

We have compiled some frequently asked questions/responses to be helpful to parents considering Kidslink Preschool. This is a sampling of "questions" and of course, sometimes specific circumstances require more specific answers, so we always encourage you to come for a preschool tour and give us the opportunity to visit with you personally. You may call us at 722-1034, if you have a question that we haven't answered! We hope that you will consider Kidslink for your family!



Frequently asked questions by Prospective Parents

What is your teacher/child ratio at Kidslink?

It depends on the age of your child! For our younger classrooms of three-year-olds we have 16, and then each class of three's we add another student according to age--older 3's we have up to nineteen, and in a 4's & 5's classroom we have up to 20. Our Kidslink policy is to always have two teachers and maintain 1:8 or 1:9 ratio in our 3-year-old rooms, 1:10 ratio in our 4's & 5's classrooms.

I have a 4-year-old that will attend kindergarten next school year. What is your recommendation for your 2, 3, or 5 day options? I can't decide how many days to send my child to Kidslink!

This answer varies according to your family circumstances and your child's needs. Some families like the two day option if they have a child that they are completely assured will be ready for kindergarten. Perhaps your child is involved in multiple activities: gymnastics, library enhancement programs, art lessons, etc. and to attend more than two days would be an overload for them. Our three day per week is an extremely popular option. This gives children time to learn skills necessary for kindergarten. Our 5 day a week option provides a great transitional year for those children who will be attending a full day kindergarten the following school year. The 5 day class is also appealing for those families that decide to give their child another year to mature before kindergarten or if they just miss the kindergarten cut-off.

I noticed that a child must be potty trained to attend preschool. This is January and we just started working on this skill. Should I enroll when I'm not sure he'll be trained by the time preschool begins?

There is a lot of time between January and early September for your child to master this skill. If you think he'll probably be able to accomplish this, then we would encourage you to enroll. We do have a non-refundable registration fee, but if you need to withdraw from our program in the late summer, then we put you at the top of our wait list for openings throughout the school year. (You would not be charged another registration fee.) If you think he'll probably not be able to be completely potty trained and you want to avoid the uncertainty of the situation, then we suggest enrolling in Kids Day Inn, a program for ages 2-3 where potty training is not required.

My child is "80%" potty trained. Can they come to school in pull-ups?

No. A child wearing pull-ups means they are not fully trained. Kidslink policy is that a child must be 100% potty trained. They need to be able to handle all stages of being in the bathroom themselves! We have discovered that school readiness correlates to being toilet trained. If your child has not mastered the toilet, then perhaps it's best to give them another year to mature and grow. Our Kids Day Inn is a great program for children that are "potty training in progress!"

What is the age cut-off?

Kidslink is for ages 3-5. They must be 3 by August 31st for our three-year-old class. Our threes are divided by birth date. We have younger, middle, and older 3's. It may vary from year to year as to the dividing date because of the age range of our enrolling children. For example: a child with a January birth date might be in our middle 3's class for next year. The following year your neighbor's child with a January birth date might end up in the older 3's due to younger children enrolling as a whole in our 3-year-old program. For our 4-year-old program we use the same criteria for age cut-off: August 31st. We use this date because this is the state of Kansas regulations for a child to start kindergarten (5 on or before Aug. 31st).

What does it mean to be "state licensed"?

We follow the state of Kansas licensing regulations and requirements. Kidslink is inspected annually by the state to ensure that we are complying with their standards. All forms from our enrollment packet must be on file for each child enrolled at Kidslink. Also, physical and immunization record is required!

I'm new to the community but I really don't know much about Kidslink. What should I do?

We recommend that you come for a preschool tour. That's the best way to discover Kidslink...in action! This is a brief time, usually about 15-20 minutes, to go through the preschool rooms, observe our children and activities, and answer questions. Please call to schedule a tour.

What are your staff qualifications?

We are so proud of our Kidslink staff. They are dedicated, loving teachers who genuinely care about children. They must be committed Christians and active in church. The majority of our staff are members of Pathway Church (formerly Westlink Christian Church). Our staff has a tendency to come to Kidslink and stay! Our average time of employment is over 9 years! Qualifications vary from teacher to teacher. They all have experience working with young children and/or early childhood education hours. We complete 10 hours of in-service per year and are all trained in infant/child/adult first aid & CPR. At the beginning of the school year we hand out "Introducing the Kidslink Staff", so you can get to know the teachers!

What do you mean by "Christian preschool"?

Kidslink is considered a ministry of Pathway Church. We teach the Bible as the Word of God and tell the children about Jesus! We have a Bible time each time the children come. We have a monthly Bible focus and memory verse. Our total program is based on Christian principles and we approach everything from this perspective. Many churches are represented here at Kidslink and all are very welcome. You do not have to be a member of Pathway Church to attend!

What do you do each day at preschool?

We post complete lesson plans on teacher's bulletin boards. It lists what they are doing for: Circle Time, Bible Time, Learning and Play Centers, Snack, and Recreation. We also send home monthly calendars where we list a short one or two word theme for the day, cognitive concentration (i.e. letters, numbers, shapes, nursery rhymes, and additional skills) and Bible focus/memory verse.

Do you follow a particular curriculum?

No, we develop our own. We have specific developmentally age appropriate goals. Our three-year-old classrooms are more "introductory" in nature as we begin to teach concepts of scissor skills, letters, numbers, classroom environment, etc. All of our 4's & 5's classrooms are preparatory to kindergarten. We are getting the children ready for school and emphasizing skills they will need to be successful in school. Goals & expectations are handed out at Parent Orientation in the fall.

I observe a lot of "playing" at Kidslink. What is that all about?

There is tremendous value in play! In fact, it is the children's "job"! Kidslink is a very "hands-on" preschool and one of our core philosophies is that children learn best through play. If you observe more closely at what is actually happening in our classroom, you will discover another dimension! Children are discovering, exploring, creating, and playing games to reinforce cognitive concepts. Our small group learning center time allows children to learn cooperation, to develop process & reasoning skills, to resolve conflict, to expand their knowledge & skills by a wide range of varied activities. Preschool is the foundation of further educational experiences and we want to build a very positive base where children look forward to coming to school. We want them to be very eager & excited about their first school experience!

Does Kidslink go on field trips?

No. We provide on-campus field trip opportunities. Children get comfortable in our preschool environment so to take them off-campus is sometimes upsetting to them. Kidslink does not have a bus so parent drivers would be necessary and with family schedules and employment this is sometimes difficult for parents to arrange! Every child's car seat is unique and is installed in vehicles differently so all things considered - we feel that the best place to be is Kidslink! Children like to be in our building and we provide a number of enrichment activities and special speakers such as Pumpkin hunts with a trailer ride, Tanganyika Wildlife Park, firemen who bring their fire truck, police with their cars, --to name a few!

What is your discipline policy?

One of the best ways to avoid potential problems is to be pro-active! We go over class rules and expectations so each child is aware of what is expected at preschool. If a child is not complying after several opportunities to make the "right choice", they are given a "time out". This is a short period of time when they are removed from the group or not allowed to participate in an activity. After several minutes, we talk about what the right choice would be and then the child may rejoin the group or activity.

How do you handle drop off/pick up?

We have drop off and pick up at the child's classroom door. There are several reasons for this:

- 1. We want to get to know you!*
- 2. You will want to get to know us!*
- 3. You get to know other parents (play dates/car pooling/new friendships)*
- 4. You can read lesson plans and see the teacher's board for important notes!*
- 5. We can inform you of things we notice during preschool: a child that is struggling, a child that is not quite himself that day (maybe getting sick), a situation that has occurred.*
- 6. You can ask brief questions and have them answered immediately!*
- 7. We have "total" teaching time during our preschool session. Curbside drop off/pick up is not offered. It takes time & staff away from the children and could reduce teaching time by 15-30 minutes per day.*

Can anyone pick up my child at the end of preschool?

We have a permanent permission form in our enrollment packet. This authorizes only specific individuals that you designate to pick up your child. We will always release children to their biological parents unless we are provided with court order documentation. You can add grandparents, aunts/uncles, neighbors, friends, or parents of classmates. On occasion, an unexpected situation might arise in your family where someone that is not on your list will need to pick up your child. Call the Kidslink Office to inform us of the situation and the name of the person that will be picking up. Teachers will check identification at the classroom door before releasing your child.

Do you have any music programs?

Yes! We have a Christmas program during class time in December and an evening spring program in late April.

Do you offer a before or after school program or a full-day?

No. We are strictly a half-day preschool! We do not offer any programs outside of our normal operating times of 9:00-11:30 a.m. OR 12:45-3:15 p.m.

Will my child stay in their classroom during the entire preschool time?

Not usually! While most of our time is spent in the classroom itself, we do go several other places within the church. We spend time on the playground whenever possible. If it's inclement weather we go to the gym. Music time is in the children's theatre or Worship Center. Also, we have access to the "Ball Park" which is a large multi-purpose room where we can have group recreational activities!

I know my child will have separation issues. How do you handle this?

First of all, it is very common for children to experience some anxiety in new school experiences. We have several suggestions that you can start implementing immediately:

- 1. As you drive by Kidslink on Maize Road, you can mention that you are going by their school! You can begin to talk about going through the door, playing on the playground, some things that they will start learning when they begin school. Be excited about this new adventure!*
- 2. Talk about what your school day routine will be. (i.e. getting up, getting dressed, eating breakfast, etc.)*
- 3. Express confidence in their arrival and your departure at the class room door! Follow a routine at school (i.e. finding their coat hook in the hallway, hanging up backpack/jacket, looking at lesson plans for activities, greeting the teacher, a hug and kiss at the door, saying goodbye, walking in the door, classroom activities & fun, who will pick them up at the end of preschool).*
- 4. Be sure to attend Meet Your Teacher! This way your child can see the classroom and meet teachers with you at their side before they have to go to class by themselves.*
- 5. We have an excellent handout about additional separation strategies that we distribute at Parent Orientation!*
- 6. You are also welcome to call the Kidslink Office if you want us to check on your child if they are having a difficult day.*
- 7. Remember, that it might take 3 weeks or more for children to adjust to new surroundings.*

What school calendar do you follow at Kidslink?

We take into consideration the following school districts: Goddard, Maize, and Wichita. We look at their vacation/holiday schedules and then set our own school calendar. Kidslink calendars are available on-line through our website by the end of May or early June.

What kind of information do I receive on my child's progress & development during the year?

Kidslink has a schedule of periodic progress reports that are sent out to parents. For three-year-olds we have November Notes and an April year end report. For four- and five-year-olds we have November Progress Reports, a January correspondence parent letter, plus a year-end evaluation during Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled in late February, March, or early April.

Okay! I'm ready to enroll! How do I do that?

*The very best way is to stop by the Kidslink Office and fill out a registration form. There is a registration fee (\$40 for 2 or 3 days and \$60 for 5 days) due at the time of enrollment. There is an enrollment packet that includes a physical assessment that your doctor will need to complete and sign. If your medical clinic can print off a list of immunizations, we will accept the form and you will not need to fill out the immunization form by hand. All packets need to be completed and returned to the Kidslink Office by **August 1st**. Can't come in? Just call the Kidslink Office at 722-1034 to have a registration form and packet mailed to you. Remember, we can not hold an opening in the class until we receive your enrollment **form and fee**! After both are received and processed you will receive a confirmation card in the mail.*