

Curriculum Plan

Fairfield Christian Preschool & Child Care

Mission

Fairfield Christian Academy Preschool and Child Care are viewed as a supplement to your child's family by providing a safe, nurturing environment outside the home. The mission of the program is to guide and nurture each child in his/her spiritual, physical, mental, emotional and social experiences for continual growth and life-long skills based upon Biblical principles. We are pleased that you have chosen to include us in the growth and development of your child.

Philosophy and Goals

Early childhood development is a process that is continually changing and expanding, therefore both structured and unstructured activities are offered for children. We believe that children learn through play and we have designed the environment to reflect that belief. This does not mean that the program is not carefully planned. Teachers are encouraged to be flexible and to allow the children freedom to learn at their own pace. All activities are designed to assist children as they develop spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively. Children learn in different ways, therefore varied experiences and materials will be provided for multi-sensory and cognitive learning. Practice in motor skills is encouraged. Children can learn independence, turn-taking skills, and how to interact with others. Our goal is to develop each child- physically, mentally, socially, academically, and spiritually.

Curriculum

Fairfield Christian Academy Preschool and Child Care are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education. The program uses the Creative Curriculum as a framework that aligns with the Content Standards of the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Infant and Toddler Guidelines. The framework has goals and objectives and is built around four areas of development- physical, social-emotional, cognitive and language.

The learning environment is organized into age and developmentally appropriate

interest areas- blocks, dramatic play, toys and games, library, discovery, sand and water, outdoor, music and movement, to name a few. (*Note: the younger rooms may not have all of the interest areas.*) Interest areas should have materials to initiate and guide learning in literacy, math, science, social studies, art and technology. The environment is arranged to offer many opportunities for exploring, discovering and growing. Teachers will guide and foster learning throughout the environment.

Each classroom has an age designation. The materials and equipment in the learning environment are safe, developmentally and age appropriate. The learning environment will be warm and inviting and allow for quiet and noisy activities.

Each week lesson plans are built around a theme and interests of the children. The environment will reflect the theme of the week and have activities to support learning based on the theme. Teachers will observe and use lesson planning to provide intentional teaching based on individual needs and development. Lesson plans will be flexible and also allow for child initiated activities and problem solving. Teachers will interact and play with the children to help guide and direct their growth and development.

The classroom schedule is posted in each classroom. Daily routines and schedules are established based on the age and needs of the children. We provide a routine that is predictable and familiar. The children will understand what to expect and what is expected of them. The schedule will include: breakfast, lunch and snack, circle, free choice, centers, rest, outdoor and large and small group activities. Length of time for activities and schedules will vary based on the needs of the children.

Staff will review developmental progress with the parent(s) two times a year. During this time, the staff will discuss observations, work samples, the Brigance Screening and any other items the parent(s) wish to discuss. Typically, October and April, depending on when a child starts. The Brigance Screening is a developmental screening that identifies the present level of development and monitors individual progress towards the Early Learning Content Standards. The Brigance Screening is aligned with the Ohio Department of Education Early Learning Content Standards. The children are screened two to three times a year.

Parent Handbook

The parent handbook is distributed prior to enrollment. The handbook describes program operations, services and policies.

Staffing

At least two responsible adults are scheduled at all times when seven or more children are present. Each classroom has a working telephone available to communicate emergency matters to another staff member available. Staffing schedules are developed bi-weekly and distributed to staff members. The Director's hours are available in the Preschool and Child Care office. The Director is onsite at least half of the program's operating hours.

The staffing in each room is based on the needs of the children. Each classroom has at least a designated teacher and teaching assistant present for most of the day. In some cases, additional staffing may be required to meet the needs of the children.

Child To Staff Ratio

Fairfield Christian Academy Child Care will strive to maintain small classroom sizes that provide many opportunities for individualized attention. Though ratios are subject to change as enrollment fluctuates, at no time will the center exceed state licensing regulations.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>STATE RATIO</u>	<u>OUR RATIO</u>
Infants (birth to 12 months)	2 to 12	2 to 12
Toddlers 12-18 months	2 to 12	2 to 12
18 months to 2 ½ years	2 to 14	2 to 12
2 ½ years and under 3 years	2 to 16	2 to 14
Preschool- 3 years	2 to 24	2 to 18
4 and 5 years	2 to 28	2 to 20

Mixed Age Group Care

Fairfield Christian Academy Child Care promotes mixed-age group classrooms. Classrooms utilizing mixed age group care are able to create a climate of cooperation instead of competition. Teachers recognize and encourage the unique needs and abilities of each child, while children share and learn from one another, developing important skills such as communication, respect, self-control and leadership. Older

children are given the opportunity to role-model behaviors such as offering help, sharing, and taking turns. Older children also cultivate a spirit of responsibility and sensitivity towards others as they participate in the play and daily activities of younger children. Likewise, younger children benefit from the skills and knowledge of older children as they participate in more complex play and problem-solving behavior. As a whole, mixed-age group care offers the center's teachers a unique opportunity to foster classrooms that encourage cooperation, respect and sensitivity for others. Classrooms are divided into the following groups:

Child Care

Room #	Group
407	Infants 6 weeks to 18 months
409	Toddlers 18 months to 30 months
413	2 to 3 years of age
418	2 ½ to 3 ½ years of age
415	3½ to 4½ years of age
417	4½ to 5 years of age

Preschool

414	3 years of age/4 years of age
420	5 years of age

Family's Role

Fairfield Christian Academy maintains an open door policy allowing parents unlimited access during normal business hours. We would like to encourage each parent to participate in any activities that their child experiences while at Fairfield Christian Academy. However, if volunteering in the classroom there are guidelines that must be met. Please contact the Preschool and Child Care office for a list of the guidelines.

Teachers and staff members are available to discuss any questions or concerns you might have about your child. However, we do encourage you to schedule an

appointment, if possible. Please do not discuss concerns at the door in front of other families or children. We want to be able to provide confidentiality and be attentive to the concern. If you need immediate assistance, please contact a Director. We understand that you are entrusting us with the care of your child and we are committed to providing timely, open communication that promotes the overall well-being of the child and family.