

northwest
preschool
Growing in God's Truth



**parent
handbook**

2021-2022





Northwest Preschool COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Updated August 3, 2021

The below-listed protocols are designed to help parents understand their role and the school's role in providing a safe and healthy school environment. These protocols will be adjusted as we continue to receive updated recommendations.

Communication

- We are excited to announce the addition of the Brightwheel App for our school this year.
- Since we will be losing the regular face-to-face contact we normally have during the drop-off and pick-up process, Brightwheel will allow you get daily communication from your child's teacher along with pictures and videos of your child. Watch a video about Brightwheel [HERE](#).
- You can message your child's teacher directly through the app with any questions or reminders about your child.
- We highly value clear and frequent communication with parents and teachers and will continue to make this a priority.

Preventative Health Measures

❖ Staying Home

It is vital that ***you keep your child home if they are ill or acting in such a manner which you believe they are becoming ill.*** We encourage you to check your child's temperature before leaving for school and for any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (described below). We will first rely on the social responsibility of each family to be as prudent as possible in sending their child to school only when healthy, but our second step is to screen each child and family upon drop-off. It is important for each family and staff member to be as vigilant as possible in monitoring for symptoms and communicating with the Preschool Office if or when they start to feel sick.

❖ If a Child is or Becomes Sick at Preschool

If a child should become ill while at school, a staff member will remain with the child while isolating them from the other children in their class. A parent will be contacted so that the child can be picked up. Upon picking up please wear a mask inside the building and come to the Preschool Check-In desk unless directed otherwise. Additional cleaning and disinfecting will be completed in the classroom where an ill child has been present.

❖ Covid-19 Symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have Covid-19

❖ **If COVID-19 is confirmed in a Child**

Please notify the Preschool within 24 hours if your child, a member of your household or a person that your child has close contact with is diagnosed with COVID-19.

- ❖ The length of time the child should stay out of child care depends on whether the child has COVID-19 or another illness. In most instances, those who have COVID-19 can be around others after
 - ❖ 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - ❖ 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - ❖ Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving
- ❖ Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms can be around others 10 days after their first positive COVID-19 test.

❖ **Close Contacts of Persons with COVID-19**

- ❖ Whether and for how long to stay home for people who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 depends on vaccination status.
- ❖ Children and unvaccinated staff who had close contact with someone who has (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19, especially if a household member is COVID-19 positive, should stay home (quarantine) for 14 days after their last exposure to that person. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Some local health entities might choose to use testing to shorten quarantine
- ❖ People who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- ❖ This information is taken directly from the Texas Health and Human Services Checklist for Child Care Centers which was updated on 9/3/2021. You can view that document in its entirety [HERE](#).
- ❖ Should an entire family test negative for Covid-19 we will consider the child coming back to the Preschool before the quarantine period has ended on a case by case basis.

Social Distancing Strategies

- When students are combined with other groups inside we will work to keep each group as socially distanced as possible.
- Parents should try to social distance when inside the building and Preschool hallways.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Protocols

Drop-Off (*Carpool Line*)

- Parents will enter our campus on Douglas Ave and turn right to go around the back side of our campus.
- Cones will be set up that will divide the carpool line into 2 lanes as you come around to the Northwest Hwy side of the campus.
- Parents are encouraged to begin cueing up in the Drop-Off line at 8:45 a.m.
- Traffic will be stopped one car length beyond the covered entrance on Northwest Hwy
- Parents will need to open their Brightwheel app, scan the QR code and answer the three COVID screening questions for their child to complete the check-in process.
- Once checked in the child will be escorted into the building where a Northwest Preschool staff member will walk them to their classroom.
- All child belongings will be in the Blue Belongings Bag with child tag (provided at Open House) to aid in having less things to carry inside.

Pick-Up (Subject to change based on Covid recommendations**)**

- Parents will park near the Northwest Hwy entrance and come inside to pick up their child at their classroom.

- Parents can begin coming into the Preschool at 1:45 and children must be picked up by 2:10.
- Parents will check students out using the Brightwheel app at the classrooms.
- Please consider having only one parent come inside to pick students up as our hallways are narrow. We would like to limit exposure for your child/family as well as our staff.
- *Last school year our parents were not allowed in our hallways based on emergency guidelines from the state. We strongly believe that this protocol kept exposure down and allowed our program to stay open and our staff/students to remain healthy. Based on church leadership decisions and recommendations for Early Childhood Schools we may need to reinstate this protocol. Parents will be notified if this decision is made.*

Cleaning and Disinfecting Measures

- **Cleaning Products and Supplies**
 - Northwest Preschool and Northwest Bible Church use an EPA registered disinfectant which is approved for use against COVID-19. Preschool staff will be trained how to use it effectively and safely.
 - At the end of each school day Preschool staff will disinfect all surfaces.
 - Northwest Bible Facilities will come through to disinfect the floors and restrooms at the end of each school day.
- **Cleaning and Sanitizing Toys, Materials and Surfaces**
 - We will be collecting toys throughout the school day that have been played with, put in a child's mouth (or that are otherwise contaminated) and place them in the "to be cleaned" bin to be sanitized at the end of the day.
 - Staff will be cleaning and sanitizing other toys and surfaces frequently throughout the day.

Hand Hygiene and Face Mask Wearing

- **Handwashing: Frequency**

Handwashing is the number one method of stopping the spread of an infectious disease in a school community. The Preschool has always placed high value on good handwashing practices, and we will be placing even more emphasis now. Each classroom is equipped with a sink for children to wash their hands themselves, but teachers will supervise as necessary to ensure good handwashing techniques are being used. The teachers will be building lessons about handwashing into their daily curriculum so that the children can develop the healthy habit of frequent and correct handwashing. Children and staff will wash or sanitize their hands multiple times throughout the school day; including, but not limited to, upon entering school, after using the restroom or diaper changing, before and after eating, and after outside playtime.
- **Handwashing: Method**

When handwashing, the teachers will have the children wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and then use a paper towel to dry their hands. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol will be used if soap and water are not readily available.
- **Face Mask Wearing**
 - Teachers/staff will wear face coverings to start school and we will continue to monitor the situation. If any changes are made, we will notify you.
 - Parents are encouraged to wear face masks inside the building and we will notify you if this changes.
 - Students will not be required to wear a face mask but may do so at any time.

Snacks and Lunches

- **Nut-Free**

Please be mindful that our school is Nut-Free. Do not send snacks or lunch items that contain nuts or were processed in a facility that processes nut products (read all labels).
- **Snacks**

Snacks will still be provided by parents through our Snack Friend program. Parents can bring a box or large container of snacks, or snacks that are individually packaged. Teachers will wear gloves to help distribute snacks.

- **Lunch**

We are asking that EACH serving container (top and bottom) be labeled with your child’s name or initials so they can be easily identified if separated from your child during lunchtime.

- **Water**

Please provide a water bottle that is clean with fresh water for your child each school day. Clearly label the bottle with your child’s name in a manner that it will not rub or come off.

Northwest Preschool Tuition Contingency Plan

Tuition amounts/discounts listed below will assist Northwest Preschool in covering fixed costs such as teacher’s salaries.

	Northwest Preschool Response to Potential Covid Scenarios	Financial Responsibility of Preschool Families	What Northwest Preschool Will Provide for Students During Shutdown
1	10 day class closure due to positive COVID case in staff or student (<i>First instance</i>)	Tuition will be collected in full during the <i>first</i> 10-day shutdown for individual class affected or entire school.	Our teacher's will provide video lessons, weekly class video calls and links to age appropriate at home activities through Brightwheel.
2	10 day class closure due to positive COVID case in staff or student (<i>Second instance</i>)	A 25% Discount will be given to the <i>second</i> 10-day shutdown for individual class affected or entire school.	Our teacher's will provide video lessons, weekly class video calls and links to age appropriate at home activities through Brightwheel.
3	10 day class closure due to positive COVID case in staff or student (<i>Third instance</i>)	A 50% Discount will be given to the <i>third</i> 10-day shutdown for individual class affected or entire school.	Our teacher's will provide video lessons, weekly class video calls and links to age appropriate at home activities through Brightwheel.
4	Individual child required to quarantine due to child/family/household member exhibiting symptoms or testing positive for COVID.	Tuition will be collected in full during quarantine for individual child affected.	Online lessons will not be provided for individual children in quarantine. The teacher's lesson plans will be shared with family through Brightwheel.
5	Mandated shelter-in-place	Tuition will be collected in full during first month (<i>First instance</i>)	Our teacher's will provide video lessons, weekly class video calls and links to age appropriate at home activities through Brightwheel.
6	Mandated shelter-in-place (<i>Second instance</i>)	A 25% Discount will be given to the days affected by an extended shelter-in-place (<i>up to 30 additional days-Second instance</i>)	Our teacher's will provide video lessons, weekly class video calls and links to age appropriate at home activities through Brightwheel.
7	Mandated shelter-in-place (<i>Third instance</i>)	A 50% Discount will be given to the days affected by an extended shelter-in-place (<i>up to 30 additional days-Third instance</i>)	Our teacher's will provide video lessons, weekly class video calls and links to age appropriate at home activities through Brightwheel.

Operating Policies are listed in alphabetical order.

Arrival/Departure

Arrival:

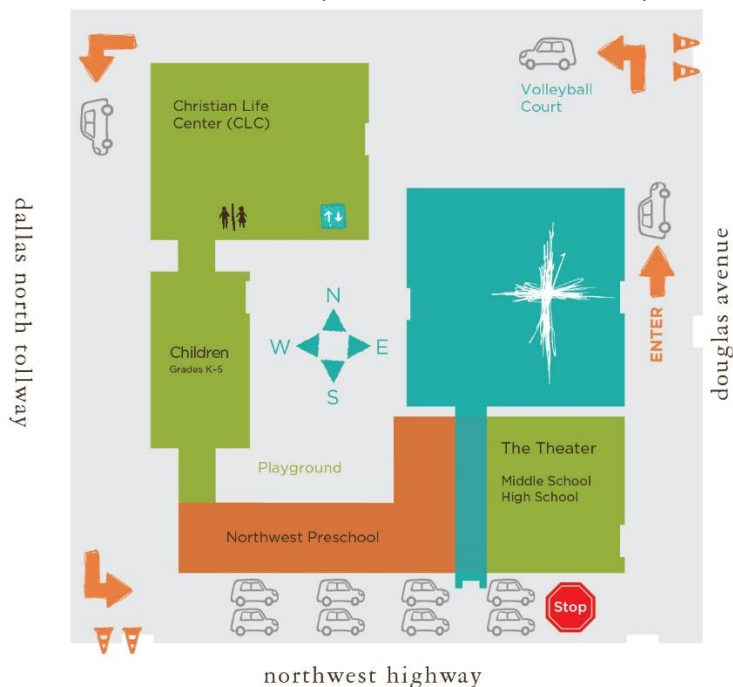
We will again utilize a Carpool Drop-Off for our morning arrival. Please see the diagram below and enter our campus on Douglas Ave. following the arrows around the north side of our campus and back to the Northwest Highway side.

- Cones will be set up that will divide the carpool line into 2 lanes as you come around to the Northwest Highway side of the campus.
- Parents are encouraged to begin cueing up in the Drop-Off line at 8:45 a.m.
- Traffic will be stopped one car length beyond the covered entrance on Northwest Hwy
- Parents will need to open their Brightwheel app to be ready to complete the contactless check-in process.
- Parents will scan the QR code and answer the three health screening questions for their child which will complete the check-in process.
- The child will be walked to the entrance where one of their teachers will walk them to their classroom.
- All child belongings will be in the Blue Belongings Bag with child tag (provided at Open House) to aid in having less things to carry inside.

To make drop-off transition easier:

Upon arriving to the carpool line, exhibit a confident, happy attitude and reassure them that you will pick them up at the end of the day.

Please make every attempt to have your child here on time each day. Children arriving late miss activities that are important for their day and often feel left out.



Departure:

Doors to the Nursery/Preschool hallways will be opened at 1:45 p.m. Children must be picked up at their classrooms by 2:00. Remember to collect your child's belongings and sign them out with their teacher through Brightwheel each day. If you have not picked up your child 10 minutes after the scheduled pick-up time, your son/daughter may be waiting for you in the office. A late pick-up charge may be assessed.

Calendar of Operation/Weather Policy

Northwest Preschool operates on scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays from September through May. Our hours of operation are 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. You can view our annual calendar at www.northwestbible.org/preschool.

Our calendar has been developed to coordinate as much as possible with local school districts.

Celebrations/Birthdays

Party experiences will be planned during the year. Please see your child's teacher to sign up to help with these parties. Parents may volunteer for any or all of these parties; your children love to see their parents in action.

If your child wishes to have a birthday celebration at school during the snack time, we ask that you consult with the teachers in advance and keep the refreshments simple. Our teachers will not pass out party invitations unless every child in the class is invited.

Clothing/Dress Code

Children should wear clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for daily preschool activities, such as painting, climbing and running. Our children play outside when the weather is above 40°; please send appropriate clothing during winter months. Please label all clothing.

SHOES: Tennis shoes are recommended. ONES CLASSES: If your child is walking, shoes are required. Socks are required for children not yet walking.

EXTRA CLOTHES: Send your child to preschool with a complete change of clothes (including socks) in case of spills or accidents. Children who are potty training could need more than one change of clothes.

Communication

We will continue using the Brightwheel app for parent communication. Brightwheel will allow you get daily communication from your child's teacher along with pictures and videos of your child. Watch a video about Brightwheel [HERE](#).

You can message your child's teacher directly through the app with any questions or reminders about your child. Messages sent will also be able to be viewed by the

Director and Assistant Director. We highly value clear and frequent communication with parents and teachers and will continue to make this a priority.

Confidentiality

Within Northwest Preschool, confidential and sensitive information will be shared only with employees of Northwest Preschool who have a “need to know” in order to most appropriately and safely care for your child. Confidential and sensitive information about faculty, other parents and/or children will not be shared with parents, as Northwest Preschool strives to protect everyone’s right of privacy.

Parents may observe children who are disabled or who exhibit behavior that may appear inappropriate (i.e. biting, hitting, and spitting). Parents may be curious or concerned about the other child. Our Confidentiality Policy protects every child’s privacy. Employees of Northwest Preschool are strictly prohibited from discussing anything about another child with parents.

Curriculum

We are constantly assessing our curriculum to make sure it meets the needs of all age groups. One and Two-Year Old classes will be using The Toddler Experience, along with Bible stories and activities for these age groups. This curriculum offers children choices in learning centers, provides opportunities for problem solving, strengthens social skills, and will give strong biblical foundations. Our curriculum is also supplemented by additional age-appropriate suggestions supplied from teacher training sessions and other resources. All teachers will be uploading lesson plans to Brightwheel for each school day. You can view your child’s lesson plan in the Learning tab on Brightwheel.

Activities planned around the unit will include dramatic play, blocks, puppets, music, books, puzzles, nature, games, art, outdoor play, and much more. The activities are taught to the children through learning centers and group time. The center activities will contain toys, manipulatives, teaching games, and materials relating to the current unit of study. The learning centers provide the children the opportunity to practice decision making, following directions, working independently, sharing supplies with peers, and learning to respect property and care for materials. Daily group time provides your child the opportunity to learn in a large setting. The daily activities will include Bible stories, music and movement, language experience and discussion of the current unit of study.

Additionally, Three and Four-year old classes will use a thematic curriculum along with Zoo Phonics, which provides a kinesthetic approach to learning the alphabet and letter sounds.

All age groups attend a weekly Music class which will introduce them to different types of music, encourage music and movement, as well as prepare them for our annual Christmas Nativity and Graduation programs.

Twos, Threes and Fours will attend a weekly Chapel. This time offers an interactive Bible story with activities. Chapel will help the Bible come alive for your child.

Discipline/Guidance

Discipline must be:

1. Individualized and consistent for each child;
2. Appropriate to the child's level of understanding; and
3. Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

A caregiver may only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction, which include at least the following:

1. Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior;
2. Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements;
3. Redirecting behavior using positive statements; and
4. Using brief supervised separation or time out from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development, which is limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age.

If there is a reoccurring disciplinary problem, we will schedule a conference with the parent to discuss possible solutions. Northwest Preschool reserves the right to request withdrawal of a child who is unable to adapt to a group situation.

Emergency Preparedness

Fire, tornado and emergency drills are routinely practiced. Evacuation maps are located in every classroom and the teachers have been trained to address with emergency situations. Please see the Preschool Director if you have any questions about these procedures.

Enrollment Procedures

Online registration for our school year is held each January/February. Priority is given to our currently enrolled students, followed by Northwest Bible Church members, then the outside public. A current copy of your child's immunization record must be on file for them to attend Preschool.

Health Information

If your child becomes ill at school, you will be contacted to pick up your child at the Preschool office as soon as possible. Please call the Preschool office to let us know on days that your child will be out due to illness.

The spread of communicable diseases is best controlled by common sense. A child should be free from fever 24 hours before returning to school. The Preschool administration retains the right of refusing a child who does not appear to be capable of performing the activities of the day.

The best way for you to keep your child and other children free of childhood diseases is to avoid exposing the children and teachers to a child who is sick. Children are more comfortable at home during illnesses. Also, before returning after an illness, your child needs to be well enough to play outside.

Universal precautions are taken with all children. Parents will be notified if their child has been exposed to a contagious disease.

If your child has been taken to the doctor for colds, infections, allergies, etc. and the doctor releases the child into a group setting, please bring in a written note. This will eliminate a "judgment call" being made by the Preschool Office and will eliminate any confusion as to whether the child is infectious.

Procedures for handling Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency, Northwest Preschool will:

- Contact emergency medical services or take the child to the nearest emergency room;
- The child will be given first-aid treatment, or CPR when needed;
- Contact the physician identified in the child's record;
- Contact the child's parent; and
- Ensure supervision of other children in the group.

Emergency Forms:

Keep your child's Emergency Information current in our Preschool Records and on their Brightwheel Profile. Call or stop by the Preschool Office if there is a change in your child's pediatrician or person-to-contact in case of an emergency. If your child becomes ill, we will notify you immediately.

Health Policy

We welcome your child to our program if he/she is **clear** of the following symptoms:

- ◆ Fever-100 degrees or over
(must be FEVER FREE for 24 hours, with no medication, before returning to a group activity)
- ◆ Vomiting or Diarrhea
(within the past 24 hours)
- ◆ Rash
- ◆ Inflamed Throat and/or Mouth
- ◆ Colored Discharge from Eyes or Nose
(even associated with allergies)

- ◆ Pinkeye or any other Eye Infection
(All eye infections are contagious. The child must be on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.)
- ◆ Excessive Coughing or Sneezing
- ◆ Unusual Irritability or Fatigue
- ◆ Head Lice
(or known exposure to head lice)
- ◆ Open Wounds without Proper Bandages
- ◆ Childhood Diseases
(Chicken Pox, Mumps, Strep Throat, Flu, etc.)

Immunization Requirements

Each child enrolled or admitted to Northwest Preschool must meet applicable immunization requirements specified by the Texas Department of Health Immunization Requirements in Texas Elementary and Secondary Schools and Institutions of Higher Education. This requirement applies to all children enrolled in our program. All immunizations required for the child's age must be completed by the date of admission or have a written note from the pediatrician explaining the delay. Please help us keep our records updated by bringing in a copy of your child's immunization record each time they receive additional immunizations.

Inclement Weather Policy

For updated information on school closing, please go to the main church website at www.northwestbible.org. You can also call the church at 469-453-7777 for a pre-recorded message regarding any weather closures.

Incident/Injury Reports

When there is an incident involving a child during the Preschool day the teacher present at the incident will complete an Incident Report on Brightwheel. If the incident is serious you will receive a call from the Preschool Office.

Lunches/Nutrition

- Children attending our program are to bring their own lunch and drink. Food should be cut into the appropriate size bites ahead of time; this will prevent your child from waiting for their food to be prepared.
- For safety reasons, teachers do not warm children's food in the microwave or store it in a refrigerator.
- Please do not bring your child's breakfast to Preschool, make sure they have eaten it before coming to class.
- We are asking that EACH serving container (top and bottom) be labeled with your child's name or initials so they can be easily identified if separated from your child during lunchtime.
- Please provide a water bottle that is clean with fresh water for your child each school day. Clearly label the bottle with your child's name in a manner that it

will not rub or come off. For safety reasons, please do not send food in glass containers.

- Northwest Preschool strives to be a **Nut-Free facility**. Please do not send nuts or nut butters in your child's lunch. When providing a food item for a party or snack, please check the nutritional facts to ensure that the item does not contain nuts or has not been prepared in a facility that produces items containing nuts. Thanks for your help in keeping our children safe!

Medication

Northwest Preschool does not administer medications. Please do not put medication of any kind in your child's bag; other children could potentially be harmed. Should your child need medication during the Preschool day, you will need to make arrangements with the Director to bring the medication and administer it yourself.

Naptime

All children will have a rest time each afternoon. Lights will be lowered during this time and children in our Ones and Twos classes are expected to rest/sleep. Children in our Threes and Fours classes take a shorter rest time and end the day rotating through learning stations set-up by their teachers. Each child will need to bring their own nap/rest mat.

Should you prefer for your child to nap at home, you will need to pick up your child immediately following lunch to avoid waking up the children who are napping at school. Check with your child's teachers for the best time for early pick-up.

Parent Involvement

Parents are a vital part of our ministry here at Northwest Preschool. Parents are welcome to visit Northwest Preschool at any time during our hours of operation to observe your child, program activities, the building, the grounds, and the equipment without having to secure prior approval.

Parental Notifications/Communication/Policy Changes

Communication is extremely important for all of us. We will do our best to make sure you are informed of all school events by emails and through the Brightwheel app. The classroom teacher will provide daily schedules and information as needed. In return, we would ask you to inform your child's teacher of any severe changes in your child's daily routine, such as a family illness, death or separation anxiety.

A copy of our Parent Handbook will be available for your review on our website. If there is any change to our Parent Handbook and enrollment agreement, you will be notified in writing. Each parent must sign off upon enrollment that they have read and will comply with items in our Parent Handbook. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the policies in this handbook, please schedule a time to discuss them with the Director.

Personal Items

Please have all personal items clearly labeled with your child's name to prevent loss. We ask that your child not bring personal items such as toys, books, etc. unless otherwise notified.

Placement

Northwest Preschool uses September 1 as our cutoff date for each age group.

Potty Training

All students entering PK-3 classes must be potty trained prior to the start of school.

Ratios (Maximums)

12-17 Month Old's: 7 children to 2 teachers

18-23 Month Old's: 9 children to 2 teachers

Two-Year-Old's: 10 children to 2 teachers

Three-Year-Old's: 12 children to 2 teachers

Four-Year-Old's: 12 children to 2 teachers

Release of Children

If a child will be picked up by someone other than his/ her parents, you will need to confirm that the individual has been added to Brightwheel as an Authorized Pick-Up person. This individual will need to have the Brightwheel app downloaded and be able to see your child before picking them up from school. Please contact the Preschool Office to confirm that those individuals are listed on your child's account. ****Written notification of any person who may pose a threat to your child's safety or well-being must be submitted to the office and kept on file.**

Daily Attendance

Parents will use their Brightwheel app and scan the QR code for check in at carpool drop-off. Parents will use the same procedure at pick-up but will walk in and check their child out at the classroom.

Tuition/Fees

Tuition is due on the first of each month. Unless prior arrangements have been made with the Director, a \$15 late fee will be incurred if payment has not been made by the 10th of the month. If payment has not been received by the end of the month, your child will be suspended from the program until payment is made.

Monthly tuition is based on the number of days we are open during the year. This allows you to pay the same amount each month (September through May), eliminating higher costs in those months with more days in them. Tuition is set on the basis of the program's needs. Holidays observed during a month will cause no change in the amount due.

Children will not be allowed to skip months. When a child skips a month, it inhibits our ability to buy necessary supplies, afford special programs, as well as meet our salary obligations. Under this policy, children who miss a month or more will no longer be enrolled in our program. You may re-enroll your child at any time, provided there is availability. When re-enrolling, the enrollment fee must be paid again. Special consideration may be granted to persons in extreme situations; however these matters must be worked out with the Director in advance.

Payments of cash, check, money orders or online payments through our website are accepted. You can make checks payable to Northwest Preschool. Please note your child's name on the form of payment you submit. A fee will be charged for returned checks. After receiving two returned checks, Northwest Preschool will accept tuition payments only if made by cash or money order.

A \$175.00/per child registration fee per child will be charged for each school year. The registration fee is non-refundable. The registration fee guarantees your child a spot in the age-appropriate classroom.

The Supply Fee of \$100/per child is due on or before the first day of school with the September tuition payment. This fee will cover the supplies that your child uses at Northwest Preschool.

Withdrawing Your Child

Northwest Preschool requires a 30 day written notice of withdrawal. You may write a short letter or email to inform us that your child will be withdrawing from the program. If tuition is due during the 30 day withdrawal period, it must be paid. (For example: if you notify us after the first of the month, you will owe tuition for that current month and the following month, because it falls within the 30 day withdrawal period).