



Information Booklet

As Catholic educators, we guide children through active learning to reach their fullest potential in all areas of development

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Mission Statement

As Catholic caretakers, we strive to instill a nurturing, spiritual environment that allows each child to feel:

- Their connection to Jesus
- Their uniqueness in this world
- Their importance as individuals and members of a community

As Catholic educators, we guide children through active play experiences in a positive atmosphere in order to:

- Enable them to reach their fullest potential in all areas of development
- Challenge motivate, and inspire them
- Expand not only their knowledge, but their compassion and sensitivity to others

Special Aspects of the Program

- Our program focuses on the cognitive, social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of each child, and creates a strong foundation for future school success
- Instruction is differentiated and individualized to meet the needs of each child
- Teachers assess children regularly, and parent-teacher conferences are held during the school year
- Field Trips are included in the tuition and serve as an extension of the classroom
- Children have the opportunity to check out and take home books from our mobile library
- Each classroom has its own bathroom
- We have both an outdoor playground and large gymnasium for gross motor activities
- The preschool has a secure locked hallway with two exits in each classroom
- Teachers meet all requirements set forth by the State of Michigan, and participate in professional development every school year

Class Sizes and Ratios

- 3's – 16 to 18 children per class with two to three teachers
 - 4's – 18 to 20 children per class with two teachers
- (Class sizes will be reduced as needed following COVID guidelines)



We welcome children into an engaging and positive classroom environment that provides varied learning opportunities throughout the day. Our caring and experienced teachers help each child meet their social, emotional, cognitive, spiritual and physical potential through developmentally appropriate practices. In order to guide observations, assessments, and planning, our curriculum follows Michigan’s Early Childhood Standards for Prekindergarten. Teachers also use aspects of the Handwriting Without Tears program. Our preschool is licensed by the State of Michigan.

Three-Year-Old Classes (3 years of age by 9/1/2021)

Children who are not 3 years of age by 9/1/2021 will be considered

T/TH Options

T/TH 9:20am-12:15pm	\$2220.00
T/TH 9:30-2:15pm	\$2945.00

MWF Mornings or MWF Mornings with Extended Option (option to add one, two or three afternoons)

MWF 9:20am-12:15pm	\$2805.00
Plus one afternoon from 12:15pm-2:15pm	\$ 275.00 (total tuition equals \$3080.00)
Plus two afternoons from 12:15pm-2:15pm	\$ 550.00 (total tuition equals \$3355.00)
Plus three afternoons from 12:15-2:15pm	\$ 825.00 (total tuition equals \$3630.00)



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Four-Year-Old Classes (4 years of age by 9/1/2021)

Children who are not 4 years of age by 9/1/2021 will be considered

4 Mornings

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-noon \$3460.00

Full Days

3 full days (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) from 9am-3pm \$3960.00

5 full days from 9am-3pm \$5500.00

Our Philosophy.... St. Mary of the Hills Preschool is a Catholic preschool and we believe in integrating a love of God in all we do. Children are active learners who learn best while pursuing their interests and being actively supported and challenged.

Our curriculum is structured to engage children purposefully, and provide a full range of learning opportunities. We recognize the importance of both free play and structured play to support the specific learning goals we set for each child. Assessments are ongoing as teachers monitor and document each child's progress over time. Parents are an essential part of a child's success in school, and are kept parents involved and informed throughout the school year. Our curriculum focuses on providing experiences that cover inter-connected areas of learning and development:

Communication, Language and Literacy.....Children are naturally social, and need to be able to communicate their ideas and feelings. Language skills for preschoolers include:

- Speaking and listening (participating in conversations, asking and answering questions, describing things, adding details, speaking audibly, clearly, and in complete sentences)
- Foundational emergent reading skills (concepts of print, phonemic awareness, and phonics)
- Emergent writing (developmentally appropriate drawings, dictated stories and messages, beginning letter formations)

Cognitive Skills.....Cognitive skills relate to learning and thinking and include:

- Asking questions
- Developing an increased attention span
- Problem solving
- Visual discrimination, matching, comparing, sorting, and organizing
- Understanding fact and fiction
- Understanding cause and effect
- Simple reasoning
- Critical thinking

Social and Emotional Development..... Children are naturally social and curious. They may also need facilitation navigating their feelings and learning how to react and respond in social situations. This area of development covers a wide range of skills, including:

- Regulating one's own behavior and emotions
- Developing friendships with other children and healthy relationships with adults
- Creating a positive personal identity
- Developing a working memory, curiosity for the world, and persistence
- Participating and engaging in learning
- Conflict Resolution

Physical Development..... During the preschool years, children learn to better manage and take control of their bodies. This is encouraged by working on:

- Muscle control, balance, and coordination
- Body awareness
- Fine motor skills
- Self-help skills
- Wellness, rest, exercise, health, and nutrition

Artistic Development..... Through art and music & movement, children have an opportunity to:

- Develop an appreciation of visual arts, music (instrumental & vocal), creative movement and dramatic play
- Explore and manipulate a variety of materials
- Become aware of beauty in nature
- Talk about aesthetic experiences

Religious and Spiritual Development.....As a Catholic preschool, we help each child understand the goodness of God and how they are each a special part of God's family. The religious aspect of our program is integrated throughout the curriculum throughout the day.



Examples of Preschool Skills and Themes

SKILLS

Colors	recognition, names, primary, secondary, mixing, lights and darks
Letters	recognition, sounds, name recognition, writing, weekly letter, letter bag
Shapes	recognition, name, drawing
Numbers	recognition, (1-20), counting (1-20), writing, one to one correspondence, simple addition and subtraction. Listening following 3 step directions
Grouping/Classifying	color, size, shape, use
Symbols/Signs	recognizing, identifying
Labeling	small/medium/large, days of the week, months of the year
Comparing	more or less, volume measuring Estimating/predicting what will happen next, practical guessing
Weighing/Measuring	using balances, scales, tape measures, distances, floating/sinking
Graphing	charting results, reading graphs
Patterning	recognizing, different degrees of patterns, replicating and predicting
Sequencing	positional, ordinal numbers
Rhyming	practice real and created rhyming words
Gross motor	hopping, skipping, jumping, running, throwing, balancing, catching, eye/hand coordination
Fine motor	holding utensils properly, cutting, writing, manipulating small materials, lacing, zipping, buttoning, snapping
Positional Concepts	next to, under, over, around, behind
Opposites	dark/light, hot/cold, over/under, etc.
Alike/Different	comparing and contrasting objects/stories
Magnets	repel, attract, north and south poles
Social Skills	sharing, cooperating, following rules, verbalizing needs/wants, playing interactively, with other, using appropriate terms, transitioning
Experimenting	performing various activities to predict, observe and explore results

THEMES

Space	planets, solar system, earth
Human body	body parts, blood flow, growing bodies etc.
Healthy eating	various food groups, classifying foods
Plants	how they grow, various parts and function of each part
Five senses	using them, what they are, how they help us
Animals	habitats, hibernation
Seasons	different seasons, weather, seasonal changes, holidays
States of matter	liquid, solid, gas
Weather	wind, snow, rain, sun
Authors/Illustrators	How books are read (left to right), What is an author? What is an illustrator? Creating a book, parts of a book
Family	Who is in your family? What makes a family?
Fire Safety	stop, drop and roll, 911



Three-Year-Old Daily Routine

9:20am-12:15pm class or 9:20am-2:15pm

9:20-9:40	welcome, large group time, morning prayer, calendar, weather, theme discussion
9:40-10:05	handwashing, prayer, snack
10:05-10:20	group story time
10:20-11:35	free choice, learning centers (math, science, fine motor, literacy, art), small group activities, individual instruction
11:35-11:45	clean up time
11:45-12:00	large group time, recall and discussion, music and movement
12:00-12:15	outdoor or indoor gross motor, closing prayer, dismissal for children leaving at noon
12:15-1:00	handwashing, prayer, lunch (parents provide lunch)
1:00-1:55	free choice, open-ended art, games, story time, music and movement
1:55-2:15	outdoor or indoor gross motor, closing prayer, dismissal

Four-Year-Old Daily Routine

9am-Noon or 9am-3pm

9:00-9:20	welcome, large group time, morning prayer, calendar, weather, theme discussion, letter of the day/week, sight word of the day/week
9:20-10:20	free choice, learning centers (math, science, fine motor, literacy, art), small group activities, individual instruction
10:20-10:30	clean up time
10:30-11:00	handwashing, prayer, snack
11:00-11:35	large group, music and movement, letter and sight word review, story time, closing prayer
11:35-12:00	outdoor or indoor gross motor, closing prayer, dismiss children not staying for afternoon
12:00-12:30	handwashing, prayer, lunch (parents provide lunch)
12:30-1:10	rest time, quiet activities
1:10-2:00	free choice, open-ended art, games, music and movement
2:00-2:30	clean up time, story time, closing prayer, dismissal
2:30-3:00	outdoor or indoor gross motor