



ST. MICHAEL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
(919)468-6110



REGISTRATION NEWSLETTER
January 2010

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this newsletter is to introduce you to the philosophy, programs, and general administrative policies of St. Michael Early Childhood Center preschool programs as well as to inform you of our registration process. Please call, stop by the office during office hours, or e-mail dmandzak@stmichaelcary.org, or mtoscano@stmichaelcary.org if you have questions.

MISSION STATEMENT
OUR REASON FOR BEING...

St. Michael Early Childhood Center provides a caring environment in which children can grow socially, emotionally, mentally, creatively, and spiritually. In this environment, children discover the inherent goodness in all that they are and how God is part of their everyday lives. It is an atmosphere in which children can learn to live effectively with themselves and others and also begin to acquire a sense of identity as God's children while experiencing many chances for success. In a world that grows more competitive each day, the staff of the ECC assists the children to experience happiness and success in a non-competitive environment. By making material available in an interesting, exciting manner, children can be children—free to play, explore, and imagine in the course of a child oriented day.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

St. Michael ECC is a Catholic Center where spiritual enrichment is recognized as an essential part of the learning process. It is, therefore, an integral part of the program.

Throughout our everyday activities, the staff of the ECC strives to help each child know that God is love, and that he is the maker of all that is great and beautiful in this world. Bible stories are read in the classroom, children learn the sign of the cross, begin each day with a prayer, and honor Mary with a May Crowning ceremony. Children who attend the three, four, and five-year-old preschool programs also meet in the church throughout the school year for a short program of prayer and song, and our four and five-year-old children attend the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd once a week.

Finally, in addition to fostering the growth and development of the children who attend, participation in our programs provides parents and families with many opportunities to build and strengthen ties to each other and the parish community.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS



Our preschool programs serve 146 children; 24 children in our two-year-old program, 56 children in the three-year-old program, 50 children in the four-year-old programs and 16 children in the Developmental Kindergarten. There are twelve to eighteen children in a class taught by a teacher and an assistant. Each of our teachers holds a teaching certificate or is working toward an Early Childhood credential. All members of the ECC staff are certified in CPR and First Aid and are required to accrue a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education each year.

All of our programs offer a developmentally appropriate curriculum, and each level builds on the previous one. Whether exploring the many facets of dinosaurs, traveling to Mexico, England, or the moon, play acting famous fairy tales, collecting bugs, or experimenting with erupting volcanoes, the ultimate goal is to expose the children to a wide variety of wonderful units and provide an atmosphere of learning through play. Our units are designed to develop readiness skills and they all provide developmentally appropriate activities directed toward that end. In addition to regular classroom activities and outdoor play, the children go to the Music Room for music and movement with our music teacher.

Many activities depend on parents volunteering their time and talents. We invite parents to play an important role in the early education of their children.

TWO YEAR OLD – Two Day (T/TH or M/W): Two years old by 8/31/10

This is a cooperative program in which parents work, on a rotating basis, with classroom leaders to provide a play group for toddlers.



THREE YEAR OLD – Two Day (T/TH) or Three Day (M/W/F): Three years old by 8/31/10

The emphasis of this program is on socialization. The teachers strive to help the children build self-confidence and self-esteem, while they learn through play. We encourage and promote interest in socializing, imaginative play, group activities, and solitary play. All of these activities are enriched with stories and music.



FOUR YEAR OLD – Three Day (M/W/F) or Five Day (M-F): Four years old by 8/31/10

In both four-year-old programs, we encourage children to look for peer relationships, to play cooperatively with others as well as along side them, to share, contribute and interact with others in a group, and to explore and create! This program consists of a vast array of units and themes which concentrate on continuing to develop social skills, while introducing kindergarten readiness skills in a fun, exciting, and developmentally appropriate way.



FIVE YEAR OLD – Five Day (M-F): Five years old by 8/31/10

This program organizes developmentally appropriate activities into units and themes designed to accomplish readiness for kindergarten as well as to further strengthen the children’s confidence and self-esteem. The luxury of a five day program affords the teacher the opportunity to more fully explore each unit with the children. Teachers encourage readiness to learn and question, utilization of the children’s developing sense of responsibility, and their abilities for imaginative play, dramatic play, construction, and simple games. This program offers a “kinder, gentler” approach for children who need an extra year to grow before entering a full day, structured kindergarten setting.



CENTER HOURS

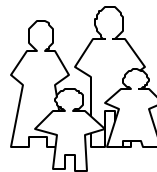
School begins at 9:30 each morning and ends at 12:30 each afternoon. Children may be dropped off in the classrooms beginning at 9:25. Children are dismissed to parents at their classroom doors at 12:30.

Orientation sessions will be held in August, and programs end in May.

HANDBOOKS, CLASS LISTS, AND ORIENTATION

Letters regarding orientation and school calendars, along with tuition payment envelopes for June, August, and September, will be mailed to enrolled children in May.

The ECC handbook is now available online at www.stmichaelcary.org, click on “Our Schools.” Class lists will be mailed at the beginning of August. Please inform the office of any address or phone changes.



ADDITIONAL ECC PROGRAMS

Parents and Children Together, P.A.C.T., is an opportunity for parents and children, infants through preschool age, to meet together and play from 10-Noon on Wednesday mornings in the Parish Center. It’s a “come if you can” program that begins in October and ends in May. Pre-registration is not required. This program is dependent on a volunteer facilitator each week and can continue only as long as someone is willing to serve in that capacity.

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What do I need to do to register?

Complete an application, including stewardship form if applicable, and return it to the ECC office, along with a copy of your child's birth certificate, and the registration fee of \$110 during the appropriate registration period. If you are registering more than one child, the registration fee for each additional sibling is \$90.*

**Parishioners who are interested in receiving the stewardship tuition rate must complete this form.*

Applications may be mailed or dropped off in the ECC office M-F between 9:00 and 1:00.

Registration information sessions are available for those parents who have never had a child attend an ECC preschool program.

Information sessions are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, February 1, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 2, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 3, 10 a.m.

PROGRAM ENTRANCE AGE REQUIREMENTS

- 2 day (M/W or T/TH), 2-year-old must be 2 by 8/31/10
 - 2 day (T/TH), 3-year-old must be 3 by 8/31/10
 - 3 day (M/W/F), 3-year-old must be 3 by 8/31/10
 - 3 day (M/W/F), 4-year-old must be 4 by 8/31/10
 - 5 day (M-F), 4-year-old must be 4 by 8/31/10
 - 5 day (M-F) Developmental Kindergarten, 5-year-old must be 5 by 8/31/10*
- *The director reserves the right to extend the cut-off date for this class.

Children in our three, four, and five-year-old programs must be toilet trained. NO EXCEPTIONS. Neither pull-ups nor diapers are permitted.

REGISTRATION DATES

Returning Students: January 25-29, 2010
Parishioners: February 1-5, 2010
Non-parishioners : February 8-12, 2010*

*Priority is given to parishioners of other Catholic parishes.

Applications are available in the ECC office, Monday-Friday, from 9-1 or on our website at www.stmichaelcary.org, click on "Our Schools".

WAITING LISTS

Enrollment in any program for which there are more applications than spaces is determined by lottery. When all spaces in a program are filled, children's names will be placed on a waiting list.

- Children whose parents are parishioners of St. Michael will be given priority.
- Waiting lists do not carry over from year to year. If your child is currently on a waiting list, and you wish to enroll for the next year, you must reapply.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition is a yearly fee, payable as follows:

- Payment in full by June 5, 2010, or
- One-half payment by June 5, and one-half by December 5, or
- Ten monthly payments beginning June 2010 through April 2011. (There is no July payment as the office is closed.)



2010-2011 TUITION RATES

Developmental Kindergarten or Five Day 4's

Full tuition: \$3200/yr. - Stewardship family: \$2690

3-Day Four-Year-Old or Three-Year-Old Program

Full tuition: \$2200/yr. - Stewardship family: \$1840

2-Day Three-Year-Old Program

Full tuition: \$1910/yr. - Stewardship family: \$1600

2-Day Two-Year-Old Program

Full tuition: \$1790/yr. - Stewardship family: \$1500

WITHDRAWAL

Unless tuition is paid in full, tuition payments are not refundable once the school year starts. However, if a family is moving out of the area and school has not begun, one-half the June payment and the August payment will be refunded if the space can be filled from our waiting list. Notice of withdrawal must be in writing. If a child is withdrawn during the school year without 30 days written notice, parents are responsible for paying an additional monthly tuition payment.