

Aldersgate New Creation Kinderprep



language skills
3 year olds
creativity
development
fun
play
positive self-image
enrichment
Transitional Kindergarten
chapel
physical
social skills
science
2 1/2 year olds
perceptual
4 year olds
fitness
child-centered
communication
first grade
kindergarten
life long love of learning
outside playtime
mathematics
literacy
computer
sensory
Christian
music
cooking
art
motor
KINDERPREP

2025-2026 School Year
New Creation United Methodist Church
4320 Bruce Road
Chesapeake, VA 23321
(757) 673-4602

ALDRSGATE NEW CREATION 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.

MISSION

Aldersgate New Creation KinderPrep provides a Christian-based education to children throughout our community. In a caring and positive atmosphere, we create a warm and happy place for young children to learn.

HISTORY

Aldersgate New Creation 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. In 1995, we successfully obtained a Child Day Center license from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The purpose of this license is to protect preschool aged children when separated from their parents during part of the day. It also ensures that the activities, services, and the 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. KinderPrep grew again in 2021 with the addition of a first grade classroom.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

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 activities that emphasize the process rather than the product and foster 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 KinderPrep. Education is best accomplished as a shared experience.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

While 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. 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. 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 vary depending upon the program. 2s and 3s program operate from 9:00 - 12:00. 4s programs operate from 9:00 - 12:10. Transitional Kindergarten operates from 8:45am to 12:30pm. Kindergarten operates 8:45am - 1:30pm September through December and will extend to 2pm from January through May. First Grade times are 8:30 - 2:30.

Programs	
2½s 9:00 - 12:00	2 Days a week: Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday You may register your child for either the MW class or the TTh class.
Discover 3s 9:00 - 12:00	3 Day a week: Tuesday through Thursday ¹ ¹ Designed for children just turning 3 in the summer or September.
3s 9:00 - 12:00	3 Days a week: Tuesday through Thursday
	4 Days a week: Monday through Thursday ** **Offered when enrollment meets a minimum class size. Children attending the 4 day three year old program must be 42 months (3½ years old) in September.
	3/4 Days a week (hybrid): Monday through Thursday Parents choose 3 or 4 days. Children do <u>not</u> change back and forth between 3 and 4 days on a weekly basis. Parents may decide for children to begin at 3 days and move to 4 days in January.

Explore 4s 9:00 - 12:10	4 Days a week: Monday through Thursday ² ² Designed for children just turning 4 in the summer or September and older 3s who will turn 4 in the fall.
4s 9:00 - 12:10	4 Days a week: Monday through Thursday
	5 Days a week: Monday through Friday** ** Offered when class meets a minimum class size. We strongly recommend that children attending the 5 day four year old program be close to 54 months (4½ years old) in September.
	4/5 Days a week (hybrid): Monday through Friday Parents choose 4 or 5 days. Children do <u>not</u> change back and forth between 4 and 5 days on a weekly basis. Parents may decide for children to begin at 4 days and move to 5 days in January.
Transitional Kindergarten	5 Days a week: Monday through Friday 8:45 - 12:30
Kindergarten	5 Days a week: Monday through Friday 9:00 - 1:30 September - December 9:00 - 2:00 January - May
First Grade	5 Days a week: Monday through Friday 8:30 - 2:30

Please note that this is the full list of KinderPrep's programs. If we do not receive enough registration interest in the more "specialized" age level classes, we will work with you to find an appropriate placement for your child.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

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 central 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 social and language oriented 2 ½ - 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 their birthday, children are typically ready to move to 4 day 3s or Exploring 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 olds is learning *how to learn*. We encourage large motor and fine motor development so children are ready to use their 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.

The **Explore Fours** class is intended to be an appropriate starting point for children with those summer and early fall birthdays that fall between the cracks of typical 3 and 4 year old classes. At this age, 9 months can make quite a difference. Fours who may be months younger than the average classroom age, or threes who are months older than the average classroom age, often feel out of sync with typical preschool pacing. Explore Fours meets children where they are, typically with an older 3s curriculum in the fall and transitions to a 4s curriculum by midyear. This allows children to be challenged at an appropriate level but not overwhelmed (or underwhelmed) by pacing that is too fast or too slow. Explore 4s makes an excellent bridge between Discover 3s and Transitional Kindergarten for those who may be planning to give a gift of time before kindergarten.

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 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 early 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 8:45 until 1:30/2:00 (4.5/ 5 hours a day). Class size, typically around 18 children, gives our kindergarten a 1 to 9 teacher/child ratio, often less with the presence of a floating assistant. 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 to facilitate monthly staff meetings.

The addition of **First Grade** to our Early Childhood education programs has been well received and quite successful. First grade is a growth-packed year when reading truly takes hold and mathematical understanding blooms. Children begin to see that reading and math can be tools to help them learn about the world all around. The small class size (6 - 10 students) allows for classroom time to be efficiently used in learning activities. Our program follows the Virginia Standards of Learning for First Grade and includes familiar components that will make an easy transition to second grade in our neighboring systems. In addition to the academic subjects, children also receive daily gross motor and weekly fine arts and STEM sessions. First grade has early release one Wednesday a month to facilitate monthly staff meetings.

CURRICULUM

The KinderPrep curriculum is uniquely designed by KinderPrep teachers for KinderPrep students. In 2021, oversight of all early childhood education programs shifted to the Virginia Department of Education. KinderPrep adapted its curriculum to include Virginia's unified set of Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS). The ELDS establishes indicators of growth over five developmental areas: Approaches to Play and Learning; Social and Emotional; Communication, Language and Literacy; Health and Physical; and Cognitive. Our curriculum blends developmentally appropriate skills with concepts. 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 child to successfully transition to the next level.

Each month brings a special focus on literacy and writing skills, math and science exploration and special event days. Rather than focus on "letters of the week", we plan a daily emphasis on the way our language sounds and the way letters work together to create words. Math and science blend especially well as we use our math skills to observe, measure and discuss the world around us. Social studies helps us think about our families, communities and other children around the world. Children attend weekly chapel services where they hear stories and

lessons from the Bible. Daily gross motor time with a dedicated 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 apply skills and reinforce concepts.

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 no later than June prior to school entry, 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 Pediatricians 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 age deadline to participate in their designated program. Children entering the Kindergarten program must be 5 by September 30th. The one exception is that children must be 30 months by September 30th to participate in the 2 ½ year old program.

Children who are currently enrolled in our program, their siblings, and New Creation UMC church members register for the next school year during preschool 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 contains the information needed to complete the registration process. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. We will maintain a waiting list throughout the school year to ensure 100% occupancy.

If you are interested in our **Kindergarten or First Grade programs**, please call the KinderPrep office (757-673-4602) for information on the upper level admissions process.

There is a **NON-REFUNDABLE registration fee** of \$200.00 due the day of registration. The registration fee for Kindergarten and First Grade is \$250.00. If you are registering more than one child, there is a 50% discount towards the registration fee for subsequent children.

There are several registration forms 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. A Virginia School Entrance Health form AND vaccination record **must** be completed by your child's pediatrician **and included with your registration paperwork**. This form is available online at:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/school-age-health-and-forms/school-health-forms-and-action-plans/>.

Many pediatric offices print out their own forms, which is acceptable. Forms must be dated between 9/3/2024 and 9/2/2025 and are required for NEW and RETURNING students.

(4) Introducing . . . YOUR Child information sheet. NEW STUDENTS ONLY - current students only if providing updated information.

Registration is not considered complete until all the paperwork and the registration fee are received. **Children with missing paperwork will not be assigned to a class.**

SCHOOL TUITION

Preschool tuition rates are as follows:

Programs	Yearly Rate	Monthly Installments(9)*
2 Day 2s	\$2,160.00	\$245.00
Discover 3s	\$2,295.00	\$260.00
3 Day 3s	\$2,295.00	\$260.00
4 Day 3s	\$2,565.00	\$290.00
Exploring Fours	\$2,700.00	\$305.00
4 Day 4s	\$2,700.00	\$305.00
5 Day 4s	\$3,105.00	\$350.00
Transitional Kindergarten	\$3,465.00	\$390.00
Kindergarten	\$4,860.00	\$545.00
First Grade	\$7,400.00	\$740.00** over 10 months

*monthly tuition payments include a \$5 handling fee.

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 New Creation KinderPrep**. There is a \$30.00 fee for all returned checks. If a check is returned, repayment must be made in cash or with a cashier's check.

Discounts Available*:

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

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 and First Grade. If Chesapeake has a delayed opening, **Kindergarten and First Grade only** will open at 10:00 am.

School closings are broadcast on the major TV stations and posted on the Chesapeake Public Schools website. We will send a message out via Brightwheel and update our 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.

BRIGHTWHEEL

KinderPrep uses the childcare center app **Brightwheel** to enhance our connection between you and KinderPrep. Brightwheel provides a one-stop-shop for messaging with teachers and admin, announcements, notifications, weekly updates, photos, billing reminders and online tuition payments. The app is free for you. We will simply ask you to download the app to your phone once you become a part of the KinderPrep family. New students should look for an email from KinderPrep in early summer with a link for you to use to set up your Brightwheel account.