

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## THE VILLAGE CHURCH



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Village Church Weekday Preschool  
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#### SPEAK UP!

Family partnerships and open communication have always been at the heart of Village Preschool. Be sure and check our parent information rack outside the preschool office next to the large bulletin board. In turn, please know your input is very important to us and we value your comments and questions anytime!

# Welcome!!



Dear Preschool Families,

Welcome to Village Church Preschool! The beginning of the school year always brings a special enthusiasm and this year is no exception. While much remains the same, we hope you will also be energized by a few new initiatives including some recent additions to our staff. We are very excited to welcome Anne Huxtable, Heather Ream, and Bentley Messner to the teaching team. Together they bring extensive experience and high standards to our program—not to mention some great new ideas!

When you arrive you may notice that the classroom doors are closed. Please know the teachers are eagerly anticipating the day and spending every last minute preparing the rooms and their plans for your children. At 9:00 am the doors will open and the fun can begin! If your schedule allows you to come a few minutes early, we hope you will feel free to check out the coffee shop, the playground, or the Village Church Children’s Library on the second floor right above the Preschool office.

Finally, our thanks for joining us at the Parent Orientation meetings last week. We hope this first week has provided your child with a glimpse of the joy they will experience this year at Village Church Preschool. All of us are so glad you are here!

Terri

### BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS!

**September 13, 14, and 15, 6:30 pm– 7:30 pm**

This “don’t miss” event is a special time for classroom teachers to share philosophy and important information with parents regarding their individual rooms. T/TH three year old classrooms meet on Tuesday, 9/13; MWF four year old classrooms meet on Wednesday, 9/14, and the PM four/five year old classroom will meet on Thursday, 9/15. All meetings start at 6:30 pm and should be finished by 7:30 pm. Classroom meetings are intended for parents only. Childcare currently has very limited availability left but once it is full, they will also start a waitlist.

To discuss, please call Pam or Marjean at 913-671-2322.

We hope to see you there!



## What is accreditation??

Early childhood programs accredited by the **National Association for the Education of Young Children** have voluntarily undergone a comprehensive process of internal self-study and improvement. Each NAEYC-accredited program must meet all 10 of the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. Accreditation is valid for 5 years during which time programs make annual reports documenting that they maintain compliance with the standards. This year, as part of our reaccreditation process we will also be visited by unannounced assessors!



## New Bags and Tags

Continuing a preschool tradition, we are giving all of our new families a red tote bag with our preschool logo on the tag! We are hoping these will be helpful when you bring home all of the wonderful creations, notes and preschool fun!



## Parent Event

Save the date for two upcoming workshops geared especially for parents of young children:

**Children's Brain Development**

**Wednesday, Oct 12 6:30 –8:30 pm**

**Kidz Power—(Personal Safety)**

**Sunday, Oct. 23 5:00-6:00 pm**

**Watch for a flyer with details next week!**

## FIELD TRIP



Our MWF 4's will have their first field trip on September 30th to the Beanstalk Children's Garden near Lakeside Nature Center. They will have fun exploring with touch, taste, and smell while learning about plants, insects, food production and nutrition. In addition, each child will come home with a special live reminder of their adventure! Watch for the permission sign-up sheet outside your classroom **one week before the field trip.**

## TUITION

Please remember that tuition is due at the beginning of each month and delinquent after the 15th. Place checks in the tuition box just inside the preschool office door. For each day of EPD per week, add an additional \$78 to the monthly tuition fee. One check for both made payable to Village Church Preschool.

2 day preschool	\$146.00
3 day preschool	\$219.00
4 day preschool	\$292.00

## SNACK SIGN-UPS AND CUPS

Every year, we ask each family to provide a box of 5 oz. disposable cups for your child's snack time at school! You may send this with your child during the first week or two of school. THANK YOU!! Colorful snack calendars have been posted outside each classroom so that families can sign up to provide snack for their child's class. Please remember to send nutritious items that are posted on our NAEYC approved snack list and indicate if the snack is in honor of your child's birthday by adding one of the provided stickers next to your name!

## SAFETY FIRST

When dropping off and picking up, PLEASE remember not to leave children unattended in your car. We realize how inconvenient this can seem at times, but it is a safety issue we take very seriously. If need be, try arranging a "car-sitting" trade with another parent who is also dropping off at the same time. **It is also important that we remember to leave the handicapped spaces for those who need them—even if you are just dropping off and not actually "parking"!**

# Making a Separation Plan

Leaving parents at the beginning of the school day can be difficult for any child, no matter how loved and secure the child feels. Here are some ideas you can use to make this transition smoother for you and your child:

**Help your child anticipate what will happen each day of school.** If your child is returning for a 2nd or 3rd year in the program, let him or her know that there will be new children as well as some old friends in the group. Create a “separation ritual” to follow with your child each day as you drop him or her off. Keep your plan simple (for example, a story together followed by a wave at the window or two hugs and a kiss).

**Be consistent about following your plan.** If your child is having a particularly difficult time, adding “1 more story” at the last minute will not ease these feelings; in fact, your child’s sadness or anxiety may become stronger.

**Acknowledge your child’s feeling yourself, both as you leave (if there are strong emotions) and at home when you discuss it.** This means to make simple statements that label the feelings. For example, say, “It’s really hard when we have to say goodbye at school. You feel really sad when I leave.” Use a soft, calm voice and touch your child gently to communicate that you understand. Pause and wait for your child’s response. It is important to show you accept your child’s feelings, even if his or her outbursts are upsetting to you.

**If your child is not upset, avoid pressuring him or her to be sad that you are going.** Instead know that your child cares very deeply about you and that you can take pride in your child’s independence.

**Know that your child cannot begin to cope with your leaving until you actually leave.** After your last goodbye, it is important that you leave without further ado. Children become confident that they are okay only after they have experienced their own ability to carry on without you in the new setting.

**Above all, show confidence in your child’s ability to adjust by saying goodbye as planned.** Do not sneak away while your child is distracted. This will make your child distrustful of the whole separation process.

Following these simple suggestions will ease daily transition for most parents and children. If you need more help with separation problems, please feel free to talk with the teachers. We will help in any way we can!