



Policies and Procedures

Section Four – Curriculum and Instruction

414 – PRE-SCHOOL

Philosophy of Kelowna Christian Preschool

- We believe when a child is entrusted to an Early Childhood Educator, a partnership is formed among the child, his/her family and the staff; therefore, we will aim to create a “home away from home” for the child that has open communication lines with the family.
- We believe it is our privilege to be a support to families; therefore, we will be accessible to discuss issues. It is our responsibility to remain current in our knowledge of child development, resources in the community, skills and techniques and program ideas.
- We believe each child has individual characteristics; therefore, we will give each child equal opportunity to be unique in an atmosphere of respect and acceptance.
- We believe children imitate adults as well as other children; therefore, we will model positive communication, respect, encouragement and having fun.
- We believe each child should have equal access to all aspects of the program; therefore, all attempts will be made to accommodate the various needs of all the children.
- We believe the center appearance contributes to the child’s overall experience at the preschool; therefore, the room will have a variety of decorations, furnishings and toys that cultivates the child’s natural curiosity.
- We believe that from birth to five years is the most formative time in a child’s life; therefore, the preschool’s program will focus on the child’s social, emotional, spiritual, physical, creative and cognitive growth.
- We believe that a child grows at his/her individual rate through a number of orderly stages; therefore, we will provide an environment that anticipates and responds to these stages by observing each child’s abilities and providing activities that are based on the child’s abilities.
- We believe a child’s specific needs change daily; therefore, we will be flexible in routines and play.
- We believe a child learns best when he/she is interested in the activity; therefore, we will pay attention to each child’s interests and plan activities accordingly.
- We believe that for a child work is play; therefore, we will provide many uninterrupted opportunities to explore, investigate and practice skills.
- We believe a child learns to socially interact in a positive way with other children with experience; therefore, we will promote both group and individual activities.

We believe a child develops independence through the ability to make choices; therefore, the child will be encouraged to make choices and problem solve with guidance as necessary. Guidelines in the preschool are focused on safety for all children and caring children/staff caring for him/herself, others and the environment.

Preschool Objectives

Learning is a natural part of living designed to enable us to experience truths about our Creator, ourselves, others and our world. The Early Childhood program and classroom is set up to encourage this natural process and to equip the child to creatively integrate living, faith and learning in the culture in which they grow and live.

Curriculum

Our preschool program is established through the medium of play that incorporates a wide variety of fine and gross motor skills within small and large group learning opportunities. Young children have an urgent need to communicate - to understand and to be understood; therefore, the preschool learning environment is rich with experience and promotes an air of acceptance and literacy. The children's interests and developmental needs are foundational when planning activities.

The daily routine is consistent to give children a sense of security about the happenings of the day. Recognizing that children's individual needs vary from day to day, adjustments are made to facilitate a nurturing environment. The length of time for each component accommodates the gradual growth of interest and ability to participate in the activity.

At Kelowna Christian Preschool, we believe that children learn best when they can learn through play. Learning through play involves the child learning by doing. The purpose of our play-based program is to foster competence in young children as they develop as a whole child—socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually, intellectually and creatively. We also believe that children learn best when they are interested in their play options; therefore, activities are based on the child's interest, abilities and areas of growth.

Kelowna Christian Preschool is a program that purposes to facilitate each child's development through strategically selected learning/play opportunities prior to the upcoming school years. The most powerful avenue of learning comes as he/she experiences the giving and receiving of love in a safe environment.

Basic Needs of a Preschool Child

- unconditional love as a valuable, worthwhile child of God
- acceptance as an unique person, growing at an individual rate
- security which comes from consistency and a sense of family belonging
- protection from the hazards of his/her environment and from his/her ignorance of the hazards
- guidance in developing the ability to solve problems independently
- reasonable control and limits so he/she can learn inner control
- faith which comes from living with others who love God and model Biblical truths

Preschool Learning

- through the freedom to make safe choices, increasing levels of interest and involvement
- using all the senses to absorb information about their world
- by participating in firsthand experiences with real objects, facilitating learning by doing
- by having opportunity to repeat enjoyable activities to become confident, competent learners
- through demonstration by adults and peers, modeling language and other concepts
- through opportunities to play at their own level of interest and skill
- through the satisfaction of a variety of play experiences that are of the child's interest, motivating children to learn more

Preschool Teacher commitment:

- Giving each child unconditional love with smiles, friendly words, encouragement and care
- Showing each child respect by considering her/his opinions and validating feelings
- Being a good listener
- Providing limits that are reasonable and understandable to the children to create a safe place
- Giving opportunities to succeed and build confidence, being sure the tasks are challenging and not frustrating
- Helping each child be responsible, giving him/her the tools to do his/her own "task"
- Providing opportunities to make choices (Ie: children choose to meet their own hunger needs during centre time by washing hands, setting out their snack, eating and putting their bag into their cubby independently)
- Developing problem-solving skills, giving guidance while children work out their own problem
- Knowing the individual need of each child through a good knowledge of child-development - working at meeting areas of growth through planning appropriate activities

- Encouraging some risk taking. Young children develop healthy attitudes about themselves in environments that accept them as they are, allowing them to make mistakes and learn from them. It is also important that children are not measured or required to meet an adult's standard or excellence.
- Celebrating accomplishments - one step at a time
- Encouraging and supporting children's differences and uniqueness
- Viewing all experiences as valuable opportunities to encourage growth
- Talking with the children using conversation that encourages rather than judges. (Ie: Judging - "I like your painting." Encouraging - "It looks like you worked a long time on your painting and chose many different colors.")
- Asking open-ended questions that help children become critical thinkers. (Ie: What do think will happen? How might you fix it?)

Appointment

The Preschool Director will be appointed by, and report to the Superintendent of Kelowna Christian School.

Program Funding

The Preschool program must be self funded through tuition fees, special fees and fundraising. The Kelowna Christian Preschool must run with at least a balanced budget each year. All expenses including staffing, curriculum and lease must be covered in the annual budget. Any surplusses will be carried forward to future years.

Date Agreed:

Date Amended: December 1, 2007

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