

Little Disciples Preschool Handbook 2022 - 2023



Cindy M. McDowell, Director

Visit us at:

www.littledisciplespreschool.org

Contact us @ director@littledisciplespreschool.org

January 2022 Update

Our 2020-2021 Handbook was written during an up-swing in the pandemic circumstances of COVID-19. During the many months we were closed in 2020, we kept busy re-writing many policies, redesigning the inside and all to bring you the highest level of safety. This is an on-going process and many things familiar to us had to change to meet these newest standards.

At this time all the changes made for COVID-19 remain in place. We thank you in advance for working closely with us, knowing and respecting all new policies and helping us to implement them seamlessly. Your responsibility to task continues to help us provide a healthy environment for all.

It is our hope that by the time we open our 2022-2023 school year that we are well on our way to a return to a healthy community/nation/world. When our community is ready we will revisit many new practices in the hopes we may reset many policies and procedures.

Thank you.

Cindy McDowell, Director

*Helping children learn
and grow since 1988*

Welcome
to
Little Disciples
Preschool

We invite you to join us as we introduce your
child
to the wonderful world of education.
Ours is a learning, laughing, and loving
approach
to preparing your child for life.
We look forward to your child being part of
yet another exciting year here at
Little Disciples Preschool.



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“Striving to meet the needs of our families in every way”

Little Disciples Preschool is licensed by the Sarasota County Health Department and the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. Our license number is 0011.

Little Disciples Preschool's Weekly Hours of Operation

In 2014 we increased our hours of service to 7:30am - 5:30pm, Monday-Friday. We continue to provide a morning class atmosphere, with your child in their classroom from 9am-12noon (8:45am-12:30pm VPK classes) daily. Early Care allows for an early start to your day and when morning classes end your child may continue their day in Extended Care which is open until 5:30pm.

Little Disciples Preschool's Philosophy

The word "Disciple" is used frequently in the New Testament. It means learner or follower, one who is accompanied by a teacher. We believe that all children are unique little people, *Little Disciples*, who should be allowed to develop at their own rate morally, physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually. With these goals in mind, we strive to develop healthy, happy children who will contribute to society as they grow.

It is the goal of the staff of Little Disciples Preschool to provide your child with a positive learning experience designed to make their first adventures in a school setting memorable and enjoyable ones. To achieve this end, we will challenge your child's natural creativity and intellect. With this in mind, we will love and help your child to develop to their fullest potential.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is based on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire System (ASQ), the Florida School Readiness Standards as well as the High Scope, Kindness and Creative Curriculum. This compilation of curriculums means our focus is the total child. The environment provides a place for learning through interesting, stimulating, and challenging materials and activities. We will introduce each child to the joy of learning by helping them develop their self-esteem through a variety of positive daily experiences. Children will be exposed to phonetics, numbers and their concepts, colors, geometric shapes and exercises in social skills. We will also offer special units on the topics in which the children express interest. We strive to balance the formal learning experiences with outdoor play and free time to enable the children to develop their motor and social skills in an informal setting. Our ultimate goal is that each child feel happy, confident, and proud of all they achieve.

Registration Fee

A non-refundable *Registration Fee* is due annually upon enrollment:

2 days per week (T/R)	\$250.00/year
3 days per week (MWF)	\$275.00/year
5 days per week (M-F)	\$300.00/year

Supply Fee

A non-refundable Supply Fee is due annually upon enrollment:

\$100.00

Morning Classes Tuition

Tuition is due on the first school day of each month. No exceptions or credit will be given for days missed due to illness, vacation, school holidays, etc. **Your first tuition payment will be due no later than “Open House 2022” for August/September tuition.** All other months are due payable on the 1st each month.

Morning Class 8:30-12noon September 2022-May 2023

2 days per week (T/R)	\$335.00
3 days per week (M/W/F)	\$445.00
5 days per week (M-F)	\$555.00

A fee of \$10.00 per day will be charged for any payments received after the fifth day of the month. A \$30.00 charge is applied to all returned checks. A 3% tuition discount will be applied towards the total school term if received in one payment at Open House. Second sibling discounts available.

Full-time Care Fees (7:30am-5:30pm)

2 days per week: \$535 monthly: (\$6.69 per hour)
3 days per week: \$700 monthly (\$5.84 per hr)
5 days per week: \$920 monthly (\$4.60 per hr)

Late Fees

Tuition=\$10 each day/max 5 days

Extended Care Late pickup fee=\$25 per 5 minutes

Due upon arrival. Continued abuse of this policy may result in the loss of Extended Care privileges.

Early Care

Doors open at 7:30am with entry available through 8:15am.
\$5.00 per day.

Extended Care

Extended Care is offered daily from 12:00 noon until 5:30 p.m. Children may be picked up anytime during these hours. Children bring their own meal in a labeled lunchbox. Lunchtime is held in the Lunch Room; after which the children may enjoy their time in the Learning Center, on the Outdoor Classroom or Playground. The children are to be picked up no later than 5:30 p.m. A billing statement will be sent home at the end of each month. COVID-Updates: at this time in early 2022:

We eat lunch in individual classrooms to keep the count low.

We do not allow use of lunchboxes. Labelled, gallon-size clear baggies are used to hold disposable lunches daily.

\$7.00 per hour / \$35.00

VPK

We began accepting VPK vouchers in 2012. We meet the 540 hours instruction by schooling 5 days per week, from 8:45am-12:30pm for 144 school days. No fees are required of VPK instruction.

Our PreK/VPK students are welcome to use our Early & Extended Care programs. Additionally, our school year includes Non-VPK funded event days that are thematic and fun. Fees are found below for any programs held around or outside the VPK morning.

Outside the VPK Program Fees

Registration fee for use of Early Care & Extended Care & Non-VPK days \$125.00.

Fulltime Wrap-Around Care = \$130 per week

Non VPK days (average of 21 during school year) \$35 per day;

8:45am-12:30pm.

The Board reserves the right to change any of the above rates upon a 30 day written notice.

Arrival Times

Doors open for morning classes and families are greeted each day beginning at 8:35 a.m. Student entry has a sign-in required daily. We close our doors at 9:05am so the first activities of the day are not interrupted. The doors remain locked throughout the school day to ensure your child's safety. To gain entrance throughout the school day, please ring the doorbell.

Departure Times

Dismissal for the morning session is at 12:00 p.m. with VPK dismissal at 12:30pm. All children need to be picked up promptly. Extended Care children may be picked up anytime before 5:30 p.m. Written permission is required for all children picked up by anyone other than their parents.

Drop-Off And Pick-Up Procedures

This is a school zone, please observe a 10 mph limit.

Park in the parking lot, turn off your vehicle and lock it. Do not leave unattended children in vehicles. Walk your child/children into the education building and to their classroom. Do not park in the circular driveway or in the handicapped spaces. Please contact the office if you need assistance at any time.

Pick-up time is 12:00pm/ 12:30pm VPK. Parents are to remain outside in the courtyard. The teachers will bring the students outside to their designated pick up site. After 12:10 pm, any remaining students will be placed in our Extended Care program

School Schedule (holidays & closings)

Little Disciples Preschool will closely operate on the same schedule as Sarasota County Public School system. (Note: Our Preschool year begins two weeks after the opening of the public school year.) *Little Disciples Preschool* will be closed when the Sarasota County Public Schools are closed for teacher work days. We will be closed for all major holidays (including Christmas recess and Spring break). When the public schools are closed due to "severe" weather, *Little Disciples Preschool* will be closed. Tune to SNN Channel 6 for all area school closings. Changes/revisions of the Sarasota County School Year Calendar may effect our calendar year.

A calendar for the school year will be provided in your student folder and in our school directory, printed in early October.

Staff

All our Staff members are fingerprinted and thoroughly screened through **Florida Dept. of Children & Families**. All Lead Teachers are required to hold a degree in the field of Education. All staff members must take a minimum of twelve credit hours annually in courses relating to early childhood development. Our staff are members of the Sarasota Chapter FLAEYC and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Staff members are also certified in Pediatric CPR, Heartsaver CPR, and First Aid.

Discipline Policy

The ultimate goal is for each child to achieve self-discipline. Ideally, the child who is involved in meaningful work will not show any behavioral problems. The words “discipline and “teach” are related. Teaching children what they are ready to learn at each stage of development will result in self-disciplined individuals.

We first talk to the child about the behavior and explain how they are disturbing the rest of the class. We point out that they are not being helpful to themselves or others. Next, we will meet with the parents to establish methods of positive reinforcement. Persistent behavioral concerns will result in a parent conference with the Preschool Director. In the event of continued adverse behavior, *Little Disciples Preschool* reserves the right to deny further enrollment.

Requirements For Admittance

Our school is available to children ages infants to five years of age. While we are hopeful that children have completed potty-training and are able to take care of their own bathroom needs, it is not a requirement for entrance below the age of 3. We will work together to achieve potty-trained status. Each child must have an enrollment form with emergency information on file. A copy of your child’s birth certificate must also be submitted upon registration. Please be sure to advise the school regarding any and ALL allergies, as well as address, phone, pick-up people, doctor changes.... throughout the year.

Forms Required By Florida Dept. of Health:

Two **Florida Dept. of Health** forms will be required upon enrollment: a health report and an immunization form showing current and up-to-date immunizations. It is especially important to note any known allergies. *Little Disciples Preschool* requires that all students enrolled be immunized. Absolutely NO exceptions or exemptions allowed.

Absence

If your child is ill and/or will not be in school, please call the office. In order for your child to return to the classroom, they must be free of fever for 24 hours. Notice will be given to all parents concerning any outbreak of childhood or Communicable diseases here at school. In the event of COVID contact or diagnosis, we will work closely with you to help you understand the CDC guidelines and DCF requirements as they pertain to those of us in the Early Childcare field.

Snacktime

Done on a rotating basis, when it is your child's turn to bring in snack, please provide a healthy snack for the number of children in your child's class. For health and safety reasons, we must insist that snack foods arrive in **original**, and **unopened** packages. Water will be provided as our snack-time refreshment. A snack calendar will be sent home as a reminder of the day(s) your child will be responsible for snack throughout the month. Food allergies (when applicable) are posted and will never prevent a child from participating in our program.

Written Permission

A permission slip is required for the following:

1. For a child to leave school with someone other than their parent.
2. Dispensing of any medication to a child by staff member.
3. Evaluative screenings by outside sources.
4. Participating in special meal days in our Extended Care Program.

Field Trips

At this time, Little Disciples Preschool does not participate in off-campus field trips. Instead, we bring the field trip to the children through various speakers and presenters and activities each year.

Dress Code

Children should wear play clothes that are comfortable and will not restrict them from participation in any activities. We require all children to wear socks in sneakers/tennis shoes daily. One-piece outfits should not be worn. Flip-flops, sandals, and cowboy boots are not allowed.

Please dress children for actual weather conditions. We will go outside everyday (weather permitting) and are required to have children wear jackets in cooler temperatures. Dress your child appropriately. Please label all jackets/sweaters so that when the end of day temperature no

Accidents

Emergency medical treatment will be administered by our staff or by a paramedic. You will be contacted if your child has a serious accident while in school. If we cannot reach you, we will call the person listed on the enrollment form. A written signed report will be on file in the office for minor accidents and a copy will be sent home to the parents.

Communication

Our main line of communication with parents is through daily interaction at drop-off and again at pick-up, as well as through the use of notes and newsletters, office letters and teacher letters. All messages will be sent home with your child. The Preschool Office sends home letters bi-monthly to keep you informed of all preschool activities. Beneva Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) also provides a monthly Good News with an informational *Little Disciples Preschool* article. Visit their website at: lifeatbeneva.org. A copy of our Grievance Procedures is included in the Student Folder provided at Open House (or upon enrollment). It is our hope that the lines of communication remain open, positive and meaningful for all parties concerned.

Screenings And Evaluations

Vision and hearing are major factors in a child's development. They can affect school achievement, personality, and adjustments to life. Vision and hearing screening tests are given to all children ages 3.5 and older and you will receive the results of these tests. We also participate in the ASQ assessment program and you and your child will have the opportunity to conduct your own assessment at home. We hope everyone will choose to participate. During the year, your child's teacher will formally assess each student's progress. You will receive copies of these evaluations mid-year during Parent/Teacher conferences and again at the end of the school year. Parents are always welcome to call the preschool to schedule a conference with a staff member anytime there are concerns or questions.

Chapel & Musical Moments

Chapel & Music are held each week with Pastor David in Fellowship Hall. The children love hearing stories of the Bible come alive through music and song.

Parent Visits

Volunteer Program

Resource Persons

For best health and safety practices, these programs listed above are currently unavailable.

Calendars

Calendars are sent home each month to inform parents of the classroom curriculum and special activities each month.

Enrichment Program

At the beginning of each year, we send out a “wish list” for items to enhance our school day. Those making donations are placed on our Honor Roll and are recognized at Christmas and Graduation.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are required by law and are an important safety precaution. They will be held on a regular basis.

Special Programs

During the year, we will have several programs where the children will perform for an audience. We will also provide parent/teacher meetings and family functions throughout the year. Additional Special Programs may include speakers, outside instructors with special talents and our own staff members sharing their gifts and talents.

Special Events

During the year, some of the holiday celebrations and special events may require additional help. Please make other arrangements for younger siblings. We look forward to including everyone throughout the course of the year.

Personal Belongings

Please encourage your child to keep treasured belongings at home. We would like for them to work with the provided materials when at school because their use is related to our planned learning activities. Show and Share privileges will be decided by each teacher individually.

Summer Camp

We are open 7:30am-5:30pm throughout the summer in Camp mode. Ages are blended and camps are run in the Learning Center. We will choose one theme per week to enjoy. Camp hours only are from 9am-1pm, 3 or 5 days per week or: extend your fun by staying all day. Camp is posted and Registration begins each April for current students and siblings (ages 2-10). Watch for this flyer to come out every April and reserve your fun!

Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to *Little Disciples Preschool*.

We are proud of our ministry here at Beneva Christian Church to the children and parents of this community. As a church, we offer a loving and nurturing atmosphere and our Preschool education is an important part of our ministry. Our program includes a Preschool Committee which is made up of members of our church and preschool and is here to serve you. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to be a part of our Beneva family. If we can ever be of service to you, please call us at (941) 924-8713, or email us at www.benevachristian.com.

We sincerely wish you and your child a wonderful experience at *Little Disciples Preschool*. We hope your year will be filled with many positive memories. Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to nurture your very special little one. Enjoy and value these years ... for they are gone all too soon.

Sincerely,
Beneva Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Beneva Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

We Are . . .

- A church where people from different backgrounds can celebrate and live out their common belief in Jesus Christ;
- A church deeply rooted in the Biblical messages;
- A church committed to witnessing to all the world as servants of the living God;
- A church where the Lord's Supper is shared every Sunday; and
- A church where everyone is welcome to grow and serve.

*If you would like to learn more about our church, please let us know.
You and your family are always welcome.*



Opportunities At
Beneva Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Sundays

10:30am Worship in-person and
Online available

Tuesdays

11:00am Talks on Tuesdays
7:00pm Bible Study (online)

Thursdays

11:00am Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
5:45pm Praise Team Practice

Prayer requests are always welcome and prayer request cards are available in both the church and preschool offices. Our Elders will pray for your concerns.

Small group Bible studies meet various days of the week in various locations. Contact the church office for more information.

Read your [Good News](#) newsletter online or call the church office (924-8713) for more information about these (and more) church groups and activities.

Pastor David Miller
www.benevachristian.com

Notes

Healthy Sarasota County Child Care Sites

In May 2012, more than twenty Sarasota County child care centers participated in the Healthy Sarasota County Child Care Training.

These centers took the necessary steps to become recognized as

Healthy Sarasota County Child Care sites. Little Disciples Preschool received certification at that time and we continue achieving re-certification every three years.

**Little Disciples Preschool
Proudly supports...**



Wellbeing **lives** here!