

Methodist



Preschool

Excellence in Early Childhood Education

Pandemic Policy

2020-2021

This policy is to help guide staff, students, and families during a pandemic. The directives set forth within it are fluid and may be adjusted based on the statistics of the pandemic, governmental mandates and guidelines, and emergency needs of the center. Methodist Preschool will adjust this policy as needed according to State and Federal instruction. These policies will supersede standard operational policies in the Methodist Preschool Handbook for as long as the pandemic is declared.

Dropping off And Picking Up

Parents will drop off and pick students outside of the building. Parents will not be allowed to enter the building for drop off or pick up. When a student arrives at school, a staff member will greet them and perform a mandatory health screening. Students will then be brought to the bathroom to wash their hands, arms, and face before entering the classroom.

If parents need to speak with their student's teacher or the director they must arrange a time to do so. Parents will be subject to a health screening and will be required to wear a face covering and wash their hands upon entry to the building. We ask that no parent touch anything or any other students during this time. We ask that when in the building that parents respect the personal space of students and staff by standing at least 6 feet away and do not touch anything or anyone during the visit.

Public Entry

Only students, staff, therapeutic or assistive personnel, and emergency responders will be allowed in the building during school hours. These adults will be required to have a health screening and wash their hands prior to entry into the building. Church staff, congregation members, and preschool volunteers are not permitted at this time. Preschool events (public and private) will be rescheduled and restaged according to state and federal health guidelines.

Communication and Hours of Operation

Communication with staff should be done via ProCare Connect, Email or phone to allow social distancing. The director and the classroom teachers will be available to keep all families updated and to answer/ address all the needs of the students in our care.

Several methods of communication will be utilized to inform families of their child's day, school events, or changes in operational policies. Parents are requested to check their email, ProCare messages, and child's belongings daily. Other methods of distributing information: signage displayed during drop off/pick up, Facebook posts, and website updates.

Hours of operation may change to allow proper staffing at all times. Parents will be notified of any changes immediately.

Emergency Closure

Methodist Preschool will follow the school closure guidelines issued by federal, state, and local health officials in response to any infectious disease-related exposure. Families will be notified of a school closure and given instructions on the quarantine period as well as the procedures for returning to school.

Families are required to communicate with the preschool in regards to their family's exposure to Covid-19 and other highly infectious diseases.

Student Supplies

Students should arrive in clean clothing. Each student will be required to have additional clothing kept at school to change into in case of an accident or their clothing becomes contaminated with bodily fluids. Soiled clothing will be sent home in a disposable bag with the child to be washed at home.

Students should limit the items brought to school each day. This reduces the risk of contamination from outside environments. A list of supplies to be kept at school, and a list of supplies to bring daily, will be issued before the students return to school.

Lunches must be brought in a LABELED lunch box/bag to keep items cold/ hot as needed. Snacks must be in a separate LABELED baggie/container and must be easy for the child or staff member to locate separate from their lunch. Staff may assist the children in opening items in their lunches, but may NOT prepare any food (heating, mixing, cutting, peeling, or breaking apart). All food must be ready-to-eat.

All items such as blankets, pillows, and nap mats will be sent home at the end of the week for proper washing. Student cubbies and bins will be sanitized at the end of every school day.

Illness Policy and Monitoring

Students will have their temperatures checked daily upon entry to the preschool. Additional health screenings will be performed throughout the day: before morning snack, before lunch, and after nap. Any student with a fever of more than 100.0 must remain out of school for 48 hours after the fever has broken without fever reducing medications. We will not allow a doctor's note for returning before the 48 hours.

Any student showing any concerning signs of a respiratory issue: excessive coughing, tugging in the chest, wheezing, shortness of breath, excessive runny nose, etc. Will be sent home and may not return until symptoms have subsided. A doctor's note for clearance must accompany the child's return. Symptoms in children with documented asthmatic conditions will be determined with each instance.

Students with a cough and a fever will be required to be seen by a medical professional within 24 hours of onset. The student must remain out of school for 7 days, plus an additional healthy 3 days and the return must be accompanied by a doctor's note. Parents will be required to contact the director within 24 hours of symptom onset to inform the school what the illness may be.

If a doctor has cleared your child to attend sooner, the medical professional MUST state in writing “_(child)___ was seen on ___(date)___and was evaluated for ___(condition)___... This child does NOT have Covid-19 and is able to return to childcare without placing another child or adult at risk”

If the child, parent, or anyone in the home or who was in direct contact with the parent or child tests positive for Covid-19, families must inform Methodist Preschool immediately. Families will be instructed on the procedure to report the disease. The child will be required to stay home for 14 days.

Health and Safety

Methodist Preschool will take every precaution for your child to stay healthy! Consistent handwashing and cleaning/sanitizing of the center will be preformed multiple times during the day, and students will be enrolled in classrooms with smaller than usual teacher-student ratios. Shared spaces, such as hallways, bathrooms, playgrounds, and the fellowship hall will be sanitized before and after each classroom's use. Please note, an increase in handwashing may cause a child's hands to become raw. Parents are encouraged to use lotion or Vaseline on their child's hands nightly to reduce the rawness and help with healing.

Most importantly, it is the collective responsibility of our preschool community to keep our staff and students safe and healthy. Parents are required to be open and honest with staff about any illnesses the family may be experiencing. Additionally, we ask that all families practice strict social distancing while their child is attending Methodist Preschool. Students should not be going out into public with parents, and playgrounds and group gatherings must be avoided. Any violation in the collective responsibility requests could place the child on a leave of enrollment from the Methodist Preschool program until the pandemic is over.