



Preschool Philosophy

We firmly believe that children learn best through play, exploration and discovery. Every child who enters our preschool is unique, competent and full of potential. The strong foundation laid here will nurture those gifts and enable each child to feel valued and motivated to become a life-long learner.

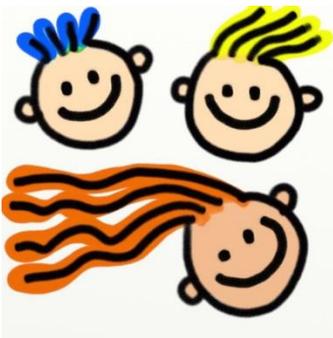
Learning focuses on developing the whole child by encouraging their social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth as well as their creative expression. The physical environment is emphasized as an aid to learning through our beautiful and safe setting, a place suitable to the needs of the preschooler.

Special events, invited guests and field trips enrich the children's learning in areas such as science, nature, community service, personal hygiene and art. Intergenerational interaction, provided by senior volunteers called "Huggers" offers our children a unique opportunity to develop special relationships and to learn about the beauty and wisdom of maturity.

Parents may select a program with a non-sectarian approach or a Christian emphasis. We invite parents to become vital partners in the educational process and in the ongoing functioning of the preschool.

Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) guides parent education, enrichment, social programs and coordinates parent volunteers. The Preschool Board of the Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church guides school policies and programs. Our door is always open to your suggestions and concerns.

Our loving, experienced teachers are certified in elementary or early childhood education. All staff is required to participate in continuing education, are First Aid & CPR trained, have FBI, Criminal and Child Abuse clearances and undergo yearly evaluations.



Preschool Goals

The Gloria Dei Preschool provides each child, regardless of race, gender, ability, special needs, ethnicity, and socio-economic standing, or religion, opportunities to:

- **Develop social skills in a group setting**
- **Develop language skills to enable the child to convey wants, needs and ideas appropriately, expand the ability to observe, compare and describe objects and events.**
- **Develop thought processes that lead to greater understanding, awareness and curiosity through investigation and exploration with a variety of resources in a safe environment.**
- **Recognize and respect the rights, feelings and property of others and understand their place as responsible members of a family and community.**
- **Develop self-confidence in expressing, choosing and initiating behaviors and making decisions, and learn to accept responsibility for those choices in a group setting apart from parents.**
- **Develop good habits in the areas of health, nutrition, safety and hygiene.**
- **Develop physical coordination and motor skills and explore with the five senses.**
- **Experience a variety of visual art, music, drama, dance, literature and creative movement activities and learn to appreciate the expressive arts and cultures of other people, places and times.**
- **Experiment with a variety of tools, manipulatives, and materials for open-ended exploration.**
- **Engage the imagination with rhymes, songs, finger plays and pretend play.**
- **Develop a greater awareness of the self as a valued individual and competent learner.**