

Our Programs

Preparing children for elementary school is an important building block in early childhood education. School readiness is more than ABCs and 123s. Starting preschool is possibly the first time your child is independently venturing into a new environment. We offer a flexible schedule to transition into this new season of life for both parent and child through a play-based, faith-based program.



Each day all of our programs include creative, hands-on, developmentally appropriate activities. CrossWays Preschool follows the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards. We utilize research based curriculums such as The Creative Curriculum™ and Learning Without Tears™. Our early childhood curriculums address four areas of development: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language. These are designed to foster development of the whole child through teacher-led, small and large group activities. We accomplish this through the traditional model of a part day preschool curriculum.

Children learn through a variety of ways: creative play, art, music, drama, language, early literacy, math, science, building, technology, and exploring our outdoor classroom. Although routines are well-established, our schedule allows for spontaneous learning opportunities. Our educators enjoy teaching new skills that stimulate each child’s natural abilities and creativity, making the most of each child’s developing talents. God honoring values are at the center of all of our teachings and are supported through children’s chapel, bible stories, and other curriculums such as Godly Play™.

Two Year Old Preschool Program

Teacher/Student Ratio - 1:8

Our program offers daily adventures for lively 2 year olds through a flexible routine in the classroom.

Social/Emotional - Learning to separate from caregivers in a nurturing way, playing near and with other children, participating in group activities, waiting their turn, working out problems with less action and more reasoning, early self-advocating skills

Physical - LARGE MOTOR: running, jumping in place, riding a tricycle, kicking a ball, climbing. SMALL MOTOR: snipping with scissors, turning pages individually, holding crayons with age appropriate grasp, completing puzzles.

Academic Readiness (cognitive) - working with shapes, engaging in make-believe play, using 2 to 3 word phrases, learning primary colors, beginning name recognition

Language - asking and understanding question forms (what, where...), following two-step commands, naming body parts, working on early communication skills



Three Year Old Preschool Program

Teacher/Student Ratio - 1:10

We provide a challenging, fun-filled learning environment for our 3 year olds where they can grow while feeling comfortable and secure.

Social/Emotional - showing empathy, beginning to understand give/take and cooperative play through interactive learning centers, foster strong self-advocacy skills

Physical - jumping with forward progression, catching a ball, buttoning and unbuttoning, zipping

Academic Readiness (cognitive) - matching colors, learning numbers 1 through 10, drawing shapes/combinations of shapes, writing their name and the alphabet through the introduction of prewriting skills with Learning Without Tears™ curriculum, understanding basic concepts (first, next to, behind), cooperative dramatic play, three-part sequential step directions

Language - using simple sentences, asking “who, what, where, and why” questions, telling and retelling simple stories, learning words to repetitive songs



Four Year Old Preschool Program

Teacher/Student Ratio - 1:10

The focus of this pre-kindergarten program for four and five year olds is on school readiness through purposeful play. We work closely with area schools to ensure that our children have the skills needed to be successful in kindergarten.

Social/Emotional - showing greater ability to control intense feelings, wanting to please friends, self-advocacy

Physical - strengthening fine motor skills, throwing a ball overhand, lacing, improving bi-lateral coordination skills

Academic Readiness (cognitive) - counting/sorting objects, memorizing letter sounds, early writing skills, recognizing and developing patterns, engaging complex cooperative dramatic play, identify 3D shapes

Language - self advocating, placing items in common categories, communicating in 5 to 6 word sentences, singing songs, increasing vocabulary words

Enrichment

Enrichment classes are offered for ages 3-5 years old. Over the course of several weeks, students study a wide range of topics, such as cooking, science, music and problem solving. Enrichment classes can be taken as a supplement to other traditional preschool classes or as a stand alone program.

Lunch Bunch

CrossWays Preschool offers a 90 minute extension to the school day, held during lunch. This mixed-age program allows children the opportunity for socialization with friends over a meal, playtime both in and outside the classroom, crafts, stories, and science experiences. A hot lunch is included.



Summer Camp

Summer adventure awaits campers at Little Sprouts! Our children’s garden will be ready for exploration and growing curiosity. Weekly themes offer hands-on experiences that encourage creativity. Wednesdays are water play days with sprinklers and water toys. We offer special in-house activities such as pony rides, a trackless train, and an inflatable play structure, all in a fun and safe environment. Come make new friends and priceless memories!



Through a fun exploration of nature and time spent with peers in a camp setting, academic, social, and emotional development is fostered.

CrossWays Preschool encourages children to develop a love and appreciation for nature through our sizable outdoor facilities.

- Located on 10+ acres of land.
- Frequent nature walks through the savannah, prairie and wetlands.
- Children enjoy butterfly watching in our flower and vegetable garden.
- Playground, bike track, and sledding hill.
- Work in greenhouse.

CrossWays Preschool admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. CrossWays Preschool does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admission policies, assistance programs and other school-administered programs.

We Offer

CrossWays Preschool is a nonprofit organization providing half day, traditional preschool programming for children 2 years to 5 years of age. We offer quality, faith based, play based programming at a superior competitive value for Lake County families.

CrossWays Preschool follows a traditional school calendar. Enrollment opens in March for the following school year and openings are based on availability.



We value the uniqueness of each child and will work with you to build a flexible program that is right for your child. We are able to combine different options to give your child a 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-day CrossWays Preschool experience!



Our Staff – CrossWays Preschool teachers and assistants are DCFS* qualified, highly experienced and child-centered educators. Select staff receive continuing education and are CPR and First Aid certified.

Our Families – Families are a vital part of CrossWays Preschool. We encourage an atmosphere of open communication and welcome parents to get involved in their child’s education. One of the best and most delightful ways of learning about CrossWays Preschool is to stop by and visit the classroom. Parents are encouraged to visit as a parent helper, “expert in the field” presenter, or helping with special projects or tasks.

Our Board – We are supported by the Holy Cross Early Childhood Ministries Board, which includes parent representatives and congregation members. Parent representatives serve as liaisons for CrossWays Preschool families.

Faith – Christian faith is supported through modeling and teaching God-honoring values, participation in children’s chapel, learning bible stories, and exploring other curriculums such as Godly Play™.

Technology – We utilize the latest technology as a tool to enhance the classroom environment.

Security – The program entrance door is locked at all times. A fob system lock is located at the entrance door. Visitors are only allowed into CrossWays Preschool with permission from the director. Security guidelines are located in the Parent Handbook.

*CrossWays Preschool is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Our Mission

CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare are early childhood ministries of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Both of these entities formerly used the umbrella name of Building Blocks Childhood Center. Together we seek to introduce children with a world that lies beyond the home and to provide a broad base of learning to develop each child’s God-given gifts socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually and educationally. Our quality, nonprofit, faith based childcare and preschool programs are designed to provide safe, nurturing environments for children to grow, play and learn.



Our Beliefs

- All children are capable of learning and have individual needs, skills, and talents.
- Partnerships between experienced, caring teachers and parents benefit the whole family.
- Children learn best through experiences that enhance their self-esteem, help them make choices, and develop competencies.
- Children learn best through play based discovery combined with teacher-directed lessons to maximize learning, creativity, and curiosity.
- Connecting children to nature develops children’s innate senses of discovery and exploration.
- God-honoring values promote sound, morally based decision making skills and treatment of others.
- Flexible programs best satisfy family needs.



We Celebrate

- The fullest potential in each child.
- The uniqueness of each child and family.
- A nurturing, loving, safe, and secure environment.
- Service to others.
- A child’s social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and intellectual development.
- Having experiences that increase the child’s awareness of the world around them.
- A love of learning in an atmosphere of mutual trust, respect and responsibility.
- Diversity and culture.

CrossWays Preschool

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HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

CrossWays Preschool
Celebration! Childcare
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church

where love and learning meet

CrossWays Preschool

Ages
2 to 5 years

CrossWays Preschool is an early childhood ministry
of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

