party Chairperson will coordinate the planning and implementation and make sure all parent volunteers understand their party day responsibilities. Sign-up sheets are available during the August Parent Meeting and thereafter on the bulletin board adjacent to your child's classroom. You are free to plan almost anything you would like. Be creative! Also, you are welcome to celebrate your child's birthday at Playschool; just be sure to make arrangements with Miss Debbie for your Pre-K student or with Miss Libby for your 2 year old.

2 Year Old Class: Parties consist of a special snack, party paper products and a party favor. No extra activities need to be planned and parents should not attend unless they are prepared to take their child home at the end of the party. Two year olds do not understand Mom, Dad or grandparent coming and then leaving without them.

Pre-K Class: The Party Committee is responsible for snacks, party paper products any decorations, favors and/or games or activities. Games and activities are optional, if you choose to have them, plan three activities for 12 children each that will be conducted and supervised by the parents. If you choose to do a craft with the children, it needs to be set and ready to take home within an hour of completion; glue and paint need to be used sparingly. Party crafts are to be parent directed and implemented.

**Party Suggestions:**

**HALLOWEEN:** A festive snack and a treat bag that you don't mind your child bringing home. Remember, we have 35 children so anything messy for one is not a good idea for our class. Halloween is learning about pretend, dressing up and treats.

**THANKSGIVING:** The Playschool teachers will dress our pilgrims and Indians in style. The idea of a FEAST is what we are trying to learn, please send foods for our feast such as raisins, goldfish, pumpkin bread, popcorn, candy corn, etc. At this time of year we are learning about history and gratitude.

CHRISTMAS: The Christmas party is part of our Christmas Program and will be held in the dining hall. We ask the Mothers that sign up to be responsible for the table decorations, punch, set up and clean up. **Everyone** is asked to bring a festive treat. The committee is responsible for the paper products- plates, cups, etc.

VALENTINE'S DAY: Each child will have decorated a mail bag during school and each child should bring 35 signed Valentines to share. No names on the envelopes please. A valentine snack and activities or games need to be planned.

EASTER: Pray for a sunny day! Plan an Easter egg hunt. Each child will bring a basket and a sack of filled eggs to share for the hunt. Provide an Easter snack on festive paper products. No additional treat bag is needed, as the eggs from the hunt are the treat.

CINCO DE MAYO: The first week of May. Plan an ethnic snack that helps the students appreciate our neighbors south of the border. Festive decorations and an easy art project or games and activities may be planned. This is really about getting to know a different culture.

END OF YEAR: See Christmas party information

Remember, these are merely suggestions and we would like for you to feel free to plan and use your creativity. Keep it simple. Feel free to ask a teacher about your ideas if you are not sure if they are party appropriate or if you need some ideas or guidance. We will be glad to talk to you.

The Pre-K children love having their Mothers and Daddies at school and it is always a fun time to be there on a special occasion.

## SACK LUNCH DAYS

The organization will be as follows:

1. Sack Lunch is available Monday - Friday. This is an optional program - use it as you wish.
2. Sack Lunch fee is \$10 per child per day if you are paying ½ day tuition. You must indicate on the sign in sheet that your child is staying for Sack Lunch. You will be billed for Sack Lunch at the end of the month.
3. You must provide lunch and **milk** in a spill-proof cup. If your child **cannot** drink milk, 100% juice may be substituted, this is a requirement of the Dept. of Human Services concerning all children who eat lunch at school.
4. No squeezable foods (yogurt, sauces, etc.)
5. Each child must bring a **backpack** with a **crib sheet and small blanket**. We provide the nap mat for each child. They may also bring a small stuffed animal and pacifier, if needed. All **must fit easily in the backpack** so the child's hands are free to carry papers and his/her lunchbox. **Sheets MUST be WASHED DAILY to comply with licensing regulations.**
6. Names must be on everything used for the Sack Lunch program including containers/lids, drinks, ice packs, lunchboxes, sheets, blankets, pillows, etc. If you did not label something there is a good chance it will get misplaced.
7. The 2 year olds need to have an appropriately sized backpack, small enough for them to handle.
8. There will be two or more teachers from the Playschool staff responsible for this program.
9. Naptime will not be enforced - only a rest hour, but children must rest on their

mat. No playing or reading. Quiet music will be played. There will be a story time before rest.

10. Dismissal will be between 2:15 and 2:30 PM. The children should be picked up promptly. *Remember, a late fee will be charged if you are tardy.*

**Lunch:** Good Manners will be encouraged and expected during lunch. Plastic utensils and napkins need to be included in the lunch box (per DHS). Because of the dangers of choking, eating quietly and sitting on bottoms in chairs with feet under the table will be required. Conversation with table mates will be allowed but not loud laughing or playing with food. As your child's "mom away from home" we will do all we can to make eating as safe as possible and yet remain an enjoyable time of the day.

Please practice good manners at home; eating at the table with the family, sitting properly in chairs (boosters when necessary), using utensils with food, following the guidelines set forth by DHS as to proper ways to serve foods to small children and quiet conversation sets the stage for safe eating habits for a lifetime.

## **BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

A primary goal of our Playschool is to guide our children to be caring, responsible, and cooperative participants in our program. Our staff exclusively employs positive behavior management techniques (PBMT), e.g., redirecting a child's behavior and/or removal from particular activities to achieve this goal. Our end-goal regarding the behavior policy for Playschool is to: 1) teach our children self-control, 2) help them recognize and select appropriate behavioral choices, 3) help children identify their feelings and 4) to develop an understanding and respect for the needs of others in a community.

**Policy regarding behavioral and/or discipline issues:** In the rare event that a child does not respond to the positive-behavior management techniques employed by our teachers, the director of the Playschool shall, at her/his sole discretion, determine an appropriate course of action to take in an effort to amend the child's behavioral issue. Three determining factors will be used to assess behavioral issues that require intervention from the director: 1) the child is not responsive to PBMT, is not participating in or benefiting from the program, 2) there are no reasonable accommodations that Playschool can make to provide adequate or safe care for the child, and 3) the child chronically engages in inappropriate behaviors that interfere with and contradict the aforementioned end-goals for the stated behavioral policy.

**NOTE: The director may at any time, at her/his sole discretion, suspend or dismiss from Playschool any child who engages in any behavior that seriously endangers the child, other children or the staff.**

Should the director's intervention be required, the following steps will be followed:

- After monitoring and documenting a child's inappropriate behavior, the director will notify the parents about the child. Appropriate modification techniques will be discussed. NOTE: Excessive unruly behavior may warrant asking the parent to pick the child up from the Playschool before the daily dismissal. Examples warranting an early pick up include but are not limited to

biting, hitting, deliberate disobedience, or other behavior that inordinately distracts from the normal operation of the Playschool.

- If the child's inappropriate behavior persists after the initial meeting between the parents and director, a formal conference will be held to discuss the ongoing behavioral issue and determine what steps will be taken to adjust the child's behavior. The director may, at her/his discretion, invite the child's teacher and/or non-parent member of the Playschool Board to attend.
- If the child's inappropriate behavior persists after the formal conference between the parents and the director, the director shall call a special meeting of the Playschool Board, which body shall determine whether the child should be removed permanently from the Playschool, or other appropriate action.

**Policy regarding trial period for new enrollees:** First Presbyterian Playschool has a two-month trial period for any enrolled child. The Playschool, at the discretion of the Director, reserves the right to request the withdrawal of a child during the trial period if one or more of the following conditions exists: 1. the child is not participating in or benefiting from the program; 2. there are no reasonable accommodations that the Playschool can make to provide adequate or safe care for the child, or 3. the child is not responsive to PBMT

**Policy regarding children with special needs and handicapping conditions (disabilities):** First Presbyterian Playschool will not discriminate against a child with a handicapping condition (disability) solely on the basis of the handicap (disability). Playschool serves children with special needs and handicapping conditions (disabilities) whenever possible. Any eligible applicant with special needs or handicapping conditions (disabilities) will be enrolled in the program if, after careful evaluation of the child's care needs and Playschool's abilities to meet those needs, it is felt that Playschool can make reasonable accommodations to provide safe care to this child as well as to the other enrolled children should this child be enrolled.

## 2020 -2021 Revised Policies and Procedures

Arrival: We will be outside the school doors to greet you (wearing your face covering) and your child beginning at 8:55 a.m. Please sign your child in at the podium. There will be notepaper available to leave any message you feel the teachers will need for the day. Once you have signed your child in move forward into the “Hug Zone”; this is where the teacher may take your child’s temperature and asked you about their general health that morning. Give your child a hug and a kiss and tell them you love them and you will see them soon. We will accompany your child into the building, place their belongings on their hook and wash their hands. Should your child become upset at your departure we will take them and give them lots of love and get them engaged in all the wonderful activities of the day. We will never let them be upset for too long, without getting back in touch with you. You are welcome to call and check in on your child at any time.

Pick Up: You are welcome to pick up your child at any time during the day. If you are picking up at a time other than our regular dismissal times please come to the school door (wearing your face covering) and ring the doorbell. We will bring your child and the sign out sheet to you just outside the school door. Please do not enter the building or playground unless instructed to do so. If you are picking your child up earlier than 12:00 noon dismissal we ask that you come no later than 11:45 a.m. to sign out. If you are picking your child up after rest time we ask that you come no later than 2:10 p.m. to sign out. Your cooperation with these guidelines will help keep any confusion about a child’s presence to a minimum.

Snacks: We depend on our families to contribute to our daily snacks. This year if you would like your child to bring snack on a specific day please refer to the snack calendar posted on our Face Book Page or leave Miss Debbie a note in the morning at drop off. You will bring your store bought snack to school and we will set it aside for 72 hours before sharing it with all the children. If you are bringing snack for a specific occasion remember we need it at school 72 hours prior to using it. We will accept donations for fresh foods, such as fruit, veggies or cheese.

Parties: This year our Parent Party Committees will plan our parties as they have done in the past. If you would like to meet using Zoom please let us know and we will send the committee the Zoom invitation. Once you have planned the party please bring all the supplies to school 72 hours prior to the party. The teachers will implement the parties, with the plans and supplies you have provided.

