

**Preschool Class Structure**

Mount Hope Preschool classes serve children who have reached the age of 33 months through those who are five years of age but not enrolled in kindergarten. Children must also be toilet-trained. To be considered toilet-trained, a child must be able to recognize when they need to use the restroom, communicate that need and care for themselves while using the toilet. Two rooms are licensed to serve 20 children per session, a third to serve 19 and a fourth 18 with a maximum of 77 children in attendance. The children are under direct supervision as defined in Rule 3. The class ratio is one adult to every 10 children.

**Hours and Days of Operation**

Preschool 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Mount Hope offers families 2, 3, 4, or 5 day morning preschool class options. The 9:00-12:00 Preschool follows Bloomington Public School's calendar with minimal exceptions, starting the Tuesday after Labor Day and ending the Friday before Memorial Day.

Summer Preschool is offered during June, July and August as noted on the calendar.

**Childcare Class Structure**

Mount Hope Childcare serves children who have reached the age of 33 months and toilet-trained through age 12. The childcare is licensed to serve 20 children in the Purple and Orange rooms, 19 in the Blue room and 18 in the Green room. The children are under direct supervision as defined in Rule 3. The class ratio follows licensing guidelines for age groups. School age children will not exceed 18 in attendance at a time. Limited summer care is available for school-aged children. A maximum of 77 children may be in attendance at any one time. A cot is provided for every child enrolled in the Childcare (Extended Care) program with a minimum of 35 on hand.

**Hours and Days of Operation**

Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. A new program year begins the day after Labor Day and continues through the following Labor Day. The Center is scheduled to be closed a total of eleven days per program year. The Center is closed Thanksgiving (Thursday and Friday), Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, one day each school year for professional development and both the Friday before Labor Day and Labor Day. If a holiday falls on a Saturday, it will be observed the Friday prior. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it will be observed the following Monday.

**Mission Statement**

Our mission is to provide enriching opportunities for children and families to grow in their relationship with Jesus by sharing God's word in a Christ-centered educational environment.

**Goals**

MHPC provides children with the opportunity to:

- Develop a healthy self-concept;
- Develop social and emotional maturity;
- Develop an enjoyment of the creative experience;
- Develop trust in adults and peers;
- Develop their growing faith and understanding of God's love;
- Develop independence and responsibility for self;
- Develop security and a feeling of success;
- Develop skills in the physical, cognitive and language areas.

The main goal of our program is to assist children to reach their full potential in all developmental areas. Preschool teachers will ensure each child's progress is documented through authentic assessments and is discussed with families at parent teacher conferences twice per school year.

**Curriculum**

The framework for learning is provided by the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards. The primary purpose of these indicators is to provide a framework for understanding and communicating a common set of developmentally appropriate expectations for young children within a context of shared responsibility and accountability for helping children meet these expectations. The framework provided by the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress is enhanced by the guidance of The Creative Curriculum.

**Teachers will plan lessons that are developmentally appropriate and will provide activities in the following areas:**

**Creative Art:** Art activities provide children with a way to express themselves creatively and imaginatively, and develop fine motor and language skills. Art activities include painting, coloring, drawing and sculpting. Process art activities provide opportunities for children to build confidence and experience. Product art activities are provided for children to learn to follow verbal directions and create a project that will help them recall presented information.

**Music:** The music program includes singing, dancing and listening. Through music children are able to explore self-expression, learn basic music concepts (beat, tempo, rhythm, melody), gain coordination, improve large muscle skills and enhance language skills along

with gaining auditory discrimination. Children meet a minimum of one time per week. Musical instruments are stored in a common area and available for use by classroom teachers and the Music teacher. Each room also has its own set of instruments.

**Dramatic Play:** Dramatic play allows children to fit the reality of the world into their own interests and knowledge. Children need a safe, interesting environment and the freedom to experiment with roles, conflict, and problem solving. Opportunities for dramatic play that are spontaneous, child-initiated, and open-ended are important for all young children. Individual expression is valued.

**Construction:** Construction activities with both small and/or large scale blocks and various other building materials help children develop their imagination, planning and troubleshooting skills along with developing pre-engineering strategies.

**Language and Literacy:** Opportunities for growth in language and literacy happen throughout the school day in conversations, story time, puppets, poetry, finger plays, center time and morning meeting. As a child's vocabulary increases, so does their confidence to communicate their thoughts and ideas along with the ability to listen to others speak.

**Math and Science:** Through math and science children learn about the world around them. Daily activities encourage children to count, classify, sequence, measure, weigh, sort and pattern. Young children, because of their innate curiosity, eagerly embrace science and math activities. A specific space in the room is designated for science instruction and exploration.

**Technology:** An iPad is used sparingly for practice of literary and fine motor skills. It is used by teachers to enhance the learning experience and for documentation purposes. Technology is also used for story-telling, music and movement activities.

**Physical Development:** Children have opportunities to develop large and small muscles both indoors and outdoors. Large muscle activities including use of balance beams and boards, tricycle riding and ball play promote balance, strength, muscle control and cardiovascular health. Small muscle activities including lacing, cutting and grasping promote strength and preparation for writing.

**Religious:** Children experience daily Bible stories, songs and prayer. The staff models Christian values and share God's love through caring conversations and interactions each day. Chapel time is held one time per week led by a staff member of Mount Hope Lutheran Church and/or the Center.

**Sensory Stimulation** Sensory stimulation activities and opportunities, presented through the use of sensory tables, nature exploration, and food preparation activities, are vital to child development. At Mount Hope we focus on all five senses in a balanced manner.

#### **Daily Schedule (sample) – Childcare**

7:00	Center opens - Drop offs begin, free play
7:30	Snack (breakfast) is available until 8:30 (please arrive by 8:15)
9:00	All children attend preschool (SA extended care during summer break)
12:00	Dismissal of morning preschool
12:15	Lunch served
12:45	Combination of Rest / Nap (prep and 30 minutes quiet time)/ large motor time
1:30	Continuation of nap / enrichment activities / play
3:00	Clean-up and snack
3:30	Learning centers / large motor time
5:00	Center closes

#### **Daily Schedule – Preschool 3 hour class**

Listed below is a sample daily schedule. Individual classes adjust the order of activities.

15 min	Class Arrival - Wash hands and sign-in
20min	Morning Meeting – greeting, sharing, activity, weather, calendar and story
10min	Journal Writing
60min	Centers – art, sensory, imaginative, science, literacy, math, fine motor and small groups
10min	Clean-Up
20min	Bathroom, Snack, and Story
30min	Large Motor - Indoor or Outdoor
10min	Jesus Time
5min	Dismissal

Children are typically divided by those that will attend Kindergarten the following fall and those who have another year or two of preschool before the start of Kindergarten.

**The Program Plan is available for parents upon request and is posted on the MHPC board.**