

HILLCREST CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Our program, unlike the majority of preschools in the Conejo Valley, is not a purely developmental experience, but also includes academics that are Biblically integrated, thus meeting the needs of the whole child. Our program is designed to nurture a child's social and emotional growth as well as his or her physical and mental development. We believe that each child who enters our program is a unique and special gift from God, and that it is our privilege and responsibility to help him be the very best that the Lord would have him be.

ENROLLMENT

Preschoolers attend a full day, 8:30-3:00 or half day, 8:30-12:30, with the choice of attending every day, Monday through Friday, three days, Monday-Wednesday-Friday or two days, Tuesday-Thursday. We also offer an extended childcare program both before school starting at 7 AM, and after school ending at 5 PM.

There are two 3-year-old preschool classrooms with ten children and a teacher in each class. There are three 4-year-old pre-kindergarten classrooms with twelve children and a teacher in each class. We have two assistant teachers.

Student/Teacher ratio: 8.5/1

We also offer a 2-year-old program on Tuesday-Thursday only with a student teacher ratio of 8/1.

FACULTY

At Hillcrest Christian Preschool we believe that teachers who model a strong Christian lifestyle filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit and a balanced, positive attitude, are best suited to teach children. All members of our staff have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior, are active in the Christian church of their choice, and believe that they have been called by God to work with children.

Staff members also meet or exceed the approved standards for education and experience set forth by the State of California. In addition, our staff members pursue further professional growth with continued course work and seminars.

Communication between teachers and parents is ongoing via RenWeb, our internet based school database. Parents can log on for weekly updates and e-mail any questions/comments to their child's teacher.

MEMBERSHIPS

ACSI-Association of Christian Schools International

ACADEMIC YEAR

The school year starts the last Wednesday in August and typically runs through the second Friday in June. We have no school for five Monday holidays, teacher in-service days, and Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter breaks. Report cards are issued at the end of each of the three trimesters.

CURRICULUM

At Hillcrest Christian Preschool, curriculum is the basis for creating an effective, developmentally appropriate preschool program which includes teaching in all areas vital to the growth of young children. Our program includes a Biblically integrated early childhood curriculum from A Beka and Bible stories and teachings from A Beka as well.

To encourage and prepare our students for the future demands of school, we also have an academic time focusing on pre-reading and writing skills, mathematic fundamentals, and sight word recognition that we call "seat work".



OUTDOOR PLAYAREA

We feature a beautifully spacious playground dedicated to the preschool and kindergarten population. It includes rubberized safety surface material under all the play equipment, a bike path to start teaching children the safety rules of the road, dual swings, a challenging horizontal ladder, and ball hoop. We also enjoy a water misting system on those hot days.

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Preschool students have the opportunity to explore their environment through a diverse and enriching range of activities.

Chapels: We have chapel once a week for all preschool children to experience what it is like to praise and worship God as a group. We hope that parents will be able to attend this time of praise and worship with their child.

Educational Field Trips: The pumpkin patch and fire station are two of the field trips taken during the school year. Other off and on campus field trips are arranged yearly based on the children's emergent interests.

Student Musical Presentation: preschoolers' talents shine during the annual Christmas program.

Through parent and child participation, preschool also takes part in all-school special events including the school carnival, annual auction, Open House, and International Day.

To round out the year, each preschool class may take part in a variety of the following events: Thanksgiving Feast, Christmas celebration, Snow Day, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, P.J. pancake breakfast, Easter celebration, Mother's Day Tea, and a Father's Day event.

PARENT VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

Each family is required to serve a total of twenty volunteer hours over the course of the school year. In addition to helping the school minimize expenses, it provides parents the opportunity to work together as part of the school community.

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Cathe Jackson, the preschool director, earned her teacher's permit from Oxnard College. She has over 15 years experience working with children from infants to school age. In 1993, she started her professional career as a preschool teacher at a Christian school. Cathe is married to Andre, and they have four beautiful children who attend Hillcrest. You may reach Mrs. Jackson at 497-7501 ext.258, or email her at cjackson@hillcrestcs.org.