



Parents today are very conscious, cautious, and concerned when it comes to their children. They should be! God has given them a precious gift in their children.

As a preschooler goes through this impressionable period of life, he or she needs to know that God loves them. They need to know how special they are. They need to be encouraged and loved.

At Gateway's Weekday Preschool, our staff is committed to sharing this love with your child. They will give your child the attention, the care, and the encouragement that you would expect. We are committed to your child's safety and well-being as well as supporting you as a parent.

We look forward to being a part of your family.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Brock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor



Welcome

Welcome to Gateway Weekday Preschool. We are proud to be serving the families of the Irmo, Ballentine, and Chapin area. Our program began in 1988 and serves children from 1-4 years old.

We are a ministry of Gateway Baptist Church, and it is our goal to provide a safe, loving Christian environment in which your child can grow in all areas of their life, becoming all that God has intended for them to be. We also minister to our families as apart of Gateway's mission to minister to the community.

Our programs and activities are designed to foster the development of the whole child (spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially, and cognitively). Our objective is to give our students opportunities:

1. to grow in their awareness of God's world and His love for them,
2. to experience success that leads to a strong self-esteem
3. to prepare them for future educational experiences.

We are excited about our new year and thankful for each child entrusted to us. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help your family.



Monthly Unit Themes/Activities

Gateway Preschool is a busy place every morning as our children are exposed to a variety of experiences. The following are the typical themes and activities for the school year for all classes. Our 3- and 4-year-old classes also incorporate activities for the alphabet letters and sounds using the Learning Without Tears curriculum.

September: God Made Me/I am Special

- Study of body parts, the 5 senses, manners

October: God Gave Me a Wonderful World

- Study of the Fall Season
- Story of Creation

November: We are Thankful

- Study of Thanksgiving, Pilgrims, Indians
- Thanksgiving Feast

December: Jesus is Born

- Story of Christmas (Christmas Programs)

January: God Made the Animals

- Study of animals
- Study of Winter Season



Monthly Unit Themes/Activities Cont.

February: We Can Be Helpers

- Study of Community Helpers
- Valentine's Day
- Friends

March: Jesus Loves Me

- Jesus cares for Me study
- Breakfast with Dad
- Easter Story/Easter Egg Hunts*

April: God Made Plants

- Study of the Spring Season
- Growing Plants
- Easter Story/Easter Egg Hunts*

May: Thank You God for my Family

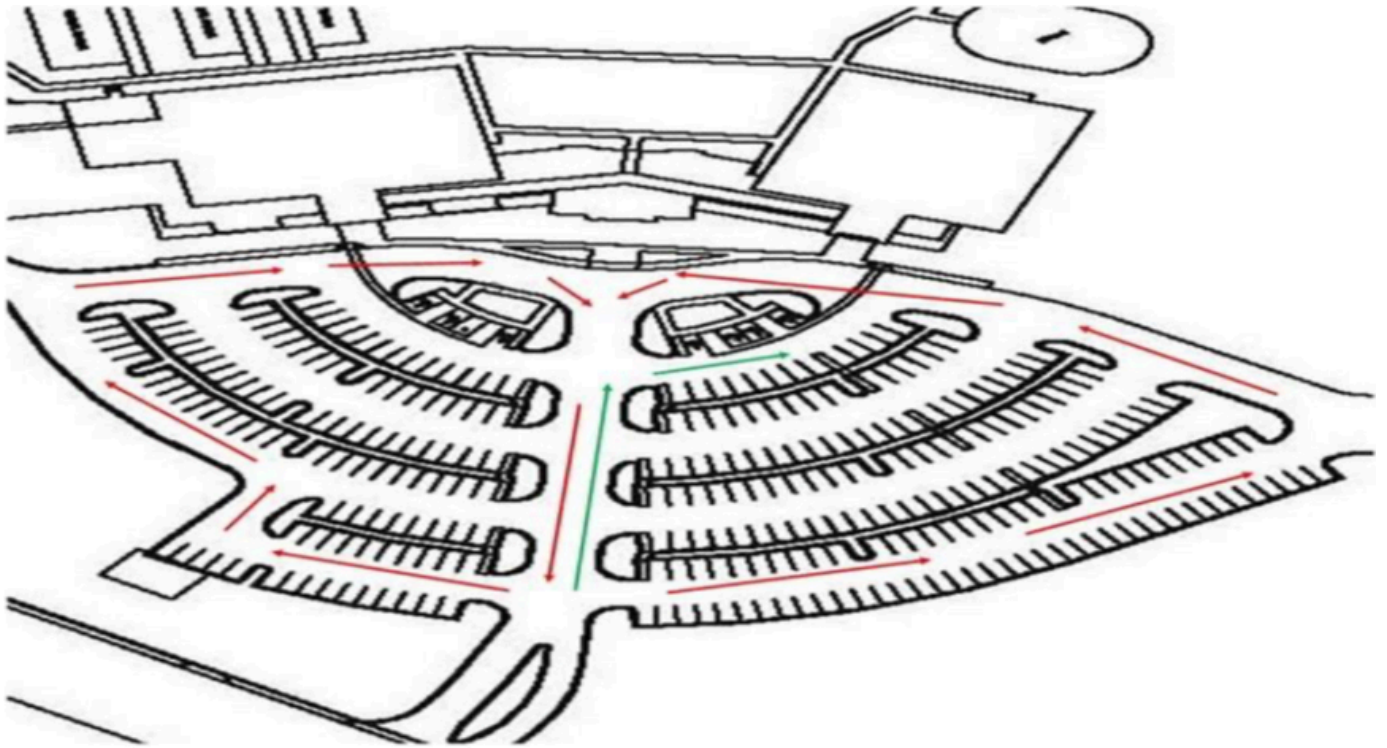
- Families
- Mother's Day
- Summer Season



Classroom Access

To help maintain a safe and consistent environment for all children, parents and guardians are asked not to remain in the classroom for extended periods of time during preschool hours. If you would like to spend extended time in the classroom or volunteer in a classroom, you will need to complete a background check and receive approval from the Preschool Director. Therapists and other service providers who work with children at the preschool will also be screened and approved before the school year begins. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us provide a safe and positive environment for every child.

Carpool Map



Red arrows: Carpool

Green Arrows: Walk-ins

Worship Center: Jennifer, Amanda, Caitlin, Beth, Janet, Marie

Education Building: Jessica, Courtney, Jade, Lori, Carmen, Melissa



Tuition

Tuition is due by the 10th of each month. Tuition statements will be emailed out by the 1st of each month. There will be a \$25.00 charge for tuition received after the 10th of the month unless otherwise arranged with the director.

To make tuition payments, use the Procare app. We will also take cash or checks, which can be sent through your child's communication folder. Please make sure your teacher is aware if you send money through the folder.

Tuition, Early Bird, and Picnic Pals fees are averaged for the year and will be due regardless of the number of days your child attends. This makes the payments the same each month, even though some months are longer than others.

Please note that Gateway does not send out yearly payment forms for tax purposes. Please check ProCare for a yearly tax printout. Our Tax I.D. number is 57-0730330.



Health Requirements

Children should not be brought to school if any of the following symptoms have been present in the past 24 hours before the start of the next school day:

- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- New or worsening cough
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue
- Body aches
- Chills
- Headache
- Congestion
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

Please advise us if your child has contracted a contagious illness so other parents may be notified. Also, should your child come into contact with head lice, please let us know. Children who become sick during the school day will be sent home.

If your child is well enough to attend school, he/she is well enough to participate in the regular program, including outdoor activities. Please keep your child home if you feel they need to remain inside. We do not have the staff to watch children who must remain inside.

If you have a child with allergies or your child cannot have the snacks we provide, you will need to provide his/her snack each day.



Personal Belongings

Children often have similar clothing, so it is necessary for you to label your child's clothing. Children should be dressed for play. Please do not send toys, guns, stuffed animals or ANYTHING OF VALUE. We cannot be responsible for valuable items sent to school.

Biting

Biting is never a good thing, but it is sometimes unavoidable when children are young, especially two and under. We make every effort to curb biting, but sometimes it happens very quickly. When the children are very young, we try to work with them if they bite because they lack verbal skills. However, any child can be sent home at any time for biting. After the second bite, a parent will be required to meet with the director. The child may be put on a behavioral plan (at the discretion of the director), which may cause a child to be dismissed if desired results are not occurring.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences are welcomed by appointment after school hours. Please call your child's teacher as you feel it is necessary.



Birthday Celebrations

Teachers will arrange a time for each child to celebrate their birthday during the year. You may choose to bring in a special snack for the class. Teachers will talk to you about gifts for the gift boxes. We will only distribute birthday invitations for outside the preschool if all children are invited in the class.

Communication

Teachers will use some form of group communication to talk with parents, specifically about their classrooms.

The preschool will communicate via calendars and the ProCare app. Please download the app, sign in, or create an account, and make sure notifications are turned on.

School Hours and Holidays

Preschool hours are 9:00AM until 12:00PM. You may drop off your child no earlier than 8:45AM and must pick your child up by 12:00PM. A late fee of \$5.00 is charged after that time for the first 5 minutes and \$1.00 per minute that you are late thereafter.



School Hours and Holidays Cont.

Gateway Preschool observes all Lexington District 5 holidays. Gateway will be closed if Lexington District 5 has a late start due to the weather. Our preschool will follow the Lexington 5 closing due to the weather. We start each school year on the Tuesday after Labor Day and finish in May. Please see the yearly calendar for exact dates.

Registration

Registration will be held at the beginning of each year for the following September. All children must be of the appropriate age on or before September 1st of each school year as required by the South Carolina public school system. Children enrolled in classes for three-year-olds and older must be toilet-trained before entrance. We will help families with this training; however, each child must be out of diapers before school begins.

The annual registration fee is \$150.00 for all classes and must accompany your registration form to reserve the child's space for the following year. Registration fees are non-refundable unless the family moves out of town and informs the director by August 1st.



Registration Cont.

It is a requirement that each child enrolled at Gateway Preschool have a current SC Immunization certificate on file. The necessary form required by DHEC is called the 1148 form and can be obtained from the doctor's office or the health department. In the event of exemptions, prior approval must be granted, and the appropriate documentation submitted.

Therapies and Screenings

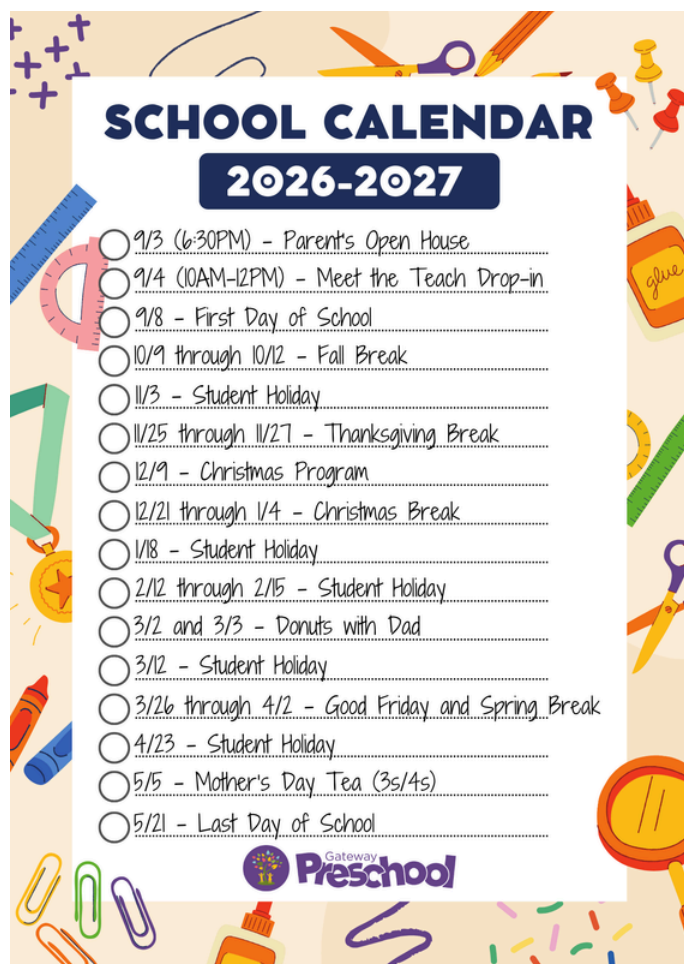
Gateway allows outside therapists to service children in-house. If your child needs outside services on campus, please reach out to the director to set this up.

Therapists and other service providers who work with children at the preschool will be screened and approved before the school year begins. The therapist must sign in at the front office, and parents must also sign a waiver prior to services.

Gateway also conducts a screening process to identify children who may benefit from services. If your child needs more support than we can provide, we will recommend seeking help from the school district.



2026-2027 School Calendar



Contact Information

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