

Jefferson Brethren "Creation Station" Preschool

A ministry of Jefferson Brethren Church
58915 SR 15, Goshen, IN 46528
(574) 533-1121
www.jeffersonbrethren.org

Student Handbook

2009-2010



PRESCHOOL STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Ron Spyker

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Pam Garber

	M-W-F 8:30 AM	M-W-F 9:30 AM	T-TH 9:00 AM
TEACHER	Johanna Champlin 875-8916	Jean Schultz 825-3865	Jean Schultz 825-3865
TEACHER'S ASSISTANT	Lisa Drake 875-9795	Shonda Boutwell 533-8847	Johanna Champlin 875-8916

Board Members

Jennifer Yoder	Chairperson	642-3469
Lon Roth	Secretary	831-5626
Pat Hochstedler	Treasurer	533-6523
Deana Roth	Classroom Liaison	831-5626
Larisa Miller	Parent Representative	848-4353
Carrie Boyer	Parent Representative	612-5491
Susan Carpenter	Member-at-Large	831-4810
Kim Bitting	Member-at-Large	536-9773
Pam Garber	Children's Director	848-7594

Preschool Philosophy

Jefferson Brethren Preschool is a school in Christian living. Our curriculum emphasizes Christian values through Bible teachings. As your child learns to respond through sharing and group play, he/she is learning to model Christian ideals.

Because each child is a unique creation, we strive to foster individuality in an atmosphere of discovery, confidence, and self-worth.

Our overall goal for our preschool is to provide a motivated learning atmosphere which emphasizes Christian living through social play in the areas of sharing, self-esteem and motor skills.

Jefferson Brethren Church

Jefferson Brethren Church has been a vital part of Jefferson Township since 1968-69. From the very beginning, it was the intent and desire of the church to be closely identified with the Jefferson Community. The Brethren Church has historic roots with Believer's churches, so called because of their desire to live and model closely to the early New Testament church.

It is our desire to be a church that is visible in the community by living out our faith on a day to day basis, sharing the joy and sorrow of each other's lives, and reaching out to those in need. Our belief is rooted in the historic Jesus Christ as the Son of God, whose death and resurrection gives anyone (through a simple step of faith), the opportunity to be reconciled to God. At JBC, every member is encouraged to identify the gifts and ministry God has given them. As well, it is a community where the Spirit of God is evidenced, and His Word is preached and taught faithfully.

Pastoral Staff

Ron Spyker, Senior Pastor

Chris Russell, Youth Pastor

Vickie Oldenburg, Minister of Counsel & Care

Pam Garber, Children's Director

Preschool History

JBP has been a part of Jefferson Township since 1996. It was formed by a group of Jefferson Brethren Church members to serve a need in the community. The preschool has grown from a small group of children enrolled the first year to 3-5 classes each week. It is the desire of the church that Christ's love be communicated daily to each child in a natural learning situation.

Worship Services and Sunday School

You are invited to join us in weekly worship services or Sunday school classes as we come together to fellowship and praise God. Worship services are held each Sunday at 8:15 am and 10:45 am, with Sunday school classes beginning at 9:30 am.

Nursery and toddler childcare is offered during each service and class time. For children ages 3 through Kindergarten there are classes available 2nd and 3rd hour. Students in grades one through five, as well as junior and senior high youth, meet during the Sunday school hour only and are asked to sit with their parents during the worship service. We also have a Wednesday JBC Nite Program with classes and activities for all ages and a LYNC Summer Day Camp and Day Care program. Please call for additional information.

If you have any questions regarding the church, please call the office at 533-1121.

Preschool Hours



The three and four year old class meets Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 11:00 am beginning the first Tuesday after Labor Day. If there is an afternoon class, it meets from 12:00 – 2:00 pm.

The four and five year old classes meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday beginning the first Wednesday after Labor Day. The morning classes meet from 8:30 – 11:00 am (with an extended day option until 1 pm) or 9:30 – 12:00 noon. **NOTE: Extended Day children will need to bring a lunch that does not require refrigeration or heating!**

The door will be opened 5 minutes before the start of class and the teacher or assistant will be there to greet your child. We ask that you do not drop your child off before these times. If your child is late, please ring the doorbell at the upper right hand corner of the north door (Preschool entrance) and a teacher or assistant will greet you and take your child to the classroom.

We ask that you be prompt when picking up your child. The teacher has only minimal preparation time and any additional time your child is there takes up that time. After your third violation of this rule, a late fee of \$5.00 will be added to your next month's tuition.

Daily Activity Schedule

Your child's Preschool day will include these activities:

Free play time

Clean up

Circle Time-includes songs, Bible stories, finger plays, sharing etc.

Creative work/arts and crafts

Restroom Break

Snack

Story time

Group Time-includes games, large muscle play, parachute play, outdoor play (weather permitting)

General Notes

- Our preschool follows the Middlebury Community School calendar with the exception of start/end dates.
- Children must be 3 or 4 years of age by September 1, 2009.
- We must have a record of all immunizations and they must be current.
- We ask that children do not chew gum at preschool.
- Please call if your child won't be at preschool. It's ultimately your choice whether or not to send your child to school on any given day, but we would like to be informed if your child is ill or won't be at school for several days.
- Each new student will be provided with a FREE book bag. If this is your child's second year here they need to use their book bag provided by the school from the previous year. If you need to replace your bag the cost is \$7.00.
- School pictures will be offered in the fall of each year.
- Your child must be able to use restroom facilities without assistance. We encourage you to take your child to the restroom just before coming to school. This allows them to utilize the time at school to their best advantage and also limits the amount of time the teacher needs to leave the class in order to accompany the child to the restroom.

Tuition

Tuition is due on or before the first day of each month. Checks should be made payable to Jefferson Brethren Preschool. On the 10th of each month, there will be an additional fee of \$10.00 assessed to those accounts which are not paid that month unless prior arrangements are made with the director. Please remember we operate on a low budget and tuition needs to be paid on time. All accounts severely past due may result in denial of preschool privileges and will be dealt with by the board on an individual basis.

A reminder note will be sent home the week before tuition is due. Please place your check in an envelope and send it with your child. A summary of your payments will be sent home with your child twice a year for your tax records: once at the end of the calendar year and once at the end of the school year.

Tuition has been evenly pro-rated over the 9 month school year. Tuition must be paid regularly in spite of vacation, illness, weather, or school closings in order to assure your child's place in the class. This is necessary, as our school expenses are the same regardless of number of children present. Tuition may be refundable in cases of serious or lengthy illness. In general, no absences of less than four weeks will be eligible for refunds.

When a child moves from the community and thus withdraws, or enrolls in preschool and fills a vacancy in the middle of the month, tuition is charged for half of the month or the cost per day, whichever is less. Parents should give the teacher as much notice as possible when withdrawing a child.

Tuition assistance is available and is awarded based on financial need. Please notify the teacher or a board member if you need a scholarship application. Tuition rates are as follows:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday Classes	\$85/month
Monday/Wednesday/Friday Extended Day Classes	\$110/month
Tuesday/Thursday Class	\$60/month

NSF Charges

Upon notification of the return of a check to the preschool, the treasurer will notify the issuer of the check in writing. Payment of the total check amount, plus fees charged by the bank, will be due immediately. If there is a second occurrence of a returned check, a \$20 fee will be charged by the preschool, in addition to the bank fees, and only cash will be accepted from that point forward.

Emergencies

If an emergency occurs and you are unable to pick up your child, please notify the teacher as soon as possible so arrangements can be made for the care of your child. The teacher must be notified either by phone or in writing of ANY change in your phone number or address (including work number) so that we can contact you in case of an emergency at school.

Only persons indicated on the emergency card can pick up your child. If a different person needs to pick up your child on a specific day, please make arrangements in writing or by phone ahead of time.

School Closings

The preschool will close whenever the Middlebury Community School Corporation must close due to inclement weather. Should the MCSC have a one or two-hour delay, the morning classes will be canceled. However, the 8:30 AM MWF Extended Day class will observe the 2 hr delay and class will convene at 10:30 AM and go til 1 PM. Those children who attend the MWF 8:30 am class but don't stay for the extended time, may also come at the delayed time of 10:30 and stay til 1 PM or may choose not to attend at all. **NOTE: Extended Day children will need to bring a lunch that does not require refrigeration or heating!**

If there is early dismissal, there will be no afternoon class. You may hear school closings on WFRN 104.7 or WKAM 1460 or watch for them on your local television channel.

We are unable to refund tuition for days missed due to weather.

In case of a funeral at the church, ALL classes will be canceled and you will be notified.

Messages

The teacher cannot accept verbal messages from your child. If you have a message for the teacher, please contact her in writing, personally, or by telephone. Please call the teacher at home or at school before or after class time. Message forms have been provided to you to use in such an event. Call during class time only in an emergency.

Illness

Children should not attend preschool when they have a fever, have vomited, had diarrhea or are acting ill. A child should be free of fever and not have vomited for 24 hours before returning to school. It is probably wise to keep them home the first day of a cold, even if there is no fever. If a child develops a fever, vomiting, etc. during class time, the parent will be called to take the child home immediately.

If your child develops a communicable disease, such as chicken pox or pink eye, please notify the teacher and she will notify all parents in that class. Refer to the communicable disease chart provided by the teacher if you have additional questions. (NOTE: After a diagnosis of pink eye, your child must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.)

A doctor's note may be required in certain situations for your child to return to class.

If your child is well enough to attend preschool they will be expected to participate in outdoor play.

THE PRESCHOOL STAFF IS NOT ALLOWED TO DISBURSE MEDICINE OR BREATHING TREATMENTS OF ANY KIND EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

Field Trips

Field trips have been discussed with the preschool board. The change in regards to the booster seat law has made it difficult for field trips. The liability to both the preschool and parents transporting the children has been researched. So, we have looked at different ways to provide the same experience but maybe in a different way. An example would be, having the Jefferson Fire Department bring a truck to our preschool, a police officer bring his car in for the children to see, a doctor visiting. If you have a special occupation you would like to share please let us know and we can make arrangements. One year we had a dad who was a truck driver bring his big rig to school and another year we had a cow and a horse in the parking lot.

Discipline

It's inevitable that children will sometimes require disciplining from the preschool staff. We know and understand that things happen and we intend to deal with situations as they arise. However, some children go beyond what we expect or accept for preschool purposes. We do promote a learning environment for all children attending and cannot allow an unruly child to ruin that for everyone.

The following steps have been put in place to deal with behavior management within the preschool.

1. Teacher or assistant talks to child privately.
2. Child will be placed in the thinking chair in an area of the room, not secluded, with close supervision.
 - 1st time – child's choice to come back to the group and follow directions.
 - 2nd time – remains in the thinking chair until the teacher or assistant lets the child return to the activity.
3. Teacher gives note to parent while loading child to advise them of the situation.
4. Phone call home from teacher.

The intent is to discuss the situation in more detail, making parents aware of the teacher's concern and receiving assistance from the parents in solving the problem.
5. After discussing the situation with the Preschool Board, a letter will be sent to home from JBC Board.
6. Formal meeting.

A meeting with the teacher, parents and director will be required to discuss ways to resolve the behavior problems. The child will be excluded from the meeting.
7. In-School Probation.

For 2 weeks following the meeting, the child will be on probationary status to monitor the change in behavior.
8. Dismissal from Jefferson Brethren Preschool.

We do not want any child to be excluded from learning and enjoying preschool, however if we have gone through all of the steps above and still have behavior that is taking the opportunity to learn away from the other children, dismissal will be necessary. The decision to dismiss will be a joint decision by teachers and the Board.

Classroom Visits, Helpers and Volunteers

ALL VISITORS MUST CHECK IN AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Our Preschool has an open door policy for parents to observe their child at any time. We would prefer that parents not visit during the first few weeks of school to give each child the opportunity to become adjusted to class. After that time, you are welcome to visit at any time. Please sign up on the Helper Schedule or call the teacher to arrange a time so they may have activities planned for you to do.

If you are visiting the class, **we cannot allow other children or siblings to accompany you at those times.** Parents are under the supervision of the teacher at all times. If a parent has a concern about their child or the teacher, the parent may contact the director to schedule a visit without the teacher's prior knowledge. **FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN, ALL VISITORS MUST CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE BEFORE COMING DOWNSTAIRS SO THE TEACHERS MAY BE ALERTED OF INCOMING VISITORS.**

Sharing

The teacher will assign one special day each week for sharing time. This time is assigned at the beginning of the school year and is the same day each week for MWF classes. For the TTH class, a sharing bag will be sent home when it is your child's turn to bring something to share.

Please help your child find something that is meaningful to your child to share with the class, but please send only ONE item. NO weapons, violent toys, or money are permitted. Parents may bring pets if arrangements are made with the teacher ahead of time.

Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are observed as part of the preschool program so each child will have his/her special day. The teacher will coordinate with parents to schedule a day for your child's birthday celebration whether it falls during the school year or the summer. The birthday child provides the snack on his/her special day.

Birthday snacks may be sweet, but please don't make it too elaborate. Appropriate snacks are:

Cookies, brownies, Rice Krispie squares, ice cream cups

64 oz. juice or milk (please do not bring juice boxes or pouches!)

You may wish to bring decorative napkins, and a favor (stickers, suckers, etc.) for each child on their special day.

Parents may join the class for your child's birthday celebration during snack time. The teacher will tell you the time to arrive.

To be sensitive to students' feeling and to avoid confusion, please do not have your child bring personal party invitations to be handed out or put in student's school bags, unless there is an invitation for every child.

Snacks

In order to limit sweet snacks and to accommodate children with food allergies, snacks will be served at the discretion of the teachers. Parents may sign up at the Get Acquainted Afternoon to donate snacks. Please check the monthly newsletter to see if items are needed. Nutritious foods such as fresh fruits (bananas, grapes cut in half - because whole grapes can be a choking hazard, etc), fruit juices (in 64 oz. containers rather than individual portions), milk, popcorn, cheese & crackers, graham crackers, pretzels, party mix, and yogurt will be requested.

Seasonal Parties

We will be having a special party about every other month during class time, including the following:

- October—Fall Harvest
- November—Thanksgiving Feast
- December—Jesus' Birthday
- February—Valentine's Day
- March/April—Easter
- May—Family Picnic

Fundraisers

Several fundraisers are held each year to help cover costs for preschool "extras". Tuition covers monthly expenses, but there is little left over to purchase new items for the preschool. To keep tuition costs down, we use fundraisers to be able to improve the quality of your child's preschool experience by purchasing new educational toys, books, supplies and offsetting our other expenses.

Families will also have the opportunity to purchase books or other resources from Scholastic Book Clubs. Each month brochures will be sent home for you to review. We encourage you to take the time to read to your child and this company provides wonderful resources for families. The Preschool earns points from orders placed to purchase books, equipment or other resources directly from Scholastic. Thank you for your participation in these efforts.

Clothing

Each child will be provided with a hook on which to hang his/her jacket and book bag. We will work to have all children dress and undress themselves. To assist us in this process, please encourage your child to put on and take off his/her own coat, including zipping, buttoning, and snapping.

We will try to see that each child is outdoors as often as possible when the weather permits and the temperature is above 45°.

We ask that a pair of slippers be sent on days your child wears boots, so he/she can take them off and put on his/her own slippers to wear in the classroom.

Please mark all clothing with your child's name to avoid confusion.

We ask that your child wear washable clothes, as their work and play may be messy. Children should always come with clothing adequate for outdoor play. We often plan outside activities, and do go outside to play every day if possible, so please dress your child appropriately to the day's weather conditions. We discourage flip flops and sandals because they are dangerous on the playground.

Head Lice Policy

All students will be checked at least once a month during the school year.

In the event of a confirmed case of head lice, the following procedures will be taken:

1. The teacher will contact the director about the situation and then the director will contact the board.
2. The teacher will contact all students' families within one day of the first reported case, by sending a note home with each student. All students in the class will be checked at that time and again two weeks later.
3. The student with the head lice shall immediately be sent home.
4. The infected student shall not return to school until he/she is **nit free**.
5. Upon returning to the classroom, the student will be checked by the teacher to make sure he/she is nit free. The teacher shall serve as authority in detecting lice and nits.

If there is a recurrence of head lice/nits on that same student within the school year, the student shall again be sent home and steps 1 through 5 shall be followed.

After the 3rd appearance of head lice/nits on the same student, that student shall again be sent home and the board will dismiss the student from school for the remainder of that school year.

Speech & Hearing Tests

Through a provision of the state mandate to locate children who may need speech therapy, the Elkhart County Special Education Cooperative is able to provide speech and hearing evaluations to our preschool families at no cost. Teachers or parents can request a speech-language and hearing evaluation. If a parent is concerned about a child's language development, speech articulation, or hearing, and feels that screening may identify suspected problems, please talk to the teacher immediately so we can schedule the appropriate screening with ECSEC and complete the necessary paperwork.

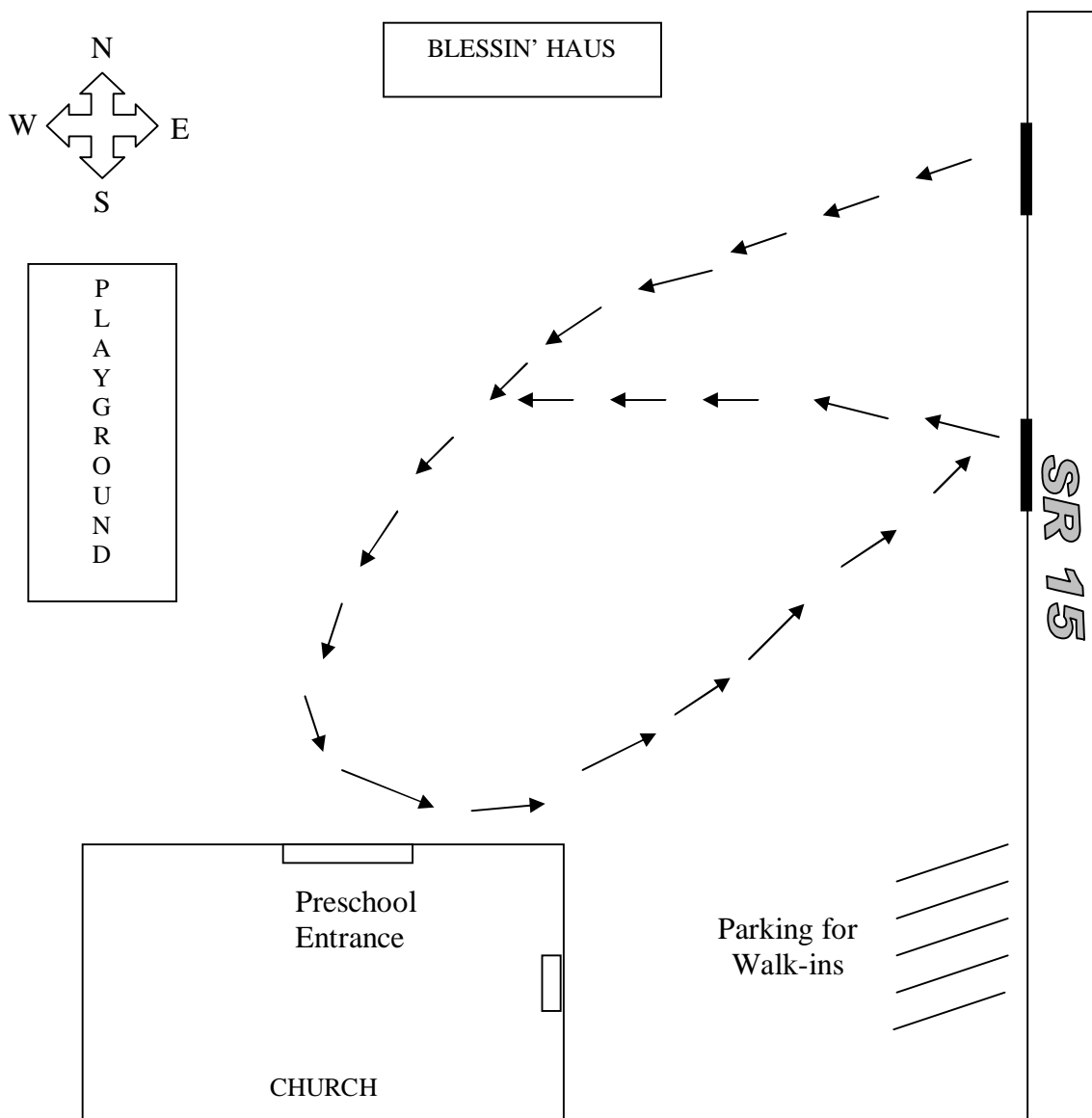


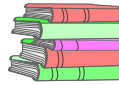
Loading/Unloading

To keep things running smoothly during the unloading and loading of children, please follow the driving directions below, signified by the arrows.

The teacher or assistant will assist your child into and out of your vehicle, but they are not responsible for making sure your child is buckled into the seat. Please pull to the side and buckle your child.

For your child's safety, we will not allow your child to go home with anyone except the person designated on the emergency card. You may review and modify this information at any time, but **ANY CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING**. If you want someone else to pick up your child on a specific day, please send a note that day. No verbal instructions, please!





Book Orders

There is an opportunity for you to purchase books from the Scholastic Book Club through the preschool. In return for your orders, we receive free educational items. Forms will be sent home with each student monthly. When placing an order, please make checks payable to Jefferson Brethren Preschool. Payment for your order may be combined on one check. We also do accept cash.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The teacher will hold conferences in the Fall and Spring. Attendance at these conferences is encouraged. The program emphasizes social and developmental skills. We will be happy to share with you our goals for the children. The primary focus is to ascertain whether or not your child is moving toward achieving these goals.

Newsletter

A newsletter will be sent home each month to keep you informed of our many activities. It will be sent home the week before the beginning of each month so that you can be notified in advance of things happening in the preschool.

The newsletter includes a schedule of monthly events, a summary of Bible lessons that will be studied, finger plays we are currently working on, and other helpful information about what is happening in the preschool.

Supplies

Please send your \$10.00 supply fee with your first month's tuition. This is used to purchase napkins, cups, baby wipes, and Clorox wipes. Thank you!

Safety

For our students' safety, we do lock the doors on the North side of the building after school has started. If at anytime the front doors are locked (i.e. over the lunch hour from noon until 1 pm) we do have a doorbell that you may use to alert the staff downstairs. This is only to be used if the FRONT doors are locked. All visitors must check in at the front office to identify yourself as a Preschool visitor.

****SCHOOL STARTS . . .**

THE 1ST TUESDAY AFTER LABOR DAY FOR THE T/TH CLASSES

THE 1ST WEDNESDAY AFTER LABOR DAY FOR THE M/W/F CLASSES!