

PEACE LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

2022 – 2023 Enrollment Options & Prices
NEW! 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.

The type of care children receive during the first five years of life are critical in determining overall health and wellbeing throughout life. This fact serves to guide the care, nurturing and high-quality programming provided at Peace Lutheran Preschool. Having worked in early care and education for thirty plus years, with a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and Capstone in Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health, I have found several key elements necessary in providing high-quality programming for young children during their foundational years.

The most important being staff. Peace Preschool is blessed to have staff who are passionate, dedicated and work tirelessly to provide each child with the care and environment needed to flourish. Commitment to engage in continuous professional development, combined with years of relevant work experience ensures staff have the knowledge to provide the type of care each child needs to maximize their abilities. Touting staff retention that far exceeds industry average, allows Peace Preschool's teachers to build strong relationships with every child and enables continuity of care. Another key element to high-quality is the commitment to limit the number of children per teacher and per class which allows teachers to support each child based on their individual needs. As a ministry of Peace Lutheran Church expenses are limited which allows for a greater investment in staff, as well as equipping each classroom with child size furnishings, toys, and learning materials.

Honoring our vision to welcome all, Peace Lutheran Preschool has an open-door enrollment and hiring policy. We are committed to diversity and as such do 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.

Curricula

Knowing children are innately curious and motivated to examine, explore, and interact within their surroundings Peace Preschool utilizes a "play-based" child directed curricula. Over the years, we have pulled various elements from well-established and research-based curriculums, including Emergent, Creative, High Scope, Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Project Approach, among others. We pooled the elements that speak to our philosophy and support best practices according to leading early child care and learning professional organizations. We have incorporated research findings on brain development, along with information gained from continuous professional development and coined our own curricula the Teaching Cycle, TC. The TC is a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, research - based curricula that uses play as the vehicle for learning. The TC allows teachers to be intentional in staging the classroom environment with the specific toys, games, furnishings and learning materials that will spark children's curiosity and targets the child's developmental stage. It is through the exploration of the materials and toys that teachers chose with intention, that children experience developmental growth. Our favorite outcome of the Teaching Cycle is the fun, excitement, confidence, and motivation that builds in each child as a result of their "play" and learning. It is exactly this excitement, the joy, motivation, the love of learning and the positive self-esteem that results from mastering a task "by myself" that serves as the perfect platform as we send our children off to kindergarten. A love for learning, viewing self as capable, and being motivated play an important role in academic achievement as well as all other aspects of life.

"Play based" learning is one of the most misunderstood concepts of early childhood education. Play can be used to teach any skill, concept, or academic learning. In fact, children who learn through play, are learning by doing, through self-guided, hands-on exploration, while interacting with peers and in a group setting are learning in a fun, relevant and meaningful way. Research has repeatedly proven that information learned through hands on

exploration, i.e., play, allows that information to be generalized and applied across settings, leads to additional learning, requires problem solving, creativity, incorporating new skills after trial and error, creates a sense of investment, is meaningful and of course enjoyable. It is during play that children practice and improve communication, social, emotional, and executive skills. In other words, learning through play enables growth in every area of development verses direct instruction which simply teaches the concept.

One of my favorite quotes that fully supports "play-based" 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)

Teaching Cycle

The first few weeks of the school year teachers are focused on getting to know each child in their class. While it may seem as though "not much is happening" curricula-wise during this time, the teacher's top priority is to build a trusting relationship with each child, while identifying the children's interests, strengths, and challenges. We know from systematic frameworks in early childhood resource tools such as Wisconsin Model Early Learner Standards and the Pyramid Model of Social and Emotional Development, that these relationships are the required foundation for any learning, including academic, social, or emotional, to take place. The most important "learning" that happens during the first month of school at Peace, especially for children new to the school, is building strong attachments with their teacher. Children have to feel safe and welcome, have to learn and develop confidence that mom and dad will always come back, learn 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, likes, dislikes, and interests. Using this information, along with parent insight, teachers establish developmentally appropriate 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 teachers which materials to select for the classroom. Once teachers know their children, that information is used to create play scenarios through books, games, props, toys, and learning materials. It is this intentional act of furnishing a classroom with elements that address children's skill levels, and appeal to their interests, that lead to 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 to provide the opportunity to practice cutting through play. 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 the sensory table. Once a child's predetermined goals are mastered, teachers circle back to observe and establish new goals – the Teaching Cycle.

Social, Emotional, Self-Regulation & Executive Functioning Skills

Social, emotional, and self-regulation skills are critical to overall, lifelong health and well-being. Because of their importance and far-reaching impact, helping children develop and strengthen that skill sets are at the heart of our program. The skill sets are not innate and require intentional teaching and practice. Working to develop the skills during the preschool years makes perfect sense for multiple reasons. Preschool aged children are typically very curious about their peers and actively seek interactions. Teachers are intentional in setting up their classrooms staged with activities that prompt teamwork, or negotiation, making rules or scripting roles. Each of these goals require children to communicate with one another. Children who are playing a board game need to agree on the rules of the game. They need to decide who goes first, (challenging in itself as most preschoolers want the first turn), wait for a turn, make sure all are following the rules and what happens if rules are broken. Teachers having staged the game stand by, ready to jump in to provide the amount of support needed, if any. Teachers are ready to model skills, facilitate conversation and are prepared to simply stand back and observe, making sure children are engaged in the activity and are learning. There is no better place to practice social skills than in a classroom of 15 preschoolers who most certainly will let you know if you broke the rules.

Social, emotional, and self-regulation skills cover a wide variety of skills that are often referred to as "soft skills". Examples include confidence, impulse control, focused attention, flexible thinking, ability to prioritize,

manage time, manage tasks, set as well as achieve goals, take another's perspective, ability to organize mentally, the ability to think through actions, their resulting consequence without having to act them out, concentrating on and persisting with challenging tasks, the ability to control and direct one's own feelings, thoughts, and actions. Also included are prosocial and effective communication skills including attending, listening, and following instructions, being able to solve social problems, effectively communicating emotions and the ability to identify, interpret and respond appropriately to emotions of others.

Despite their importance, not only as foundational for healthy relationships, and overall wellbeing, intentional teaching of social, emotional, and self-regulation skills is often overlooked. Children who have friends, who feel accepted, can focus their attention, follow directions, are able to communicate effectively, are able to work through their frustration and continue work on a challenging task, ask for help, those are the children who are prepared for kindergarten, academic success and a skill set necessary for life. On the other hand, the child who begins kindergarten having spent much of the preschool years learning letters, numbers, is able to complete math problems and read at a first-grade level, but struggles with social, emotional, and self-regulation skills, will likely struggle academically and with relationships. Being able to listen to and follow the teacher's directions, being able to manage time, prioritize, incorporate ideas from others, impulse control, being able to effectively deal with strong emotions, and communicating effectively are necessary skills for learning.

There is mounting evidence linking social - emotional health during early childhood (birth to 6 years) to subsequent school success, better health and wellbeing during childhood as well as throughout adulthood. Additionally, research has been able to link competence with the use of social - emotional skills to promote resilience and positively impact the prevention of mental health problems later in life.

Christian Preschool

As a Christian Preschool, children enrolled in programming other than 4K, benefit from faith formation throughout their daily programming. Teachers use age-appropriate, hands-on activities to teach lessons from the Bible. Christian character traits and values such as: kindness, being faithful, helpful, respectful, and honest are examples of lessons covered through stories, music, drama, and activities. Teachers focus on helping children learn to apply Christian values in their lives. Most of all, children learn they are loved by God.

Children enrolled in 4K do NOT participate in Christian education because 4K is funded by tax dollars. Families with 4K students have the option to enroll their child in Faith Formation - FF. Children enrolled in both Morning as well as Afternoon 4K can participate in Faith Formation. FF is offered Monday through Thursday at 10:20. Morning 4K children can participate in FF immediately following Morning 4K. Children enrolled in Afternoon 4K have the option to begin their day at 10:20 a.m. with Faith Formation, followed by a short lunch from 11 until 11:35, at which time teachers walk children to their 4K class. FF is not offered on Fridays. On Fridays, children enrolled full time, enjoy the extra time in teacher facilitated play.

4K students do not participate in the annual Christmas program unless enrolled in Faith Formation. Families do not need to be Lutheran, nor members of Peace Lutheran Church to enroll and benefit.

Accessible Quality Early Care and Education

Peace Lutheran Preschool is committed to inclusion, honoring the school's founding vision to welcome children without regard to family affordability. Scholarships ensure access. Please contact the director for more information.

Example schedule for a child enrolled in the Dragonfly Class:

Early drop off on Monday & Wednesday 7 a.m. - 2 days per week - \$ 85

Dragonfly Class on Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 - 11 a.m. - 3 mornings per week - \$ 395

Lunch Bunch Monday & Wednesday 11 - 12:15 p.m. - 2 days per week - \$ 185

Afternoons Monday & Wednesday 12:15 until 3:30 - 2 days per week - \$ 225

Total Cost - \$ 890 per month

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2022 – 2023 Tuition

NEW! Early Drop Off Begins daily at 7 a.m.

- 1. Early Drop Off:** Available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. - 8 a.m.
\$ 65 per month / 1 early drop off week
\$ 85 per month / 2 early drop offs week
\$ 125 per month / 3 early drop offs per week
\$ 155 per month / 5 early drop offs per week *

*Fee waived for children enrolled in full day programming, Monday through Friday.

- 2. Morning Preschool Classes:** 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. Children need to be 2.5 yrs by September 1, 2022 to enroll in the Bumble Bee class and 3 by September 1, 2022 to enroll in the Dragonfly class.

	Bumble Bee	Dragonfly
Tuesday & Thursday	\$ 340 / month	\$ 305 / month
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	\$ 460 / month	\$ 395 / month
Monday through Friday	\$ 565 / month	\$ 500 / month

- 3. Afternoon Preschool Class:** Firefly Class 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday \$ 305 / month

- 4. Lunch Bunch for Preschoolers:** 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Child must be potty trained to participate in Lunch Bunch, unless the child attends full days Monday through Friday. LB offers great opportunities for children to play with their peers in a more relaxed atmosphere. Children enjoy lunch as a group, followed by free choice play with their peers in a classroom filled with new and interesting learning materials (different from their own classroom). As time and weather permit, lunch bunch often ends outside or if inside with a great story. Lunch bunch provides a great opportunity for children to practice social, emotional, and self-regulation skills as they play with peers under the watchful eye of teachers trained in supporting skill development.

	Bumble Bee	Dragonfly
Tuesday & Thursday	\$ 225 / month	\$ 185 / month
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	\$ 270 / month	\$ 225 / month
Monday through Friday	\$ 340 / month	\$ 280 / month

- 5. Afternoon Wrap Around Care:** Monday – Thursday 12:15 – 3:30 p.m. Fridays until 2:30 p.m.

	Bumble Bee	Dragonfly
Two afternoon per week	\$ 265 / month	\$ 225 / month
Three afternoons per week	\$ 315 / month	\$ 250 / month
Full time Fridays until 2:30 p.m.	\$ 395 / month	\$ 335 / month

We offer a 10 % Sibling Discount

Register for 4K through the Waunakee Community School District

*Please note: YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR 4K THROUGH THE WCSD. 4K placements - site selection, and session, Morning vs. Afternoon, are determined by WCSD staff, with your input as well. For additional information on 4K Enrollment, please contact the WCSD Office 608 849 2000 ext. 8020. Or visit their website at:
<https://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/waunakee4k/4kenrollment.cfm>

For planning purposes, it is helpful for Peace staff to know if you prefer Morning or Afternoon 4K, or have no strong preference. Morning 4K* _____ Afternoon 4K _____ Either session _____

IMPORTANT! If you are enrolling your child in full -time, or full days, your child **must be placed in Morning 4K. When registering for 4K with the WCSD, make a note to communicate full- time enrollment at Peace.*

ENRICHMENT OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN ENROLLED IN MORNING AND AFTERNOON 4K

NEW! Early Drop OFF Begins daily at 7 a.m.

1. Early Drop Off: 7 a.m. daily. 4K begins daily at 7:40 a.m. If you need care prior to 7:40, you may enroll your child for Early Drop Off, beginning at 7 a.m.

2 days per week - \$ 45 per month
3 days per week - \$ 65 per month
5 days per week - \$ 105 per month*

* The Early Morning Drop Off Fee is waived if the child is enrolled full days, Monday - Friday.

2. Faith Formation: 10:20 a.m. – 11 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

Morning 4K – have the option to add Faith Formation which begins immediately following Morning 4K.

Afternoon 4K – If enrolling your child in Faith Formation, your child begins the day at 10:20 with Faith Formation, followed by a short lunch until 11:35 a.m. at which time teachers walk your child to their Afternoon 4K class.

2 days of Faith Formation - \$ 195 / month
4 days of Faith Formation - \$ 295 / month

3. Lunch Bunch for Children in MORNING 4K: 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Morning 4K children enrolled in Faith Formation can continue their programming by adding Lunch Bunch which ends at 12:15 p.m. LB offers great opportunities for children to play with their peers in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Children enjoy lunch as a group, followed by free choice play with their peers in a classroom filled with new and interesting learning materials (different from their own classroom). As time and weather permit, lunch bunch often ends outside or if inside with a great story. Lunch bunch provides a great opportunity for children to practice social, emotional, and self-regulation skills as they play with peers under the watchful eye of teachers trained in supporting skill development.

2 days per week of Faith Formation & Lunch - \$ 295 / month
4 days per week Faith Formation & Lunch - \$ 445 / month
Monday through Friday - \$ 495 / month

4. Faith Formation and Lunch for Children in AFTERNOON 4K: 10:20 until 11:35 a.m. Children enrolled in Afternoon 4K can begin their day at 10:20 with Faith Formation, followed by a short lunch 11 a.m. - 11:35 a.m. Teachers walk children to their Afternoon 4K class at 11:35 p.m.

2 days / week Faith Formation & Lunch - \$ 245 / month
4 days / week Faith Formation & Lunch - \$ 365 / month

5. Afternoon Wrap Around for children in MORNING 4K: 12:15 – 3:30 Monday through Thursday, 2:30 on Fridays.

2 days per week - \$ 230 / month
4 days per week - \$ 335 / month
Full Time \$ 475 / month

6. Children in AFTERNOON 4K Wrap Around 2:20 - 3:30 Monday through Thursday. Not an option on Fridays.

2 days per week - \$ 115 / month
3 days per week - \$ 170 / month
4 days per week - \$ 215 / month

Peace Lutheran Preschool offers flexible scheduling options. See 2 examples of custom schedules below:

Example of a schedule for a child in Morning 4K:

Early Drop Off Drop Off Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - \$ 65 / month
Morning 4K – registration completed with WCSD - Free
Faith Formation and Lunch Bunch Tuesday & Thursday - \$ 295
Afternoon Wrap Around Tuesday and Thursday - \$ 230
Monthly tuition - \$ 590

Example of a schedule for a child in Afternoon 4K:

Faith Formation & Lunch Monday – Thursday - \$ 365
Afternoon 4K Monday – Friday - Free
Wrap Around after 4K Tuesday & Thursday - \$ 115
Monthly tuition - \$ 480

IMPORTANT NOTE – PROGRAMMING IS NOT AVAILABLE ON DAYS 4K IS NOT IN SESSION.
Please see the school calendar.