



## **Promise Christian Preschool**

We are a state-licensed Christian preschool serving children ages 3 - 5 years old. Our teachers are loving, supportive, spiritual leaders in the field. Our small class sizes allow for individualized attention and a community feel amongst our families. We gladly offer tours to potential families. Please contact us for a tour or any questions you may have at [promisecristianpreschool@gmail.org](mailto:promisecristianpreschool@gmail.org). We look forward to meeting your family!

### **Frequently Asked Questions for 2020-21 School Year**

#### **Where is your school?**

Promise Christian Preschool is located at 270 N. 76th Street in Boulder, CO. Our space is inside Boulder Valley Church of Christ. The church is situated in East Boulder between Baseline and South Boulder Road.

#### **What age must my child be to attend?**

Per our state license, we welcome children ages 2 years 10 months to 6 years at the time school starts.

#### **How do I reserve a space for my child?**

You may reserve a space by completing the enrollment application (available on our website) either electronically or by mail. We also ask for a \$100 registration/materials fee. \$50 is a non-refundable deposit of which is due upon completion of the enrollment paperwork, and the remaining \$50 is due by July 1<sup>st</sup> to confirm your enrollment for the Fall 2020 school year.

#### **What is the cost of tuition?**

Preschool (Tuesdays and Thursdays) is \$250/month.

Pre-K (Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays) is \$325/month.

School is in session from September through May (9 months). Exact start date and end date to be determined. We follow the Boulder Valley School District calendar. Tuition assistance may be available. Please contact our director, Julie Bock, for more information.

**What are the hours of operation?**

Our Preschool class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our Pre-K class meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Both Preschool and Pre-K are from 9am-12pm with an optional Lunch Bunch offered twice a month. Lunch bunch allows you to extend your child's stay for an extra hour, through 1pm for an additional fee of \$10. Parents are asked to pack a lunch for their child on these days. We also offer an early drop-off option at 8:30am for an additional \$5 a day.

**What class is best for my child?**

Typically, the preschool class is recommended for students aged 3 to 4 and our pre-K class is recommended for students aged 4 to 5 (and expected to enroll in Kindergarten the following year). For situations where a student might be close to the kindergarten age cut-off, the option to repeat either preschool or pre-K is available based on your child's educational/developmental needs. Our staff will help guide families with recommendations for each student.

**What does the daily schedule look like?**

9:00-9:05 Arrival

9:05-9:25 Circle (includes greetings, student jobs, Bible story, whole group activity)

9:25-10:15 Centers (includes individualization time with each student)

10:15-10:25 Clean Up

10:25-10:55 Outside/Gross Motor

10:55-11:25 Handwashing & Snack

11:25-11:55 Small Groups (2 groups, students participate in activities in all content areas)

11:55-12:00 Goodbye

Our schedule is designed to meet the needs of all students. It creates stability and consistency that allows children to thrive. We balance teacher and student-driven time.

**What curriculum does Promise Christian Preschool use?**

We use Creative Curriculum, which is student-driven and aligns with CO State Standards for Early Childhood. We do not use predetermined units, but rather adapt this curriculum as we see fit. Studies show that children learn better when they are actively engaged in the topic of study. With this in mind, we take the interests and experiences of the students to determine what we will focus our learning around. Additionally, we use Teaching Strategies Gold as our assessment tool. Gold assesses the whole child and meets them where they are developmentally. It allows the teachers to plan for each child's development and goal-setting. Gold is used at the Kindergarten level in both Boulder Valley and St. Vrain schools. It is also used in many 0-3 programs as it can assess children from infancy through 3rd grade (age 8-9). Gold also aligns with CO state Standards.

**What is your student-teacher ratio?**

We are designed and licensed to have no more than 18 kids in a class. At 18 kids, we meet the licensing requirements of 1:12 and actually lower ours to 1:10. Two teachers will always be in the classroom with the children.

### **How is Promise Christian Preschool different from a traditional preschool?**

Being a Christian preschool, our curriculum includes biblical lessons as well as faith development. We teach using non-denominational Christian values. We celebrate Christmas and Easter and incorporate prayer into our daily routine.

### **Who are the staff and teachers at Promise?**

Julie Bock is our director and has been with Promise since 2015. Julie has an Early Childhood Education degree from Metropolitan Community College, in Omaha, Nebraska. She has previously worked in large childcare centers as well as privately owned centers, but has thrived in recent years at Promise where the Christian setting has afforded her the opportunity to share her love of Jesus Christ with young children. She is active in her church with VBS, choir, worship and women's bible study. She has been married for 24+ years; has 20-year-old twins, 2 grown and married stepchildren and 2 grandchildren. Her joy comes from being with children, spending time with her family, singing, piano and praising God. Julie has been the glue that has held Promise together during our recent transition to our new space!

Our lead teacher is Emily Olivas. Emily has been teaching preschool since 2008 and has been with Promise since 2014. She was trained at Promise by one of the original teachers who spent 25 years with us! Her early childhood career began when she opened a home daycare in 2005. Emily earned her Associates degree in Early Childhood Education in 2007 and continued her education to obtain her B.A. in Early Childhood Education from Kendall College in Chicago. Emily is passionate about teaching and it shows in her work. Emily has a whole-child teaching philosophy which means she believes in meeting kids where they are and helping them grow, academically, socially, and in their faith. She is an advocate for healthy eating and lifestyle in the early childhood years. Emily believes preschool is a place to develop social skills while also including academics to prepare students for kindergarten and their future academic careers. Emily has a strong faith in Jesus Christ that has grown with the trials and joys of her adult life. Emily is married, has two children and is an absolute gift to Promise!

We will also be hiring an assistant teacher before the Fall 2020 school year. If you are interested, or know someone who might enjoy working alongside our incredible staff at Promise, please visit our website for the application and information about the position.

Promise is a non-profit organization and therefore operates under a Board of Directors. The Promise Christian Preschool Board is comprised of parents and community members. Our mission is to uphold the school's philosophy and create a successful, loving environment for the children of our families through God. The Board supports the staff, handles fundraising, assists with Grants, and is a liaison for staff and families.

#### Current Board Members

Chair: Natalie Erickson

Secretary: Stephanie Shalosky

Treasurer: TBD

Fundraising: Roxanne Gross  
Public Relations: Britt Debenport  
Event Coordinator: Ashely Bove

**Describe the classroom space and how it is used.**

We have one large classroom space within the church at the west end of the building. There is a separate entry door that will be used for Promise families. Upon entering the building, you'll be asked to sign-in and assist your child in using the restroom and washing hands. Each child will have a coat hook to store his/her belongings. Our "centers" include areas such as art, science, dramatic play, and blocks. There is a bathroom attached to the classroom. Our playground space is just down the hall and accessible via a separate door. We also have access to the church's kitchen/dining area where we may have our morning snack together.

**What is your mission statement and educational philosophy?**

It is our promise that we will provide age-appropriate educational programs that will encourage each child to grow spiritually, mentally, physically and socially in a loving and caring environment.

*The purpose of Christian education is to direct the process of human development toward God's objective for all: Godliness of character and action. The goal of godly character and action will be reached by teaching each child: that they are personally known and loved by God; that they may know God through Jesus Christ; and how they can conform to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29).*

Our motivation is to achieve excellence in academic curriculum, Biblical knowledge, physical and motivational development, and social and emotional maturity by involvement and by giving young children room to grow.

**What school supplies are required?**

Your \$100 registration fee will be used to cover many of the supplies needed in the classroom. There may be unordinary needs that come up and we'll ask for donations from parents. We do ask that each child bring a full-size backpack and labeled water bottle to school each day.

**What holidays are celebrated at Promise? Are there any programs outside of the school day such as holiday plays, etc?**

We celebrate all major US holidays as well as Christian holidays. We even celebrate some of the silly ones (national mismatched sock day, donut day, etc). We do have a few after-hours events including our Christmas celebration, Dad's night, Pre-K graduation and the end-of-year picnic. Most other events occur during class time, including Mom's Spa day and our Easter celebration. A list of all our extracurricular events and celebrations will be made available prior to the start of the school year.

**How long has Promise Christian Preschool been serving the community?**

Promise Christian Preschool was founded in 1992 by Covenant Presbyterian Church as an outreach of the church to the community. In 2008 Promise Preschool became incorporated under the name *Promise Christian Preschool* as a not-for-profit corporation. In December of 2008, Promise Christian Preschool filed for status as a 501(c) (3) corporation. Promise was formerly located on Baseline and Indian Peaks Drive in Lafayette. The land was recently purchased and Promise relocated in 2019 to Boulder Valley Church of Christ on 76th Street in Boulder. We are excited to continue serving the Boulder/Lafayette/Louisville/Superior/Erie area in this capacity!

**Is the school accredited and licensed?**

Promise Christian Preschool is licensed by the State of Colorado - The Division of Child Care of The Colorado Department of Human Services. State licensing governs the health, safety, discipline, programming, buildings/facilities, equipment, and personnel requirements. A copy of the Rules Regulating Child Care Centers and licensing records are available for review in the preschool office.

**Do the teachers know CPR/First Aid?**

Yes. All preschool teachers and assistants are required by state licensing to be certified in CPR/First Aid. The director and head teacher are also certified in Medication Administration.

**Is your program play-based or academic-based?**

We are a play-based preschool. We teach through experiences and hands on activities. Our lessons are designed around the process rather than product, meaning that the end result is less important than the learning done while doing. We do not use worksheets but learn while playing. Our last year open, 97% of our pre-K was meeting or exceeding 5-year-old standards as well as being socially prepared for Kindergarten.

**How much free time is there in a given day?**

We have 70 minutes of student-led time and 55 minutes of teacher instructional time.

**What is the bathroom policy?**

All children are required to be potty trained prior to starting. We do take scheduled bathroom breaks throughout the day and encourage children to try. We ask that all children use the restroom and wash hands before entering the classroom. In the case of an accident, the student is encouraged and guided on changing themselves. Should assistance be required, Julie becomes our 3rd set of eyes to maintain ratio.

**How does snack-time work? Are they provided?**

We will offer a group snack, served family-style, where the students pass the food, serve themselves, wait until all are served, and pray prior to eating. They also clean up after themselves. Snacks will have two food groups and be healthy in nature. We prepare snacks provided by parents through an online snack sign-up. We also drink water with our snack.

**What is your policy regarding allergies?**

We are a nut-free preschool. We do keep alternative snacks on-hand. We also ensure that party food and alternative treats are available for birthday celebrations. If a child has gluten sensitivities, we may ask for the parent to provide an alternative snack for him/her.

**How is discipline handled?**

We look at all negative behavior as a teachable moment. There is often something driving that behavior that needs attention. We help students work through problems and emotions.

**What do you do about tough children?**

When a student is really struggling, we put accommodations in place to help that student succeed. We have very open communication with parents and work together to develop a plan to move forward.

**How do you encourage positive behavior?**

We spend our time “noticing” good behavior rather than bringing attention to the negative. For example, we have a “Bee Kind” jar. When students are noticed being kind and following directions and routine, they get to put a pom in the jar. When the jar is full, the students decide what their reward will be, i.e. popcorn party, movie day, pajama day, etc.

**What is the drop-off and pick-up policy?**

Transition times are difficult for children. When routines are established, confusion diminishes. All students and their families shall enter through the outside entrance by the bathrooms and students must be accompanied by an adult to the classroom. You must sign your child in and out. No student should be left unattended at any time in the hallways, parking lot, bathrooms or classrooms. If another person, other than the parent is planning on picking up your student, the parent will need to notify the director or staff and they will be required to show identification before allowing them to leave the building.

**Security?**

During classroom hours, the outside doors will remain locked. Doors will open 5 minutes before 9am and noon pick up time. If you need to enter the building, you will be able to ring the doorbell and the director will let you in.

**How often do they play outside?**

We play outside daily as long as the outside temp is above 32 degrees. Gross motor play and an energy outlet is crucial for a well balanced day of learning. Outdoors is another learning opportunity. We go out as long as it is not raining (we go inside with drizzle, snow, wind, etc.) Please provide appropriate attire for outdoor play (ie...jacket, boots, hats, gloves, etc.)

**Do you offer any summer camps/enrichment programs?**

Currently, we do not. However, we will gauge interest from parents and explore adding this to our future programming if the demand is there.

**What is your policy for sick kids?**

We ask that students stay home from school if they have a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, pink eye or just don't feel well enough to participate in normal everyday activities. Students may come back to school if they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen. Also, if they have not had loose stools or vomiting for 24 hours or one whole school day.

**Parent involvement? Are parents welcome in the classroom?**

Parents are welcome and encouraged in the classroom. When a parent volunteers in the classroom, we provide them with guidelines for volunteering and provide them with direction and ways they can involve themselves. We do ask that parents not come to just spend time with their students, but rather assist in daily activities. We also welcome any interested parents to join the Board. There are plenty of ways to help support the school.

**How do you communicate with parents throughout the year?**

In the classroom, we talk daily at drop off and pick up. We have 2 formal conferences annually. We also contact via phone, email, and use a classroom app called Remind. We are glad and available to talk most days after school. Our director is always greeting you as you drop-off and pick-up your child and will speak to you at any time you need. Primary communication is sent via email.

**Is there tuition assistance available?**

Tuition assistance is available on a case by case basis. Please contact our director, Julie Bock, for more information.