

KINGDOM KIDS

PLAYSCHOOL and PRESCHOOL

A Ministry of the First Presbyterian Church
1122 Diagonal Street, Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 758-3381

www.firstpresclarkston.org/kingdom-kids-preschool.html

2021-2022

Family Handbook

and

COVID19 Guidelines

Staff:

Jennifer Babino, Program Director and Lead Teacher
email: kingdomkidsfpc@gmail.com
cell phone: (509) 295-3044

Carla Paradis, Classroom Aide

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me...for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

OUR FOCUS.

Children are our most precious gift from God. As parents and teachers, we are the child's first playmates and educators. By stimulating and challenging their minds and bodies in the process of learning, we have a most significant role in determining their growth, intelligence and well being. It is through the tools we offer them that children learn to test, explore and master their world. Our focus at Kingdom Kids is the children.

What we expect of your child is that he/she comes to school and is himself/herself. What we expect of you as parents is that you read the operating procedures in the handbook and the supplemental notes and newsletters that we send you, and that you feel free to be a part of the school, offering suggestions, comments and constructive criticisms, as well as financial and moral support.

At Kingdom Kids, we hope to minister to your child as a whole, meeting spiritual needs as well as promoting mental, physical, emotional and social well being. It is our prayer that your child's first school experience is fun and exciting, placing within him/her an eagerness to learn.

Kingdom Kids Preschool/Playschool admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or scholarship programs.

GOALS

Within the Child:

1. To experience God's love
2. To feel excited about learning
3. To feel free to explore and express feelings in acceptable ways
4. To enjoy opportunities for success
5. To experience exploring and making choices

For the Child:

1. To provide opportunities for being with other children in a setting conducive to the development of wholesome social relationships
2. To provide opportunities for meaningful play that are based on the child's individual needs, interests, handicaps and abilities that will build important foundations for future reading skills and other academic pursuits
3. To provide appropriate play experiences that contribute to the developmental needs of the child
4. To help the child grow physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually through various enrichment activities

For the parents:

1. To provide opportunities to meet with and work with other parents and teachers who have as their common concern the interests and needs of the preschool child
2. To provide care for the child while parents pursue their own work or other interests
3. To provide opportunities to grow in the understanding of child development
4. To provide Christian education resources for parents on how to teach your children about God's word

For the Community:

1. To help meet the needs of the community for an early childhood and primary education facility
2. To contribute to the wholesome growth and development of the future citizens of the community

Kingdom Kids Enrollment Policy

Playschool

Child must be three (3) years old by September 1st of the current school year.
Child must be fully potty trained.

Preschool

Child must be four (4) years old by September 1st of the current school year.
Exceptions may be made for a September birthday with Director and Advisory Council approval.

We hold to the age limits established. It does not benefit the child, in any way, to allow them into the program that is not age appropriate. It can harm them in their future school life to be pushed ahead.

We will not accept your enrollment application, if past accounts are not paid in full.

We are not equipped to take children with special needs. If we determine that we may not be able to meet your child's needs, we would be happy to recommend you to another agency.

REOPENING QUESTIONS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Will children be returning to in-person preschool classes this fall?

Yes, provided there is no mandate from state or local health officials to close school buildings.

Will children need to be screened to enter the classroom?

Yes, each day families will be asked to screen and assess the health of their child before bringing them to school. Once you arrive at school, all students (and employees) will have their temperature taken with a no contact thermometer and a verbal health screening will be done before the child enters the classroom. (screening questions will be given to families in a future letter).

What if my child becomes ill?

Please contact the preschool or church if your child becomes ill. We will have a few questions to ask regarding their symptoms/illness and we may need to contact our local Health Department for guidance.

How should we prepare for the new school year?

First, speak positively about the situation, regardless of how frustrating it may be. Children pick up on parents' frustrations and take them on even if they don't understand the source. The more calm and positive you are, the less stressful it will be for your child. Look for the grace in the moment and share it with your family.

Second, follow state guidelines for preventing the transmission of the virus. Wear masks (if required) in public and limit the size of gatherings. Our children and our community cannot flourish if the virus does. Have your children practice wearing a mask when they go out in public so that when they come to school they are not distracted by others who wear one.

HEALTH

It is the parents' responsibility to know that their child is well before bringing him/her to Kingdom Kids each day. If your child is ill PLEASE keep him/her home for the sake of the other preschool children. **This is very important!**

Your child is to be kept home if he/she:

- Is ill
- Has a fever
- Has vomited
- Has heavy or colored nasal discharge
- Has a constant cough
- Has symptoms of possible communicable diseases
such as: unusual sniffles, reddened eyes, sore throat, headache, abdominal pain, fever
- Has Chicken Pox or Impetigo
- Has diarrhea

Children with any of the above symptoms will need to be symptom free for 72 hours before returning to school.

If your child has symptoms of illness during the day, he/she will be isolated and you will be called. This will result in your child being sent home. **It is very important** that **ALL telephone numbers** and other pertinent information be kept up to date with our office.

We will consult with the Asotin County Health Department for infectious disease guidelines.

Kingdom Kids Preschool follows the WA state rules and regulations for immunizations. Please submit a (CIS) Certificate of Immunization Status for each child attending Kingdom Kids Preschool. Children exempt from immunizations will need the exemption section of the CIS form signed by a physician.

COVID 19 HEALTH

If someone at Kingdom Kids tests positive for COVID19 will the school close down?

Not necessarily. The school will be instructed by the health district or health official regarding how to best respond, and there are many variables that will affect their recommendations.

If a student has a family member who tests positive for COVID19 will that student have to quarantine at home?

Yes, the student will need to quarantine at home for the length of time designated by the health district or health official.

If my child is healthy but has to quarantine because of contact with others, will he or she be able to continue learning?

Yes, weekly packets will be available for children who are required to quarantine.

What will happen if the state or local health authorities close all schools?

This may depend on the mandate. In the event of a state or local mandate to close K-12 schools Kingdom Kids may be able to continue operating. In the event preschools are closed Kingdom Kids will provide online learning instruction on your child's regular class days along with weekly class packets for at home learning.

CLASSROOM CLEANING

What sanitizing measures are you taking?

Our new building offers many new sanitizing features.

Laminate floors throughout the entire building will be mopped routinely with a sanitizing solution.

An on-site washer and dryer allows us to wash all the cloth toys, doll blankets, aprons, dress up clothes each week or more often if needed.

The dishwasher has a sanitizing temperature feature and all dishes, kitchen items as well as some toys will be run through it.

Toys such as legos, blocks, action figures, etc will all be rotated and sanitized each week or more often if needed.

Staff will wipe down tables/chairs, door handles, light switches, and other “high-touch” surfaces regularly throughout each school day.

The new windows allow for fresh air flow through the classroom.

Children will play in our private back yard.

Hand sanitizing stations will be set up throughout the classroom.

We have increased our daily after school deep cleaning.

MEDICATION

The school will NOT administer medication to children. The exception to this policy will be for children with a medical condition under the supervision of a physician, such as an Epi-pen. A written release must be signed by the parent and the child's physician.

****A medication release form must be on file.***

ACCIDENT OR INJURY

In the event of an accident or injury, we will make an immediate attempt to contact a parent. If we can't reach a parent, we will call those persons on the list for emergencies, the child's physician or, if necessary, an ambulance and paramedics. Until the arrival of a parent, and ambulance and paramedics, the teacher will be in charge and make all decisions about the care of the child.

Any expense not covered by our school insurance will be the responsibility of the parent. The school will maintain a parent's signed consent form agreeing to this provision.

TUITION PAYMENTS

Tuition is due by the first of each month, September through May.

Online payments may be made through the church website on the Kingdom Kids page. www.firstpresclarkston.org/kingdom-kids-preschool.html

Cash, check and money order payments are to be paid at the First Presbyterian Church office. Payments made by check or money order are to be made payable to Kingdom Kids Preschool. Check and money order payments may also be mailed to the church: FPC, 1122 Diagonal Street, Clarkston WA 99403.

Kingdom Kids staff is NOT able to take tuition payments at the school.

Tuition for Preschool is \$120/month and Playschool is \$90/month. A late fee of \$5.00 will be charged for those payments not received by the 15th of the month unless prior arrangements have been made with the church financial secretary.

Please note: We are aware that family emergencies do arise. If you are unable to make scheduled payments due to an emergency, please talk with the Program Director or church financial secretary.

REGISTRATION

A one time registration fee of \$75.00 is payable when you enroll your child. The registration fee helps to cover the cost of materials and insurance for your child and is a non-refundable fee.

INCOME

The budget for Kingdom Kids Playschool and Preschool depends solely on the annual income from tuition and registration fees.

PHOTO ALBUMS

Each child enrolled in Kingdom Kids will receive a photo album at the end of the school year. Parents are asked to help cover the cost of the albums.

The **\$10.00** album fee for **Playschool** is due by January 15th, thank you.
The **\$20.00** album fee for **Preschool** is due by January 15th, thank you.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIME

How will drop off/pick up of students work?

One adult will bring the child to the drop off gate, the child will be screened by a staff member. Students will say good-bye from the gate area and enter the classroom. At the end of class the students, with the assistance of staff, will gather their personal items and be taken outside under the covered area to be released to their pick up person. We ask that only one person come to the pick up gate to reduce pathway congestion.

CLASS TIMES

Preschool (4 & 5 year olds): Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Morning class: 8:45am to 11:15am

Afternoon class (if offered): 12:15pm to 2:45pm

Playschool (3 & 4 year olds): Tuesday and Friday

Morning class: 9:00am to 11:00 a.m.

Please be considerate and time your arrival and dismissals accordingly.

What if I need to pick up my child early?

Please phone ahead or text when you have arrived and a staff member will bring your child to you at the pick up gate area.

Attention: Our doors will remain locked during class time for safety reasons. The doors will be locked 15 minutes after class begins and unlocked following the good-bye song.

AUTHORIZED BY PARENT

The emergency information form has people listed that are authorized to take your child from our facility. Please keep this list up to date. We will not release a child from our facility to any person not authorized by a parent. We must have written authorization before a release is permitted or the teacher must talk directly to the child's parent. Please call before class to talk to the teacher.

2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Orientation Week	
Playschool	September 3
Preschool	September 1-2
First Day of School	
Playschool	September 7 (Tuesday)
Preschool	September 8 (Wednesday)
Last Day of School	
Playschool	May 27 (Friday)
Preschool	May 26 (Thursday)

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Kingdom Kids follows the Clarkston School District Calendar for holidays and breaks

Labor Day	September 6
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Break	November 25 & 26
Winter/Christmas Break	December 20 - January 3
Martin Luther King Day	January 17
President's Day	February 21
Spring Break	March 28 - April 1
Preschool Parent-Teacher Conferences	To be announced

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Will Kingdom Kids still have special performances?

Yes, special performances will be held at First Presbyterian Church. Health screening, physical distancing and face masks may be required. Children attending Kingdom Kids preschool will not need to wear face masks during the performance.

Christmas Program (Playschool & Preschool)	December 15 (Wednesday)
3 Piggy Opera (Preschool only)	May 19 (Thursday)

BIRTHDAYS

Will my child be able to bring special birthday treats?

No, not at this time. Kingdom Kids does recognize that birthdays are a very special occasion in a child's life and so we will provide special birthday treats on these days.

Birthdays are an important day in your child's life. We always make this a very special day. "Unbirthdays" will be scheduled for children with summer birthdays.

In regards to birthdays and invitations to birthday parties outside of class, please do not put invitations in the children's cubbies unless the entire class will be invited. If just a few students will be attending the party please arrange to mail or hand deliver invitations to parents outside of class. We have had lots of hurt feelings when a child realizes that he/she does not have an invitation in his/her cubby and others do.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This emphasis is very important in our program. The children will be involved in prayer, memorization of Scripture, introduction to Bible stories and singing. We make this time very meaningful. You will be made aware of this through our weekly letters. In everything we do and in our presentation of each subject, Christian education is always a focus.

SHOW AND TELL

Will my child be able to bring show-n-tell?

Yes, there will be no pets allowed this year.

Every child will have an assigned day of the week for Show-and-Tell. Your child may bring something from home on this day each week to share with the class. We encourage each child to bring only one item for Show-and-Tell.

SNACKS

Will my child still be able to bring snacks to school on their helper day?

Children will still have a designated helper day, however, they will NOT bring snacks to school. Kingdom Kids will provide the snack each day.

Snack time is a great opportunity to reinforce letter sounds and introduce children to good nutrition. Snack time will be a learning time to discuss health, nutrition, healthy eating habits and manners.

Will parents be able to attend class on their child's helper day?

No, to reduce exposure in the classroom parents and families will not be able to enter the classroom. Families are encouraged to use the large viewing window along the 12th street side of the building and the large viewing windows along the back side of the building to observe their child during class time.

ORIENTATION

Will there be a parent orientation?

Yes, parent orientation will be **Wednesday, August 25**. Times are as follows:

Playschool parent walk through of classroom: 6:00pm to 6:20pm

All Parent Orientation meeting: 6:30pm to 7:00pm at the church

Dr. Greggain will be attending this meeting to address questions.

Preschool parent walk through of classroom: 7:10pm to 7:30pm

There will be a **limit of 2 adults** for each child registered in Kingdom Kids, we are asking that there please be NO children in attendance. Children will have a separate orientation time.

If required, screening, face masks and physically distancing will be asked of all in attendance. Thank you.

Will we have group student orientation?

Yes, group orientation will be the first week of September, children will attend in small groups of 2-4 children. Parents (maximum of 2 adults) will be able to enter the classroom during drop off and pick up on orientation day only. If required face coverings, health screening and use of hand sanitizer will be required of all parents prior to entering the classroom.

Orientation week will be September 2-4. The teacher will notify you in advance of your child's orientation time. Orientation is designed to help your child feel more comfortable about getting to know new teachers and the new classroom environment. **Parents will have their photo taken with their child before a quick goodbye.** The first day of regular school will be September 7 for Playschool and September 8 for Preschool.

VISITS

In an effort to reduce exposure in the classroom parents and families will not be able to enter the classroom. Families are encouraged to use the large viewing window along the 12th street side of the building and the large viewing windows along the back side of the building to observe their child during preschool.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences to keep you informed of your child's progress for playschool or preschool may be arranged upon request by either parent or teacher at any time. We like to make every effort to be careful with what we discuss when little ears are around. Sometimes a phone call is all that is necessary. Let's just make sure that we communicate. If you would like to schedule a conference for your child, please let us know.

Teachers will perform Fall and Spring assessments of your child's progress. Spring Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled for Preschool students who will be attending Kindergarten in the Fall.

PROGRAMS

We will encourage your child to be involved in our programs held during the year. Classes will present a Christmas program in December and the Preschool class will present a Three Piggy Opera in May.

OUTDOOR PLAY

Will children play outside?

Yes, we will have daily outside time in our private back yard area.

Our outdoor play area provides children with a free choice of climbing equipment, sand box, wheel toys, balls, etc., to promote strong bodies and increase physical coordination.

We will be outside each day, unless we have severe weather. Please dress your child accordingly. If it rains or is below freezing, we will have "indoor" recess located in our classroom or in the fellowship hall at the church.

CLOTHING

For a child at school, the best clothes are those in which he/she is most comfortable. We will be playing with various things (some messy) so please dress children for play. Paint shirts will be provided during painting times but accidents can happen. Please send your child in clothing that won't limit his/her participation.

CLASS LETTERS

Preschool children will bring home a letter **each Thursday** that will share some information about our emphasis for the upcoming week. Frequently, we will ask you to get involved by having your child bring items or pictures from home. We hope you enjoy getting involved in any way that you can. It is very important to read your letter CAREFULLY EACH WEEK.

Playschool children will receive a letter at the **end of each month** for the upcoming month.

Class letters, helper day lists, show-n-tell days, school calendar and parent handbook are all available online on our website at www.firstpresclarkston.org/kingdom-kids-preschool.html

ACTIVITIES

Christian education, arts and crafts, music and songs, blocks, books, home center play, science, cooking, outdoor activities, dramatic play, stories, games, outdoor play, field trips, colors, shapes, letters, number concepts and reading readiness are some of the basic areas of involvement in our learning experience.

IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Based on the theory that children learn through play, our classroom routines encourage active involvement, meaningful experimentation and reinforcement through repetition. Schedules are designed that balance structure and free choice as well as active and quiet times.

Yes, children at Kingdom Kids do play a lot...75 to 90 minutes per session!

During that time a lot of the following is going on:

meeting friends, playing with toys, exploring how things work, looking at books, listening to music, sharing, pouring and measuring, having different experiences in mostly a child vs. child group, having creative art experiences, learning to cooperate, learning to share the adult's attention, becoming independent, composing and contrasting different experiences, learning social skills, developing and expanding language skills and developing fine motor skills.

So you see, what looks like play is really a lot of hard work

CLASSROOM RULES

BE KIND
PLAY SAFE
INSIDE VOICE
WALKING FEET
DO YOUR BEST

DISCIPLINE POLICY

We believe that children learn best through experiences. We believe that the teachers must lovingly guide and redirect the children to help them learn to cooperate with their peers and have positive educational experiences, to encourage and enhance their growth and development while in our care. We believe that we can best accomplish this by:

1. Having a variety of activities for the children
2. Using group management techniques (Limiting the number of children in each area of the room avoids overcrowding and allows for sufficient materials and opportunities for constructive interactions.)
3. Speaking with a child if behavior is inappropriate for the area or material he/she is using, i.e.: "We take the blocks down."; "This is the way we use a paint brush."; "Walking feet, please."; etc.
4. Using positive language with the children to give specific praise for appropriate behavior i.e.: "John is sitting quietly in our circle."; "Susie, you made an excellent choice when you put away the blocks without being asked." "Thank you for walking in our classroom." We say, "walking feet" instead of "don't run."

After using the above techniques, if a child is having a problem cooperating in an area, he/she will be asked to go to a new area for awhile, i.e.: "Peter, we need to be kind and share with our friends when we play with blocks. Let's move to a new station where you can share with your friends." As the year progresses, the children are simply redirected to another area. They learn that it means the behavior is not appropriate.

INTERVENTION POLICIES

1. If a group behavior is a problem, the area that has become a problem for the group to handle is closed and the group is broken up and redirected to other activities in the room.
2. If cleaning up is a problem for the entire group, we discuss it, and incorporate the "logical consequence" technique, for example, "If we take a long time to clean up, because the teachers have to remind, redirect and put the children back on task, then we run out of time for the fun things, like singing, story, outdoor play, etc... ", this helps the children realize and internalize their responsibility.
3. Sometimes just a touch on the shoulder can let a child know of your presence and this will in turn put him/her back on task, such as attending to the lesson at circle time.
4. After exhausting these methods, if a child still has a problem with an inappropriate behavior, the child is asked to sit on the thinking chair, which is a time-out place to think about what he/she has done and, with the help of the teacher's discussion with him/her, what might be a better way to interact with the other children, materials, etc. Thinking time is determined by the child. We say, "When you can follow our rules you may return to play." Repeated trips to think in a given session would indicate to the teacher that an informal conference with the parents is in order, to inform the parents and to enlist their assistance in working with the child.
5. Children who do not respond to time-out or redirecting will be handled in a manner agreed upon by the Parent, Teacher and Director. Parents will always be a part of this decision making process.
6. Please be advised that under the law any form of hitting, corporal punishment, abusive language, ridicule, harsh, humiliating or frightening treatment is illegal and is against our philosophy. None of these behaviors will ever take place at Kingdom Kids.
7. On a final note, we try to be as consistent as possible with our classroom rules so that the children will know what is expected of them. We find that this helps the children and leads to a successful preschool experience.

KEEP US POSTED

Please inform us of any major changes at home or in your child's life (major illness, divorce, etc.). Changes at home may have an affect on your child's behavior at school and it will be helpful for the teacher to understand and help your child.

Please feel free to call or text your child's teacher, if necessary.

Program Director/Lead Teacher Jennifer Babino (509)295-3044

Kingdom Kids Advisory Council: Doug Anderson, Don Greggain, Jennifer Babino, Lloyd Wallis, Janis Wallis and Christi Severance

PHONE CALLS

Your calls are important to us. We prefer phone calls before the children arrive or after they are picked up. We like to focus all our attention on the children while they are at school. We also enjoy focusing on our conversation with you when you call. It is not always easy to talk with you privately at arrival and dismissal time. Teachers and Aides are focusing on getting the children out the door safely.

If you need to connect with us, feel free to wait until the other children have been picked up.

Preschool - (509) 295-3044 or the Church Office (509)758-3381

Kingdom Kids Preschool Inclement Weather Policy

If the Clarkston School District cancels school due to inclement weather, Kingdom Kids will be closed, as well. If the Clarkston School District has a 2 hour delay, we will still have class as regularly scheduled. It is up to the parents to decide if it's safe enough for you to drive. You can follow the Clarkston School District and Kingdom Kids on facebook or watch the local news for updates.

Children Learn What They Live

By Dorothy Law Noite

If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, He learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, He learns to feel guilt.

If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient,

If a child lives with encouragement, He learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate

If a child lives with fairness, He learns justice.

If a child lives with security, He learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, He learns to find love in the world.