



**West Point Christian Preschool**

A great place to play, learn and grow together

# **Student & Parent Handbook**

**184 Hartfield Road  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402**

**[www.westpointchristianpreschool.org](http://www.westpointchristianpreschool.org)**

**Facebook: West Point Christian Preschool**

**Instagram: WPCP2011**

**Phone: 601-271-2585/Fax: 601-271-7855**

# West Point Christian Preschool Parent & Student Handbook Acknowledgement

Please sign this acknowledgement and return it to the center prior to enrollment.

This handbook may be updated from time-to-time, and notice will be provided as updates are implemented. No handbook can anticipate every circumstance or question about policies. As West Point Christian Preschool changes, the need may arise to change policies described in this handbook. West Point Christian Preschool reserves the right to revise, supplement, or rescind any policies or portions of the handbook from time to time as it deems appropriate in its sole and absolute discretion.

Thank you for your acknowledging the policies and procedures we have established for the safety and welfare of all children in our care. We look forward to getting to know you and your family.

I have been advised to access **West Point Christian Preschool Student & Parent Handbook** through their website at [www.westpointchristianpreschool.org](http://www.westpointchristianpreschool.org). It is my responsibility to understand and familiarize myself with the Student & Parent Handbook and to ask center management for clarification of any policy, procedure or information contained in the **West Point Christian Preschool Student & Parent Handbook** that I do not understand.

-----  
Student's Name

-----  
Class (infant, toddler 1yr, toddler 2yr, Pre-K3, Pre-K4)

-----  
Parent's Signature

-----  
Date

*Marneshia S. Cathey, Director*

Center Staff Signature

## CHILD CARE REGULATIONS SUMMARY FOR PARENTS

Dear Parents,

The *Regulations Governing Licensure of Child Care Facilities* requires that child care providers supply you with a summary of the Child Care Regulations that govern the licensure of child care facilities. The Child Care Regulations are the rules and regulations that each child care facility in Mississippi must follow in order to maintain its Child Care License. You, as a parent, are entitled to access these regulations. Among the subjects covered in the Child Care Regulations are:

- Licensing Requirements
- Buildings & Grounds
- Rights of Entry & Violations
- Health, Hygiene, Safety
- Facility Policies & Procedures
- Nutrition & Meals
- Personnel Requirements
- Discipline & Guidance
- Records
- Transportation
- Reports
- Diapering & Toileting
- Staff Requirements
- Swimming & Water Activities
- Program Activities
- Feeding of Infants & Toddlers
- Children with Special Needs
- Night Care
- School Age Care
- Summer Day Camp & School Age Programs
- Hourly Child Care
- Hearings, Emergency Suspensions, Legal Actions & Penalties
- Release of Information
- Rest Periods
- Equipment, Toys, Materials

### APPENDICES

Appendix A – Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting  
Appendix B – Reportable Diseases  
Appendix C – Nutritional Standards  
Appendix D – Playground Safety Standards  
Appendix E – Dishwashing Procedure  
Appendix F – Handwashing Procedure  
Appendix G – Diaper Changing Procedure  
Appendix H – Cleaning & Disinfection Procedure  
Appendix I – Communicable Disease/Conditions & Return to Child Care Guidelines  
Appendix J – Rules & Procedures for State Level Administrative Hearings

A full copy of the Child Care Regulations should be located in the Director’s office of your child care facility. It should be available for your examination upon request. You may also access the Regulations at [www.healthymys.com](http://www.healthymys.com) (from the left menu, select *Licensure*, then *Child Care & Youth Camps.*) You may direct your questions to your local licensing officials, or you may contact the Child Care Licensure office in Jackson at (601) 364-2827.

Should you have a complaint concerning a child care facility email the Investigation Unit at [CC.ComplaintUnit@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:CC.ComplaintUnit@msdh.ms.gov) or mail the complaint to:

Mississippi State Department of Health Child Care Facilities Licensure  
PO Box 1700  
Jackson, MS 39215

# WELCOME!

“And Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.” Mark 10:14-16

West Point Christian Preschool is the licensed weekday preschool of West Point Baptist Church, serving **ALL** families, non-members, and members of West Point Church, with children from eight weeks to five years old. At West Point Christian Preschool, we strive to make every day a learning day, filled with new and wonderful experiences to help young learners find what interests and inspires them.

It is our joy and pleasure to help families find just the right early education setting for their children and we’re sure it’s here with us, in a safe and comfortable place where learning is full of fun.

We created this handbook as a communication channel between home and school. Our handbook will be updated periodically to keep current and prospective families informed of our services and any new programs that will be offered in the future. The services and programs that we provide are unique in the way that they are taught in our preschool in a caring and child-friendly environment.

Although the handbook is designed to be a helpful guide, please direct questions about daily activities or your child’s behavior to your child’s teachers. Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or comments.

Thank you for entrusting your child to us. We’re looking forward to a great year.

Marcus Cathey, Senior Pastor/Founder  
Marneshia Cathey, Preschool Executive Director

Office (601) 271-2585

Fax (601) 271-7855

[www.westpointchristianpreschool.org](http://www.westpointchristianpreschool.org)

Email: [mscathey@thewpbc.org](mailto:mscathey@thewpbc.org)

Email: [wpcp@thewpbc.org](mailto:wpcp@thewpbc.org)

Facebook Page: West Point

Christian Preschool

Instagram: WPCP2011

## **NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACT**

West Point Christian Preschool admits students of any sex, religion, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and other school- administered programs. West Point Christian Preschool believes that all would benefit from an educational experience. However, due to limited financial resources we are not able to effectively provide appropriate educational programs for all students. Some students require certain educational program modifications and resources that we are not able to provide within our schools. The law recognizes this in the fact that, while public schools must make a “reasonable accommodation” to educate all students, we are called upon to make ONLY “minor adjustments. Provided that your child is otherwise qualified for admission, if the required program modification constitutes “minor adjustment” the child may be admitted, however, if more than a “minor adjustment” is needed then the child would be better served by an institution equipped to serve that need. ANY TIME IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT THE CHILD REQUIRES MORE THAN “MINOR ADJUSTMENTS” TO BE EFFECTIVELY SERVED, THE SCHOOL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE THIS KNOWN TO THE PARENTS ALONG WITH THE FACT THAT THE CHILD’S NEEDS COULD BE BETTER SERVED ELSEWHERE.

## OUR MISSION AND ABOUT US

### WEST POINT CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

West Point Church exists to impact our community with the love of Christ in a culturally relevant manner to make more and better disciples.

### ABOUT US

[West Point Baptist Church](#) in 1998, a group of 10 people gathered for a weekday Bible Study which exponentially grew into a congregation of approximately 2,000 members.

West Point Christian Preschool not only grew out of a need to meet the growing demand for quality childcare at an affordable price but also to help further the mission of West Point Church.

West Point Christian Preschool opened in August 2011, with just 18 students and five classrooms- infants-pre-K. We have served students ages six weeks-5yrs, with full and part-time staff members in the classrooms.

### Our Mission (Why we exist?)

West Point Christian Preschool (WPCP) was created to meet the developmental and educational needs of children from diverse families within the Hattiesburg and surrounding areas.

### Our vision (What we will accomplish)

To create relevant environments to foster a lifelong love of learning in each student.

### Our Strategy (How we plan to accomplish the vision)

- Create positive learning experiences & environments through love and respect of each child and their family.
- Offer quality academic instruction which integrates faith and learning through hands-on activities.
- Value parental involvement.

### Our Goal (What we want each child to receive)

Emotional

- Become independent and learn to be in control of their emotions

Social

- Be able to interact with their caregiver and others regardless of the differences

Physical

- Develop large and fine motor skills

Intellectual

- Build natural curiosity

## ADMISSION, PAYMENT POLICIES & TUITION

### ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

All children age eight (8) weeks through five years of age (5) are eligible for acceptance at the West Point Christian Preschool as space is available. Admission to West Point Christian Preschool is based on a rolling enrollment system. Families may enroll children at any time. New parents may secure their child's spot with the \$175 paid non-refundable registration fee. Your child's spot will be held for 30 days or less if there is a waiting list. If the child is not enrolled within this time frame your registration fee will be forfeited and you must start the process again.

A \$25 waiting list fee can be applied, and your child's name added to the wait list if space is not currently available or if you are not ready to enroll your child but want a follow-up call periodically. This fee will not be applied to the registration fee.

Age grouping are generally based on the child's age as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. A child may be moved from one group to another to meet the needs of the child and the center.

### Programs

There are 5 childcare programs offered at WPCP:

#### Classroom

- Infant Room
- Toddler 1yr Room
- Toddler 2yr Room
- Pre-K Three Year Room
- Pre-K Four Year Room

#### Children Served

8 weeks to 15 months  
16 months to 24 months  
25 months to 36 months  
37 months to 48 months  
49 months to 60 months

#### Student to Teacher Ratio

5 children  
9 children  
12 children  
14 children  
16 children

All necessary forms for each student's file are required to be completed prior to the first day a child attends school. Please keep the school updated when changes occur to personal information

#### Requirements for Enrollment:

- Completed Enrollment Agreement
- Completed Lunch Form
- Tuition Express Form
- Copy of child's immunization records (Form 121)
- Copies of any documents (i.e child custody, visitation, allergy documentation)
- Uniform Order
- Sign-up for preschool's social media pages
  - [Like our Facebook page: West Point Christian Preschool](#)
  - [Like our Instagram page: WPCP2011](#)

#### **TUITION/REGISTRATION and ADDITIONAL FEES**

Please see Admissions and Fees document on our website at [www.westpointchristianpreschool.org](http://www.westpointchristianpreschool.org)

After a child has been enrolled for one year, without interruption, parents are eligible to receive a vacation credit to their account which could amount to one week of tuition. Parents who pay full tuition will be credited according to your tuition rate; Parents who receive the certificate will be credited according to the amount they paid for the month of the tuition free week is being requested (please see director for exact amount); and parents who receive an employee rate are not eligible to receive this discount. You are responsible for payment for the remaining 51 weeks of the year regardless of if your child is in attendance. You will communicate with the director in writing two weeks, prior to the first day of your vacation use and before the next tuition draft. The student cannot be present on campus during this week (student cannot withdraw during this period to be eligible). Your account must be current to use your tuition free week. This benefit does not apply to WPCP or WPBC employees.

Our preschool accepts Childcare Certificates from the Department of Human Services, is part of the military assistance program (NACCRRRA) and the Federal Aviation Administration Child Care Subsidy Program (FAA).

Each child's tuition is an ongoing fee, which may be separated into bi-weekly or monthly payments. Payments will be drafted from a checking/savings account on the first Monday of the month for monthly payments and every other Monday for bi-weekly payments (see Tuition Payment Schedule for specific dates). We do not accept checks. Tuition payment will be drafted even during school closing. Any payment not received on the due date will incur a late payment fee of \$25. If your account is five (5) days past due another \$25 late fee will be applied and continue until balance is paid. There is a processing fee of \$40 for any returned payment. There is a 5% credit card service fee for all fees paid with a credit card. This includes advance tuition/fee payments made with a credit card.

When any portion of an account is past due, the school will send a letter, email and/or make a telephone call to the responsible party requesting payment of all past due sums owed to the school by such responsible party. If such payment has not been received by the school, within one day after responsible party has been notified, all children of such party will not be allowed in class and continuing until such payment has been

received.

1. No student will be permitted to participate in the graduation program/activities or end of the year program if their account has not been paid in full.
2. All tuition accounts must be current before a child can register for the following school year.

**NOTE: Tuition is required if your child attends the school or does not attend, as long as the child is enrolled. There are no refunds, make up days or credits for days missed. Please note: Students enrolled any portion of the week will be charged for the entire week's tuition.**

### **SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

No credit on tuition is given for scheduled holidays or school closing for various reasons (COVID-19, inclement weather, flood, fire, loss of electricity, water, or other vital services).

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL**

If any student withdraws from WPCP, the parent is financially responsible and obligated to pay the full two weeks tuition. Parents wanting to withdraw a student from WPCP must notify the Director a minimum of two weeks prior to withdrawing the child and the next tuition draft. This allows us the time to enroll a student. No school records will be released for any student where there is a balance owed on the student's account. WPCP reserved the right to terminate a child's enrollment effective immediately, if any of the following occur:

- In judgment of the preschool's director, the child's behavior threatens the physical or mental health of other children or staff
- Tuition is not paid within five days after payment is due
- If parent does not adhere to the policies outline in the handbook
- If the parent fails to promptly respond to the preschool's request to pick up the child or attend to the needs of the child (i.e., change of clothing, child is sick and need doctor's excuse to return)
- If the child has been absent from school for two weeks or more with no communication from the parent

### **ANNUAL FUND RAISER**

West Point Christian Preschool operates an annual fundraising program and anticipate each child's and/or parents' participation in helping us raise the additional funds needed for the designated school projects. The school receives no federal assistance neither is it endowed nor supported by any other organization.

## **DAYS AND HOURS of OPERATION & STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

### **Hours of Operation**

West Point Christian Preschool is licensed by the Mississippi State Department of Health. WPCP operates from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday with early drop-off available starting at 6:30 am for an additional \$25/wk. To adequately schedule staff for early drop-off, parents **MUST** sign-up the week prior to their need for early drop-off. Only students who have signed-up for early drop-off will be permitted to enter the preschool prior to 7am. The early drop-off fee is due on the first day of attendance.

- In case of emergencies or delays, parents should call the school (601-271-2585). Phone calls to notify of late pick up will not exempt a late pick-up charge.
- Starting at 6:01-there will be a \$15 late fee per child and \$1 for every minute after.
- Only child with a medical appointment will be allowed to enter the school after 11am; you must provide a doctor's excuse/verification of appointment.
- Students should be on campus no later than 9am. Late arrivals are disruptive to the classroom learning and schedule.
- If a child is not picked-up from school by 6:30 p.m. and after the office has exhausted all efforts to contact an authorized person to pick up the child (ren), state law requires that the Department of Human Services be notified, and the child will be taken to the nearest Sheriff's Office.

### **SIGNING IN and OUT**

As per Health Department Regulations, all students must be SIGNED IN AND OUT DAILY. Please make sure that you use the app to sign your student in/out. Your child should arrive to school by 9:00am unless accompanied with a doctor's excuse or permission from the preschool director.

Arriving after the 9:00am drop-off time disrupts the classroom and the child's routine so please remember this when scheduling appointments. We ask you to please refrain from picking up your child during nap times, usually between 12:00-2:00pm. This disrupts rest time for the entire class.

You are welcomed to volunteer in your child's classroom or other areas of the preschool, you should communicate with your child's teacher about where assistance is needed and the best times to volunteer. To maintain our school schedule and limit disruptions to our normal daily activities parental access shall be limited to 15 minutes unless you are scheduled to volunteer in your child's classroom.

### **PARKING**

Keep the driveway clear in order that traffic may flow uninhibited. When coming to drop-off or pickup children, please enter the campus driveway that's closest to the electronic sign and drive to the back of the building parking on the side closest to the grass. Traffic flows from East to West.

## **DISMISSING YOUR CHILD**

Your child will be sent home ONLY with persons known by the staff to be authorized and listed on the Enrollment Application unless you give us your verbal or written permission for someone else to pick up your child. Authorized person must submit a copy of their driver's license. Please inform the office when information changes so we may update our records.

## **RESTRICTION ON CHILD PICK UP**

If parents are divorced or separated and one parent is not allowed to see or pick up the child, we must have on file in the office a certified copy of the court order of Final Judgment.

## **DISMISSALS FROM SCHOOL**

A child is not permitted to leave the school for any reason without being properly checked out. The process for checking out is for the child's protection. If you desire that your child be dismissed from school for any part of a day, please notify the office and your child's teacher in the morning and reason for the checking out. Students are only permitted to return to school after a dismissal with a doctor's excuse.

## **VISITORS**

Children who are not enrolled in the school may not visit. ALL VISITORS must report to the office upon entering the building and sign-in the Visitor's Log. There is an open-door policy for all family members-mom, dad, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings. We ask that parents notify management and schedule a time when wanting to visit their student's classroom.

## **CELL PHONE USAGE**

The times you spend in the center dropping off and picking up your child are the primary windows of time we have to communicate with you about your child. To make the best use of these opportunities, as well as to be attentive to your child and other children, we ask that you NOT use your cell phone at any time while visiting the center.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If WPCP closes due to inclement weather children must be picked up by the specified time given.

### **EMERGENCY RELOCATION**

In case West Point Christian Preschool has to evacuate its students, your child(ren) will be at one of the following locations:

1. West Point Church Student Building located on campus
2. After School Academics and Arts Program (Oak Grove) · 10 Hunter Lane · Hattiesburg 39402 601-336-5501
3. After School Academics and Arts Program (Main) · 106 N. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue · Hattiesburg 39402 601-336-5501

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### INSURANCE (secondary)

West Point Christian Preschool provides secondary liability insurance for the protection of the staff and students while at school or on a school-sponsored field trip or activity.

### HOLIDAYS & SCHOOL CLOSING

Please see School Closing Dates on our website at [www.westpointchristainpreschool.org](http://www.westpointchristainpreschool.org).

### UNIFORM/CLOTHING

Please see Uniform Policy on our website at [www.westpointchristainpreschool.org](http://www.westpointchristainpreschool.org)

ALL students should wear clothing that are non-restrictive and supports diapering or pottying (clothing to avoid -belts, buttons, overalls, clothing that snaps between the legs, pull-up that you step into, etc)

Preparations for the infant to transition to the toddler room starts when your child turns 12 months. There is a month grace period given with the following things implemented on or before the student is 13 months:

- Bottle to sippy cup (formula to whole milk)
- Crib to cot
- Changing into onesies to keeping clothes on (child will no longer wear the onesies that snap between the legs). Clothes should be durable yet easy for diapering. Please avoid clothing items such as overalls, rompers or items that snap between the legs.
- Shoes with no shoestrings-you may purchase curly strings from the preschool.

Please provide extra clothes for the child's cubby (does not have to be uniform).

- Out of Uniform
  - \$25 (this includes incorrect uniform pieces, wrong monogram/logo, wrong shoes/shoestrings)
- Change of Clothes
  - \$10 (if WPCP has to provide change of clothes for accidents or other supplies (diapers, wipes, pull-ups, etc)

These items are prohibited:

- hair beads, small barrettes, and other small hair accessories
- necklaces, bracelets
- dangling earrings
- shoestrings, light up shoes, hard bottom shoes, cowboy boots, open toe shoes, rain boots, jelly bean/crocs shoes (sandals and flip-flops are not appropriate for center play and make it difficult for your child to participate in some activities).
- The school director reserves the right to initiate policies on new fads and changes in style during the school year.

Please dress your child in practical clothing that allows for freedom of movement and is appropriate for the weather. The staff will not be held responsible for lost or damaged clothing, book bags or hair accessories. Please use thoughtfulness when dressing your child for school. One aspect of concern is the risk associated with children's clothing that may become entangled with climbing or sliding equipment that could lead to choking or other serious harm. All drawstrings from children's clothes should be removed as a precaution.

## **TOYS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

Toys are to be brought **ONLY** on show and tell days or unless otherwise requested by the teacher. Children personal toys should be kept at home. The children's personal belongings will be kept in a cubby with the child's name clearly marked so you and teachers will be able to easily identify the child's cubby. Please label all your child's belongings. We are not responsible for lost items.

## **MEALS**

All infant bottles must be prepared and labeled (with child's name and date) prior to bringing the child to school. Bottles cannot contain infant cereal. Infants 0-6 months should have a minimum of five bottles on campus. Infants 7-11 months should have a minimum of four bottles. Breastfeed infants' parents should consider more bottles since these infants would eat more frequent. A child 6-11 months will be offered a meal from the cafeteria given at a consistency that is appropriate for the child's age and ability. At 12 months the child will be given whole milk supplied by WPCP and will transition from bottle to a sippy cup supplied by parent.

WPCP serves breakfast, lunch and two afternoon snacks daily. All snacks will be provided by the school. If your child has food and/or milk allergies, you must provide a doctor's note to the director for substitutions to be made by the center (within reason). All outside vended foods are prohibited, only exception is for special events such as, birthday parties and holiday events.

## **TOILET TRAINING**

The most important factor in making the toilet learning experience successful and as low-stress as possible is a family/teacher partnership that supports the child. Most positive toilet training occurs only after children show signs of physical control or awareness of their bodily functions and when they demonstrate an interest or curiosity in the process. We are committed to working with you to make sure that toilet learning is carried out in a manner that is consistent with your child's physical and emotional abilities and your family's concerns. Please talk with your child's teacher about a "Potty Training Agreement." **Your child must meet certain criteria before we will consider her/him ready for toilet training at the preschool. Once training has started you must provide the following:**

- Five complete change of clothes including socks and shoes
- Pull-ups (that tear from the side) or panties & wipes (We require a package of pull-ups & wipes to be left for your child)
- If clothes are soiled, all items will be sent home in a sealed plastic bag and a new set of clean clothes should be sent back the next day. DHS prohibits the washing/cleaning of soiled clothing.

A student will not transition to the three yr classroom without being potty trained.

## **DIAPERS / PULL-UPS & WIPES**

WPCP requires that families leave a package of diapers/pull-ups (that tear from the side and wipes in your child's cubby at all times. Please label your child's diapering supplies with his/her name. We will notify you when your child's supply is running low. Each child should keep two complete changes of clothes in his/her cubby. It should include shirt, pants/shorts, underwear, socks. Please

make sure that all items are labeled with the child's name. These items should be changed out as the weather changes.

## **CURRICULA & LEARNING**

Each day, West Point Preschool provides a balanced approach to learning, giving you the peace of mind that your child will have fun as he/she develops socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. While academics play a role in development, we believe there are many other opportunities for enhancing the whole child.

We recognize that curriculum is more than what appears in manuals or a series of activities. We believe the curriculum is everything that happens in the classroom, from interactions and meals to singing and playing. We never miss an opportunity to educate. Our teachers use age-appropriate curriculum along with Early Learning Standards for each classroom. Our teachers also use developmental checklists to ensure that students are reaching their developmental and academic milestones.

- Frog Street Curriculum- Infant - PreK-4
- A-Beka Curriculum – PreK-4
- STAR Literacy Assessment – PreK-4
- Frog Street Developmental Checklist & Learning Goals -Infant – PreK-3

## **Infant Classrooms**

West Point Christian Preschool understands that the first year of life is an essential time for your child's development. Our infant classrooms provide personal, warm, and loving care in a colorful, stimulating, clean, and healthy environment. The small class size allows for plenty of one-to-one interaction. This encourages infants to develop, physically, cognitively, socially, and emotionally.

Because every infant has a unique routine for eating, sleeping, and playing, parents and caregivers establish a personalized plan that is continually updated to meet individual needs. Growth and developmental milestones are shared with parents and recorded daily. Rooms are filled with books and toys to encourage discovery and awareness. Explorations of texture, color, pattern, size, shape, smell, sound, and taste are all encouraged. Lots of movement, songs, books, and puppets are integrated daily.

Each child has a personal crib, providing a sense of familiarity and comfort. Infants are encouraged to reach, grasp, kick, hold, pull, crawl, and stand. We also provide many cognitive experiences for your infant. Caregivers model social language skills such as "please," "thank you," and "all done" so infants become familiar with language and sound. Whatever activities engage a child, caregivers promote with positive reinforcement. They expand on each experience at school using rich vocabulary, strong connections, and consistent care. Preparations for the infant to transition to the toddler room starts when your child turns 12 months. There is a month grace period given with the following things implemented on or before the student is 13 months:

- Bottle to sippy cup (formula to whole milk)
- Crib to cot
- Changing into onesies to keeping clothes on (child will no longer wear the onesies that snap between the legs). Clothes should be durable yet easy for diapering.
- Shoes with no shoestrings

## **Toddler 1 Yr Classroom**

The toddler curriculum is based on the belief that children learn best through active and engaging sensory experiences. Walking, climbing, and exploring are some of the activities toddlers enjoy each day. We focus on a toddler's growth, self-esteem, and natural curiosity. We encourage children to develop unique skills, interests, and strengths. We also encourage children to explore and discover while supporting their growing independence.

We provide endless opportunities for toddlers to learn and play in an inviting, age-appropriate, and safe environment. West Point Christian Preschool toddlers develop a variety of skills, including physical, language, social-emotional, cognitive, self-help, and gross and fine motor. These skills are integrated through music, art, table toys, movement, games, puzzles, and books. A predictable yet responsive daily schedule meets the needs of children with both structure and flexibility. Although teachers attend to individual needs, the group or whole class experience is a very important aspect of the classroom. By continually listening, talking, and describing actions to our toddlers, we help enhance vocabulary, expand expressive language skills, develop self-esteem, and increase awareness.

### **Toddler 2 Yr Classroom**

Our program is designed to allow two-year-old to learn through play while encouraging individual interests. By promoting independence and developing an emerging awareness of social behavior, we help young learners expand their world beyond the home to the school community. Teachers support growing independence by providing opportunities for classroom jobs: putting things away, washing hands, and choosing materials and activities during center time. Many opportunities are provided to increase a child's ability to communicate by developing active listening and expressive language skills.

Throughout the day children make self-directed, but carefully guided choices, participate in small groups, take part in circle time, and build the confidence needed to try new things. Children enjoy free play to allow creativity and imagination to flourish. Teachers facilitate opportunities for children to engage in reading, writing, listening, and speaking using poems, finger plays, puppets, singing, and rhyming.

### **Pre-K3 Classroom**

Three-year-old are full of wonder. This is an exciting time for these young learners, who are changing physically, cognitively, socially, and emotionally. The focus of the preschool program is to give children the opportunity to learn through play in a loving, caring environment. Days are filled with busy explorations, investigations, and discoveries. Children express themselves through art, music, and movement. They practice math and number concepts using age-appropriate materials to organize, sort, count, build, and sequence. They explore the world of science through weather, cooking, and seasonal activities. They develop motor skills and coordination while running, jumping, hopping, skipping, throwing, and catching on the playground and during music and movement. They demonstrate an emerging love of reading and writing, using growing literacy skills during read-aloud shared readings, reading groups, and writing centers.

Children use language to share, communicate, and interact with friends. They enjoy books, stories, games, projects, and songs based on curricular themes that are introduced in a whole-group setting, then extended to small-group work and individual lessons. A print-rich environment and a love of reading are fostered to allow the children to practice literacy skills in real-life situations. Our children begin to develop a rich vocabulary and use language daily through informal conversations with their teachers. They discover a new way to express themselves both in words and ideas. This allows their social world to expand even further. Days are filled with making meaning of every learning opportunity encountered at school.

## **Pre-K4 Classroom**

The pre-k curriculum is designed to encourage four-year-old to be imaginative, energetic, inquiry-based learners who explore the classroom environment with curiosity and purpose. Preschoolers are eager to learn, and school activities are designed to involve and engage these young students with interesting lessons and materials. Our teachers plan lessons in math, literacy, science, social studies, art, music, and movement to thoroughly prepare children for a smooth transition to kindergarten with a rich, robust learning foundation.

Students make independent choices in a child-centered learning environment, following well-established structures and routines to guide them. Opportunities for hands-on learning are presented daily, allowing students to grow through play and real-world experiences. Daily activities are scheduled in whole group and small groups to promote socialization and community building. Students engage in conversations with teachers and friends daily, learning to take turns, listen, and share.

Print-rich classrooms enable students to be immersed in literacy acquisition, developing letter and word recognition. Throughout the day, physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development are nurtured in a warm, caring, safe environment, providing students with the early skills to become lifelong learners.

## **Bible**

A-BEKA Bible curriculum focuses on Bible stories from creation to the ascension. Through these stories we emphasize character traits. We strive to instill in the children character traits that are basic to a Christian life.

## **Language Arts**

Pre-Reading/ Phonemic Awareness

The A-BEKA curriculum has a strong phonetic approach to teach language arts. Children add to their foundation of recognizing letter names and sounds by decoding simple words and developing a sight vocabulary. These skills allow children to progress to reading sentences. Comprehension is a key reading skill at every grade level. Reading comprehension strategies are taught. Through incorporating Readers students deepen their understanding of text by making connections, visualizing, and asking questions. Additionally, through narration the student's listening comprehension is developed.

## **Mathematics**

A-BEKA provides the basis for the math program. The lessons offer the children "hands-on" activities. These activities are often linked thematically in the classroom. The goal of our curriculum is to develop understanding and insight related to the patterns in mathematics using concrete materials. The activities are designed to help young children see relationships and interconnections in mathematics and to enable them to deal flexibly with mathematical ideas and concepts.

## **Social Studies and Science**

In the Social Studies and Science curriculum, we are developing an awareness of who we are. This is accomplished by examining our relationship to Christ, family, and our school. We also study our community and those who serve us. We encourage responsibility in the classroom, at home and in our community. In accordance with this, we look for opportunities to participate in service projects in our community. We also explore and investigate living things and their habitats, including specific plants, insects, and animals.

### **Pre-K4 Transition Policy**

Smooth transitions from pre-K4 to kindergarten to public/private schools are a result of connections between schools and families, and between pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers and classrooms. Purposeful coordination between the pre-kindergarten and elementary settings can maintain and potentially maximize gains that children achieved in pre-kindergarten.

Test prep activities are embedded in the curriculum to prepare our pre-k students to take the pre-admission exams to public & private school kindergarten programs. Our students will also visit the campuses of up to three elementary schools meeting teachers and other staff along with visiting a traditional classroom, an activity classroom, and the cafeteria.

### **Transition**

Your child's transition in childcare should be a positive and exciting learning adventure. We will work with you and your child to ensure the smoothest possible transition occurs as new routines and new people are introduced.

### **Television Time**

Our normal daily routine does not include television watching, but from time-to-time, we may watch a television show without advertisements as a teaching aid and discussion stimulator. Television consumption will not be longer than [one] hour and the program will be screened prior to showing. Programs will consist of non-violent and high-quality educational material. Our focus is to provide your child a positive experience with increased understanding of the world.

### **Multiculturalism**

Multiculturalism is vital for all children because it sets social goals and promotes respect for all people and the environment we inhabit. We utilize books, music, games, and a wide range of activities as aids to teach our children respect for our world and the diversity of life upon it.

### **Rest Time**

Infants sleep according to their own schedule and are put to sleep on their backs. After lunch, all children participate in a quiet rest time. A cot is provided for all students in toddler class-pre-K classes. Parents are encouraged to provide their child with a child-size blanket. These blankets are sent home every Friday to be laundered and should be returned on Monday.

## **WEST POINT CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL STATEMENT ON DISCIPLINE**

Because we are a Christian school, our Statement of discipline will necessarily have a scriptural base, hence, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6)

### **BEHAVIOR**

Children of West Point Christian Preschool will be granted a great deal of freedom of conduct provided they assume responsibility for their own behavior. We believe that our children will act in accordance with the accepted standards of behavior. Respect for authority is expected of each student towards any staff member at any time either in or out of school. Disrespectful conduct or attitudes, disruptions in class, unruly behavior, or repeated violations of prescribed school policy will not be allowed.

### **DISCIPLINE**

One of the major aims of education is to prepare the individual to live with and for others in society. Discipline does not mean merely punishment but training for life. The director and teachers of our school have the following goals in mind for our discipline program:

1. To create and preserve the conditions essential to the orderly progress of the school.
2. To prepare the student for effective participation in preschool and lay the foundation for adult life.
3. To instill the fundamental lessons of self-control.

Each child will be taught that his conduct should not interfere with others, but rather, that it should be an example to others. Each teacher, along with the director, will assist the parents in instilling and developing acceptable behavior in the children. When discipline problems arise, the teacher will use one or a combination of the following methods of discipline to correct and discourage the unacceptable behavior:

1. Allow students to quietly deliberate about the application of the principle.
2. Talk with the child explaining why his/her behavior is unacceptable and offer suggestions for or assist the student in choosing alternate behaviors.
3. Deny privileges.
4. Take the child to the Director's office.
5. Contact the parent for assistance in correcting the problem.
6. Remove the child from school until such behavior has been corrected.
7. If your student receives two re-directions from a WPCP staff, you will receive a notification call. On the third re-direction you will be called to pick up your student and they will have a 24 hr dismissal from school.
8. Ultimately, the child could be withdrawn from school. This is seriously considered when the health, safety, and welfare of the child, and/or other children and teachers are at risk.

## **BITING**

### **Biting occurs for many reasons:**

1. Toddlers 1yr and 2yr are oral beings and still put everything into their mouths.
2. Toddlers 1yr and 2yr often bite because they are frustrated, tired or hungry and don't have the words to communicate their emotions.
3. Toddlers 1yr and 2yr bite when there are too many children in close proximity. They will bite to move another child out of the way.
4. Toddlers 1yr and 2yr bite for attention from caregivers
5. Toddlers 1yr and 2yr tend to be territorial in their behavior. They need a certain amount of space around them and their toys and don't want another child intruding on what they are playing with or doing. When another child comes too close, they may bite that child to remove them from their "space."

### **When biting occurs, the caregiver will:**

1. Focus on the victim and not the child who bit.
2. Clean the bite area with antiseptic and apply bandage, even if the bite didn't break skin.
3. Notify parent if the bite has broken skin or is in a prominent place.
4. Complete an incident report for every biting incident.
5. At the appropriate time will bring the two children back together to allow time for the biter to gently stroke the victim so both children learn appropriate ways to touch.
6. Communicate with parent to find out about any changes that have occurred in the home that may be attributing to this behavior.

### **How will WPCP communicate with the parent?**

WPCP will have a parent conference or a phone conference when biting has taken place

### **Preventative Steps**

Caregivers can take steps to prevent biting:

1. Communicate with parents to let them know that it will happen and why it will happen. Director will communicate with parents via educational flyers or meetings about biting
2. Director will try to keep group size low as possible
3. Preschool will provide appropriate toys for kids to bite (teethers, thick rattles, etc)
4. Caregivers will work with the children to give them the words to express their frustrations.
5. Caregivers may provide frequent biters with a teether safely attached to their clothing.
6. Caregivers will keep a behavior log on children, especially frequent biters.

### **Caregivers will not:**

1. Use physical punishment for biting
2. Put anything in child's mouth
3. Encourage delayed punishment by parent

## HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROCEDURES

### HEALTH POLICY

A daily health inspection is given upon each child's arrival to the preschool. You will be contacted to pick up your child if any symptoms of illness appear during the day. We are not equipped to accept children with special medical/physical needs. We are depending on parents to help us maintain this policy. Symptoms that are reasons for keeping your child home are: severe cold, coughing, flushed skin, earaches, red eyes, chills, headaches, sneezing, skin eruptions, sore throat, fever, diarrhea, runny nose, stomachache, fatigue, body aches, night sweats, etc. Should your child have a contagious disease, please let the teacher know immediately so that other parents can be notified. A child who has been absent from school because of a contagious disease must upon his/her return bring a written note from his/her doctor indicating that the illness is no longer communicable by contact. If your child is sent home because of an illness or symptoms of an illness the child must remain out of school for 24 hours. The child may return to school when the child has been symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without medication.

When a child has a contagious illness ONLY parents of students who have come in direct contact with the student will be notified. WPCP management will make the decision if it becomes necessary to notify all center parents.

- Closely review our Health and Medical Policy that states children with physical signs of contagious diseases or have a fever 100<sup>0</sup> and above must remain out of school for 24 hours (may return when symptom free with a doctor's excuse).
- You must pick up your student within 2 hrs of being contacted by the preschool
- Students being sent home because of COVID related symptoms must present a negative test or the student must quarantine for five days

### MEDICATION

All medication should be handed to the director or co-director with specific written instructions for administration in our medication log. Medications should never be left in the child's cubby or with the child to administer on their own. We will administer or disburse medication to the children only with the parents' permission. Parent should complete the medication log with a description of the type of medicine, how much and how often. Director reserves the right to amend if it's for the overall health of the child. Medication will ONLY be administered at 8am, 11am & 3pm.

### ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESSES

In case of student illness or an accident resulting in injury, the child will be cared for as well as possible. The Director, Co-Director, school secretary, or some other staff member will notify the parent or guardian. Any child who is injured or becomes ill at school will be kept under observation by school personnel until the parent or another properly designated person takes charge of the child. If parents cannot be reached, the family doctor will be called. If a severe emergency develops, the child will be sent to the emergency room at one of the hospitals at once.

## ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

### HOLIDAYS

#### Christmas

Observance of the birth of Christ is done annually. As a Christian school, we stress the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

#### Easter

Easter is foundational to the doctrine of Christianity, for it is at Easter that we celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. School is closed on Good Friday.

#### Valentine's Day

Valentine parties may be held in the classroom. This is an optional activity.

#### Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is observed.

#### Halloween

We do not observe Halloween. No Jack-O- Lantern, witches, cats, scary costumes, etc. will be allowed at school. The school may sponsor a Character Dress-Up Day for the children. West Point Baptist Church sponsors a Fall Festival as an alternative for parents and children.

### FELLOWSHIPS/BIRTHDAY PARTIES

There will be no fellowships without the approval of the director. The parents, along with the teacher, are responsible for organizing the fellowships/birthday parties. Parent sponsored fellowships/birthday parties should start at 2:30pm and will conclude by 3:30pm. Party must take place in the child's classroom and parent must supply all food, paper goods, utensils, etc. (anything needed to conduct the party).

Invitations to special occasions (birthday, etc.) may be passed out at school only if invitations are given to all members of the class. If the whole class cannot be invited, parents are asked to handle invitations by phone or mail.

### WPCP OUTDOOR PLAY

Per The Department of Health Child Care Regulations, we must spend time outdoors each day except when it is too hot, cold or raining. Outdoor play will not occur if the outside temperature is greater than [99] °F or less than [37] °F degrees. If outside play is not possible teacher should already have rainy day activities prepared. If your child is unable to participate in outside activities, it is the parent's responsibility to pick up their child from school before outside time takes place.

## **FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS**

Any field trips taken will be during the summer (June/July) for our Pre-K3 & Pre-K4 students. When field trips are planned parents will be notified in advance. Transportation to the field trips will be by a licensed van. All state safety regulations will be adhered to. Children under the age of 3 years (3yr olds must have turned 3 by December of the previous year) will not be allowed to attend field trips. Authority must be given by parents for their child to participate in such activities. A "Field Trip Notice" will be sent to the parents at the specific time of the planned activity. A statement regarding your permission and signature for your child's participation will be required. Parents will be informed of the various activities throughout the year by your child's teacher.

We need parents to assist us on field trips. Interested parents should notify the Director of their availability for field trips. Students with disciplinary problems on field trips may not be allowed on the subsequent field.

From time-to-time there will be additional fees associated with special activities, supplies or field trips. These fees are due prior to the event, activity, trip or upon request.

## **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

Each family is a child's first teacher. We value families as partners in the growth and development of children in our program. We offer a variety of ways in which families can participate in helping us establish and reach our program goals.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences & Meetings**

Parent/guardian meet with the teachers to discuss child's progress.

### **Procedures for Parent/Guardian Concerns**

If a parent has a concern or disagreement, they should:

- a) Discuss matter with the teacher and attempt to resolve the disagreement through informal discussion.
- b) If there is no resolution to the situation, the parent should contact the director; the director will mediate with all parties involved.

## **COMMUNICATION**

**Daily Communications.** Daily notes from center staff will keep you informed about your child's activities and experiences at the center. Notes will be done through our Procure Connect app or placed into your child's bag or designated area by the teacher at the end of the day.

**Bulletin Boards.** Located throughout the center, bulletin boards provide center news, upcoming events, faculty changes, holiday closing dates, announcements, etc.

**Newsletters.** Monthly newsletters provide center news, events, announcements, etc. These newsletters are emailed and are available at the parent resource display for your taking.

**Email.** We encourage you to provide an email address that you use regularly so that we may send you announcements, event invitations, newsletters and general updates.

**Website, Facebook & Instagram.** We encourage you to visit our website at [www.westpointchristianpreschool.org](http://www.westpointchristianpreschool.org) for updated information and to print forms. **Instagram-** wpcp2011; **Facebook-** west point christian preschool

**Family Visits.** Family participation is encouraged. Visit our classrooms, volunteer, come along on a field trip, or eat a meal with your child. Signing in and out is required for the safety and protection of our children.

**Family Night.** Family nights are scheduled on a regular basis. These nights include snacks, drinks and fun filled age-appropriate activities for families. Family Nights allow families and children time to share, learn, and have fun. Families have an opportunity to be a part of their child's learning experience and connect with other families.

**Conferences.** Family & teacher conferences occur [twice] a year. During these conferences, we will discuss your child's strengths, likes and dislikes, and styles of learning. We will work together to set goals for your child's growth and development. You may request additional conferences regarding your child's progress at any time. We encourage you to communicate any concerns.

#### **OPEN DOOR POLICY**

We are delighted to have family members participate in our program. Stakeholders in a child's life are welcome to visit the program any time during regular program hours. We do ask that you schedule a time and day with management. The infant room welcomes parents/guardians to nurse or feed their infants. Unless you are volunteering in your child's classroom, we ask that you keep your visit to 15min or less to minimize classroom disruption and so your child's teacher can devote their time to caring for your child.

Open Door Policy does not mean the doors will be unlocked. For the safety and protection of the children, external doors will be kept locked at all times.

Our team will always do their best to speak with parents/guardians. Since staff days are devoted to caring for children, it is usually not feasible to have a long discussion during regular program hours. If a situation requires a longer discussion, kindly arrange for an appointment.