

STEPPING STONES

2015-2016



Preschool
Lee's Summit Christian Church
525-4769

STEPPING STONES STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Lee's Summit Christian Church supports the Stepping Stones preschool program because we believe each child is a special gift from God and that it is important for children to experience the love and nurture of caring adults outside their home environment. Our program provides an environment that is conducive to the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of each child in our care.

Privacy of Information Policy

It is the policy of Stepping Stones Preschool that all personal and/or private information of our families and students remain confidential. The information is the property of Stepping Stones Preschool and Lee's Summit Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It will be used only for the business of Stepping Stones and/or to comply with regulatory agencies that govern Stepping Stones.

Parents of Stepping Stones students are given the opportunity on enrollment forms to release their address and phone number to other parents. Individual requests for information will be at the discretion of the Director provided it follows the stated policy.

Policy approved by Department of Children's Outreach
and endorsed by Church Board 05/16/2004

Tuition

Tuition is due the first class day of the month and is past due by the 10th of the month. Fees received in the office after the 10th will be charged a late fee of \$25.00 . Fees are paid on a monthly basis and are figured based on an average number of school days per month. Therefore, even if your child is not in attendance due to illness, vacation, or school cancellation due to emergency conditions, our expenses remain the same and your monthly fees are still required. We do not routinely send out receipts for payment, but will be glad to do so if requested. Please mark the memo section of your check “receipt” and one will be put in your child’s cubby once the check is posted. Tuition can be placed in the hanging mail box in the office or mailed to the preschool. Please do not put checks in your child’s backpack.

Delinquent Payment Policy

If payment is not paid in full by the last day of the month, your child’s preschool attendance will be discontinued/ interrupted. Families will be notified that the account is delinquent and given an opportunity to bring it current. The child may return to the program when account is paid in full. Once a child’s attendance is discontinued due to nonpayment Stepping Stones will send a letter to the home address of the family member responsible. Payment must be paid in full within 90 days of receipt of the letter. Failure to pay an account in full will result in the inability to enroll your child or future children for the next school year.

Insufficient funds must be rectified with Stepping Stones office within 5 days of notification. Replacement must be in cash. A \$30 fee will be assessed. Failure to rectify will result in discontinued/ interrupted preschool attendance.

Curriculum

Stepping Stones follows a “hands on” approach to learning. We use a Creative Curriculum including centers. We believe children learn through their play. Our classroom learning environments are set up to encourage development in each child’s motor, language, cognitive, social, and spiritual development.

Long Term Evacuation

In the event the students and staff at Stepping Stones are in need of a location for long-term evacuation, the daycare center (located across the field behind the church) will serve as a safe-haven until parents and/or guardians can be notified to pick up children. Arrangements have been made with the Director of Child Prodigy for the use of their facility in case of emergency. The LSCC will also serve as a safe-haven for Child Prodigy in case they are in need of evacuation facilities.

Lock Down (Phase 1)

In the event it is deemed necessary by local law officials, the preschool administration, or members of the church staff, Stepping Stones will implement an immediate lock down procedure.

- a. Preschool staff will check and lock all doors in the education wing: front doors, playground door, and the two back doors.
- b. Church staff will check and lock all doors in the original building: front doors, and two back doors.
- c. All blinds in the preschool classrooms will be closed.
- d. any parent or guardian entering the building will be identified at the door to the building by preschool personnel, rather than at the classroom door by the teacher.

Lock Down (Phase 2)

Once Lock Down—Phase 1 is implemented, Phase 2 will be put into effect if necessary. Children and staff may be moved to the Rainbow Room in order to ensure their further safety in certain situations. The Rainbow Room is an area removed from windows and outer doors.

Lock Down (Phase 3) Safety Drill

The outdoor doors will be locked. Classroom doors will be locked. Children and teachers will be completely silent and out of site. This is to be practiced once a year.

Each teacher creates her own lesson plans specialized to the children in the classroom.

Music class is a time for specialized instruction in music and movement. Preschool classes will include the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag in their daily routine. Share Time is an activity that offers the children an opportunity to be at ease in front of his/her classmates and to practice communication skills. We would encourage the children to bring a small toy or something to do with the theme for the month. Please no guns, knives, etc. Small pets are welcome, please make advance arrangements with the teacher. Throughout the year we will plan special theme days for the children in our preschool program. These days will allow the children to explore a single topic in detail throughout the day. You will be notified through the newsletter of our special plans for these days. There will be Curriculum Nights in September to further introduce the classroom curriculum.

Clothing & Grooming

Spills are to be expected. Children are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing that can be easily managed for bathroom needs. Jeans, slacks or shorts are perfectly acceptable for girls and boys. The children play outdoors every day (except in extreme weather conditions) and warm outer clothing is a “must.” Please label all their outerwear, especially hats, boots, mittens and gloves. Please have your child wear shoes comfortable for gross motor play

Conscious Discipline (A Better Way)

Conscious Discipline is a social emotional curriculum used here at Stepping Stones. Children are taught to use the classroom “Safe Place” to feel and work through their emotions with the help of breathing techniques. The children also learn ways to problem solve and work out disagreements that may occur. Everyone will learn to be a **STAR**—**S**mile, **T**ake **A** deep breath and **R**elax. Conscious Discipline teaches us all how to connect with each other. All our exercises in Conscious Discipline are brain based.

Discipline Plan

At Stepping Stones our discipline plan for children who are choosing to behave inappropriately includes; **Prevention, Intervention and Evaluation.**

- Prevention includes staff training, classroom management, building relationships, and instruction.
- Intervention includes a plan, safe spot, physical exercise, documentation, and an action plan .
- Evaluation is ongoing and includes analysis of documentation logs, parent meetings, and (if needed) referrals to Early Childhood teams for support .

Teacher Communication

Because our teachers need time for preparation, please do not take your child to their classroom before 9:00 a.m. A parent or guardian must escort the children to their classroom doors and make contact with the teacher. Parents should sign the clipboard on the blue counter if they will not be accessible at the number listed in their child's permanent file.

Each teacher has a small bulletin board located in the entryway where she will post notes and reminders. She will also post a weekly "What We Did This Week," which is a page outlining her classes' activities for the week. Parents are welcome to take home a copy of this sheet, which will be located on the counter in the entryway. Our newsletter comes out online and you may also have a hard copy upon request after the first and second months. Can my child be in a classroom with a teacher who is a relative? We felt it best that this not happen for the sake of family relationships. Please do not ask teachers to book parties or home parties. Please do no invite staff to your home parties.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences for Pre-K children will be scheduled. We are always happy to discuss your child or our program with you at any time you wish to make an appointment to do so. Because we are always concerned about your child's self-image, any discussions occurring in his/her presence should be of a positive nature. Progress reports will be sent home at the end of the school year for all other classes.

Photos and Social Media

Because of safety issues please only share your own child's picture (group pictures should not be used). Teachers may not post any photos of the children on social media.

Policy Concerning Emergency Procedures

Should any member of the church staff, or preschool staff, be made aware of a dangerous situation, the Director or her substitute in the Preschool Office, should be notified immediately so that emergency procedures can be implemented. During an emergency situation each child may be required to be signed out, in writing, by a person authorized for pick up. Written sign out procedures will go into effect at the Director's discretion. The front doors will be locked after arrival for classes. They will be open during departures. There is a doorbell located outside the first set of doors on the brick wall, to gain entrance if the door is locked.

Tornado

In the event of a tornado warning, students and staff will move to the restrooms located in the center of the building (between the Narthex and the education wing). Students will take cover in the proper position on the floor. Dangerous weather will be monitored in the preschool office through a weather alert radio. Practices will be every three months.

Fire

In the event the fire alarm is sounded, students and staff will move to the nearest door and leave the building. Students and staff will meet on the patio in back of the garage. Teachers will bring a class list with them in order to take roll upon arriving at the meeting place. Assistants will check all restrooms before leaving the building and an assistant will help with each Preschool class. Students and staff will evacuate the building EVERY time the fire alarm is sounded. Practices will be every three months. If there is a fire in our building, we will be at the garage in the parking lot.

Snacks and Lunches

Each child staying for lunch should bring food that is ready to eat in a sack or lunch box with the child's name on the outside. We ask that you NOT send carbonated drinks, gum or glass containers to school. You will be receiving a snack list periodically with an assigned day to provide snacks for your child's class. Teachers may occasionally make suggestions for snacks which would enhance their day's activities. The Missouri Dept. of Health restricts us from serving any homemade treats and all snacks must arrive at Stepping Stones in their original, unopened containers. Allergy lists will be provided to teachers and parents on what food allergies we have here at Stepping Stones. We also will provide a sheet of good snacks and foods to be used instead of sweets. **We are a Peanut Free School** which includes all nuts, trace nuts and food processed in a facility that processes peanuts. We cannot serve snacks that have been opened. We need to see all ingredients on any snack brought to school. Please check with your teacher to see if she also has an allergy to certain foods.

Also: Please have your child finish their breakfast and not bring it into the classroom at the beginning of the day.

Continuing Education of Teachers

Stepping Stones is a member of the Christian Early Childhood Association of Kansas City. Teachers may also attend Conference on Young Years in the Spring for a total of 12 clock hours for teachers and 2-8 for teacher assistants.

“Handwriting Without Tears.”

Is the curriculum used to teach the children a “hands on” approach to writing. The use of curves and lines to form letters help the children to visualize and recreate them using wooden pieces, playdough and chalk with boards. Each teacher is trained to use this curriculum in the classroom.

Lee's Summit School District Schedule

We follow the Lee's Summit School District's calendar between Labor Day and Memorial Day. When the Lee's Summit schools close for holidays, teacher's meetings or bad weather, we will also close. Should any other circumstances cause Lee's Summit schools to close, please call the Stepping Stones office for information concerning our program. “Snow Days” and other days cancelled due to emergency situations are not made up at Stepping Stones and no financial reimbursements are allowed. During the winter months we ask parents to listen to the school closings on television or radio. Please note that Stepping Stones does not observe early release days as the Lee's Summit schools do. Children will attend class per their regular schedule on those days. You will receive a copy of this year's schedule.

Sick Policy

Sick children should not be brought to school. Students will be excluded from school if one or more of the following exists: Diarrhea, fever over 100 degrees, undiagnosed rash, or unvaccinated children in time of disease breakouts. It is very important that we prevent the spread of communicable disease. Students should be fever free without the use of fever reducing medicine for 24 hours before returning to school. Students should be free of continuous cough. Students should remain home for 24 hours after last vomiting or diarrhea. Students should remain home for 24 hours after taking the first dose of antibiotic for an infection. Please report communicable illness.

Immunizations

All children requesting admittance to Stepping Stones will be required to present proof of current immunizations. Proof of immunizations or an exemption (signed by physician or parent) must be on file in our office before the child will be allowed to attend school. When an outbreak of a disease occurs for which a student is

classified exempt from immunization, that student will be excused from school either for the duration of incubation for that disease or until immunization is given. The Missouri Department of Health require that each child enrolled at Stepping Stones have a Physical Assessment signed by a physician before attending.

Medication Policy

Stepping Stones staff will **not** administer medication such as antibiotics, cough syrups, or other over-the-counter or prescription medicines the child is taking due to an illness. Emergency and maintenance medication may be administered at the Director's discretion. A policy concerning the requirements for a staff member to administer medication is located in the Stepping Stones office. Any medication brought into the building must be checked into the Stepping Stones office by the Director.

Emergency Procedures

Teachers will follow emergency procedures in case of injury to a child. Parents will be notified immediately of any illness or injury occurring to the child's head. Staff members are CPR certified. It is each parent's responsibility to keep a current emergency name and number on file in the office. Tornado and fire drills will be practiced. Should tornado warnings occur during school hours, we will take the necessary precautions for your child's safety. The office is equipped with a weather alert radio. An emergency sign out sheet can be found on the counter in the entryway. If you will be somewhere other than what is listed on your enrollment forms, you can sign out here so we can locate you in the event of an emergency.

Ten o'clock safety procedure. At 10:00 a.m. the Director will check each classroom for absent children. If you have not called us about your child being absent, the Director will call you.

Christian Example

All our staff show love, respect and concern for the children as we try to be examples of Jesus' Teaching. Holidays provide an opportunity for children to learn the spiritual meaning in celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. We worship in the sanctuary at the children's level of understanding. We will also have a Bible Story during the month in the Chapel. The children will learn short prayers to be said before snack time. Prayers will also be included in our holiday worship services and whenever a need arises.

Holiday and other Celebrations

Our celebrations are included as a special part of our daily routine. Please **keep Halloween costumes appropriate for a 2-year-old** . Since we keep our parties low key, we do not invite parents to do parties. Treats, drinks and decorative napkins are encouraged to be brought for Holiday and birthday parties. We also celebrate half birthdays for those children having birthdays in summer. **Please remember all snacks must be prepared in a certified kitchen and sealed. They must also be free of peanut and trace nuts.**

Pick Up Policy

Children should be picked up promptly at the end of their class time. As you wait for classrooms to open, please wait behind the Blue Counter. In the interest of our children's safety, written documentation will be required for anyone other than the legal parent/guardian to pick him/her up. Persons authorized to pick up must be 16 years of age or older. Parents are automatically allowed to pick up children unless the office is notified otherwise. Children must be dropped off and picked up **at the classroom door**. A fee of \$5.00 per child for every 15 minutes after the end of classtime will be assessed for late pick-ups.

SCHOOL HOURS...

9:00-1:00 Morning Session	9:00-1:00 PS I and II
9:00-1:00 or 9:00-2:00 all classes	
1:00-3:00 AfterCare Session	Imagination Day on Friday