

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you all safe and healthy. I am happy to announce that Grace Weekday Preschool will offer Distance Learning Packets this fall. Though the packets will in no way replace in-school sessions and the benefit of socializing and being in class with others, we hope they will assist you as you navigate your way through this difficult time. We believe they will make it easier for you to offer activities to your preschooler that are fun and educational. Tuition covers teacher time and supplies, and there is a minimum number of students required at each age level for this opportunity to be viable. Families not currently registered may do so and also receive packets so please feel free to share this information with friends and neighbors. Packets will be prepared on a monthly basis and will be available for pick up at the preschool on specified mornings. The fees for our Distance Learning Packets are as follows:

4-year-old level: \$100/month

3-year-old level: \$ 80/month

A one-time Registration Fee of \$90 is also required, if not already paid. We will offer these packets through January, 2021, at which time we will re-evaluate whether or not to continue them. You will be obligated at the above monthly rate through January, 2021; if we continue with them during the winter/spring (if Preschool remains closed), you may also choose to continue them.

The description of what each packet will include is listed below, as well as a sample lesson plan for the first week of school for the 4-year-olds. **If you are interested in receiving the packets, please email us by August 10 with your intention.** We will let you know if we have the required minimum number of students, and a Registration Form will be posted on our website for you to complete and return to us. Registration and September's tuition are due no later than Friday, August 14, 2020.

Blessings,

Judy Phillips

Director

Grace Weekday Preschool Distance Learning

At each age level, teachers will record a short circle time video and read a story connected to the activity planned for that day. There will also be weekly music videos (approximately 15 minutes) with our music teacher, Mrs. Estes, and bi-weekly chapel stories read by one of the pastors. These stories will center around our Christian curriculum, the Fruit of the Spirit. The videos will be available via a link for you to view at your convenience.

We encourage you to have a little preschool corner or “school activity box” for your child, if you don’t have one already. Include in the activity box child safety scissors, glue sticks, crayons, markers, pencils, and watercolors. Additionally, a variety of items that can be sorted and counted will assist your child with some of the math and counting sheets and activities we send home at the older levels (such as Duplos or Unifix cubes, pompoms in a variety of sizes and colors, large buttons, different shaped pasta, dot stickers). Also recommended are a magnifying glass, plastic tweezers, and Model Magic. It is a great tool for strengthening fine motor skills and doesn’t dry out as quickly as play-doh does; play-doh scissors are also safe and fun, even for the little ones. If you would also like to add a small supply of washable paints, don’t forget a smock! Even an old shirt of mom or dad’s will work. Most of these suggested items can be found at a dollar store or Wal-Mart.

At the 4-year-old level, development of fine motor skills is critical, as are letter and number recognition, and learning to follow step-by-step instructions. Cutting and name writing and/or letter practice are always part of our preschool day in the 4-year-old classroom. Most artwork (centered around our unit of study for the month) will be traced and sent home with instructions for children to cut and complete. Each month we will send home a variety of Writing Center activities for your child to do. These will include letter of the week sheets, number and math concept sheets (a pair of dice is needed to complete some of them), Look and Find alphabet sheets (or Look and Find consonant/vowel sheets for those students who are learning to read), as well as dot-to-dot, color by number, sequencing, cutting, and seasonal coloring sheets. In addition to an ABC Book we will work on all year, we will also discuss the seasons and the months of the year, and will work on a book about the months. We will send home a monthly weather graph for each child to work on at home; at the end of the month, we will count how many days of each kind of weather we had. We will also create alphabet art that can be used for a border in your child’s

room, or it can be put into a binder for them to use as a book. Your child will receive a subscription to Scholastic Weekly Readers and a monthly Science Spin. The subscription includes links to the Scholastic site where short videos are available for each Weekly Reader and Science Spin, as well as extended activities.

As with activities at the 4-year-old level, packets for 3-year-olds will be age appropriate and will include a variety of activities such as color and shape recognition, matching, sorting, counting, and specific play-doh activities to work on fine motor skills. The 3-year-olds will work on name recognition, number concepts, and cooking or mixing, as well as activities with Model Magic to help strengthen fine motor skills. Sheets to encourage early cutting skills will also be sent home, as well as Look and Find shape sheets and color sheets. Suggestions for hands-on activities using a variety of household items will also be sent home. Cutting for daily art activities at both levels will be prepped by teachers, but children will use a glue stick and follow the step-by-step directions to complete the activities.

Sample Lesson Plans, 4-year-old level

Week: #1

Age: 4 year-olds

Theme: I Am Special

Day 1

Story	Activity	Supplies
Rockin 'In My School Shoes • Read by teacher during circle time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trace the outline of your shoe and color it. If you have a ruler in your house, ask a grown up to help you measure how long your foot is.• Can you write that number? Now find other things to measure your shoe with, such as cotton balls.• How many cotton balls does it take to go from heel to toe?• What else do you have in your house that you can measure your shoe with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handout (provided in packet)• Crayons, markers, any writing utensil• Ruler• Other manipulatives used for measuring (buttons, pennies, Duplos, pasta, etc.)•

Day 2

Story	Activity	Supplies
The Rainbow Fish • Read by teacher during circle time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will demonstrate how to hold scissors during circle. Have a grown up help you get started cutting out the fish design in your packet. Color or paint your fish; it's your fish, so make it as colorful as you want!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kid scissors• Rainbow fish handout (provided in packet)• Crayons, watercolors, paint

Day 3

Story	Activity	Supplies
<p>We Are All Alike, We Are All Different</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read by teacher during circle time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using the long piece of white paper sent home, lie down on it and have a grown up trace your shape onto it. What color eyes do you have? Draw them. What color hair, and is it long or short? Add that. And your wonderful nose and beautiful smile! What is your favorite outfit, pants and a shirt, or a dress or skirt and top? Add that. Can you sign your name next to your life-size picture? This is you! You are special! <p>Extended activity: Handprints We use child-safe ink pads in school and have the children put their whole hand onto it. We then use magnifying glasses to look at our fingerprints. Small ink pads or washable markers can also be used on fingertips.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White paper (provided in packet)• Crayons • Ink pad or washable markers• Magnifying mask

Day 4

Story	Activity	Supplies
Designed By God, So I Must Be Special • Read by teacher during circle time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pencil Names. Cut out the letters in your name and the tip and eraser that have been traced for you. Use a glue stick to glue them onto the long piece of tag board sent in your packet. Leave room on one end for the tip and room on the other end for the eraser, and glue them on also.• Hidden Names: Cut out the “cloud” shape that has been traced for you. Using watercolors or diluted food coloring, paint over the cloud. What do you see?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scissors• Glue stick• Cloud handout (provided)• Watercolors, food coloring• paintbrush

Daily Activities:

1) Name practice: Practice sheets will be sent home for those children who need them.

Other Activities:

1) Weekly Reader will be in your packet. Read it and complete the back page. Write your name in the Name box on your Weekly Reader.

2) Make your own Science Center! Go on a walk and look for acorns, pine cones, rocks, leaves - - whatever you would like to add to your science table. Every time you go on a walk, look for new things to keep your science table fresh (sea shells if you go the beach, flowers, etc.).

Suggested Books for September:

- First Day Jitters
- The Kissing Hand
- No David!
- Apple themed books