

Parent Handbook 2014-2015



A Ministry of
The Woodlands Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
1202 N. Millbend Dr.
The Woodlands, Texas 77380
281-367-7139

God's Kids Preschool Mission

The mission of God's Kids Preschool is to provide a loving, Christian atmosphere where children are given the opportunities to develop intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Every child is a precious gift from God, and they will come to know Him through all of their activities with our devoted Christian teachers and staff.

Each child will be encouraged to express themselves through age appropriate instruction, learning centers and play and loved for their individualism.

Parent Acknowledgement

I acknowledge God's Kids Preschool has made available to me the state required access to licensing information and the related telephone numbers and website addresses.

I am aware that I may visit God's Kids Preschool any time without making prior arrangements.

I have received the God's Kids Preschool Parents Handbook, have read and agree to abide by these policies.

Parent Signature

Date

Parents, please sign this acknowledgement to the Parent Handbook and return it to the God's Kids office.



Thank you for choosing God's Kids for your child's preschool education. We look forward to a wonderful year!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to God's Kids Preschool. We strive to provide a loving, Christian atmosphere where children love to learn and learn to love.

We look forward to getting to know you and your child. We want to create an environment where children feel loved and special for their uniqueness, and have a supportive relationship between the parents and staff.

Our program strives for high standards of excellence, but they can't be reached without your prayers and support. Thank you for partnering with us.

Blessings,

The God's Kids Staff

Curriculum

God's Kids Bible based program that encourages hands-on participation in activities that promote growth in all developmental areas—social, emotional, cognitive, gross motor, fine motor, spiritual, creative, language and communication, self-help and hygiene.

Classrooms are set up to provide the children with learning center experiences. This allows the children to make choices, interact with other children, interact with the teacher, be self-directed, and follow their own interests. This also provides for each child to work and grow at his/her own pace.

In addition to the classroom activities, a separate music class and creative movement class are offered on a regular basis, as well as daily outside time. Weekly chapel time aids in spiritual development and allows for additional time to learn of God's love in the sanctuary. Class schedules are set to balance active and quiet times. Each teacher posts a daily schedule in the classroom.

School Visits

Parents are welcome to visit the school any time during our operating hours of 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. without having to secure prior arrangements. Please check-in at the office to let us know of your arrival.

State Licensed

God's Kids Preschool is a state licensed facility and as such, you are entitled to review a copy of the minimum standards and our most recent Licensing Inspection Report. You may also access this information online at the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) website: www.tdprs.state.tx.us

Listed below are a few other helpful phone numbers:

Texas Department of Protective
and Regulatory Services
2017 N. Frazier, Suite C1
Conroe, Texas 77301
936/525-2187

PRS child abuse hotline: 1-800-252-5400

Teacher Conferences

Parents of all Pre-K children will be asked to attend at least one scheduled parent conference during the school year. Formal discussion of your child's progress may be requested at any time during the year that is convenient for both parent and teacher. It is our policy not to discuss concerns about children at the classroom door in front of the children and/or other parents. Teachers will send notes home, make phone calls, or schedule a time to talk with you privately.

Communication

Please remember to check your child's backpack daily for important notes and daily communications. A newsletter will go home once a month. The administration of God's Kids Preschool is here to serve you and your children. We welcome your phone calls and written messages. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have. During the day our teachers are busy interacting with your children, so please do not try to contact them by phone during school hours. If something urgent arises, call the school office.

Admission

God's Kids Preschool does not discriminate against a child because of race, color, sex, national origin or creed.

Enrollment is open to children who are at least 18 months of age by September 1, of the current school year.

Admission is based on availability of space and enrollment is for the full school year.

Before a child's first day of attendance, the following enrollment forms must be on file with the preschool office:

- **Registration Form**
- **Admission Form**
- **Immunization Form**
- **Health statement signed by a physician**
- **Copy of updated immunization records**
- **Child Information form**
- **Statement of allergies**

Tuition and Fees

Tuition is due on the first day of each month. Payment is due by the 10th of each month unless previous arrangements have been made with the Program Director. **If tuition has not been received by the 10th day of the month, a \$10 penalty will be charged.** All checks should be made payable to God's Kids and placed in the gold mailbox outside of the Director's office. Please do not send tuition checks with your child or make the teachers responsible for handling tuition checks.

Registration Fee

A \$100.00 registration fee is due at the time of enrollment and is non-refundable.

Supply Fee

A supply fee is collected twice yearly, at registration and again in January to help defray the costs of supplies used.

2 Days	\$40
3 Days	\$60
4 Days	\$80

Discipline and Guidance

Discipline and guidance shall be consistent and based on an understanding of the child's needs and development. Teachers work toward promoting positive self-esteem, self-discipline, and acceptable behavior. Children are redirected to other activities, encouraged to use words, and given choices. Teachers try to use natural and logical consequences and help children learn problem-solving skills.

No child shall ever receive corporal punishment. If very difficult behavior occurs where the child does not respond to the normal ways of gaining cooperation, a brief supervised separation from the group may be used either in the classroom or in the Director's office. Should further guidance be necessary, parents may be asked to pick up their child from school. If a child does not handle the normal routine, structure and rules of the classroom well with the normal discipline, the Director reserves the right to counsel with parents and possibly remove the child from school either temporarily or permanently.

Lunch

Children are required to bring a lunch along with a non-carbonated beverage from home each day. Please send food that your child can eat by himself/herself and that does not need to be heated. Children are encouraged to be as self-sufficient at lunch time as possible.

Snacks

A mid-morning snack is served to the children. Snack menus are available to parents.

Rest Time

All children rest after lunch. No one is required to sleep, but we do turn out the lights and play soft music or read quiet stories to induce rest. An adult supervises all children during the rest period. Please provide your child a rest mat, blanket, and whatever comfort item to make rest time more pleasant.

Returned Check Fee

A **\$15.00 fee** is charged for all returned checks. God's Kids reserves the right to request cash or equivalent for future payments when a check is returned due to insufficient funds.

Cancellation of Enrollment

If, based on the observation of the preschool staff, a child shows by his/her participation or development that he/she is not ready for this type of activity, the school reserves the right to request cancellation of the enrollment. In this event, any unused tuition would be refunded. If for other reasons a child is withdrawn by the parents, the school requires one month written notice. If this written notice is not given, God's Kids reserves the right to charge for the amount of time the child would otherwise be present. **If a child is withdrawn during the school year for a short time and plans to return within the same school year, tuition for the missed time must be kept current or the child must re-register based upon space availability.**

School Closings

Inclement Weather

We follow the Conroe ISD inclement weather policies; therefore, if school is closed due to bad weather,

Class Holiday Parties

We recognize appropriate traditional holidays. These holiday parties present a variety of opportunities for parents to assist in the classroom or to help with special events and be actively involved at God's Kids Preschool.

Potty Training

The teachers in the two-year-old classes work with children to assist efforts at home toward toilet training success. Please send a bag of diapers and wipes and label with your child's name. **Children enrolled in our three-year-old program must be potty trained.**

Extra Clothing

Please send an extra set of clothing. Accidents happen and children may spill or get dirty. Children are more comfortable in their own clothing.

Toys

Please do not allow your child to bring toys from home. They are easily lost, sometimes broken, and not easily shared! An exception is the nap toy which should be kept in the backpack until naptime.

Parking

Please park in a parking spot and walk your child into the school. For safety reasons, please do not park or block the entrance doors as this creates a dangerous environment for anyone entering and exiting our building. We appreciate your cooperation!

Birthday Parties

Since birthdays are special, we celebrate them during snack time. Please coordinate with your child's teacher to provide special birthday treats. We ask that you keep birthday treats simple. We find that cookies, brownies, and doughnut holes are well-received by the children.

- **All food brought into the school to share with the children must be store bought. Due to State requirements and allergies, we are no longer able to serve homemade food or treats to the children.**
- Birthday party invitations may be distributed in the classroom if there is one for each child. A class list will be available. Also, check with your child's teacher to see how she prefers to celebrate summer birthdays.

God's Kids will also be closed. Parents will be contacted to pick up their child if unsafe conditions arise and children are already in school. There will be no tuition or schedule adjustment due to inclement weather.

Holidays

God's Kids observes the holiday schedule of Conroe Independent School District. On days when the district has early release, we are closed for the full day.

Medical Records

A medical statement signed by a physician, updated immunization record, and an emergency care statement must be on file prior to the child's first day of attendance. All children four years old, as of September 1, are required by the state to have a hearing and vision statement on file. We will offer this service for a fee one time per year. A written notice of allergies, physical problems, or special limitations regarding the child must be provided by the parent to the Director at the time of enrollment and as new conditions arise. From time to time we have children that are not immunized but attend with a consent from their doctor due to medical reasons.

Illness

If a child becomes ill at school, parents will be notified and are requested to make arrangements to pick up the child. The preschool does not have a nurse on staff or a sick room and cannot keep an ill child.

An ill child is not admitted to school if one or more of the following exist:

- Any of the following: vomiting, diarrhea, an undiagnosed rash, cold and/or heavy sinus discharge or fever of 100 degrees within 24 hours.
- The illness results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the health, safety, and supervision of the other children.
- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in the preschool's activities.

Children should be free of fever at least 24 hours, without the aid of medication before returning to school. In cases of a communicable disease being suspected in the classroom (chicken pox, etc.) parents will be notified in writing.

Arrival/Departure Time

Our school day is 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The doors will be locked until 8:55 a.m. The staff uses this time to prepare their classrooms for the start of their day. If a child arrives before 9:00 a.m., the parent must be prepared to supervise the child. Children arriving at school must be dropped off by an adult and signed in and out on our attendance log at each classroom. Children must not be sent into the building alone. *Please try to arrive on time so your child can benefit by being able to participate in all of the activities we have planned for the day.*

Afternoon Dismissal / Late Pick-Up Fee

School is dismissed at 2:00 p.m. Please be sure to sign your child out on our attendance logs at each classroom. A late pick-up penalty is charged at the rate of \$1 per minute per child for children remaining after 2:10 p.m. Parents may pick up their child in the Director's office and pay the penalty. Habitual lateness may result in additional fees. If your student needs to be picked up prior to 1:30 p.m., we ask that you **come to the office** and one of our staff will go to the classroom. This minimizes the disruption to the classroom.

Security

To insure the safety of your child, the following procedures have been set up:

- If your child is to be released to a person other than the parent or persons on file, a handwritten note from the parent must come to the office in the morning. This "pickup" person will be required to present their driver's license at the school office to verify their identity. The State of Texas requires the school to keep a copy of this information on file for a minimum of 24 hours.
- If a parent has an emergency and must call to authorize the emergency release of the child to a person unknown to the staff, the school will ask for the parent's driver's license number at the time the request is made. The parent should give this number to the person picking up the child as it will be requested by the staff along with the "pick-up" person's driver's license to verify their authority to pick up the student. **Please notify the office, not the teacher, of any changes in pick-up. The message will be given to the teacher.**

Parents may be required to obtain a physician's statement certifying that the child is well before the child returns to school following absence due to contagious illness.

Medication

Please inform your child's teacher, if you give your child any medication before coming to school. Medicine often affects the way your child responds in class. The preschool **will not** administer any medication to a child during the school day. If parents find it necessary for their child to receive medication during the school day, they may come to the school to administer such medication.

Accidents/Injuries

Parents will be notified of minor scrapes, bumps, and bites on an incident form that will be sent home with the child. In case of a serious accident, a parent or other designated person will be notified. If medically necessary, we will follow the directives on the child's emergency information form on file.