



**Parent Handbook  
2023-2024**

**Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool  
10620 Hutchison Blvd.  
Panama City Beach, FL 32407  
850-249-5437  
[www.gbbcprek.com](http://www.gbbcprek.com)**



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Panama City Beach, FL 32407  
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Dear Families,

What an exciting time of year! Another school year is about to begin. The Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool Staff extends a warm welcome to you and your child. We are delighted you have chosen GBB Preschool for your child's extraordinarily important early childhood education.

Our preschool offers your child a secure and comfortable environment in which to explore and experience their world. We strive to provide the loving care and guidance that your child needs as he or she grows and develops. Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool is a place where every child is loved and accepted; a place where laughter and play are cherished, and learning is fun. We believe that children learn in their play and by imitation and socialization. Based on that belief, we provide a variety of learning options to enhance your child's development.

This Parent Handbook has been prepared for your use throughout the school year. We hope that it provides you with answers to any questions you may have, regarding the preschool. We recommend that you read it thoroughly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me!  
[gbbcprek@knology.net](mailto:gbbcprek@knology.net) or 850-249-5437

Sincerely,

Kimberlee Hathcock  
Preschool Director



# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1-4</b>
Mission Statement.....	5
Licensing.....	5
Non-Discrimination Policy.....	5
Life at Preschool.....	6
Preschool Objectives.....	7
<b>Operational Information.....</b>	<b>8</b>
School Address.....	8
Hours of Operation.....	8
School Calendar.....	9
<b>Enrollment Information.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Registration Procedure.....	10
Registration Fee.....	10
Tuition Fees.....	10
Attendance.....	11
Arrival and Departure.....	11
Withdrawal from Program.....	11
<b>Health and Safety.....</b>	<b>12</b>
Health.....	12
Guidelines for Exclusion of ill or infected children.....	13-14
Potty Training.....	15
First Aid.....	15

Fire Drills / Safety.....	15
Emergency School Closing.....	15
<b>Classroom Information.....</b>	<b>16</b>
Teacher Qualifications.....	16
Class Size.....	16
Curriculum.....	16
Spanish, Chapel, Storytime.....	16
Parent Communication.....	17
Snacks.....	17
Pictures.....	17
Celebrations.....	18
Field Trips.....	18
Outdoor Play.....	19
Clothing.....	19
Programs and Fees.....	19
<b>The Value of Play.....</b>	<b>20-22</b>
<b>Behavior Policy &amp; Guidelines with Parent Agreement.....</b>	<b>23</b>
Biting.....	24
Termination of Enrollment.....	24
<b>Registration Packet Checklist.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Parent Agreement .....</b>	<b>26</b>

# Mission Statement

The mission of Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool is to provide a loving, nurturing, and Christian environment, which will be the basis for preparing each child to develop to his/her fullest potential spiritually, physically, emotionally, and intellectually. We believe that preschool children learn best through age-appropriate structured activities that encourage and strengthen the whole child. These activities are what we consider a child's way to learn through play that, in turn, will foster a desire and life-long love of learning.

## Licensing

Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool is licensed by the State of Florida. Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool exceeds the minimum requirements by the state. For more information on childcare licensing, please visit [www.myflorida.com/childcare](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare)

## Non- Discrimination Policy

Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on color, race, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and other school-administered programs.

Parents, by reading and signing the parent agreement form, place their child under the rules, regulations, discipline, and religious instruction of Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool.

# Life at Preschool

At Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool, the staff sees themselves as partners with parents in the faith education, as well as the general education of the child. Early Childhood Education is very important in the development of your child.

The Preschool program is planned to cater for each child's interest and needs and foster the development of certain abilities, attitudes and skills which will assist the child's educational development.

At Preschool, children learn by participating in a great variety of activities, both within and outside the Preschool grounds. The most natural way for a child of this age to learn is through play, by observation and by doing things themselves. This learning will be flexible, to cater to the interest, needs and abilities of the children.

## **At Preschool Children are encouraged to:**

- ◆ Express themselves and communicate with others
- ◆ Form basic concepts which help them understand their world
- ◆ Develop self-confidence
- ◆ Make friends
- ◆ Share and co-operate with others
- ◆ Develop physical skills and
- ◆ Develop a positive attitude to learning

Many people remain unsure as to just what preschool is all about. Preschool is not "child minding." It is about the development of important skills; those which are needed in everyday living, in relationships with other people, and in being ready for school. We strive to have each child working to his or her full potential, in all areas, and have them feel good about themselves and the prospect of school.

A child's play is his/her work. It is the one way they have of making sense of the world in which the child lives, and of developing the child's skills - emotionally, socially, intellectually, and physically. Due to the unique nature and capabilities of each child, we cannot expect them to have all reached the same level at the same time. What we **can** strive for is to capture the learning interest and curiosity of each child, through the educational experiences we offer, and through providing an environment in which the child feels free to explore and learn without fear of failure.

As we are working towards developing all these skills in your child, we run a program around what is known as the "process-centered" approach; that is, "what is extremely important is the process by which the child discovers and learns." If we can instill good ways of learning things now, it will certainly help them in their efforts at school and all throughout life.

# Preschool Objectives

Our objectives as we teach your child:

- ◆ Provide an environment which is Christ centered and based on the gospel values
- ◆ Provide a PLAY BASED learning environment, that encourages children to participate in concrete activities through active learning experiences and based on their interest and curiosity
- ◆ To give each child unconditional love with smiles, friendly words, encouragement, and care
- ◆ Showing each child respect by considering his/her opinions and validating feelings
- ◆ Integrating Christian ethics into daily activities
- ◆ To ensure that each child in our care feels safe, secure, and loved
- ◆ Promote positive self-esteem
- ◆ Being a good listener
- ◆ Stimulate intellectual development through teacher-directed and free-choice activities
- ◆ Giving opportunities to succeed and build confidence, being sure the tasks are challenging and not frustrating
- ◆ Continue development of social skills
- ◆ Foster self-expression through music, art, and free play activities
- ◆ Developing problem-solving skills, giving guidance while children work out their own problem
- ◆ Knowing the individual need of each child through a good knowledge of child development
- ◆ Celebrating accomplishments-one step at a time
- ◆ Enhance communications skills/ability to express self
- ◆ Asking open-ended questions that help children become critical thinkers (i.e., What do you think will happen? How might you fix it?)
- ◆ Encourage autonomy (independence)
- ◆ Offering experiences that will develop large and small muscle coordination and motor skills
- ◆ Establish an environment that helps the child to develop and practice good manners, kindness, and cooperation
- ◆ Expose children to varied social environments and situations
- ◆ Encouraging participation in group activities
- ◆ Offering a variety of art experiences that give children freedom to create
- ◆ Designing explorative activities that will help build enthusiasm for learning

# Operation Information

## School Address:

Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool  
10620 Hutchison Blvd  
Panama City Beach, FL 32407

School Website: [www.gbbcprek.com](http://www.gbbcprek.com)

School Email address: [gbbcprek@knology.net](mailto:gbbcprek@knology.net)

MyProcure Online Parent Portal: [www.myprocare.com](http://www.myprocare.com)

Phone: (850) 249- 5437

**Tax ID # 36-4671611**

## Hours and Days of Operation

- ◆ Classes are held - Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri (8:30-12:00pm)
- ◆ Before Care: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri (7:30-8:30) **Registration required**
- ◆ Lunch Bunch days: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri (12:00-1:30pm) sign-up daily
- ◆ After Care: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri (12:00pm-4:00pm) **Registration required**
- ◆ **Open House: Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, (5:30-6:30pm) drop-in**
- ◆ **1<sup>st</sup> day of Preschool: Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ The preschool year is from August to mid to late May
- ◆ The preschool is closed during Thanksgiving Break (1 week) Christmas Break (2 weeks), Spring break (1 week) and all federal holidays.
- ◆ The preschool follows the Bay District School calendar year.



## Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool Calendar 2023-2024

	Day	Month	Date
Open House	Tuesday	August	8 <sup>th</sup>
First Day of School	Monday	August	14 <sup>th</sup>
Labor Day- <b>No School</b>	Monday	September	4 <sup>th</sup>
Columbus Day- <b>No School</b>	Monday	October	9 <sup>th</sup>
Teacher PLC Day	Wednesday	October	18 <sup>th</sup>
Veterans Day- <b>No School</b>	Friday	November	10 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving Break- <b>No School</b>	Monday	November	20 <sup>th</sup>
Return to school	Monday	November	27 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas Break- <b>No School</b>	Thursday	December	21 <sup>st</sup>
Return to school	Tuesday	January	9 <sup>th</sup>
Martin Luther king's Birthday- <b>No School</b>	Monday	January	15 <sup>th</sup>
Teacher Plan Day- <b>No School</b>	Wednesday	January	31 <sup>st</sup>
Presidents' Day- <b>No School</b>	Monday	February	19 <sup>th</sup>
Spring Holidays Begin- <b>No School</b>	Monday	March	18 <sup>th</sup>
Return to school	Monday	March	25 <sup>th</sup>
Good Friday- <b>No School</b>	Friday	March	29 <sup>th</sup>
Graduation Program	TBA	May	TBA
Last Day of School	Friday	May	17 <sup>th</sup>

# Enrollment Information

## Registration Procedure

- ◆ Class placement is determined by the child's age on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year.
- ◆ Preschool tours are welcome and encouraged prior to registration.
- ◆ New families register on the preschool website. [www.gbbcprek.com](http://www.gbbcprek.com)
- ◆ **Returning families can register online through the MyProcure Parent Portal at [www.myprocare.com](http://www.myprocare.com).**
- ◆ February 1<sup>st</sup> registration is held for the upcoming school year.
- ◆ Currently enrolled families and church members are given 1<sup>st</sup> choice of available classes.
- ◆ A waiting list will be established after all classes are full.

## Registration Fee

- ◆ A registration fee of \$150.00 will be due at the time of acceptance in the preschool program along with a completed registration form.
- ◆ The registration fee is **NON-REFUNDABLE**.
- ◆ A book/supply fee of \$100.00 will be due by the first day of school.

## Tuition Fees

- ◆ **Tuition payments are due the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.** Monthly statements will be emailed to the email address provided on the registration form. Weekday tuition is the same amount each month. **Before Care and After Care tuition for the months of August, November, December and March will be prorated due to school holidays.** Lunch Bunch fees will be added at the end of each month.
- ◆ Forms of payment include Cash, Check, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.
- ◆ **Tuition Express-** Monthly automatic debit from Bank Account, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, is available for your convenience. Registration required. See the preschool director to set this up.
- ◆ Pay online through the Myprocare Parent Portal.
- ◆ Checks should be made payable to Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool. Checks/Cash can be turned in to your child's teacher or the director. Receipts will be printed on request.
- ◆ **Tuition received after the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month will be charged a late fee of \$25.00.**
- ◆ Tuition is due regardless of attendance.
- ◆ If a check is returned from the bank for insufficient funds, closed account, etc. a \$40.00 fee will be charged to the person writing the check.

## Attendance

- ◆ Regular attendance is important if your child is to receive maximum benefits from the program.
- ◆ **Please notify your child's teacher or another staff member if your child is sick, will be late, or is unable to attend.**
- ◆ Please notify staff if your family is taking a vacation during the preschool year.

## Arrival and Departure

- ◆ The access doors to the preschool are located on the east end of the building between the two preschool playgrounds.
- ◆ Doors will open at 8:30 a.m.
- ◆ Children **must** be accompanied into the classroom by an adult.
- ◆ For safety precautions, the preschool doors will be locked at 9:00 a.m., and unlocked at 11:45 a.m. for pick up. If arrival is after 9:00 a.m. ring the doorbell located to the right of the preschool entrance door.
- ◆ Unless prior notice is given by a parent/guardian, no child will be released to anyone not **designated in writing on the child's registration form.**
- ◆ **All children must be picked up by 12:00 noon. Beginning at 12:05 a late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be charged to your account.**
- ◆ We understand that sometimes things come up and you may be a few minutes late. If this occurs, please contact your child's teacher or the preschool director as soon as possible.
- ◆ If you are unexpectedly delayed and are unable to pick up your child by 12 noon, immediately notify the school that someone other than yourself will be picking up your child. If their name is **NOT** on the pick-up list, **YOU MUST email the teacher or director giving the school permission to release your child to the referenced adult. Verbal communication is no longer accepted.** We insist on proper identification before releasing the child. (Photo ID)

## Withdrawal from program

- ◆ If withdrawal becomes necessary, **thirty-day written notice is required.** Tuition payment will be required during that 30-day period.
- ◆ Once a student is withdrawn, for your child to come back to preschool, you must reapply.

# Health and Safety

## Health

- ❖ If your child is ill, you must keep him/her at home. Examples of illness include acute colds, fever, excessive runny nose (clear or green) diarrhea, hacking cough, vomiting, pink eye or any communicable disease. (see next page for details)
- ❖ We will notify you if your child is exposed to a communicable or infectious disease while in school. **We must be contacted when your child is exposed to a communicable or infectious disease outside of school.** In this event the health department will be notified. The child may not return to school until the health department or primary health care providers determines the risk of transmission is no longer present.
- ❖ If your child has an infectious condition, please notify the school immediately. (Head lice, chicken pox, measles, mumps, etc.)
- ❖ If your child becomes ill at school, he/she will be given a quiet place to rest, and the parent will be notified to take the child home.
- ❖ If your child is sent home from school with an illness, he/she will be given a paper stating their condition and when they can come back to school.
- ❖ In case of an accident or illness requiring a physician, the ambulance will be called if the parent has pre-authorized permission on the medical release form. The parent will be called immediately.
- ❖ Please keep teacher informed of any special circumstances that might influence your child's experience at preschool.
- ❖ **No medication (prescription or non-prescription)** will be administered to any child. We ask that medication be given at home. We also cannot apply any kind of ointment, cream or sunscreen to a child.
- ❖ **Children with severe allergies requiring an EpiPen, must have written medical permission and instructions.**
- ❖ Immunization must be current, and a copy of the record must be submitted within the first 30 days of school. (DPT, polio, measles, rubella, Hib, mumps, chicken pox)  
**Should there be an outbreak of the above diseases, any children who have not been immunized will be asked to stay at home until the child is no longer considered a risk.**

## Guidelines for Exclusion of ill or infected children

<b>Illness or Infection</b>	<b>Sign or Symptom</b>	<b>Return to School</b>
Fever	Oral temp of 100.4°F, May be accompanied by Behavior changes or other Symptoms	<b>Fever free for 24 hours without medication</b>
Symptoms Of severe illness	Unusual lethargy, irritability, uncontrolled coughing, Wheezing	<b>Until Dr. releases Child to return to care and coughing is controlled</b>
Diarrhea	Increase in number of stools, Water and/or decreased form That cannot be contained in a Diaper or underwear	<b>Must have no diarrhea for 24 hours</b>
Vomiting Illness	Two or more episodes in 24 hours	<b>Until vomiting has stopped for 24 hours</b>
Mouth sores		<b>Until condition is determined to be Non-infectious</b>
Rash	Accompanied by fever or behavior change	<b>Dr. determines it is not infectious</b>
Excessive runny nose-Green or clear	Continual flow of mucus that cannot be controlled with a tissue	<b>Until under control</b>

Conjunctivitis  
Pink Eye

White or yellow discharge in  
eye (s) accompanied by pain  
And / or redness in eye (s)

**7 days after treatment  
has begun**

Head lice,  
Scabies or other  
Infestations

Infestation present

**Until all lice and  
nits are gone**

Tuberculosis

Cough, fever, chest pain,  
Coughing up blood

**Until Dr. or health  
official allows  
child to return to  
care**

Impetigo

Rash-blister to honey color  
Crusts; Lesions around the  
Mouth and/or chin

**24 hours after  
treatment has  
begun**

Strep Throat

Fever, sore throat, throat  
Drainage, and tender lymph  
nodes

**After cessation of  
fever or 24 hours  
after treatment  
has begun**

Chicken Pox

Sudden onset of slight  
fever, fatigue, loss of  
appetite followed by skin  
Eruption

**6 days after eruption  
of rash or until  
blister eruption has  
crusted over**

Whooping Cough

Severe, persistent cough

**5 days after Anti-  
biotic treatment to  
prevent infection**

Mumps

Tender/swollen glands  
And / or fever

**9 days after onset of  
gland swelling**

## **Potty Training**

- If your child is enrolled in a 2 year old class, they are not required to be potty trained. If you are actively working on potty training at home, please let your child's teacher know and we will work with your child to support potty training efforts.
- If your child is enrolled in a 3 year or 4 year old class, he or she must be completely potty trained. Pull-ups and/or diapers are not allowed to be worn in these classrooms. We understand that accidents happen, but if your child has continual bathroom accidents, we may ask that your child stay home until complete potty training occurs.

## **First Aid**

- ◆ A complete First Aid box is in the preschool foyer with a guide. When a child is injured, it is the teacher's responsibility to fill out an accident report. All accident and incidents reports must be signed by the teacher, parents, and the preschool director.
- ◆ In case of minor injuries, the child will be cared for, and parents will be told of the incident at the end of the school day. For more serious injuries, the parents will be notified immediately. This includes any injuries to the head.
- ◆ The preschool staff is not permitted to remove splinters from children. This could result in infection.

## **Fire Drills / Safety**

- ◆ Fire Evacuation drills will be held once a month to familiarize the children with proper and safe procedures for emergency exit of the building.
- ◆ In the event of a fire or other emergency requiring evacuation, the children will be evacuated according to plan. Emergency evacuation plans are posted by the door in every preschool room. If we are unable to re-enter the building, children will be relocated to the youth building (across from the preschool) of Gulf Beach Baptist Church.
- ◆ In the event of a tornado warning, students will be escorted to a safe shelter in one of our inner hallways and instructed in proper safety procedures.
- ◆ Multi-Hazard Crisis and Emergency Management Plan is available in the preschool office upon request.

## **Emergency School Closing**

- ◆ The preschool will follow the direction of Bay District Schools when pertaining to emergency or bad weather conditions that require school closings. School closings will be announced on any local broadcast media.

# Classroom information

## Teacher Qualifications

- ◆ All members of the staff are loving, devoted, highly qualified, educated, First Aid and CPR trained, and Florida Department of Children & Families certified. Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool also exceeds the State's Child Development Associate credentialing requirement.

## Staff/Child Ratio

- ◆ 2-year-old class: 2 teachers to 6-10 children
- ◆ 3, 4, and 5-year-old classes: 2 teachers to 9-13 children

## Curriculum

- ◆ Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool uses the Christian based WEE Learn curriculum series. The series utilizes a developmental approach to teaching preschoolers. Children learn to the maximum potential when age-appropriate materials and resources are used. Various forms of teacher-directed play (art, puzzles, fine and gross motor activities, dramatic play, science experiments, reading, etc.) aid in the development of the whole child and are used to teach the pre-writing, pre-reading, and pre-math skills.

## Spanish Class

- ◆ The 3, 4, and 5- year-old classes will attend Spanish class on Tuesday mornings for 20 minutes. Mrs. Janet Agro is the teacher.

## Chapel

- ◆ Chapel is held every Wednesday morning in the church sanctuary. Mrs. Malinda Kretzer leads chapel for a short story and songs.



## Parent Communication

- ◆ A Parent Board is located outside of each classroom informing you of the day's events, weekly schedules, and the snack calendar.
- ◆ Monthly newsletters will be sent home informing you of preschool happenings, including field trips, themes, areas of focus, hi-lights, celebrations, etc.
- ◆ Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool welcomes parent involvement in the classroom, and we believe it benefits both the program and the child/parent. If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom, please inform your child's teacher.
- ◆ Parents are welcome to assist the teachers by taking home projects that need to be traced, cut, assembled, etc. Please contact the teacher if you would like to help.
- ◆ It is a privilege to have parents share their expertise and knowledge with their child's classmates. If you have a special skill or talent you would like to share, please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements.

## Snacks and Packed Lunches

- ◆ Parents are asked to provide a snack for the class once a month. The teacher will provide a snack calendar at the beginning of each month. Healthy snacks are recommended. Contact the teacher for any food allergies.
- ◆ **Packed Lunches: For safety reasons, please DO NOT send food items that need to be heated or cooked.**
- ◆ All students must bring in a sippy cup or water bottle daily, labeled with child's first and last name.
- ◆ **Food Not permitted due to choking incidents, such as, but not limited to: popcorn, nuts, whole grapes, cubed cheese, chips, carrots, whole/round hot dogs, grape/cherry tomatoes, pretzel nuggets, raisins, and any food that is of the shape and size of the trachea/windpipe.**

## Pictures

- ◆ Individual pictures are taken in the fall. Family and individual Christmas pictures will be taken in November.
- ◆ Spring and Graduation photos will be taken in late March to early April.
- ◆ Throughout the year, photos will be taken, collected, and given to families at the end of the year. We hope that these photos will be a memorable collection that you and your child will enjoy. If you do not wish to have your child photographed, please indicate on the video/photo consent form.

## Celebrations

- ◆ We strive to maintain a Christian perspective in the celebration of various holidays. However, it is not our policy to undermine the way your family celebrates holidays. As a school, we focus on Christ's birth as the message of Christmas, God's love as we celebrate Valentine's Day, and Christ's resurrection as we discuss Easter.
- ◆ You are welcome to celebrate your child's birthday in their class during snack time. The teacher will work with you on the details. Exchanging of gifts is not permitted.

## Field Trips

- ◆ Field trips are an important part of our program and will be scheduled at various times of the year. Teachers will send home notices to inform you of the place and time. Parents are to provide transportation for their student and parent chaperones are required on all trips. All school activities are cancelled on field trip days.

## Outdoor Play

- ◆ While spending time playing outdoors on the playground, children will be involved in acceptable physical activities for the development and coordination of large muscles. Children will take turns, encourage others, and share equipment as they slide, climb, crawl, hop, skip, jump, run, throw, kick, and balance.
- ◆ Weather permitting, outside play is 30 minutes a day.

## Clothing

- ◆ Play clothes should be worn to preschool. Jeans, Leggings, or shorts are preferable as a safety measure in active games and outdoor play.
- ◆ **Pointed toes boots and flip flops are not recommended.**
- ◆ Paint smocks will be worn in messy art activities.
- ◆ All personal belongings and clothing must be marked with the child's name.
- ◆ In case of accidents, it is recommended that a complete set of labeled extra clothing, including socks and underwear, be left at school in your child's cubby or backpack.

## Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool 2023-2024 Programs and Fees

### **PLEASE NOTE: WE FOLLOW BAY DISTRICT SCHOOLS CALENDAR YEAR**

**Weekday Preschool:** Monday- Friday, 8:30am-12:00pm, for ages 2-5. Monthly tuition: \$385, billed monthly August-May. Tuition will be billed on the first of every month. Tuition is the same price every month. Tuition must be paid by the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month. After the 7 days, a \$25 late fee will be added to the tuition bill.

**Before Care:** This is an extended care option for students who need to come in early. Before Care is offered from 7:30am to 8:30am. **Arrival for students must be by 8:00am.** Children can bring their breakfast and eat with friends while watching a movie before school starts. Before Care is \$75/month and is billed at the first of the month along with tuition. The fee is the same every month, even if your child does not attend every day. August, November, December, and March will be prorated to reflect school holidays. Space is limited and Before Care must be registered for and approved by the director. We do offer drop-in for Before Care, but it must be approved by the director. Drop-in fee for Before Care is \$10 per day.

**Lunch Bunch:** An afterschool lunch and play time from 12:00-1:30. Children will bring a packed lunch from home and eat in the classroom. After lunch they will play on the playground with friends until pickup time. The cost is \$8 per day and parents may sign up children daily. A sign-up sheet is located on the front desk. Lunch bunch is billed for the previous month at the first of every month and included in the monthly tuition statement. You only pay for the days your child stays.

**After Care:** A program for students who need extended care. Hours are 12:00-4:00. Children will eat lunch and play outside, then take a nap. All children must lay down during naptime but will not be forced to go to sleep. Snack will be provided for children after they wake from naptime.

Aftercare is billed at the first of the month along with monthly tuition. The fee is the same every month, even if your child does not attend all the days they are signed up for. August, November, December and March will be prorated to reflect school holidays. Space is limited and After Care must be registered for and approved by the director.

5 days a week: \$385 per month + Monthly tuition Total: \$770

3 days a week: \$285 per month + Monthly tuition Total: \$670

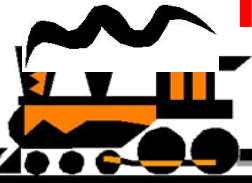
After Care Drop-In \$30 per day on a case by case basis with permission from the director. Must have 24 hour notice.

**Non-Refundable Registration Fee: \$150.00**

**Yearly Supply Fee: \$100.00**

Once tuition is two or more months delinquent, your child will not be permitted to attend school until the debt is paid in full. If you are having financial difficulties and are unable to make the monthly tuition payment, please contact the preschool director to discuss tuition assistance options.

# The Value of Play



## The value of Play Dough:

- ◆ It is a soothing activity
- ◆ Develops fine motor skills, strength in fingers and pre-writing skills
- ◆ Develops social skills by sharing, taking turns and engaging in conversation
- ◆ Develops language concepts by talking about color, texture, weight, and smell
- ◆ Gives emotional release through pushing, pulling, and squeezing

## The value of Dramatic Play:

- ◆ Provides opportunities to play out real life situations, such as having supper, talking on the phone, driving the car, dressing up in adult clothes, and role playing
- ◆ Provides a chance to act out emotional experiences and practice problem solving
- ◆ A puppet provides a safe outlet for the child to say anything through it, which the child may find difficult to say directly
- ◆ Provides a chance to expand a child's concept of roles and occupations that avoid stereotyping
- ◆ Provides the opportunities for social interaction

## The value of Block Play:

- ◆ Develops pre-math skills and pre-science concepts such as long, short, circle, and balance
- ◆ Gives the experience of cause and effect, i.e., when stacking, what will stand/fall
- ◆ Categorizes blocks by size, shape, and color
- ◆ Develops imagination, i.e., building houses for dinosaurs and making roads
- ◆ Develops gross motor skills by using large muscles to move the blocks
- ◆ Develops spatial awareness
- ◆ Develops cooperative play-opportunities to negotiate building plans and share ideas





### **The value of Math / Science Center:**

- ◆ Develops curiosity, i.e., I wonder what will happen if I add this
- ◆ Gives hands - on experience with weights, magnets, color mixing, etc.
- ◆ Provides opportunities to question, experiment, explore and discuss
- ◆ Develops pre-math concepts of sorting, counting, ordering, etc.

### **The value of Sand Play:**

- ◆ Provides soothing, relaxing opportunities
- ◆ Develops motor skills
- ◆ Provides a chance to experiment and measure with containers of different sizes and shapes
- ◆ Provides opportunities for dramatic play with animals and vehicles

### **The value of the free Art Table:**

- ◆ Develops fine motor skills and pre-writing skills
- ◆ Provides opportunity to be creative and imaginative
- ◆ Develops eye-hand coordination
- ◆ Provides opportunity to experiment with various materials

### **The value of Painting:**

- ◆ Gives a chance to express feelings and moods
- ◆ Children naturally experience colors with mixing and changing colors
- ◆ Develops fine motor (pre-writing skills) and gross motor control
- ◆ Provides a soothing release of tensions, especially finger painting
- ◆ Provides opportunities for creative expression by using different mediums
- ◆ Develops language concepts of directionality (up, down, zigzag), colors, shapes, and textures





### **The value of Water Play:**

- ◆ Provides soothing relaxing play opportunities
- ◆ Gives a chance for pre-science exploration opportunities with strainers, funnels, sponges, and observing what sinks/floats
- ◆ Develops motor skills and eye-hand coordination by filling different sized containers
- ◆ Provides fun with bubbles and color mixing
- ◆ Provides opportunity for social interaction

### **The value of Music:**

- ◆ Provides opportunities to feel the emotional impact of music
- ◆ Gains a feeling of rhythm and beat
- ◆ Gives opportunity to learn the concepts of soft/loud and fast/slow
- ◆ Provides opportunity to enjoy singing and dancing to familiar songs

### **The value of Puzzles, Manipulative Toys:**

- ◆ Develops fine motor skills and pre-writing skills
- ◆ Develops eye-hand coordination
- ◆ Develops pre-math skills, i.e., matching shapes and colors

### **The value of Circle Time/Reading Center:**

- ◆ Provides emotional satisfaction, fosters self-expression and gives reassurance of various feelings
- ◆ Fosters language growth, listening skills and pre-writing skills (associating printed word with spoken word)
- ◆ Develops imagination



## Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool Behavior Policy and Guidelines

We strive to create a classroom environment that fosters positive social behaviors. During the early childhood years, children are learning to be in charge of their own behavior. We believe in consistent, easy to understand limits and in having teachers who respond to inappropriate behavior with insight, sensitivity, and skill. We recognize and praise appropriate and positive behaviors. A teacher's response to inappropriate or negative behaviors may include redirecting the child's activity, reasonably discussing the problem, or using planned ignoring. The child may be directed to an area of the classroom to participate in an activity that is calming. This approach gives the child an opportunity to reflect on his/her actions.

We work to prevent behavior problems by arranging each classroom so that children work in small groups and have a choice of activities. The range of activities will give your child the freedom and ability to experience success and become self-directed. Our teachers are trained to skillfully direct behavior along appropriate channels and act as role models and encourage children's appropriate behaviors. Children are encouraged to verbalize their feelings to learn to positively work through strong emotions. **Under no circumstances is corporal punishment permitted. Discipline will NOT be associated with food, rest, or toileting.**

In the event that a child does not respond to positive guidance, we will implement a progressive behavior plan. We will notify the parents in writing and work closely with them to help the child gain self-control and a positive attitude toward their peers and teachers. If behaviors continue, a conference will be scheduled between the parents and child's teacher. Further negative behaviors will result in a conference with the preschool director and teacher. Should the child's negative behavior continually be a disruption to the classroom, put themselves, their peers, or their teachers at risk for physical harm, or, if the child damages school property, we reserve the right to ask the parent to withdraw the child from school. While we understand the developmental tendencies of children to experiment with inappropriate or hurtful language, withdrawal may also be requested for those children who are verbally abusive.

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I have read and understand the above Behavior Policy and Guidelines.

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Child's name

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Date

## **Biting**

Biting is a natural developmental stage that many toddlers go through. Biting occurs for many reasons whether it is teething, lack of language, frustration, attention getting, being overly tired or simply trying to get a reaction from someone. The safety of the children is our primary concern.

Biting policy is as follows:

- If your child bites 2 times without breaking the skin on any one day, the parent will be called, and the child will be sent home for the remainder of the day.
- If at any time the skin is broken due to a bite, the parent will be called, and the child will be sent home immediately.
- If biting continues and the child is sent home daily or is adding undue stress on the other children or the classroom, it may become necessary to terminate childcare arrangements.

## **Termination of Enrollment**

In certain circumstances, it may be necessary for the Director to decide to discontinue a child's attendance. Such a decision would be based on whether it is in the best interest of that child. Every effort will be made to correct a problematic situation before a final decision is made. This is done to preserve a harmonious atmosphere in the classroom. Termination of enrollment may be the result of the following:

- ◆ Abuse of other children, staff, or property
- ◆ Disruptive or dangerous behavior
- ◆ The center's inability to meet the child's needs
- ◆ State required documents for each child



# Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool

## Registration Packet

**State required documentation must be turned in to the Preschool Office within 30 days (Of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of preschool) for the child to remain in the program.**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permissions For Food- related Activities \_\_\_\_\_

HRS 680 Shot Record-blue  
(copies accepted) \_\_\_\_\_

HRS 3040 Physical-yellow  
(copies accepted) \_\_\_\_\_

**(Bottom of Page 23  
Handbook)**

Discipline Policy and  
Guidelines \_\_\_\_\_

**(Page 26 Handbook)**

Medical Authorization  
Video/Photo Consent Form, Know Your  
Child Care Facility Brochure, Influenza  
Brochure, and Parent Agreement \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include this checklist with your packet**

**Medical Authorization**

I give the staff at Gulf Beach Baptist preschool permission to perform First Aid and/or CPR in the event of an emergency. It may also be necessary to call 911 or transport the child to the closest hospital for professional medical treatment.

**Video/Photo Consent**

My child \_\_\_\_\_ (DOB \_\_\_\_\_) has my permission to be videotaped and /or photographed while participating in the Weekday Preschool Program at Gulf Beach Baptist Church. I understand that these photographs or videos may be used by the various preschool, children, or youth programs. I also understand that these photos/videos may be used on the church's web site as well as on televised news announcements.

**Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool  
Parent Agreement  
2023-2024**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ whose child \_\_\_\_\_ is enrolled in the Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool Program; have received a copy of the Parent Handbook, the "Know Your Child Care Facility" brochure, and the "Influenza" brochure. I have read and understand the policies and guidelines as described in the handbook and agree to abide by them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent / Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)