

Highlands

**PRECIOUS
GIFTS**



Preschool

Highlands United Presbyterian Church
10900 McCormick Road
Jacksonville, FL 32225
904-641-1712

www.highlandspreciousgiftspreschool.com

Children learn...

- cooperation
- problem solving
- language
- mathematics

...and develop...

- curiosity
- self-esteem
- strength and coordination
- self-direction
- values

...when we enrich

their play.



Children's time has so many demands placed upon it: piano practice, homework, helping around the house, swimming lessons. While a few structured activities are part of growing up, parents and teachers need to make sure that young children have lots of time to play, a safe space to play in, and friendly people to play with. PLAY is indeed **FUNDamental** for children.



HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL

PARENTS HANDBOOK

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Rev 8/15

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL

10900 McCormick Road
Jacksonville, FL 32225
(904) 641-1712

*Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.
Proverbs 22:6 NRSV*

Welcome to **HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL**. Our program is a non-profit ministry of the Highlands United Presbyterian Church. It is our desire to provide a developmentally based, wholesome, educational environment for children regardless of family or religious background. We wish to encourage positive social and emotional development in an environment that incorporates Christian values.

GOALS

- To develop the maximum potential of each child in an environment that is safe, healthy, and intellectually stimulating.
- To provide a setting that encourages the development of a positive self-image -- to encourage the "I can try anything" attitude.
- To foster physical, social, and emotional growth and a feeling of independence in each child.
- To recognize and respect the abilities, potentials, and special needs of each child as an individual.
- To establish a cooperative partnership between staff and parents for the enhanced welfare of each child.
- To function as an advocate for young children in all situations.

CURRICULUM

We believe in "hands-on", experiential learning. Our curriculum is created by [Funshine Express Online](#) and is written very intentionally to meet the social, physical and emotional developmental needs of each age group. Studies have shown that during the formative years of birth through age 5, children develop the self-concept and basic social skills that will carry them throughout their entire lives. Therefore, our primary goal is to focus on development of social and emotional skills using hands-on activities and subjects which are familiar to most children. During that process, a wealth of other learning also takes place in the areas of math and reading readiness, problem solving and logical thinking, language and cognitive development, gross and fine motor skills development, and many other pre-academic areas. During these preschool years, it is more appropriate to say that the "children learn" rather than "we teach." Simply by virtue of being exposed to desired topics in fun and creative ways, children will absorb new knowledge at an amazing rate -- and have fun at the same time.

STAFF AND TRAINING

As a fully licensed child care facility in the state of Florida, the Preschool must meet county, state and federal requirements regarding the training and qualifications of all staff persons. All of our teachers and teachers' assistants are subject to local and national background screening, health department guidelines, and must complete at least 50 hours of training in the area of "Developmentally Appropriate Practices" in early childhood education as required by the Florida Department of Children and Families. In addition, all staff members are employed by virtue of one of the following: 1) a degree in Early Childhood Education/Early Elementary Education; 2) a Child Development Associate (CDA) or its equivalent; or 3) acceptable previous experience in the field of childhood education/caregiving and a glowing recommendation from a previous employer or parent. All staff members are required to take an additional 10 hours of in-service training each year, including but not limited to Infant/Child CPR and First Aid. Staff development through continuing education enables the Preschool to maintain a high quality environment.

PRESCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Highlands Precious Gifts Preschool is a community outreach program of the Highlands United Presbyterian Church and is administered by a Director and an Assistant Director. In an effort to maintain the highest quality program possible, the Session of Highlands created the Preschool Advisory Committee (PAC). This committee meets and reports directly to the Session on a monthly basis. The purpose of the PAC is to work cooperatively for the benefit of both Church and Preschool to ensure that each child receives the very best of care and education while he/she is attending the Preschool. Volunteers on this committee serve as advocates for our Preschool families. Parents can use these individuals as a vehicle for voicing concerns and suggestions. Anyone interested in stepping forward to volunteer time on this advisory committee should let the Administration know by early September.

ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

Children entering the Preschool will be placed in the appropriate class based on their age as of September 1st of the current school year. This guideline is in keeping with the Duval County school system. Students will need to bring a backpack each day with a complete change of clothes, including socks and shoes. Color-coded backpack tags are furnished for each child at orientation and should be displayed in a conspicuous location on the outside of the backpack for easy identification. All items enclosed in the backpack should be labeled clearly with the child's name.

It is the parents' responsibility to complete and return all required forms prior to the child's first day of attendance. All immunization (FDCF form #680) and physical (FDCF form #3040) records are to be updated as needed or requested. Please refer to Appendix A for current immunization requirements.

All enrollment and monthly or weekly tuition amounts are to be paid according to the requirements outlined in the "Financial Policy" section of this Handbook, and **are NON-REFUNDABLE**. Fall registration will begin in February/March and will be open for enrollment with the following priorities:

- Current students – Highlands Church members
- Current students – all others
- Highlands Church members, Previous Preschool families, Siblings
- Open community enrollment

ATTENDANCE

Please call the school by 10 AM if your child will not be attending. This will alleviate any worry on our part about your child's safety and welfare. Please keep in mind that we do give *Perfect Attendance* and *Faithful Attendance* awards at the end of the school year, so encourage your child to develop good attendance habits early. If your child does not attend for a two-week period without an explanation, we will assume you have withdrawn and will fill the opening from our waiting list. Families participating in our Florida VPK Program should see additional Attendance/Funding Policy that deals specifically with VPK.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Our day begins at 7:00AM and ends at 6:00PM. Our program offers many different "modules" to fit many different schedules. This means there could be children in our parking area throughout the day. Please drive SLOWLY and carefully in the parking lot and please teach your child/children now to HOLD HANDS in the parking lot. We want to keep all our precious gifts safe.

Please be on time based on your chosen schedule -- early arrivals interfere with teachers' planning time, and late pick-ups interfere with closing procedures and staff meetings. First time offenders for late pick-up will not be charged; however, **subsequent occurrences will be charged late fees.**

It is very important to try and make your stay in the morning as brief as possible. Long good-byes make separation harder, especially for One's and Two's. Remember, your teacher's primary responsibility is to the children, so drop-off and pick-up are not appropriate times for conferences. If you feel the need to talk in depth regarding some aspect of your child's development, please schedule some other time with the teacher so that you may have his/her full attention.

PARKING

All Preschool parking should be contained in the Church's rear parking area. The side parking area is reserved on weekdays for other Church activities. If you require special parking circumstances, please discuss these with the Administration prior to the first day of school so that acceptable arrangements can be made. This parking policy will be monitored closely, so please be considerate and park in the rear area for the safety and benefit of all concerned. Once again, we encourage parents to insist on HOLDING HANDS with the child/children while in the parking area.

SAFETY

We consider it an honor that families have chosen to share their precious gifts with us each week. We take very seriously the responsibility of providing a SAFE learning environment for each student. For this reason, the Preschool will require a copy of each parent's/guardian's driver's license for security purposes. If any family member or individual on the list of authorized pick-up persons is found to have a felony conviction and is classified in the present or past as a "child sexual predator/offender" by the State of Florida or any other U. S. state, said individual will have restricted access to any area serving children and will be allowed to enter the building only with a staff member escort. All children will be under the watchful eye of a certified staff member at all times during school hours. Outside access

doors will be selectively locked to provide emergency exit only. Cameras have been installed to monitor outside visitors. Any visitors requesting entry are required to check in at the Preschool Office before having access to any children and will be closely monitored by staff.

Recognizing that safety in the classroom is only part of our responsibility, we also want the children to arrive and depart safely. Drop-off and pick-up are busy times in the parking lot and pose an additional challenge for maintaining the safety and welfare of the students. This means that Preschool staff and parents must work together as a team to ensure that the parking area remains as safe as the classrooms. For this reason, at pick-up time we will only buckle your child(ren) into a “federally approved child restraint system” based on their age and/or weight. If you do not have the required equipment, you will be asked to park and come inside to pick up your child(ren). In addition, **ALL CHILDREN MUST HOLD HANDS with an adult** at all times while in the parking lot. We consistently monitor this parking lot supervision and will give verbal encouragement to those who are not in compliance.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

Please dress your child in comfortable PLAY CLOTHES. Hands-on learning and artistic expression can sometimes get a bit messy. Even though we use all washable materials (crayons, paint, markers, etc.) even they can be stubborn to wash out occasionally. Always send a complete change of clothes in your child's backpack for unexpected accidents. All items should be clearly labeled with your child's name to prevent confusion. ***Please do not send children in sandals, boots, flip-flops or Crocs with no backstrap***, since these pose a hazard on the playground. Be cautious about allowing jewelry to be worn -- especially necklaces and earrings for obvious safety reasons. The school cannot be responsible for loss of or damage to personal or valuable items.

TOYS FROM HOME

Please do not bring toys from home to school. They should only be encouraged on sharing days. You may wish to check with your child's teacher for sharing day schedule. We have worked very hard to equip the school with many age appropriate, educational toys. There will always be plenty of interesting things to explore. And if our toys get lost or broken, no one will cry.

ILLNESS AND MEDICATION

Any child who is obviously sick (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, repetitive coughing, discolored drainage from nose or eyes, unexplained rash, headache, sore throat, general malaise, etc.) should not attend until symptoms have been absent for 24 hours or until a physician has given written permission for the child to come in contact with other children. Children with limitations regarding physical activities should not return to school until given full written permission by a physician to do so. Students are encouraged to participate fully in all activities planned, therefore no alternative arrangements are offered for those children who cannot. We will do our best to keep the school environment as clean and antiseptic as possible. ***Please help us to eliminate needless outbreaks of contagious viruses by keeping sick children at home, by not allowing sick siblings to accompany you into the building, and by not giving children over the counter medications to mask symptoms. There are no makeup days for a child being home sick.***

Any child who shows signs of illness will be separated from others immediately and parents will be contacted. For this reason, it is very important that we keep current and on file the names and numbers of **TWO emergency contact persons** for every student in the event that the child's parents cannot be reached quickly.

Administering medication on the premises will be made on an emergency case-by-case basis. Children with asthma, severe allergies, life threatening illnesses which need management, etc. shall have on file specific instructions from the physician regarding action to be taken and when to consider administering emergency medical treatment. In these cases, parents should conference with the Director/Assistant Director and the child's teacher prior to the child's first day of attendance. All medications are to be furnished in the original container and labeled with the original prescription information. A log showing the child's name, the medication, the dosage amount and time to be given, will be completed daily and signed by each child's parent. If and when the medication is given, the staff member will log the date, time, and amount given. The staff member's signature/initials will also be recorded for future reference.

NUTRITION

A nutritious snack is provided each morning along with 100% fruit juice. An additional snack with juice is provided in the afternoon. Parents should send a bag lunch that is nutritionally balanced -- the Preschool will provide whole, vitamin D milk in accordance with Florida State Legislation. **Please refrain from sending other drinks** -- this causes arguments and/or hurt feelings. Likewise, please do not send too many foods high in sugar or salt. As a fully licensed child care facility, we are obligated to ensure the nutritional quality of the lunches sent from home. If your child has special dietary needs, please address these with your child's teacher -- he/she will have you complete the necessary documentation.

DISCIPLINARY POLICY

It is our primary goal to give all our students a safe, reassuring, yet consistent environment in which to play and learn. Children are most comfortable when they clearly understand what is expected of them. Each teacher will communicate the classroom rules and expectations to the children clearly and reinforce them often. Therefore, no corporal punishment of any kind will ever be used to correct a child's behavior. Positive reinforcement will be used regularly to boost the children's self-esteem and to elicit cooperation. We will also use redirection to remove the child from any situation that precipitates unacceptable behavior. When this fails, we will use the "happy chair" or the time-out concept to enable the children to regain control of their own behavior. After all, **the true goal of discipline is self-discipline**. On those occasions when behavior becomes disruptive to the class, students will be asked to make a visit to the Director's office for a conversation regarding the problems he/she is experiencing that day. In rare instances, parents will be contacted to pick up the child when we are unable to resolve his/her need to persist in behavior that is either extremely disruptive or harmful to others. However, everyone gets a fresh start and a new chance when tomorrow comes.

Our professional staff is always eager to communicate with parents regarding a child's progress. Feel free to ask questions about behavior problems as well. Redirection always works best when approached from all areas of the child's life -- school as well as home.

AUTHORIZATION LISTS

Each enrollment form requests names of persons who are allowed to leave the school with your child. If a person on this list arrives and is not known to the staff, they need to expect to furnish proper identification prior to being allowed access to your child. If a person arrives for your child who is not on this list, we CANNOT and WILL NOT release the child until we have reached one parent/guardian by phone to confirm your wishes. To avoid confusion, it is best to call the school ahead of time to make us aware that someone else will be picking up your child, and also send a written note when possible. Please be advised that no one under the age of 18 will be allowed to remove your child from school, not even big brothers or sisters. In an emergency situation, it shall be the Director/Assistant Director's responsibility to arrange acceptable transportation for the child.

FINANCIAL POLICY

Students are placed according to availability of age-appropriate openings. The non-refundable Enrollment Fee and first month's tuition (for Preschool Module) or first week's tuition (for all others) are both due at the time of enrollment for each child. **All prepaid Monthly or Weekly tuition and Enrollment are NON-REFUNDABLE** with the following exceptions:

- Early withdrawals must provide written notification indicating the last day of the child's anticipated attendance. If said notification is received and acknowledged by a Preschool administrator by the 15th of the current month, the family will not be responsible for paying the next month's tuition. If notification is received AFTER the 15th of the current month, the family will be held responsible for the next month's tuition in full.
- Families participating in the Preschool Module only are allowed ONE WEEK VACATION at 50% each school year. This vacation is to be taken in CONSECUTIVE DAYS.
- Families participating in Preschool Module with any other added Module are entitled to ONE WEEK VACATION at no charge each school year. This vacation is to be taken in consecutive days. Notification of these dates should be as early as possible so staffing arrangements can be adjusted as necessary.

Monthly tuition is due on the first day of each month. Weekly tuition is due each Monday morning. Payments can be handed directly to any staff member or simply placed in the **TUITION DROP BOX** located in the Preschool Office. Receipts are only given upon special request. Statements/bills/invoices will not be furnished. Late fees will be assessed after the 10th of the month for monthly payments or after 12 noon on Wednesdays for weekly payments. Discounts are available for multiple child families and dual enrollment students. (Discount does not apply to VPK Module only students.) A 5% discount is also available to those who choose to pay tuition for the year in full by October 1st. Please see the Administration for current figures.

FUNDRAISERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Throughout the school year, there will be many opportunities for you to support the Preschool in many different ways – with time, with talents, and with dollars. Your tuition dollars go toward our day to day operating expenses. For improvements in the playground, the teachers' resource library, or larger equipment in the classrooms, we must rely on dollars received from fundraisers. We participate only in fundraisers that we feel are high quality, well organized, and represent products and/or services we would

be interested in as parents ourselves. We appreciate your willingness to participate in these efforts.

In addition to the usual fundraiser activities, we would like for you to also **consider dedicating your UNITED WAY contributions to Highlands Precious Gifts Preschool.** If you are a contributor, it is very simple to designate the Preschool as the recipient of your charitable contributions. This way, you know where your dollars are going and you can watch them at work in your child's life.

PLAYGROUND GUIDELINES

The playground is always a favorite place for our students. Although it is a wonderful tool for encouraging large muscle development, coordination skills, promoting cooperation and team building, it also represents the single most common area for accidents and mishaps. In an effort to limit the risks for all concerned, the staff of Highlands Precious Gifts Preschool will help the children to learn and follow these guidelines:

- Fences are not for climbing.
- Riding track is for moving toys with wheels – running feet need to be on the mulch/grass.
- Up the steps and down the slide feet first, on your bottom.
- Bottoms or tummies belong in the swing seats. Standing in or jumping out of swings can be very dangerous.
- Small swings are for One's and Two's – not big boys and girls. Three's and Four's are learning how to pump themselves and the big swings are perfect for practicing.
- Playground toys should not be moved and placed under other equipment, as this may encourage climbing and jumping from high places not intended to be used for such activities.
- Any jumping off equipment needs to have an adult helping so that no one gets hurt.
- Berries, flowers and trees are wonderful gifts from God through Mother Nature. However, some of them are dangerous and should not be ingested.

The safety of the children is our primary concern. To this end, our staff makes the commitment to all our Preschool families to participate in ACTIVE SUPERVISION of all playground activities. Sometimes, especially at the beginning of the year, children need to be taught how to use playground equipment properly. As parents, you can help in our efforts to keep everyone safe by reinforcing these same guidelines. In addition, we will use playground time as a vital developmental piece of your child's preschool education.

FIELD TRIPS

To further enhance the students' learning experience, field trips are incorporated into the scheduled activities as time, funds and weather permit. We encourage parents/grandparents to go along as chaperones on these field trips as often as possible. **All students are required to ride the "big yellow school bus" to and from all field trips.** Chaperones are given the opportunity to ride along on the bus when space is available*. (Please see below for details.) However, siblings are not permitted to ride on the bus. We welcome additional cars to caravan along with the busses for transporting siblings and chaperones. If you elect not to have your child participate in the scheduled field trip, no alternate care arrangements will be offered at the Preschool. Your child will simply be counted absent that day (just as in the case of sick days) and no adjustment will be made in tuition.

*In order to accommodate as many requests for bus space as possible, the Preschool utilizes a "bus lottery" system. All those who wish to ride the bus will sign up for a spot in the office by the pre-posted deadline. If sufficient space is not available for all that have signed up, these names will then be put in a hat, drawn and placed on the bus by class according to space availability. These individuals will then be exempt from participating in the next bus lottery.

PHONE LIST

As part of our commitment to safeguard the privacy of all our students and their families, we will only be furnishing phone contact lists on a "by request" basis. This information can be very convenient for contacting each other for carpools, parties, common interests, play dates, etc. However, we respect the fact that some individuals do not want personally identifiable information made available to others. Therefore, if you DO NOT WISH for your name and/or number to appear on this list, please send in a note stating that fact with your signature for our file. This list will only be made available to other parents in the preschool.

EMERGENCY CLOSING POLICY

It is the intention of HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL to observe the *Annual Preschool Calendar* (based loosely on Duval County School Board Public Schools Calendar) while in session. In the event that an emergency arises which makes it necessary to close the school, parents will be notified as quickly as possible. It is not the policy of the school to close on days not previously arranged. However, nature often has a way of changing our schedules. No adjustment in tuition will be made for such an occurrence.

VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

In November of 2002, Florida voters passed a constitutional amendment that began the creation of what we now know as *FLORIDA'S FREE VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM* or "**VPK**". The program is available to all qualifying four year old children and is FREE. Children must be legal Florida residents and must be four years of age by September 1st of the current school year to qualify. In keeping with our efforts to provide Jacksonville's children and families with a quality early education program at the lowest cost possible, Highlands Precious Gifts Preschool is pleased to offer Florida's VPK to our qualifying four year olds.

Since success in any learning environment depends largely on prompt and faithful attendance, it is necessary for providers and families to establish an agreement regarding absences and tardiness. The guidelines set forth in this agreement are the basis for your child's state-approved funding as well as his or her successful transition to Kindergarten.

Instructional hours for our VPK students are 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM, Monday through Friday, for a total of 540 instructional hours per school year. At Orientation, enrolled families receive an Annual School Calendar outlining start and end dates, all scheduled days off and all VPK "non-funded" days. (Please refer to VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE / FUNDING POLICY for more specific details.)

5 Day Start-Up Period

Attendance during the initial "Start-Up Days" is crucial in facilitating a positive classroom community. Therefore, **attendance the first 5 days of school is MANDATORY** so that students can begin to establish the daily routine.

Tardiness

Late arrivals and departures are disruptive to the learning process. All VPK instruction begins promptly at 9:00 AM. Exterior doors of all VPK classes open at 8:55 for a period of 15 minutes to allow students entry directly to their designated classrooms. Arrivals after 9:10 AM are considered tardy and may be required to enter through and wait in the office until the appropriate time to interrupt the class in progress. *Any student who is tardy more than twice in one month may be terminated from the VPK-funded program.* The child may continue to attend HPGP, but will be required to pay full tuition and applicable fees for the remainder of the school year.

VPK classes end promptly at 12:15 PM. A student is considered tardy if he/she is not picked up by 12:20 PM unless he/she is enrolled in our VPK Enrichment program or our PM Extended Day Module. Although VPK funding is not affected by late pick-ups, HPGP reserves the right to charge a late fee of \$20.00 for the first occurrence and \$25.00 for the second occurrence within one month. Upon the third occurrence, the student is automatically enrolled in the VPK Enrichment Program at which time all associated fees for such become due and payable.

Absences

Pursuant to Rule 60BB-8.204 concerning attendance and funding for the Florida Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program, the following requirements apply:

- All absences from school must have written documentation confirming the date and reason for the absence. For your convenience, Excused Absence Forms are available in your child's classroom. Handwritten notes **are not** acceptable.
- A parent/guardian may document the child's **first 3 days** absent in any one month period.
- For absences of **more than 3 days** in any one month period, a person other than the parent, and unrelated to the child, must furnish written documentation, i.e. physician, officer of the court, etc.
- Each child is allowed a **maximum of fifteen (15) absences per school year, regardless of monthly totals. Only five (5) of these may be designated "Family Vacation."** Normal tuition and fees will be assessed when the number of absences exceeds any of the aforementioned limits.

PLEASE NOTE – absences of five (5) consecutive instructional days without proper documentation will be considered a *WITHDRAWAL* from the VPK-funded program at HPGP. Withdrawals of this nature are not eligible for re-enrollment in the VPK-funded program at HPGP.

Absences due to Extraordinary Circumstances

Five (5) additional days are available to each VPK student for absences due to extraordinary circumstances during the school year. Documentation from the appropriate agency or individual must be submitted by the legal custodial adult describing the extraordinary circumstances that justify the absence. These circumstances consist of the following:

- Hospitalization of the student, parent or guardian
(Physician notice required)
- Illness of student, parent or guardian that requires extended home-stay
(Physician notice required)
- Death in the child's, parent's or guardian's immediate family
(Obituary or Death Certificate required)
- Court ordered visitation
(Court order required)
- A parent's or guardian's unforeseen military deployment or exercise
(Military documentation)

Verifying Your Child's Attendance and Absences

Please notify the school no later than 9:15 AM if your child is going to be late or absent so that we do not worry. A parent must sign each child in EACH MORNING noting the time and initials. A parent must also complete and sign the mandatory attendance verification forms EACH MONTH. Your child's teacher will have it ready for you on the last three instructional days of the current month and the first 3 days of the upcoming month. Your child's continued funding in the program depends on your cooperation in a timely fashion. These forms will verify that:

- your child's attendance is accurate for the month
- you direct payment to be made to HPGP
- you continue to choose HPGP as your VPK provider of choice

Funded Days vs. Non-funded Days

HPGP provides the school year VPK Program which consists of 540 instructional hours per year. Our VPK classes are from 9:00AM until 12:15PM Monday through Friday or 9:00AM until 1:15PM Monday through Thursday. This portion of your child's day is funded by the State of Florida and is patterned after the Duval County Public Schools calendar.

Since we are a full day option Preschool, we are open on days and at times that are not included in the 540 hours of funding provided by the state. These are called "non-funded" days. On our non-funded days, VPK families have the option of whether or not to have their child attend the 9:00AM to 12:15PM VPK Module. If the child chooses not to attend, he/she will not be charged for an absent day.

The quality of our educational activities does not differ on non-funded days. We continue to provide the same high quality, play-based curriculum regardless of who is paying or playing!

At Orientation, each family will receive an *Annual School Calendar* which shows days and dates of importance, including closed days and VPK non-funded days. This gives families plenty of advance notice to make plans to join us for fun or to make other arrangements on these days.

Continuity of Programming

Students who comply with the aforementioned guidelines will continue to be served by HPGP under the Florida VPK funding statutes, administered by the Early Learning Coalition of Duval County. If for any reason cause is found to terminate any child's VPK funding status, ***the child may continue to attend HPGP, but parents or guardians will be required to pay full monthly tuition and applicable fees for the remainder of the school year.***

THE VALUE OF PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

OR

PLAY IS LEARNING

When your child builds with blocks:

- he learns to use his imagination to create something from his own thinking.
- he has the satisfaction of being able to make something.
- he learns about sizes and shapes, weights and balances, height and depth, smoothness and roughness.
- he is exercising his body.
- he may be learning to play with others.

When your child paints:

- she is more concerned with the process she is going through than she is the finished product. This is as it should be for this stage of development.
- she learns about colors and how she can use them in many different ways.
- she learns to use her imagination and transfers her ideas to paper.
- she gets emotional satisfaction from being able to express herself.
- she learns to use small muscle coordination to handle a brush.
- she learns to make choices and decisions.

When your child plays in the doll corner:

- he learns what the roles of mothers and fathers and children are.
- he learns how to use his imagination.
- he understands what it feels like to play at being somebody other than himself.
- he learns to cooperate with other children.

When your child makes a gift out of paper and glue:

- she learns about doing things for others.
- she learns how to use materials like scissors and glue.
- she learns how to use her imagination to make the kind of present she has in mind. Once again the process, not the finished product, is important to her.
- she learns about shapes, sizes, colors, and textures.

When your child plays on the outdoor equipment:

- he learns how to use his body effectively.
- he experiences joy in achieving a skill.
- he experiences the fun and relaxation to be found in bodily movement.
- he learns the limitations of his own body.
- he learns safety and caution.
- he learns to take turns and to share a piece of equipment.

When your child plays in the sand and water:

- she finds it soothing to bury her hands in sand or pour water in and out of cups.
- she learns measurement and comparison skills.
- she is able to relax with this media and center her attention on a specific task.
- she has an opportunity to play alone and not have to compete with other children as with some activities. This is especially important to a child who has trouble getting along with friends.
- she has a great opportunity to learn about size and measurement experimenting with measuring spoons, cups and different size containers.
- she learns which kinds of things float in water.
- she is not concerned with a final product so she does not find it frustrating.

When your child works with puzzles:

- he has an opportunity to work alone or together with other children.
- he gains satisfaction in completing a puzzle and builds his self-confidence.
- he has an opportunity to improve his hand-eye coordination.

When your child listens to stories or looks at books:

- she learns to listen.
- she has an opportunity to increase her vocabulary by hearing new words read to her.
- she learns about different concepts, people, and places.
- she learns to enjoy books and reading.
- her mind is stimulated visualizing the things she is hearing about.

When your child cooks:

- he learns to follow directions.
- he experiments with weights and measurements.
- he stimulates and uses all five senses.

So when your child comes home from school and you ask,

“What did you do at school today?”

the very best answer he or she can give you is,

“WE PLAYED!”

When Do Children and Teens Need Vaccinations?

Age	HepB Hepatitis B	DTaP/Tdap Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough)	Hib Haemophilus influenzae type B	IPV Polio	PCV13 Pneumococcal conjugate	RV Rotavirus	MMR Measles, mumps, rubella	Varicella Chickenpox	HepA Hepatitis A	HPV Human papillomavirus	MCV4 Meningococcal conjugate	Influenza Flu
Birth	✓											
2 months	✓ (1-2 mos)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
4 months	✓ ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
6 months		✓	✓ ¹		✓	✓ ¹						
12 months	✓	✓ ²	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓✓ (2 doses given 6 mos apart at age 12-23 mos)			✓
15 months	✓ (8-18 mos)		✓ (12-15 mos)	✓ (8-18 mos)	✓ (12-15 mos)		✓ (12-15 mos)	✓ (12-15 mos)				
18 months							Catch-up ³	Catch-up ³				
19-23 months				Catch-up ³	Catch-up ³		Catch-up ³	Catch-up ³				
4-6 years		✓		✓			✓	✓				
7-10 years	Catch-up ³	Catch-up ³										
11-12 years		✓ (Tdap)								✓✓✓	✓	
13-15 years		Catch-up ³ (Tdap)					Catch-up ³	Catch-up ³	Catch-up ³	Catch-up ³	Catch-up ³	
16-18 years											✓	

✓ (One dose each fall or winter to all people ages 6 mos and older. Some children younger than age 9 years may need 2 doses; ask your child's healthcare provider if your child needs more than 1 dose.)

3 If your child's vaccinations are overdue or missing, get your child caught up as soon as possible. If your child has not completed a series of vaccinations on time, he or she will need only the remainder of the vaccinations in the series. There's no need to start over.

FOOTNOTES
1 Your infant may not need this dose depending on the type of vaccine that your health-care provider uses.
2 This dose of DTaP may be given as early as age 12 months if it has been 6 months since the previous dose.

Vaccinations for Infants and Children, Age 0–10 Years

Getting your child vaccinated on time will help protect him or her against 15 vaccine-preventable diseases. Ask your child's healthcare provider if your child is up to date with all recommended vaccines.

Vaccine	Is your child up to date?
Chickenpox (varicella; Var)	Your child needs 2 doses of chickenpox vaccine. The first dose is given at 12–15 months and the second at 4–6 years.
Diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough (pertussis; DTaP)	Your child needs 5 doses of DTaP vaccine. The first dose is given at 2 months, the second at 4 months, the third at 6 months, the fourth at 15–18 months, and the fifth at 4–6 years.
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)	Your child needs 3–4 doses of Hib vaccine, depending on the brand of vaccine. The first dose is given at 2 months, the second at 4 months, the third at 6 months (if needed), and the last at 12–15 months.
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Your child needs 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine. The first dose is given at age 1 year and the second 6–18 months later.
Hepatitis B (HepB)	Your child needs 3–4 doses of hepatitis B vaccine, depending on the brand of vaccine. The first dose is given at birth, the second at 1–2 months, the third at 4 months (if needed), and the last at 6–18 months.
Influenza (Flu)	Everyone age 6 months and older needs influenza vaccination every fall or winter and for the rest of their lives. Some children younger than age 9 years may need 2 doses. Ask your child's healthcare provider if your child needs more than 1 dose.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	Your child needs 2 doses of MMR vaccine. The first dose is given at 12–15 months and the second at 4–6 years.
Meningococcal (MCV)	Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) is recommended for infants and children with certain health conditions. Talk with your healthcare provider to find out if your child needs MCV. Two doses are recommended for all children starting at age 11 years.
Pneumococcal (PCV13, PPSV23)	Your child needs 4 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). The first dose is given at 2 months, the second at 4 months, the third at 6 months, and the fourth at 12–15 months. Some children need a dose of PPSV pneumococcal vaccine. Ask your child's healthcare provider if your child needs this extra protection against pneumococcal disease.
Polio (IPV)	Your child needs 4 doses of polio vaccine (IPV). The first dose is given at 2 months, the second at 4 months, the third at 6–18 months, and the fourth at 4–6 years.
Rotavirus (RV)	Your child needs 2–3 doses of rotavirus vaccine (RV), depending on the brand of vaccine. The first dose is given at 2 months, the second at 4 months, and the third (if needed) at 6 months.

If your child will be traveling outside the United States, additional vaccines may be needed. For information, consult your healthcare provider, a travel clinic, or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/travel.



Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 1573 Selby Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104 • 651-647-9009
www.immunize.org • www.vaccineinformation.org
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