

Welcome Preschool Families!

Hello Preschool Families,

I hope you enjoyed your summer! School is just around the corner. I am hoping that we will be able to have a relatively normal school year and that I will be able to keep the classroom as similar as possible to previous years. However, this is of course subject to change depending on government guidelines and how the situation progresses. I will keep you informed and updated as much as I am able.

My name is Ms. Barker and I will be your child's preschool teacher this year. I believe that it is important to collaborate and communicate regularly with families. I am looking forward to working with you and your child to ensure your child's growth and success. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss your child or any concerns you may have. Email is the best way to get in touch with me. My email address can be found on the school website, the classroom website, and at the bottom of all classroom newsletters. I will respond as quickly as I am able, typically within 24 hours on weekdays.

Preschool will have a separate calendar from the rest of the school. Many events will be the same; however, preschool might also have additional events, functions, or days off of school. This calendar will be posted to the preschool website. Please refer to this for dates specific to preschool.

Additionally, there will be a preschool orientation at the end of summer to go over important information. There will be some changes this school year, so I ask that all families attend, even if your child is returning. More information will be released in July. I will also be setting up times for preschoolers to meet with me individually prior to the first day of school to gather baseline assessment data. With increased classroom sizes in preschool, it has been more challenging to gather consistent data for each student. Therefore, I would like to start with beginning of the year data for individual students before the first day of school. More information will follow.

There are three preschool classes: 2-day, 3-day, and 5-day. Each class will look a little different, while still covering the necessary preschool standards and objectives for each age level. As a transitional kindergarten class, 5-day will also be covering some kindergarten standards. I will post additional resources describing these differences on the classroom website so that you can get a better idea of what to expect for your child this year.

Schedules are very important for preschoolers. The consistency in routine helps children know what to expect. We try our best to stick to a daily schedule to keep things as similar as possible for students. Our class schedules can be found on under the resources tab on our classroom website. Each day, we have time for academics, play, religion, large group, and small group activities.

One area I particularly like to focus on with students is emotional regulation skills. Children experience so many different feelings and often do not know how to identify these emotions or how to work through them effectively. If they are never taught these skills, they can develop ineffective habits that can follow them through the rest of their lives. We will be learning various calm down strategies throughout the course of the school year. Additionally, we have a "Cozy Corner" in our room for students to use when they are experiencing big feelings. This is a safe and quiet place where students can choose to go to calm down as needed. Children are never forced to go here, only reminded that it is available.

As for discipline in the classroom, I like to use a combination of redirection, choices, and appropriate consequences (imposed or natural). When possible, I will redirect the child to another activity. When appropriate, I will provide the child with two or three acceptable choices to give the child a sense of control and to develop problem solving skills. At times, I might use time outs and then discuss the behavior with the child and how to fix it before dismissing him. In some situations, imposed or natural consequences might be used. I understand that every child is different and try to find what works for each child, while also being fair and consistent to the class as a whole. If something is not working for your child, I will likely contact you so we can discuss alternative solutions. If you have any concerns regarding discipline, please reach out to me.

Every year, Immanuel Lutheran School has a religious theme. This year, is our church/school's 125th anniversary, so our focus will be on celebrating our church and school! More information regarding details, events, Bible verses, themes, etc. will follow. We hope that you will be able to join us for some of these celebrations!

I appreciate your help with reinforcement at home. Together, we can help your child grow academically, spiritually, and emotionally. Please feel free to email me any time with any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to a great school year together! See you soon!

Blessings,
Ms. Barker

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