



# Eastside Christian School

## ECS CURRICULUM GUIDE

### PRESCHOOL OVERVIEW

**Classroom Structure:** Theme based, including Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, Art, Music, P.E., and Bible. Specialists: Weekly “Music in Motion” is taught by our gifted music specialist and Chapel is led by our Preschool Director.

**Student/Teacher Ratio:** 9:1 (6:1 for half-day 3’s)

**Full Days (3/4/5 year old)** 8:45 am – 3:00 pm

**Half Days (3/4 year old)** 8:45 am – 11:45 am

**Half Days (4/5 year old)** 8:45 am - Noon

**Before- and After-school Care Available** 8:00 – 8:45 am and 3:00 – 5:30pm

### BIBLE and CHAPEL

Preschool

*Preschool* BIBLE THEME: God Loves Children

The Preschool children attend weekly chapel where they pray, sing, hear Bible stories, and learn about our loving God and our Savior Jesus Christ. The Bible stories are reinforced in classes throughout the week, and prayer is incorporated daily into our routines. Bible memory verses are put to song, with a new one presented monthly.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

Preschool

Preschool teachers use Zoo-phonics and a Handwriting Without Tears curriculum that includes Word Time and Get Set for School.

**Zoo-phonics:** The concrete methodology of Zoo-phonics follows the stages of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and connects them all together. Children learn letters, sounds, and signals for each letter of the alphabet based on an animal theme. Each Zoo-phonics animal becomes a friend and a tool for the children to use in developing reading, spelling, and writing skills.

**Word Time (Handwriting Without Tears)** is designed to boost children’s vocabulary, thinking, and speaking skills through participation in friendly, active lessons.

**Get Set for School (Handwriting Without Tears)** creates an environment to encourage a wide variety of multisensory activities, which help 4/5 year old students develop good habits they will use in printing letters.

**Art activities and the use of a variety of materials** help youngsters creatively express their thoughts and feelings. They also help reinforce fine-motor skills and concept development in areas such as color, shape, and size relationships. Art also develops imagination.

**Music activities** promote youngsters' listening skills, creative expression, and social skills. In music, children can explore sound, volume, tempo, and rhythm.

**Music specialist: 30 minutes – once a week for part – time, twice a week for full-time**

**Chapel: 30 minutes – once a week**

**Physical activities:**

**Gross-motor activities** give children the opportunity to use their muscles – as well as their imaginations – as they engage in fun, healthy exercises, such as running, jumping, and climbing.

**Fine-motor activities** help improve small-muscle development and eye-hand coordination. Some common items found in the fine-motor/manipulative area include puzzles, beads and laces, pegboards, crayons, and scissors.

**Dramatic-play activities** help children express themselves, practice life skills, improve social skills, increase self-esteem, build vocabulary, solve problems, and have fun!

**Circle time** is a group gathering time during which we share our ideas, plans, and observations. Circle activities are designed to promote good listening skills, stimulate youngsters' thinking, enrich their social skills, and increase their attention spans.

**Story Time** is designed to help youngsters develop an appreciation and enjoyment of literature. Reading activities enhance children's vocabulary and comprehension skills and also expand their knowledge base.

**Sharing Time** provides preschoolers with opportunities to develop their oral language skills.

**TouchMath** is a multisensory approach to numbers. The skills presented in the program incorporate activities in Readiness/Number Sense (basic counting and relating groups of objects, sorting and classifying, and patterning), Spatial Sense (describing shapes, identifying them in the environment, sorting and classifying, and matching), and Number Concepts (representing, counting, and associating quantities with objects and TouchPoints. The skills are developed sequentially from hands-on activities with concrete objects to application of the skills using pencil and paper with guidance.

**Math Games/Manipulatives** - used for counting, sorting, and determining relative quantities (less and more)

**Block play** gives children experience with many different concepts, such as shape and size discrimination, spatial relationships, number skills, balance, organization, cause and effect, and classification. Cooperative play skills, problem solving, and creativity are also promoted in block play.

**Sand, Water, and other Sensory Tables** allow youngsters to experiment with textures and the properties of different substances. These activities also promote the development of other skills, such as math, science, and language

Preschoolers participate in science activities that offer children hands-on opportunities for observation, exploration, investigation, making predictions, and experimentation.

**Sand, Water, and other Sensory Tables** allow youngsters to experiment with textures and the properties of different substances. These activities also promote the development of other skills, such as math, science, and language.

Preschoolers learn about self, family, and culture through a variety of theme-based teaching activities.

**Dramatic-play activities** help children role play family and cultural situations, practice life skills, improve social skills, increase self-esteem, build vocabulary, and solve problems. And, well, dramatic play is just plain fun!