

**PATHWAY
PRESCHOOL**
PARENT HANDBOOK

**QUALITY PRESCHOOL EDUCATION IN
A CARING, CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT**



**PATHWAY
PRESCHOOL**

239 Braun Rd.

Beaver Falls, PA 15010

724.843.6381

www.preschoolatpathway.com



Preschool Leadership:



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Class Times

Preschool 3s Classes – Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Preschool/Pre-K 4s Classes –
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pre-K 5s Classes – Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Extended Day

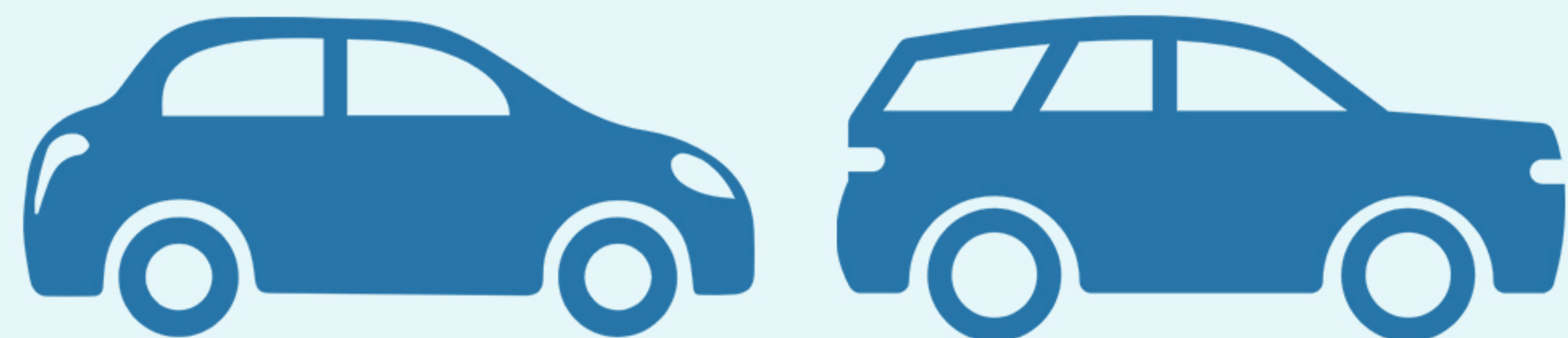


Communication

We use email and the Classroom Dojo app as our primary source of communication. It is important that you check your email regularly and install this app on your phone to receive the most up-to-date information from our administration and your child's teacher.

Car Line

We use a car line for drop-off and pick-up. The doors to the school will open at 8:55 a.m. for arrival and 11:30 a.m. for dismissal, or 12:25 p.m. for arrival and 3:00 p.m. for dismissal. Please remain in your cars and have children unbuckled and ready so teachers may take them from the vehicle and usher them inside efficiently. At pick-up, teachers will help students into the car, and we ask that you pull forward into a parking spot to buckle your child into their car seat. Please refer to the separate car line procedures page for more clarity.



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Enrollment

We use an online registration form to enroll students at www.preschoolatpathway.com. There is a \$50 registration fee to reserve a spot, and we ask for the first month of tuition to be paid the first week of May. If these fees are not paid on time, we cannot secure your child's enrollment.

Tuition Policy

There are nine payments for the school year. The monthly fee is due by the 30th of the previous month. For example, December tuition is due by November 30. Payments are made online at www.preschoolatpathway.com. If you do not pay by the 5th of the month, a \$25 late fee will be attached to your tuition. Payments must be made whether your child is in school or not. If you are late picking up your child from school on a regular basis, there will be a \$15 fee attached to your tuition for each 15 minutes that you are late.

Safety

We lock the double doors to our preschool wing at all times during school hours. In the unlikely event of an emergency, we will erect door barricades to prevent anyone from entering the preschool wing. If you are running late, please call the office at 724.843.6381 to let us know. We will be able to let your child into the preschool wing and help them to class. Please make every effort to be on time for school each day.



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Safety cont.

We have a strict no-weapons policy at Pathway Preschool. Please do not allow your child to bring anything into school that may resemble a weapon. If your child does bring an inappropriate toy or object to class, it will be confiscated and you will be called to retrieve it. Thank you for using your discretion.

Snow Policy

We will use email and the Classroom Dojo app to alert you of weather cancellations and delays.



Curriculum Guide

3-Year-Old Program

Our 3-year-old program consists of a wide variety of activities, including playtime, circle time, singing and poems, arts and crafts, reading the Bible, reading other stories, and more. Three-year-old children are capable of learning many things, and we will present learning activities in an enjoyable, caring environment. Learning will be fun and natural.

Some of the topics we present are:

- Basic colors and shapes
- Alphabet & alphabet sounds/Heggerty Phonological Awareness*
- Coloring and cutting skills
- Numbers and counting
- Calendar (months/days)
- Weather and seasons
- Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day)
- Home, family, and other topics

* New for 2024, as recommended by the Provident Charter School as well as several local school districts.

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4-Year-Old Program

The goal of our 4-year-old program is to help prepare your child for Kindergarten. We use a variety of activities, including playtime, games, music, circle time, table time, show and tell, science, arts and crafts, and lessons on a wide variety of topics and basic skills. We believe in challenging students in a fun, caring environment with no pressure. We try to determine where children are in their development and take them as far as we can while they are here at Pathway Preschool.

Some of the topics we present are:

- Weather, calendar, seasons, months, days
- School rules
- Home, family, good health habits, manners, safety
- Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, Presidents' Day, Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day)
- Pilgrims and Native Americans
- Pets and other animals
- The solar system and other science topics

Some of the basic skills we work on are:

- Pencil and scissor skills
- Fine- and gross-motor skills
- Colors (recognition)
- Numbers (counting, recognition, writing)
- Alphabet (sounds recognition, writing/Heggerty Phonemic Awareness*)
- Shapes (recognition, drawing)
- Name (recognition and writing)
- Opposites and rhyming
- Patterns and sequencing
- Same vs. different
- Matching and go-togethers
- Spatial and directional concepts
- Size
- Following directions
- Time



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Pre-K 5s Program

In addition to reviewing the basic skills listed in the 4-year old program, our goal is to see how we can better prepare these students for kindergarten. We want to help them develop confidence and a desire to learn. We also want to help them with the first steps in being leaders in their future years in school. This is achieved by allowing opportunities for the children to develop greater independence in their learning by playing games, working in small groups and centers and other similar activities.

Each day we will explore language and math skills through a variety of learning methods. One of these, starting in 2024, is the addition of the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum, as recommended by area school districts and the Provident School. We plan to work more with letter sounds, eventually leading to the building of small sight words. Math skills are built and reinforced through various curricula, games and activities. These are designed to expand on the basics of number recognition and encourage skills like simple addition, subtraction, complex sorting, and patterns.

Early Intervention

We view preschool as a vital time in a child's development to uncover any challenges he or she may be facing. Whether it is separation anxiety, fine or gross motor issues, behavioral or speech challenges, these can hinder a child's progress if not discovered early.

To that end we have a robust partnership with several local service agencies:

BVIU: Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit is a local educational service agency providing programs and resources to area schools. The services we utilize most often are mobile therapists. They visit to provide help for speech, occupational, and behavioral therapy for qualifying students.

LifeSteps Child Check: Lifesteps is a local non-profit agency that offers a screening which checks for developmental milestones. This also includes a vision test.

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Snacks

We are a NUT FREE facility. Each day children are asked to please bring in a small, nut-free snack for themselves. Any child who may forget their snack will be provided with a snack option of either goldfish, animal crackers or pretzels.

When your child is on the calendar to celebrate his or her birthday, you may send in a special nut-free snack to share with the class. Teachers will send home a monthly calendar with birthdays on it.



Dress

Please dress your child in comfortable play clothes appropriate for indoor and outdoor play. If it is a nice day but a bit cool, please send a jacket because we try to go outside as many days as we can in the fall and spring. Tennis shoes and socks work best for little feet.

Discipline Policy

There may be times when a child's actions are inappropriate for school. Should they need to be corrected, our policy is not to use any form of physical punishment. We will use any of the following methods depending on the circumstances: positive reinforcement, sticker charts, warnings, and removal from the group if the child is a danger to themselves or others. As a last resort, we will conduct a conference with the parent. We will keep you informed of any situations that may be occurring at school.

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Termination of Enrollment

The first month of enrollment at Pathway Preschool is a trial period. We reserve the right to remove a student from our program for any cause. Please see the preschool readiness guidelines on our website to be sure your child is ready for preschool!

Children can be dismissed from the program for the following reasons:

- Failure to pay tuition
- Repeated late drop-off or pick-up
- Child's behavior endangers other children
- Child has emotional or disciplinary needs that cannot be met by the faculty and support staff at Pathway
- Child does not meet the preschool readiness guidelines

Should it become apparent that the parents do not support the goals and policies of Pathway Preschool, the child may be removed from the program.

Medical

This age group is extremely susceptible to outside infection. It is imperative that a child be kept home if he or she shows any signs of illness. We ask that all students do not return to school until they have been fever, diarrhea, and vomit free for at least 24 hours. In the event that your child becomes sick at school, we will notify you to pick up your child immediately.



PHILOSOPHY

We believe that preschool is a valuable experience for each child. Our program is designed to allow children to function in their current level of development, while encouraging them toward the next stage of growth.

We believe in learning by doing, so we have various areas that let children use their senses and creativity. We also recognize that children need to be active and desire time to “do things themselves,” so the activities your child encounters are purposeful, with the child’s needs in mind.

Building with blocks stimulates gross and fine motor control and coordination. The housekeeping and kitchen area provides an opportunity for role playing and socialization. Painting, arts and crafts, signing and rhythmic movement promote creativity. Language arts development is accomplished by practice in matching, copying, classifying, listening, remembering and talking. Working with concrete objects, such as counters, deepens the understanding of numbers, shapes, sizes, spatial relationships, patterns and the basic use of these manipulative objects. Knowledge in social studies is gained through pictures and discussions of the family, the community and its helpers, holiday celebrations and field trips. Basic science truths are discovered through experience with animals, plants, weather, air and water. There will be numerous opportunities for your child to develop character through sharing, cooperation, listening and discussing with the teachers and other children.

As a Christian preschool, we freely discuss God’s creation of the world and His love for each of us as “someone special.” We teach no particular church denominational doctrine. We read from the Bible and believe that God’s love for us never changes even though our world is constantly changing.

We strive to develop in each child an awareness of their “specialness” as well as a respect for others and their property.

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