

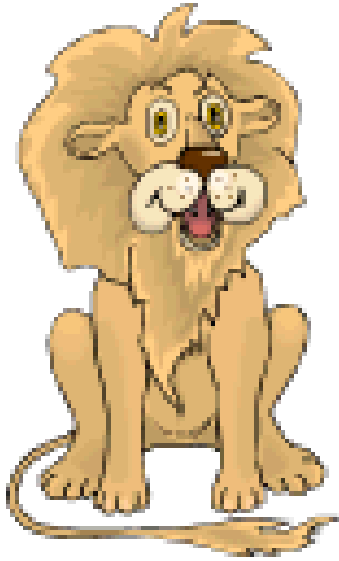
Miami Valley Christian Preschool

6830 School St

Cincinnati, OH 45244

(513) 272-6822

Marie Johnson, Director



PHILOSOPHY

Miami Valley Christian Preschool believes that each child is a unique and valuable creation of God. Through creativity, discovery and hands-on exploration, children develop and become distinctive individuals with positive self-images. During their day, the children will have opportunities to participate in large group, small group and independent learning activities in a developmentally appropriate

environment that are planned to enhance the child's growth and learning, as well as prepare them for elementary school.

A warm, caring, Christ-centered environment and a variety of developmentally appropriate materials and techniques stimulate and develop each child during these formative years. Teaching is tailored to the individual abilities and interests of the children. Our Christian education touches the spiritual, emotional, cognitive, social and physical lives of the students. Learning will include spiritual development, character building through Bible lessons and social interaction. An academic curriculum with an emphasis on literacy and writing is integrated across the curricular areas.

The Pre-Kindergarten class meets five half days and is specifically designed to meet the developmental and academic needs of children who are eligible to enter Kindergarten the following year.

LICENSING

Miami Valley Christian Preschool is licensed by the Ohio Department of Education following the guidelines prescribed in the Rules for Preschool Programs, Chapter 3301-37. Licensing records, including fire and building reports and the laws and rules governing the preschool, are available for review upon request. Licensing is based on two inspections per year by the Ohio Department of Education.

Miami Valley Christian Preschool is owned and operated by the Board of Trustees of the Miami Valley Christian Academy. Said Board has approved all policies adopted for the Preschool. Miami Valley Christian Preschool does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin, neither in hiring of its certificated and non-certificated personnel nor in seeking and enrollment of its student body.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT & CURRICULUM

This parent handbook is offered to you as a guide to our preschool program. Please read and review its contents thoroughly. Parent participation is always welcome and parents are encouraged to sign up to help in the classroom. Parents, teachers and children make up the educational team and we welcome your participation and comments in providing a successful first school experience for your child.

Our program is developed to meet the spiritual, emotional, cognitive, social and physical needs of children three to five years of age. Children are encouraged to explore, create and discover through hands-on learning. The education is tailored to the needs of each child based on their interests, abilities and skills. The role of the teachers is to observe the educational needs of each child and guide the child in appropriate activities.

The curriculum will provide for learning in a number of areas including Bible, math, science, community/safety, motor activities, language, reading readiness (phonics based), art and music. In the course of the day, children will be instructed in large and small groups, and given opportunities to work with friends or alone. Time will be provided for free choice as well as for teacher directed activities, which are based on the children's unique skills and abilities. Children may participate in active learning through activities such as blocks, creative play or art, or quiet activities such as listening centers, reading or writing activities.

A maximum teacher/child ratio of 1-11 is maintained at Miami Valley Christian Preschool with no more than 20-22 students in each session and two teachers – a certified lead teacher and a qualified assistant. Conferences will be held twice a year – fall and spring.

DISCIPLINE

When boundaries and expectations are clearly defined, children feel secure. By setting rules and clear expectations, misbehavior can be avoided and children can develop self-discipline or self-control. Children strive to please and meet the expectations of the adults.

When adult assistance is needed in discipline, it is handled in a compassionate and gentle manner. With a calm voice and actions, children are reminded of the rules, redirected or separated from the problem or in some cases asked to have time-out.

OUR STAFF

Preschool Director and Lead Teacher

Ms. Marie Johnson holds a Master of Education degree from Xavier University, along with 18 hours of postgraduate work in Early Intervention, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Cabrini College (Radnor, Pa.) in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. She has invested 25 years of her teaching career in Christian school education and administration as a classroom and intervention teacher, Admissions Director, Coordinator of Student Support Services and Early Childhood Director, as well as three years in the public schools as an Early Intervention Specialist. She has presented at workshops for the Association of Christian Schools International, the International Reading Conference, the Ohio Association of Independent Schools and the Interlock International Christian Educator's Conference in Riga, Latvia.

Assistant Teacher

Mrs. Paige McElresh and her husband, Terry, are members of the Bethel United Methodist Church. Their daughter, Payton, attends Miami Valley Christian Academy. Paige has an absolute love for children and believes that they are one of God's greatest gifts. Her background includes studies in the field of primary education. She has been active in many organizations involving young children. Paige brings enthusiasm and a sense of fun to our preschool classroom. You can typically find her on the floor, at our preschoolers' eye level, encouraging them, interacting with them, and loving them!

GOALS

The children at Miami Valley Christian Preschool will be encouraged to:

- ❑ Become more aware of God and His love for them and grow in their ability to apply God's word to their actions (good choices, compassion, sharing)
- ❑ Increase in literacy as seen in a love for books and story telling and development of language and communication skills
- ❑ Develop cognitive skills appropriate for three to five year old children
- ❑ Gain independence in the care of themselves and the environment (classroom, playground)
- ❑ Develop independent learning skills such as listening attentively, following directions and self-control
- ❑ Grow in knowledge of their world and the world-at-large
- ❑ Develop social skills and a positive self-concept
- ❑ Explore and create in art, music and science
- ❑ Increase problem solving skills through the use of math manipulatives
- ❑ Increase auditory discrimination and memory with listening centers, sound matching activities and listening games and activities.
- ❑ Increase visual discrimination and memory with matching activities, puzzles, memory games, patterning and similar activities
- ❑ Physically develop strength and coordination through activities outdoors (large motor) such as running, hopping, jumping, balance, riding toys and ball skills and indoors (small motor) with activities such as blocks, puzzles, bead stringing, sensory table, folding and cutting

CURRICULUM

MUSIC

Introducing an appreciation for a variety of music enriches children. Along with appreciation, students develop a basic understanding of musical elements and engage in creative expression through the incorporation of mood, rhythm and melody. Opportunities are present for active involvement in activities that teach principles of God's truth and praise in worship. The student will:

- develop a vocabulary of musical terms
- learn about rhythm & rhythmic patterns
- listen to, understand & enjoy different types of music
- listen to and discuss different instruments and their sounds
- learn a variety of songs for academic reinforcement and enjoyment
- participate in a variety of finger plays
- increase listening skills through musical activities
- increase understanding of cultures, traditions, holidays & special events
- learn to praise God through songs
- learn Biblical principles and character development through Scripture songs

BIBLE

Bible is introduced in a developmentally appropriate manner. Simple truths give meaning to early childhood children. The importance of God caring for us, God as our Heavenly Father and Creator, and God's love for us are cornerstones of the course of study. Bible memory, prayer and worship help develop and understanding of how we get acquainted with the Lord God. Developing Christian character and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is highlighted. The student will:

- dramatize Bible stories
- learn finger plays & songs to reinforce stories
- learn Bible memory verses
- be able to demonstrate a peaceful, loving & kind attitude
- learn that God is the author & sustainer of all things
- be made aware of God's plan of salvation and how he/she can have a personal relationship with Him
- learn good character traits such as thankfulness, obedience, forgiveness, honesty etc.
- develop positive self esteem in light of his value to God

ART

Preschool students are encouraged to use a variety of mediums to create. While creating, attention is given to fine motor skills, following directions and care of materials. Art is coordinated with other subject areas. Process often is given a higher value than product at this point in the child's development. The student will:

- learn to use their creative abilities more effectively
- learn to follow a project to completion
- develop fine motor controls through cutting, pasting, drawing, painting and clay
- learn to follow directions through step by step assembly of projects
- make seasonal projects
- make art projects that support the academic & Biblical curriculum.
- develop knowledge of art terms – such as finger paint, tempera paint, watercolor paint & collage.

MOTOR SKILLS

Many opportunities are given for experiencing eye-hand, hand-foot, eye-foot and other bodily movements such as directionality, laterality, balance, flexibility and other locomotion skills. Understanding good health and safety practices are encouraged along with an appreciation for how God has created our bodies to work for us. The student will:

- develop good body image & laterality
- practice good health and safety habits
- develop spatial & body awareness
- develop gross motor coordination
- sharpen his/her directionality & locomotion skills
- build flexibility
- develop balance
- appreciate how God has created our bodies to work for us and for His glory

MATHEMATICS

Children learn to appreciate the orderliness of God's world through the study of mathematics. Through problem solving, manipulation, sorting, counting and grouping, the structure of math is made known to children. Math vocabulary is introduced as numbers, geometry and measurement as well as working left to right. Working along and working at an individual pace are unique instructional designs of mathematics. Learning centers make mathematics fun and informative. The student will:

- learn a working math vocabulary
- learn to compare likenesses & differences
- learn rote counting
- learn to recognize numerals
- learn positional words (first, next, last)
- classify objects by matching
- understand quantity terms: zero, more, less
- recognize basic shapes – oval, triangle, circle, square, rectangle & diamond
- learn basic calendar concepts – seasons, days of the week & months of the year
- learn basic measurement concepts (smaller, larger, lighter, heavier, etc.)
- be exposed to sorting, patterning, seriation, graphing, matching & comparing
- learn left to right progression
- learn simple concepts of addition/subtraction/fractions
- learn to estimate

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language curriculum focuses on using developmentally appropriate activities that integrate reading, writing, listening, speaking and thinking to develop the abilities God has given students to communicate. Included are activities for developing oral language and listening skills, games and ideas for reading readiness and writing skills. A literate, print rich environment is developed within the classroom. The student will:

- develop visual & auditory discrimination
- develop & extend a broad vocabulary
- distinguish parts of a story/book
- develop oral communication skills that include role play, sharing experiences & ideas, speaking clearly in complete sentences using correct grammar
- participate in real & vicarious experiences through field trips, etc.
- participate in writing skills
- participate in classroom responsibilities by caring for their personal belongings & classroom materials

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Children learn to observe nature and appreciate themselves and God's creation as they study science/health. Basic principles of observation, recording, predicting, experimenting and concluding are practiced. Safety and order are stressed in all situations. Science is best when it is experienced and explored. The student will:

- study topics such as animal life, plant life, magnetism, weather, five senses, nutrition, life cycles, the body, fire, properties of water, habitats, seasons, creation, space and stars
- use the scientific method of discovery
- learn to act on their curiosity
- learn that God is the author/sustainer of all life and the natural world

SOCIAL STUDIES

Children are curious about their communities. Social Studies provides opportunities for children to explore and discover not only their immediate community but also the world at large. A Christian world view is introduced. Additionally, children have a variety of experiences to understand their value as God's children and to realize how the importance of their actions and decisions impact their peers. The student will be able:

- to develop an understanding that families are part of God's plan for people
- to develop an understanding of how to care for the resources God gave us
- to learn about the immediate community
- to learn about special days & holidays as they relate to Biblical culture and today's culture
- to learn that people are made in God's image and are of value to Him
- to be aware of recognizing & responding to their own feelings as well as the rights & feelings of others.

A TYPICAL DAY

Times subject to a slight change.

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|---------------|---|---------------|
| 8:20 – 8:35 | Arrival/Free Choice | 12:00 – 12:15 |
| 8:35 – 9:05 | Circle Time (pledge, attendance, prayer, Bible, songs / story, introduce new materials/concepts) | 12:15 – 12:45 |
| 9:05 – 10:05 | Free Choice and Small Groups (Children choose activities from areas of the classroom or work in small groups on teacher directed activities.) Snack will be made available at this time. | 12:45 – 1:45 |
| 10:05– 10:25 | Circle Time (Prepare to leave [pack-up], review concepts/work of the day, songs/story.) | 1:45 – 2:05 |
| 10:25 – 10:50 | Outside Play/Large Motor | 2:05 – 2:30 |
| 10:50 – 11:00 | Dismissal | 2:30 – 2:40 |

ADMISSIONS

The preschool will be open from the Tuesday after Labor Day through the last Friday in May. We offer three 2½ hour sessions: Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 8:30 to 11:00, Tuesday & Thursday from 8:30 to 11:00, Monday – Friday from 12:10 to 2:40 (Pre-Kindergarten 4 & 5 year olds). Families also have the option of sending their child all five days in the morning. All sessions are tentative based on enrollment.

Classes are open to children ages three to five from Christian families. Children who turn three in the month of September are welcome to enroll; however, due to state regulations, they may not attend until their third birthday. Parents wishing to pursue this option are responsible for the first quarter tuition. Siblings of our present students and MVCA students or preschool students who are re-enrolling may submit applications before the Winter Open House. New student registration begins at the Winter Open House. Families are encouraged to visit and observe our program before applying. An informal interview is required before your child can be accepted.

Transportation to and from school is provided by the parent. Preschool children are not eligible to ride the busses. A child must be toilet trained before he/she can attend preschool.

The Admissions criteria are:

- 1) Miami Valley Christian Preschool and MVCA families
- 2) Miami Valley Christian Preschool and MVCA alumni families
- 3) Gender/age balance
- 4) Maturity/self-discipline

As a Christian educational institution, Miami Valley Christian Preschool, through its Trustees, officers, faculty, staff, students and supports, is bound in sacred covenant to preserve, defend and practice the “faith once delivered unto the saints” as contained in Holy Scripture and as stated in the Statement of Faith. (below)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 1) We believe the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible Word of God and that it is the final authority in faith and life.
- 2) We believe there is only one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are the same in substance, power and glory.
- 3) We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, true God and true man, and that He lived a perfect and sinless life.
- 4) We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, which is enmity against God, becoming sinners in thought, word and deed.
- 5) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, as a substitutionary sacrifice, was resurrected, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return to set up His Kingdom on Earth to reign in righteousness and justice.
- 6) We believe that Salvation is by grace through faith and that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God, and that the Holy Spirit indwells all believers.
- 7) We believe there are two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which are divinely enjoined upon all Christians. Without merit in themselves, they provide an expression of faith regarding the believer’s identification and fellowship with Christ.
- 8) We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the conscious punishment of the lost.