

Peace Lutheran Preschool 2021 – 2022 Enrollment Options & Prices Options for Preschool & 4K Enrichment

This document contains information about Peace Lutheran Preschool's curriculum, enrollment scheduling options and prices for preschool aged children, as well as enrichment and extended day options for children who will be attending 4K at Peace Preschool.

At Peace Lutheran Preschool, we strive to provide high-quality preschool and 4K programs for the children in our community. Having worked in early care and education for thirty plus years, I have found several key elements necessary in providing high quality programs for young children.

The most important being staff. Peace Preschool is blessed to have staff who are passionate, dedicated and work diligently to provide each child with the care needed to flourish. Essential for children to feel safe and thrive, is time to build strong, trusting relationships with their teacher, which takes time. Time and continuity of care is problematic in early childcare programs, where the annual turnover rate is thirty percent. At Peace, we are blessed to have an annual turnover rate of only three percent. Most staff have at least ten years of experience working with young children. Ongoing professional development for all staff ensures new learning is incorporated into daily practice. In addition to great staff as a major contributor to high quality, our program limits the number of children per teacher and per classroom, ensuring every child receives the amount of teacher attention needed. We are very lucky to have beautiful, sun-filled classrooms with ample space to foster play. Lastly, as a ministry of Peace Lutheran Church, the Preschool's overhead expenses are reduced allowing funds to be dedicated to recruiting and retaining talented staff, high quality toys, learning materials, furnishings, and resources.

Welcome Policy

Peace Lutheran Preschool has an open-door enrollment policy and does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, admissions or hiring practices. Expanding on our commitment to diversity, the Preschool welcomes children with special needs and provides scholarships if tuition proves cost prohibitive. Please contact the director if you would like more information about the scholarship program.

Curriculum

Over the years, we have pulled elements from a wide range of research and play based early childhood curricula including Emergent, Creative, High Scope, Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Project Approach, among others. Pulling elements that best fit our philosophy, education, and experience, we developed the "Teaching Cycle" aka TC. The TC is a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate research - based curriculum that uses play as the vehicle for learning. One of the best features of the TC is that it allows teachers to individualize activities, routines, and classroom environment to ensure we address each child's personality and overall development. In addition to learning, staff work hard to make sure every child's experience at Peace is joy filled and positive. Equally important to learning through play is instilling in each child a love for learning.

Teaching Cycle

The first few weeks of the school year our teachers are busy getting to know each child in the classroom. While it may seem as though “not much is happening” curriculum-wise during this time, our top priority is to develop trusting relationships between each child and their teachers. We know from systematic frameworks in tools such as Wisconsin Model Early Learner Standards and the Pyramid Model of Social and Emotional Development, that these relationships are the foundation for all future learning, both academically as well as socially and emotionally. The most important “learning” that happens during the first month, especially for the children new to the school, is building strong attachments with their teacher, ensuring children feel safe and welcome, learning that mom and dad will always come back, learning the school day routine and that the classroom holds great opportunity for exploration and friendships.

As teachers spend time with the children in their class, they are continually gathering information about each child’s development, opportunities for growth, as well as their likes, dislikes, and interests. Using this information, along with parent insight, teachers are then able to establish developmental goals individualized to best address each child’s needs. The goals, along with children’s interests serve as the driving force in creating weekly lesson plans, inspire engaging themes, and inform which materials are selected for our interest areas. Once teachers really know their children and what excites them, teachers can use that knowledge to create play scenarios through books, games, props, toys, and games, that will work to further the child’s growth in every developmental domain. For example, if we know we have several children in our class who are working on a typical 3-year-old goal of beginning to handle scissors with some success, we want to find ways through play to provide the opportunity to cut. For a child who we have learned loves spiders, we may create an art project with a spider web for them to cut through and save the spider! For another child who we observed spending a lot of time at the sensory table, that might mean simply placing paper and scissors in there instead of only at the art table. From there we circle back around to observing and assessing.

Play as the Vehicle for Learning

The evidence on learning through play is mounting; more than simply an enjoyable experience, engaging with the world in playful ways is essential to lay the foundation for learning early in life. That said, not all play is equal. In fact, research has found five elements that must be present for play to lead to understanding. The five elements are:

- (1) the activity must be joyful
- (2) helps the child find meaning in what he/she is doing or learning
- (3) involves active, engaged, minds-on thinking
- (4) involves iterative thinking through experimentation or hypothesis testing
- (5) involves social interaction*

Children have to be interested and actively engaged in order to reach a depth of learning that enables the child to make sense of, understand, remember, able to recall and incorporate when needed at a later point. Learning to recite the alphabet or counting to 100 has little value if the child does not understand letters represent sounds which create words and have meaning. A child “writing” his name on an art creation finds meaning and motivation in the activity and therefore will learn much more quickly. Memorizing and counting to 30 is not meaningful if the child does not understand one to one correspondence, cannot count if asked to begin the count at 10 or does not know what number follows 10. The activity must carry meaning for the child. Through fun and meaningful activity such as counting out four strawberries for snack, children are motivated, understand the meaning and therefore will learn. Every part of the Preschool day offers opportunities to learn. Lining up before walking out to the playground, teachers can ask children to line up by using words that rhyme

with the child's name, or based color of the child's shoes... The possibilities are endless, and learning is taking place in fun, relevant and meaningful ways. Supporting this type of learning is the statement by a group of scientists who discovered "it takes approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse in the brain, unless it is done in play, in which case it only takes 10 to 20 repetitions". (Dr. Karyn Purvis, 2019)

Social, Emotional & Self-Regulation

Peace Preschool's Curriculum places a great deal of emphasis on helping children learn Social, Emotional and Self – Regulation Skills. Fluency with this skill set plays a critical role in being able to learn. The skills do not develop automatically but rather must be learned. Children are most receptive to learning the skills between the ages of 2 and 5, making preschool years the ideal time to focus on developing and practicing the skills. The moment children reach Kindergarten, the focus is on academic learning. Children who have not learned self - regulation skills will have difficulty learning. Included as social emotional skills are the ability to recognize, manage and respond appropriately to one's emotions, as well as to the emotions of others, the ability to demonstrate care, concern and empathy for others, the ability to establish and maintain positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and handle challenging situations constructively.

There is mounting evidence linking social – emotional health during early childhood (birth to 6 years) to subsequent school success, health during preteen and teen years, long term health and wellbeing in adulthood. Research also shows learning social - emotional skills early in life can promote resilience and can prevent mental health problems later in life.

Self-regulation is the ability to control and direct one's own feelings, thoughts, and actions. Included under the Self - Regulation umbrella is impulse control, focused attention, flexible thinking, ability to prioritize, manage time, manage tasks, set, and achieve goals, take another's perspective, ability to organize mentally, to persevere through challenge, ability to think through action and the resulting consequence without having to act them out. As with social and emotional skills, a child's ability to self -regulate will greatly impact academic success and relationships. Academic achievement requires social, emotional, and self -regulation skills. The child needs to be able to listen to and follow the teacher's instructions, prioritize tasks, complete work, manage time, and communicate effectively. In the last 20 years, researchers have confirmed competence with social, emotional, and self-regulation skills serve as a better predictor of academic achievement than any type or amount of academic knowledge.

Christian Preschool

As a Christian Preschool, children learn valuable lessons from the Bible. Those lessons are translated and taught using age - appropriate lessons. Christian values such as: kindness, being faithful, helpful, respectful, and honest are covered through stories, music, drama, activities to teach children how they can practice Christian values in their lives. Teachers translate Bible stories by demonstrating how children can live according to God's wish. Children enrolled in the Dragonfly and Bumble Bee Class will have Christian lessons integrated throughout the daily curriculum.

Children enrolled in 4K however, will not receive any type of Christian education during the 4K class. Because 4K is funded through state and federal dollars, law prohibits faith education. If you would like for your 4K child to participate in religious education, you may want to consider enrolling in Faith Formation, which is an optional enrichment program offered at 10:20, immediately following Morning 4K. Afternoon 4K children can participate in Faith Formation by starting their day at 10:20, followed by lunch from 11 until 11:35 and then transition directly to 4K. Faith Formation is offered Mondays through Thursdays from 10:20 until 11 a.m.

Families do not need to be Lutheran, nor members of Peace Lutheran Church to enroll and benefit from our programs.

Potty Training

Children do not need to be potty trained to attend Peace Preschool. That said, typically children who are not potty trained are enrolled in the Bumble Bee class. Although it is not a requirement, potty training is a consideration for placement in the Dragonfly class for the following reasons. We limit the number of children enrolled in the Bumble Bee class, knowing not every child is potty trained. Additional time is factored into the Bumble Bee daily schedule to provide time for diaper changing and for potty - training. The Dragonfly class is larger for multiple reasons including providing children a larger group experience that offers ample opportunities with peers to practice age - appropriate skills, to become familiar and comfortable with functioning in a larger group setting the stage for Kindergarten. The Dragonfly daily schedule dedicates more time to class activities to reflect children's ability to focus attention for longer periods of time, which leads to more complex exploration and play and results in new learning.

If your child is 3.5 years old or older by September 1, 2021, has not yet potty trained and you would like to enroll in the Dragonfly class, document that on the front cover of the Enrollment Form. Preschool staff, in consultation with the family, use the information to determine class placement that is best for the child and class as a whole. When potty-training is the only reason to hesitate from enrolling in the Dragonfly class, the consensus is almost always placement in the Dragonfly class. It is also important to note, enrollment begins more than six months prior to the school year, leaving a lot of time for skill development.

Lunch Bunch is composed of a mixed age group. Because diapering and potty training requires one staff member to leave the group to attend to the one or two children, potty – training is required to participate in Lunch Bunch, UNLESS enrolled in full days. Children enrolled in full day programming do NOT need to be potty trained. Please see the Parent Handbook for additional information on the Preschool's philosophy and approach on potty training.

Please feel free to contact the director if you have questions, would like to talk through class placement options, lunch bunch or questions in general.

Flexibility with Scheduling

In an effort to meet a variety of family needs, Peace Lutheran Preschool provides flexibility with scheduling. As an example:

Early Drop off	M & W (7:20 a.m. - 8 a.m.)
Dragonfly Class	M, W & Friday (8 - 11 am.)
Lunch Bunch	M & W (11 - 12:15 p.m.)
Afternoons	M & W (12:15 until 3:30 p.m.)

Full -time hours would mean starting daily at 7:20 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and at 2:30 pm on Fridays. Preschool enrollment requires a minimum of 2 mornings per week. For an example of scheduling flexibility and tuition, refer to page 7.

PRESCHOOL TUITION 2021 - 2022

Enrolling 4 days per week is not an option. If that causes difficulties for your family, exceptions may be made pending Director's approval.

1. Early Drop Off: Available Monday through Friday from 7:20 to 8 a.m.

- \$ 50 per month / 1 early drop off week
- \$ 65 per month / 2 early drop offs week
- \$ 95 per month / 3 early drop offs per week
- \$ 125 per month / 5 early drop offs per week

Fees waived for children enrolled full time

2. Morning Preschool Classes: 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

	Bumble Bees	Dragonflies
Tuesday and Thursday	\$ 330 / month	\$ 300 / month
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	\$ 455 / month	\$ 390 / month
Monday through Friday	\$ 560 / month	\$ 495 / month

NEW!! The cost for the Tuesday and Thursday FIREFLY CLASS 11:30 am - 2:30 pm \$ 300 / month

3. Lunch Bunch for Preschoolers: ends at 12:15 p.m. This includes eating lunch (children bring lunch from home), play time and weather permitting, time outside. **Unless enrolled full-days, children must be potty trained to attend Lunch Bunch.**

	Bumble Bees	Dragonflies
Tuesday & Thursday	\$ 215 / month	\$ 180 / month
Monday, Wed & Friday	\$ 265 / month	\$ 220 / month
Monday – Friday	\$ 335 / month	\$ 275 / month

4. Afternoon Classes: Mixed age group. Monday–Thursday 12:15-3:30 p.m.
Fridays until 2:30 p.m.

	Bumble Bees	Dragonflies
Two afternoons per week	\$ 260 / month	\$ 220 / month
Three afternoons per week	\$ 310 / month	\$ 245 / month
Full time. Fri – 2:30 p.m.	\$ 390 / month	\$ 330 / month

We offer a 10 % Sibling Discount

4K ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS & EXTENDED DAY OPTIONS
Children Enrolled in 4K during 2021 2022 School Year

**Please note – 4K Enrollment is completed through the Waunakee Community School District. Placement decisions are also made by the WCSD. You will need to complete separate paperwork – In order to enroll for 4K, enroll with Waunakee Schools. If you would like to add enrichment options and extended day, complete the “Enrollment Form & Enrollment Contract with Peace Preschool. For additional information on 4K Enrollment, please contact the WCSD Office 608 849 2000 ext. 8020. <https://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/waunakee4k/4kenrollment.cfm>*

Children enrolled in MORNING 4K can attend Faith Formation (10:20 until 11 M - Th), have lunch (11 until 12:15 M – Th) and can attend Extended Day programming from 12:15 until 3:30 M – Th). There are no programming options on Fridays. However, if you would like or need Friday Programming, please write that on the Enrollment Form’s cover. Pending demand for programming and staff availability, programming may be added.

Children enrolled in AFTERNOON 4K can begin their school day with Faith Formation starting at 10:20 – 11 a.m., M – Th, followed by lunch from 11 until 11:35 at which time your child will transitioning to Afternoon 4K.

1. Faith Formation: Only for Children Enrolled in Morning 4K. 10:20 until 11 a.m. M - Th

Two days per week	\$ 190 / month
Four days per week	\$ 285 / month

2. Faith Formation and Lunch: Only for Children in Afternoon 4K. 10:20 until 11:35 a.m. M - Th
(Faith Formation from 10:20 until 11 a.m. followed by Lunch until 11:35 am) Afternoon 4K from 11:35 until 2:20.

Two days per week	\$ 225 / month
Four days per week	\$ 335 / month

3. Faith Formation and Lunch: Only for Children in Morning 4K.

This includes Faith Formation at 10:20 – 11, followed by lunch, play time and weather permitting, time outside. Ends at 12:15 p.m. Note: Faith Formation is not offered on Fridays. Children who are enrolled full time have supervised play from 10:20 until 11 on Fridays. No programming available on days 4K is not in session.

Two days per week	\$ 270 / month
Four days per week	\$ 430 / month
Full time student	\$ 465 / month

4. Afternoon Wrap Around: 12:15 – 3:30 Monday – Thursday, **Fridays until 2:30 p.m.**

Two days per week	\$ 220 / month
Four days per week	\$ 320 / month
Monday – Friday	\$ 360 / month

5. After / Afternoon 4K: 2:15 p.m. until 3:30 Monday through Thursday. Not an option on Fridays. If Afternoon Wrap Around enrollment permits, children may stay after Afternoon 4K Monday through Thursday from 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Two days per week	\$ 105 / month
Three days per week	\$ 160 / month
Four days per week	\$ 205 / month

Example of Scheduling Option for a Preschooler with Tuition Calculation

In an effort to meet a variety of family needs, Peace Lutheran Preschool offers many scheduling options. Having so many options may cause some confusion with calculating monthly tuition costs. Below is an example of a preschool schedule and the tuition calculation for that option.

Example: Child is enrolled in the Dragonfly Class on M, W and Friday mornings. He arrives at 7:20 for Early Drop Off on Mondays, stays for Lunch Bunch on M & W, as well as Extended Day on M & W.

Early Drop Off - M	\$ 50 / month
Dragonfly Class - M, W & F	\$ 390 / month
Dragonfly Lunch Bunch - M & W	\$ 180 / month
Dragonfly Afternoons - M & W	<u>\$ 220 / month</u>
	\$ 840 / month