

Aldersgate KinderPrep



2019-2020 School Year
New Creation United Methodist Church
4320 Bruce Road
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(757) 673-4602

ALDRSGATE KINDERPREP

Thank you for your interest in KinderPrep. We look forward to the opportunity to serve you and your child. This packet contains information that will acquaint you with our school and programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school at (757) 673-4602.

HISTORY

Aldersgate KinderPrep opened its doors in September 1974 with a handful of students and teachers. In 1977, it started to blossom into the program we have today. The school has grown to a staff of 28 and a student body of 150. In 1995, we successfully obtained a license from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The purpose of this license is to protect pre-school aged children when separated from their parents during part of the day. It also ensures that the activities, services, and facility are conducive to the well-being of children. 2004 saw the addition of a Transitional Kindergarten class to the KinderPrep programs, and in 2013, KinderPrep proudly opened a regular Kindergarten class.

PURPOSE

The Aldersgate KinderPrep education ministry provides a Christian-based education to children throughout the community. Our student body comes from many different denominations as well as those families who do not attend church. Parents should know that the spiritual dimension of our program is an important one and is central to our purpose.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

In a caring and positive atmosphere, we create a warm and happy place for preschoolers to learn. As we bridge the gap from home to school, we guide children to a positive self-image while building both social and academic skills.

We introduce sensory, motor, perceptual, language and academic concept skills through materials and activities which are both child-centered and teacher-directed. We plan work that emphasizes the process rather than the product, and fosters a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Based on the theory that children learn through play, classroom routines encourage active involvement, meaningful experimentation and reinforcement through repetition. We design schedules which balance structure and free choice as well as active and quiet times.

Recognizing that children grow in predictable stages, we treat each child as an individual, working from the level each child has attained and moving forward one step at a time. We teach a love of learning by allowing children to experience their own stages of development and helping them to feel success without pressure.

We value the active involvement of parents in our program, both through family fun nights and classroom participation. Parents may gain valuable insights and techniques from the expertise of the staff. At the same time, parents can share their own talents and interests, helping to maintain the excellent quality here at Aldersgate KinderPrep. School then becomes a shared experience.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

While Aldersgate KinderPrep is a direct ministry of New Creation United Methodist Church, the school is non-denominational in its teachings, stressing central truths of the Bible which unite all Christians. Each child learns to understand that:

- ❖ God is a loving Father who created everything.
- ❖ Jesus is God's Son. Jesus can be the child's Savior and Friend.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is also part of God and can be the child's constant Helper.
- ❖ The Bible is true and is God's special book. God's book tells us His stories and how we should live.
- ❖ Prayer is talking to our Friend, God.

PROGRAMS

There are several classroom programs available that you may choose from to best fit the needs of your child and family. Hours of Operation are 9:00 - 12:00pm for all programs except Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Transitional Kindergarten operates from 9:00am to 12:00pm September through December. January through May the day extends to 12:30pm. Kindergarten operates 9:00am - 1:30pm September through December and will extend to 2pm from January through May. The doors open at 8:55 am (8:50 for kindergarten) to allow children to settle in their classroom before the day begins.

Programs	
2½s	2 Days a week: Tuesday through Wednesday
Discover 3s	3 Day a week: Tuesday through Thursday
3s	3 Days a week: Tuesday through Thursday
	4 Days a week: Monday through Thursday * *We strongly recommend that children attending the 4 day three year old program be close to 42 months (3½ years old) in September.

4s	4 Days a week: Monday through Thursday
	5 Days a week: Monday through Friday** *We strongly recommend that children attending the 5 day program be close to 54 months (4 ½) in September. *Minimum enrollment of 12 required to offer class.
Transitional Kindergarten	5 Days a week: Monday through Friday 9:00 - 12:00 September - December 9:00 - 12:30 January - May
Kindergarten	5 Days a week: Monday through Friday 9:00 - 1:30 September - December 9:00 - 2:00 January - May

Our 2½ year old program is designed to introduce our youngest students to a fun learning environment out of the home. This is most likely the first time children will have been apart from their Mom, Dad or primary caregiver for a length of time. The primary goal in our 2½ year old program is to help children learn how to interact with their classmates in a cooperative manner. As the children are learning to follow directions and participate in group activities, they are discovering their soon to be Three Year Old skills. 2½ year olds learn best through play, so much time is allowed for wiggles, giggles, free play exploration and fun!

Our Discover Threes class is a gentle blending of the more social and language oriented two year old program and the readiness concepts of the three year old program. Children will be introduced to all of the three year old themes and preschool readiness concepts but with greater emphasis on acquaintance than mastery of concepts. Our primary goal at this age is to help children learn *how to learn* in the social setting of a classroom. Depending upon the birthday, children will be ready to move to 4 day 3s or 4 day 4s.

Our 3 year old program seeks to introduce children to the preschool concepts that will lay the foundation for all future learning. While children are introduced to beginning literacy, mathematics and science concepts, the primary focus for our 3 year old is learning how to learn. We encourage large motor and fine motor development so children are ready for cutting and writing skills at the next level. Children learn how to handle classroom routines, how to share the teacher's attention and begin to understand that they can play and learn cooperatively with their classmates. Our goal is to cultivate the expectation that learning is a fun and successful experience for each child.

Our 4 year old program prepares children with the skills they need to be successful in Kindergarten. Teachers use thematic units and learning centers, similar to kindergarten classrooms, to teach the literacy, mathematics, science and social studies skills and vocabulary children will see again in Kindergarten. Activities are designed to broaden and

enrich the child's vocabulary and knowledge base. Children learn classroom survival skills so they are ready to focus on learning. Our goal is to meet children at their current level and move them forward to the next level. Both the 4 day and 5 day program use the same curriculum; the extra day in the 5 day program allows the children to explore concepts in greater depth.

Our Transitional Kindergarten program is designed for children who are 5 years old with summer birthdays or almost 5 with fall birthdays. Transitional Kindergarten programs have been in existence since the 1990s as a way to give children a gift of time. As more academic pressure has come to bear upon kindergarten, there has also come the realization by many parents that it is often developmentally appropriate to consider an extra year. Transitional Kindergarten offers the opportunity for children to mature academically, socially and emotionally. With that extra year, Trans K students enter Kindergarten as "thicker" learners, with a strong foundation that serves them well for all of their elementary years. This class is paced according to the needs of the children; it will therefore look a little different each year as each child's learning level is met and then moved forward. Typically, the teachers begin incorporating kindergarten concepts and activities into the curriculum by midyear.

Our highly sought after Kindergarten program opened during the 2013-2014 school year. Kindergarten students attend school 5 days a week from 9:00 until 1:30/2:00 (4.5/ 5 hours a day). Class size is limited to 16 children, giving our kindergarten a 1 to 8 teacher/child ratio. This small class size is ideally suited for children who are not quite ready for the larger public school class sizes. Our program follows the Virginia Standards of Learning for Kindergarten and utilizes many of the teaching practices followed in neighboring school systems so that children can make an easy transition to first grade. In addition to the academic subjects, children also enjoy daily gross motor and weekly fine arts sessions of art and music. Our kindergarten children have early release one Wednesday a month in order for the teachers to participate in all staff training sessions.

CURRICULUM

The KinderPrep curriculum is uniquely designed by KinderPrep teachers for KinderPrep students. KinderPrep's curriculum intertwines the scope and sequence of Virginia's Early Childhood Development Alignment Project with the content of the Foundation Blocks for Early Learning created by the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Preschool Initiative. For example, we know that a child should grow in his/her approach to learning by developing persistence, initiative, creativity and reasoning. We encourage the development of those skills through age level appropriate math, science, social studies, and literacy activities that allow for hands-on learning and exploration. Our curriculum establishes a

measurable range of skills and knowledge essential for each age level to successfully transition to the next level.

Each month brings a special focus for letter and number recognition, literacy and writing skills, math and science exploration and special event days. Children attend a weekly chapel service where they hear stories and lessons from the Bible. Daily gross motor time with our Gross Motor teacher is always a highlight of each day. Our Gross Motor curriculum focuses on fitness and muscle coordination activities. Weather permitting, children enjoy outside time each day. During inclement weather, the children use our inside "running room". Technology is incorporated into our weekly activities with the use of an iPad center. Music and crafts are embedded throughout the day using the arts to reinforce content.

POTTY TRAINING POLICY

Toilet training is a skill mastered over many months. Children in our **2 ½ year old program** should be diligently working toward reliable toilet training before the first day of school. We expect the 2 ½ year olds to have been introduced to toileting procedures and to be accustomed to wearing "pull ups". Diapers are not allowed. Children will be encouraged to use the bathroom during the day.

While we understand that **3 year olds** may still need a bit of help in the bathroom, we do expect our 3 year olds to be toilet trained and able to tell the teacher of their need to use the bathroom. **4 and 5 year olds** should be independently capable of handling their personal needs. Of course, accidents do happen, and when necessary, we will quickly and quietly help your child into fresh clothes so he/she can enjoy the rest of the school day.

VACCINATION POLICY

KinderPrep seeks to provide the safest possible environment for our entire KinderPrep community - children, families and staff. Vaccines are a well-researched and highly effective method for preventing illness. Further, vaccines are required by state law for all children entering school. KinderPrep follows the American Academy of Pediatrics and Virginia Health Department recommendations for insisting that children have up-to-date vaccinations according to the recommended vaccination schedule. This provides the best protection for our entire community including children who are too young or not medically able to receive certain vaccines. Unless your child has a medical reason for not receiving vaccines which is documented by a signed physician's statement, we will insist upon written documentation of vaccinations for your child.

REGISTRATION

Licensing regulations require our preschool classes to be structured according to age. All children should meet the September 30th deadline to participate in their designated program. For example: Children in the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ year old program must be 30 months by September 30th. Children entering the Kindergarten program must be 5 by September 30th.

Children who are currently enrolled in our program, their siblings, and New Creation UMC church members may register for the next school year during in-house preregistration. In-house registration typically takes place during the first full week in February. Open registration for the community occurs a week later. Registration packets are usually available the fourth week in January prior to Open House. The Registration packet will contain the information needed to complete the registration process. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call the KinderPrep office for information on the kindergarten admissions process.

There is a **NON-REFUNDABLE registration fee** of \$200.00 due the day of registration. The registration fee for Kindergarten is \$240.00. If you are registering more than one child, there is a 50% discount towards the registration fee for subsequent children.

There are several pages for registration that need to be completed to satisfy Virginia State Law. Use the checklist provided in the registration packet to help you complete all the required paperwork. These items include:

(1) Application.

(2) Proof of identity. This may include a certified copy of the birth certificate, birth registration card, notification of birth (hospital, physician or midwife), adoption papers or placement agreement from a child placing agency.

(3) Health Form. This must be completed and returned before your child starts school in September. You should contact your physician's office and request a Virginia School Entrance Health Form.

We will maintain a waiting list throughout the school year to ensure 100% occupancy. There is a waiting list fee of \$40.00 due at the time of registration. Once a placement has occurred, the \$40.00 will be applied to the registration fee. If your child has not received a placement in our program by October, we will return the \$40.00 fee at your request and remove your child from our waiting list. Removing your child from our waiting list prior to October will result in forfeiture of the wait list fee.

SCHOOL TUITION

Preschool tuition rates are as follows:

Programs	Yearly Rate	Monthly Installments(9)
2 Day 2s	\$1,575.00	\$175.00
Discover 3s	\$1,710.00	\$190.00
3 Day 3s	\$1,710.00	\$190.00
4 Day 3s	\$2,025.00	\$225.00
4 Day 4s	\$2,250.00	\$250.00
5 Day 4s	\$2,475.00	\$275.00
Transitional Kindergarten	\$2,925.00	\$325.00
Kindergarten	\$4,095.00	\$455.00

Tuition is based on the school year calendar. There will be no reduction in charges for vacations, holidays, absences, or days missed due to inclement weather. Please note our Inclement Weather policy stated below. If paying monthly, tuition must be paid by the 10th of each month. Checks should be made payable to **Aldersgate KinderPrep**. There is a \$30.00 fee for all returned checks. If a check is returned, repayment must be made in cash.

Discounts Available*:

Multiple child discount: Families enrolling more than 1 child will receive a 3% discount off the youngest child's tuition. Children enrolling more than 2 children will receive a 10% discount off of the third child's and/or youngest child's tuition.

Full Year tuition discount: Families paying tuition in full for the entire school year by the first day of school will receive a 3% discount off that tuition.

*Please note that parents may take only one of the two available discounts.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, we follow the decision of Chesapeake Public Schools due to our physical location in Chesapeake. If they are closed, **we will be closed**. If they have a delayed opening, **we will be closed**, with the exception of Kindergarten. If Chesapeake has a delayed opening, **Kindergarten only** will open at the same delayed start time. School closings are broadcast on the major TV stations, posted on the Chesapeake Public Schools website and will be posted on the KinderPrep Facebook page as soon as the announcement is made by Chesapeake. Please note that KinderPrep does not make up days missed for inclement weather.