

Preschool Information



2017-2018

A Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church
1340 Eleventh Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
(310) 379-7413
Lic. # 191604585



Welcome

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool, Manhattan Beach, California! We understand that one of the biggest decisions parents make is choice of preschool. In addition to the overview provided here, we welcome an opportunity to visit with you personally. There are many preschools and many ways to conduct preschool, and we want to help ensure that you make the right decision for your family. Blessings on your discernment.

Philosophy, Purpose, & Goals

The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool is to provide appropriate learning experiences for young children. Preschool staff and administration are dedicated to creating an environment in which preschoolers develop and flourish physically, emotionally, mentally, and socially.

Young children learn naturally through play and social interactions with each other. We seek to provide an environment for those interactions while at the same time preparing each child for kindergarten at his or her own pace. We believe that pressure, rote memorization and rigid academic environments are counter-productive to these goals. Instead, we strive to encourage genuine curiosity, social connection through human relationships, and the innate love of learning.

Teaching Staff

Trinity Preschool's teaching staff is well-credentialed, have backgrounds cleared by the Department of Justice, FBI, and local law enforcement agencies, and demonstrate their love for educating young children by contributing experience, diversity, and personal passion. Trinity supports its staff through continuing education opportunities, staff development, and regular orientations, especially surrounding the health and safety of our preschool population. Make an appointment to visit our teachers in action; each and every one will be certain to take the time to visit with you personally.

Religious Education

We understand and champion the importance of religious education for young children. Young children who are nourished with and have the opportunity to practice activities that help convey moral knowledge realize higher academic achievement and exhibit pro-social behavior, contributing to society in positive ways.

Religious education does not happen accidentally, however. Communicating moral knowledge to preschoolers in developmentally appropriate ways is both an art and a science. It begins with a caring community dedicated to the well-being of its members. It continues with professional educators who are familiar with and practice current research-informed teaching strategies, and it includes parents and families sharing their values, perspectives, and presence.

Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool is committed to communicating to your child two basic religious ideas reflective of the Lutheran faith: (1) Your child is valued for who he or she is, regardless of accomplishments or deficits; and (2) Children are created to care for each other and for the world they live in. We communicate this faith in many ways: Praying before meals and snacks; learning Bible stories about God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit; conducting chapel time and Surfzone children's ministry; and infusing the day with opportunities and experiences that help the children develop as spiritual beings.

We promise our resources, expertise, and experience to the privilege of educating your child so that they become positive moral citizens, making the world a better place for all people.

Admission

Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool is open to all children ages 2 to 5 who are ready for preschool as mutually agreed upon by parents and preschool administration. Enrollment will be granted without discrimination regarding gender, race, color, creed or political belief.

While Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool welcomes people of all faiths, it is important for parents to appreciate our position surrounding parent-institution relationships. Research shows there are significant differences in attitudes of parents who view child rearing as a vocational calling ("way of life") and those who see child rearing as advocacy, intent on arranging the environment to benefit their children. Parents who see child rearing as a calling seek to engage preschools around topics such as faith and religion, moral development, and community service. Other parents put other emphases on other aspects of socialization— organizing play dates for children, participating in parent organizations, and advocating for and leading parent events and activities. In line with the Lutheran expression of faith, Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool emphasizes parenting as vocational calling, desiring and expecting our parents to be active with their children at the preschool and in the classroom.

As a Christian organization, Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool honors human dignity for all people. We teach and practice anti-bias awareness, attitudes, and behavior. In an anti-bias classroom, children learn to be proud of themselves and of their families, to respect human differences, to recognize bias, and to speak up for what is right.

—National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Trinity Preschool is a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church. Trinity congregation is a “ReconcilingWorks” congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). ReconcilingWorks advocates for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church and congregations, and congregational ministries, including parenting.

Registration. Admission to Trinity is offered on a continuous basis throughout the year.

Fees and Deposits. A non-refundable \$100 registration fee along with the non-refundable first month’s tuition are required each year at the time of enrollment.

Wait List. New students can apply for admission to Trinity by completing a wait list application and submitting it, along with a non-refundable \$100 fee, to the office. \$50 of this waitlist fee will be applied to the registration fee if accepted to the preschool.

Scholarships. Scholarships are granted primarily on the basis of financial need. Only the director, senior pastor, and church treasurer know the identity of scholarship recipients. Application forms for scholarships are available through the director.

Tuition

Rates and fees for full day and half day preschool, as well as extended day options, are determined upon flexible scheduling enrollment. Please call the Preschool Office for details at 310-379-7413.

Schedule

CLASS	START	END
2 year olds (two days)	8:30 am	11:45 am
3 year olds (three days)	8:30 am	11:45 am
Pre – K (4 yrs. by Sep. 1) (five days)	8:30 am	11:45 am
Full Day (M-F)	8:30 am	4:00 pm
Multi-Age Afternoon	12:30 pm	4:00 pm
EXTENDED CARE		
Mornings	7:00 am	8:30 am
Afternoons	4:00 pm	5:30 pm
Lunch Bunch	11:45 am	12:30 pm
EXTENDED CARE PLUS		
Mornings	6:30 am	8:30 am
Afternoons	4:00 pm	6:00 pm

Flexible Schedule

Flexible Schedules to meet the unique needs of individual families available.

Daily Routine

Focused Interest Centers. Interest centers within each classroom are available so children can engage in focused, creative play. Typical areas include a quiet area to look at books, dramatic play areas such as a kitchen, grocery store, and doctor or veterinarian office, an area to construct with blocks, areas to use manipulatives, sensory experience tables, a dress-up center and art centers offering a variety of different mediums.

Curriculum. Trinity's curriculum includes art, science, music, cooking, pre-math concepts, pre-reading activities, the development of small and gross motor skills, and social interactions. Each month a theme will be used to integrate these components.

Art. Art is an important vehicle for self-expression and for learning. Through art, all of the preschool learning domains can be introduced in a fun, sensory-emphasized way. Trinity Preschool dedicates an entire room to art expression.

Chapel. Weekly chapel time is very important to our approach toward providing developmentally appropriate education for young children. During a 20-minute chapel time, children sing songs, listen to and participate in Bible stories led by Trinity's Youth Ministry Leader and pastoral staff. The focus of children's chapel is a healthy self-identity and empathy for others—both gifts from God.

Music. Exposure to music appreciation and education at an early age is an important component of child development. Musical principles such as timing, rhythm, tone, high and low notes and soft and loud volume will be taught through movement, singing and use of a variety of instruments. Music time, in addition to singing and dramatic play during class time, afford opportunities to engage in creative movement, developing both small and large motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Spanish. Hola! Young children are especially adept at learning languages, and learn best through immersion as opposed to direct instruction. Several of our staff, who speak Spanish as a first language, will present a variety of daily curricula in Spanish. Bienvenidos!

Story Time. During story time children come together to hear a story read by a staff member or parent. Story time develops listening, language, and recall skills using books, poems, songs and stories.

Potty training. We welcome children that are not potty trained. Our preschool staff offers curriculum and help to parents transitioning children from diapers to the toilet.

Health, Safety & Medications

As directed by the California Department of Health, and in order to protect the entire student population, all children are required to be current in their vaccinations for the following: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus Influenza Type B, Hepatitis B, Varicella. Trinity Preschool further complies with and exceeds all health and safety measures raised by the Department of Health and local agencies, including disaster preparedness, emergency evacuation, and campus lockdown. The entire preschool campus is gated with a secure-code entrance whose combination is regularly changed. All staff and volunteers wear identification when working at the preschool.

Procedures and practices regulating personal medications are covered in registration materials and will be reiterated at the mandatory Parent Orientation meeting during our Back-to-School events.

Fundraising

As a ministry of a non-profit institution, Trinity Preschool may rely on fundraising to benefit the greater Los Angeles community—especially sister preschools— as well as enrich children’s experiences through special events. Trinity congregation budgets for, accounts for, and covers all operating expenses for all of its ministries, including its preschool. Fundraising events are intended to help make a difference in the world.

Parent Participation

Trinity insists on parent participation program because it is the best thing for children. Participation affords parents the opportunity to observe your child at school, become familiar with his or her routines, and assist the teachers and director in preparing for upcoming lessons and events. Because observing your child in the classroom environment can provide great insight as to their experience at Trinity, we view our parent participation program as extremely important. All parents participating at the school must submit a statement of good health and proof of a negative tuberculosis test within the last year. Each family will be scheduled to participate in a number of ways further articulated in registration materials and during Back-To-School orientation.

www.besidethesea.org

Again, thank you for your interest in

Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool.

Be sure to visit our website which provides more information and registration materials.