

PEACE LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL
2023 – 2024 Enrollment Options & Prices

This document contains information about Peace Lutheran Preschool's philosophy, curricula, 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 quality of care and type of relationships a child experiences during the first five years of life have a tremendous impact on a child's life trajectory, for better or worse. This well-recognized and research proven fact is how each member of Peace Lutheran Preschool's team views the value of their work and interactions with the young children entrusted in our care. Less than 10 percent of early care and learning programs in the United States provide ongoing high -quality care for young children. Peace Lutheran Preschool is proud to belong to the 10 % having earned and maintained national accreditation since 2013, three years after the school launched. Having worked in the early childhood field for more than thirty years, with a master's degree in Early Childhood Education and Capstone through UW Madison's Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health, I have identified several key elements required to provide high quality.

The most important being staff. Peace Preschool is blessed to have staff who are passionate, dedicated and work tirelessly to provide every child with the loving care, responsive and attuned interactions, open ended learning materials, toys and nurturing environment needed to flourish. Commitment to participate in ongoing professional development, combined with years of relevant work experience ensures staff have the knowledge and experience needed to tailor care to the needs of each child. Touting staff retention rates that far exceed industry norms, allows Peace Preschool's teachers to build trust and provide the continuity of care critical to establish secure relationships essential for children to feel safe and valued. Another key element is the commitment to limit the number of children per class. Keeping the staff to child ratio low allows teachers to support the child's development, rather than simply keep children safe. Having lower ratios also allows teachers to fine tune daily interactions, and tailor activities to best support children. As a ministry of Peace Lutheran Church, the Preschool is fortunate to have limited expenses which allows for greater investment in staff, high quality professional development, as well as equipping each classroom with wonderful furnishings, toys, supplies and learning materials.

Honoring the Preschool's founding 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. Realizing our commitment to diversity, the Preschool welcomes children with special needs and provides scholarships if tuition proves prohibitive.

NEW!! ENROLLMENT OPTIONS FOR PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Peace Lutheran Preschool is fortunate to have three spacious, sun - filled and well-equipped classrooms to serve our preschoolers and 4K students. Two of the classrooms offer "traditional" morning preschool and the third-class hosts 4K with both a Morning and an Afternoon 4K section. Each year the Preschool serves approximately 85 children, most attending part time.

Although we have enjoyed success with the programming options available at Peace, we have struggled with one ongoing dilemma. While maintaining a waiting list of three-year-old children for the Dragonfly class, we struggled to find enough younger children to fully enroll the Bumble Bee class. Wanting to better serve our community and fully utilize our program, we are delighted to introduce changes planned for the upcoming school year.

Starting with the 2023/ 2024 school year, we are excited to launch the Blue Bird and Cardinal Classrooms!! The two classes will be very similar. Both classes will serve a mixed age group of children, with a minimum starting age of 30 months, or 2 years and 6 months old by July 1, 2023. Teachers will individualize each child's learning by creating goals based on the child's development. Both classes, pending enrollment, will have two teachers. Families may choose either class regardless of timeline for

4K. As has been the case, children can spend two years attending preschool prior to enrolling in 4K, or from either classroom, may transition to 4K after one year of preschool if they are age-eligible. The difference between the Blue Bird and Cardinal Class is the number of children. The Blue Bird class will serve up to eleven children per morning session, while the Cardinals will serve up to sixteen. Because the Blue Bird group size is lower, guaranteeing additional teacher attention, tuition is slightly higher.

As has been the case in the past, families will have the option to indicate class preference on enrollment paperwork. New this year because the two classes will be serving children within the same age range, we have the luxury of “balancing” both classes to best meet each child’s needs, as well as balance each class. Prior to the end of the current school year, preschool staff will review every child’s enrollment information and by comparing information from the fifty plus children slated to attend in fall, teachers will make recommendations. Some of the information teachers will consider includes the child’s disposition, temperament, age, previous preschool/childcare experience, family birth order, ages, and gender of siblings, only child, special needs, concerns, development, and family class preference. Chances are good that the family’s preference will be the same as staff recommendation. If not, staff will contact each family to discuss the teachers’ recommendations. Hopefully each family and staff will agree on final placement, if not, the final decision regarding class placement will rest with the Preschool’s administrative team.

Peace Lutheran Preschool’s Curricula

Knowing children are innately curious and motivated to explore within their surroundings, we have built a curricula that uses exploration and play as the vehicle that leads to learning. Not wanting to be limited to one curricula, our staff has pulled practices, theories, and elements from a variety of well-established, research-based curriculums including Emergent, Creative, High Scope, Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Project Approach, among others to develop a curricula in line with the Preschool’s philosophy, and best practice. Ongoing professional development allows for the integration of relevant research in brain development, trauma informed care and early childhood and family mental health. The combination of all the information and use of our curricula led to the use of the Teaching Cycle. The TC is a comprehensive approach to support the development of the whole child. The first step of the TC and the prerequisite before any learning can take place, is relationship. It is only after a trusting relationship between the teacher and child has been established, that the child can focus and fully immerse in exploring the new environment. The next step of the TC includes careful observation, informal assessment and documentation used to determine each child’s developmental level across the five domains which are social and emotional; language and cognition; thinking, reasoning and problem solving; large and small motor development. Using the child’s development, along with family input, teachers generated individualized goals. Using children’s goals and interests, teachers work to design and equip the classroom with activities, toys, props and learning materials selected with a great deal of intention because it is through this specific hands-on exploration of chosen items, that development will occur. In the meantime, teachers spend their time observing and documenting children’s play, provide scaffolding where needed, add, or replace toys meant to extend play, leading to further learning. Or replace props that failed to attract the specific child or have not been effective in spurring developmental growth. Once the goals have been met, the TC begins from the top. Using the child’s development, a new goal is chosen etc.

The TC has countless benefits. Benefits especially meaningful and in line with Peace Preschool’s philosophy includes empowering children with the time and freedom to direct their own play. Children are learning through hands-on, trial and error exploration using “learning styles” effective for their learning. There is no wrong way to explore. However, if the child is not happy with the result, new and creative ways are used to try again. Learning through play children build knowledge and skill and develop a love for learning.

“Play- based” learning is one of the most misunderstood concepts of early childhood education. Almost every skill, concept, or academic content can be taught and learned through play. When children have the freedom to direct their play, can engage in hands-on exploration, and receive the support of a

trained teacher who provides just enough and the kind of support each child needs. Because children are in charge of directing their play, they feel a sense of investment, their work is more meaningful and more joyful. Research has proven that information learned through hands-on exploration results in a deeper understanding, which allows for the learning to be generalized and applied across settings. Because play allows children to examine and explore using multiple senses, and explore in many ways, that type of “full on” investigation activates multiple areas of the brain sending neurons to create synapses which lead to more complex brain development and a positive impact for learning. While playing with peers, children improve communication and social skills. Children engaged in hands on learning develop problem solving, use creativity, imagination, use prior learning to understand new information, learn to organize information which all lead to building executive functioning skills. 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)

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 those 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 promote 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, 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 and ask for help 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.

Because 4K is publicly funded through tax dollars, no faith based/religious education will take place in 4K. Families interested in faith education for their child have the option to enroll in Faith Formation - FF. Children in both Morning and Afternoon 4K can participate in FF. FF begins at 10:20 and is offered Monday through Thursday. Morning 4K children may participate in FF immediately following Morning 4K, while children enrolled in Afternoon 4K may begin their school day with Faith Formation beginning at 10:20 a.m. , followed by a short lunch from 11 until 11:35 at which time children are escorted to their 4K class. FF is offered Monday through Thursday. Children who are enrolled for full days on Fridays, spend 10:20 to 11 enjoy playing in the classroom or spending some extra time on the playground while supervised by their classroom teacher.

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.

Scholarship Funds

Peace Lutheran Preschool is committed to inclusion, is committed to honoring the school's founding vision and in hopes of providing universal access has a dedicated Scholarship Fund. If interested in getting more information, contact the director.

Sibling Discount

A 10 % sibling discount is applied to the tuition of siblings enrolled full days. The 10 % discount is calculated using the lower tuition.

IMPORTANT - Although we fully expect to be able to offer programming as listed, it is possible that factors beyond our control prevent some offerings or require changes. Two examples include low enrollment or inability to hire staff who meet the Preschool's qualifications. We do not anticipate such obstacles but do want to make you aware, especially considering the teacher shortage prevalent throughout the US.

2023 – 2024 OPTIONS & PRICES PRESCHOOL PROGRAMMING

1. EARLY DROP OFF: Available Monday through Friday from 7:15 a.m. - 8 a.m.

2 Mornings / Week	\$ 85 / Month
3 Mornings / Week	\$ 125 / Month
Monday – Friday	\$ 155 / Month*

* Early Morning Drop Off Fees are waived for children enrolled full time – Monday through Thursday until 3:30 p.m. and Fridays until 2:30 p.m.

2. MORNING PRESCHOOL CLASSES: 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

NEW!! Children must be 2 years and 6 months old by July 1, 2023, to enroll.

Preschool 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Blue Birds <small>2 teachers:11children</small>	Cardinals <small>2 teachers :16 children</small>
Tuesday & Thursday	\$ 385 / month	\$ 340 / month
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	\$ 495 / month	\$ 420 / month
Monday through Friday	\$ 615 / month	\$ 550 / month

3. LUNCH BUNCH FOR PRESCHOOLERS: 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Unless the child attends all day, children must be potty trained to participate in Lunch Bunch. Shortly after 11, children from all classrooms combine and while seated at a table with 4 or 5 peers and a teacher, all enjoy their lunch brought from home. As children finish lunch, they are free to play in the lunchroom. When all children finished their lunch, weather permitting, the group heads to the big playground.

Adding lunch bunch is a great way for children to build stamina needed for full - day kindergarten. Children work on self -regulation and self -help skills associated with mealtimes. Learning to focus on eating lunch within a group that offers countless distractions, offers practice in effective ways to ask for help in a group setting such as asking for help opening a cheese stick, cleaning up a spill, heating up lunch etc. During play time, children practice communication, self-help and self-regulation skills that are a natural occurrence when children play together. Children develop “scripts” for their games, come up with rules, take on roles of their imaginary play, solve problems, manage emotions etc. When children have time to play, naturally occurring situations are the perfect platform for children to make decisions on where the hot lava is, who will play shark in a game of shark and minnows, who gets to play with the “loved” digger in the sandbox etc. At Peace, teachers tune into children’s abilities and support children in how to treat each other with kindness and respect.

Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

2 Days / Week	\$ 185 / month
3 Days / Week	\$ 220 / month
Monday through Friday	\$ 285 / month

4. Afternoon Warp Around 12:15 p.m. - 3:30 M – Th, F – 2:30

2 Days / Week	\$ 215 / month
3 Days / Week	\$ 255 / month
Monday - Th 8 to 3:30, Fridays - 2:30 p.m.	\$ 335 / month

ENRICHMENT OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN IN MORNING & AFTERNOON 4K

If wishing to enroll your child in “full-time” or for “full-days” your child must be enrolled in MORNING 4K

MORNING 4K – Options for Children in Morning 4K

1. **FAITH FORMATION: 10:20 a.m. - 11 a.m. Monday - Thursday.** Faith Formation is not an option on Fridays. Children who attend full time, spend Fridays from 10:20 – 11 a.m. enjoy free play with their classroom teacher either on the playground or in the classroom.

COST: Faith Formation – 10:20 until 11 a.m.
2 days / week = M & W or T & Th \$ 225 / month

NOTE: Faith Formation is a very popular program and enrollment requests typically outnumber available spots. For that reason, FF is limited to two days per week unless paired with LB, Full days, or full time. If openings are available early in the school year, families will be given the option to enroll in 4 days of FF. At this time enrollment for Faith Formation only, is limited to 2 days per week.

2. **LUNCH BUNCH: 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Monday - 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, children spend the remainder of LB on the playground.

COST: Faith Formation, & Lunch Bunch – 10:20 until 12:15 p.m.
2 days per week M & W or T & Th \$ 330 / month
4 days per week M - Th \$ 485 / month
5 days per week* \$ 540 / month
*(4 days of FF & Friday Small Group Care)

3. **AFTERNOON WRAP AROUND CARE: 12:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday and until 2:30 p.m. on Fridays.**

COST: Faith Formation, Lunch Bunch & Afternoon Wrap Around Care 10:20 – 3:30 p.m.
2 days per week M & W or T & Th \$ 580 / month
4 days per week M - Th \$ 740 / month
Full Time Care* \$ 835 / month
*(Monday - Thursday 10:20 until 3:30 p.m. Fridays - 2:30 p.m.)

AFTERNOON 4K - Options for Children enrolled in Afternoon 4K

Children enrolled in Afternoon 4K may begin their school day at 10:20 a.m. with Faith Formation, followed by lunch until 11:35 a.m. at which time Afternoon 4K begins.

Faith Formation & Lunch Bunch – 10:20 until 11:35 a.m.
2 days per week \$ 295 / month
4 days per week \$ 445 / month
M - F is not an option NA

IMPORTANT NOTE – PROGRAMMING IS NOT AVAILABLE ON DAYS 4K / WCSD IS NOT IN SESSION. Please see the “draft” school calendar.