



THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Of First Presbyterian Church

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PARENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027

Welcome to The Children's House! The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs established this school, which opened in September 1981, to provide quality preschool education in a Christian environment for the young children of this church and the community. First Presbyterian Church provides and maintains the school building at 309 Washington Avenue and appoints a School Board to oversee policy and financial management.

The fact that you have your child enrolled with us shows that you care deeply about your child's future training and education. This training must be a cooperative effort on the part of parents and teachers to be most successful. To make any operation run smoothly, everyone should understand the ground rules and be willing to abide by them. To ensure a most successful effort, the following information is provided.

PLEASE KEEP THIS MATERIAL CLOSE AT HAND FOR EASY REFERENCE.

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THE PROGRAM:

The Children's House offers a preschool/kindergarten program, currently licensed by the Mississippi State Department of Health for 40 children, based upon the psychological principles and teaching methods of Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952). Dr. Montessori developed what she called the "prepared environment" to introduce children to the joy of learning and provide a framework in which their intellectual and social discipline go hand-in-hand. Among its features is an ordered arrangement of learning materials in a non-competitive environment. Habits of order, initiative, and thoroughness established in early childhood result in confident and competent learners.

Respect for others and the environment is also cultivated. Basic Christian beliefs and values are emphasized in the classroom, and activities such as a weekly Bible study are done, along with a weekly visit from the Senior Pastor, Scott Castleman. Christian songs and a blessing before snack time and lunchtime are also part of our daily practice. Holidays of religious tradition such as Christmas and Easter are recognized for their spiritual significance. Emphasis is placed on Christ's birth and resurrection rather than Santa and the Easter Bunny.

Emphasis is placed on the individual child in the social setting of the group. With freedom of choice and movement, the classroom can be viewed as an organized society of small children, the teachers leading each child at his own pace, according to his interests and abilities. While at school each child finds that he can learn from and contribute to others. Thus he gains the self-confidence he needs for his future development.

The purpose of the classroom is to provide a social, early learning experience for children, ages 3 to 6 years of age. This experience will offer the child an opportunity to explore the world of the five senses, to learn to better care for herself and her environment, to proceed at her own pace from simple activities to more complex ones, traveling from concrete to abstract, to enjoy freedom of movement and choice within the bounds of the classroom ground rules, and to enjoy effective social interaction with her peers and other adults. Through this process of natural unfolding the child experiences the joy of discovery and develops his inner self. "Within each child lies the person he will become." (Maria Montessori, MD).

Before he can function effectively in the freedom of movement allowed in the Montessori classroom, the child must learn lessons in **grace and courtesy** and lessons in **independence**. That is, she learns how to shake hands and say "good morning", hang up her garments, and see that her belongings are kept in the proper place. In the Montessori classroom, **nothing is ever done for the child that the child can do for himself**. This is the first lesson and most important one that the parents must learn to reinforce at home.

Children learn courtesy by being treated courteously.

Children learn promptness by being prompt.

Children learn independence and self-assurance by being treated as if they are capable.

Concepts stressed at the Children's House include:

- Success-oriented activities

- Non-competitive atmosphere

- Self-motivated learning

- Respect for the child as a unique person

CURRICULUM:

- **Practical Life:** Pouring, scooping, stringing, polishing, cleaning, folding, food preparation, serving, etc. Purpose: to develop coordination, concentration, independence, and to encourage a sense of order.
- **Sensorial Exercises:** Exploration of specially designed learning materials, using the five senses. Purpose: To compare, classify, and make judgments.
- **Language Arts:** Activities and experiences that facilitate the child's total language development, through encouraging conversation, labeling the environment, story reading, and the introduction of reading readiness skills (phonics) to those children who are interested and ready.
- **Math and Science:** Activities that allow the concrete manipulation of materials, which leads to the eventual "grasp" of the abstract concepts being introduced. All of the math materials teach concepts that will be absorbed and later recognized by the child when he enters the study of higher mathematics. Counting to ten (concretely), the binomial theorem, the decimal system, etc.
- **Geography:** Materials and activities to help the child better understand the world around him. These are approached in a sensorial and very concrete way in the beginning and then move to more abstract activities, such as map labeling. Parents or community visitors sometimes speak about different areas of the world if they are from a certain place, grew up there, or traveled to an area. We sometimes cook or taste food from other parts of our work as well.
- **Music and Movement:** For pleasure and appreciation. Singing, finger plays, rhythm, expression, balance, and yoga on the line.
- **Art:** For pleasure and appreciation. Use of different mediums including pencils, crayons, watercolor, clay, glue, and collage materials. Featured artists and styles. This area is set up as a creative outlet for the child.
- **Bible Lessons:** The children learn about God through Bible stories, parables, and songs. Pastor Scott Castleman visits the classroom once a week to share a Bible story with the children; this is a special time enjoyed by all.
- **Outdoor Activities:** Our playground has many types of equipment: swings, a slide, a pedal-go-round, a climber, and a playhouse. We also offer activities such as hammering exercises, painting, sidewalk chalk, plant/flower care, and gardening.

SEQUENCING OF MATERIALS:

Materials are sequenced in each of the areas of the environment. The year begins with the simplest of activities, and these gradually increase in complexity as the year progresses. The teachers help the child understand this progression so he/she can become independent in choosing work.

BRINGING ITEMS TO SCHOOL:

We ask that you **do not allow** your child to bring toys to school. They often prove to be a distraction and a cause of dissension. Toys that are brought to school will be placed in a basket, out of reach of children, until dismissal time. Your child is welcome to bring items of special interest such as those relating to science or geography: flowers, rocks, shells, small pets, postcards, maps, clothing, and artifacts from other areas. We encourage children to share books from home. (Please identify these with your child's name.) **Objects for the sound of the week should represent real things and fit in the palm of the child's closed hand.**

THE CLASSROOM GROUND RULES:

1. Walk slowly and carefully. Walk around rugs.
2. Use quiet voices.
3. Carry only one thing at a time.
4. Use only one activity at a time.
5. Return work neatly and properly to its correct place.
6. "Interrupt" others by a quiet hand on the shoulder of the adult or other child.
7. Handle materials respectfully.
8. Keep all work on a table or rug.
9. When an activity is on a table or rug, no one else may take it or touch it.
10. Only touch your own work, unless you are invited to join another.
11. If a material is broken, written on, or otherwise damaged, it goes home for repair or replacement.

Stated simply, the rule is: **"You may not do any harm to yourself, any other person, or any of the materials in the classroom."**

While abiding by these ground rules, the child is learning **self-respect, respect for others, and respect for the property of others.**

MONTHLY TUITION:

The first tuition payment for each student is due August 1, 2026.

If you are paying in ten monthly installments, your first tuition payment is due August 1, and the last payment for the school year will be May 1, 2027. **We can offer you Automatic Bank Draft through the school, and you have received this information and form in a previous email. If you are interested in doing this or need another form, please contact the Financial Administrator, Rebecca Castleman, at chadmin@fpcosms.com.**

Tuition is due on the first day of the month and late after the 5th. A late fee of \$20 will be added to any payment received after the 5th of the month. You may hand-deliver tuition to Rebecca or EmilyBeth (please do not give tuition payments to other teachers). You may also drop off your tuition payment to the Church office (if the office is closed, put payment in an envelope marked "CH TUITION" and slide it through the mail slot) or you can mail your tuition payment to:

The Children's House Montessori School
921 Ocean Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

SUPPLY FEE:

Parents do not have to purchase school supplies at any point during their child's time here at The Children's House. Instead, a supply fee will be collected at the Parent Meeting in August. **This fee will cover all supplies we purchase and use throughout the entire school year. First-year parents will need to pay a fee of \$100. This will cover your child's school bag, t-shirt, and car decal.** These items should last all three years that your child attends The CH. Additional bags, t-shirts, and decals may be available. Contact EmilyBeth for individual prices and/or purchases. **Returning parents (2nd years and Kindergarteners) will pay a \$75 supply fee to cover the costs of supplies needed and used for the duration of the school year.** Families with 2 or more children attending The CH must pay a supply fee for each child.

IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL BAGS

Each child is required to have and bring their CH bag to school each day. The school bag should house your child's water bottle, lunch if needed, coat/sweater/jacket, and Kindergarten folders once your child reaches their 3rd year here. Having their bag ready and on their shoulder each morning allows your child to easily greet their teachers and safely walk up the stairs on their own. This independent act is vital and part of the CH experience for each student. Their bag will hang in their cubby during the school day. Each child learns to manage their cubby organization by loading and unloading their bag at the start and finish of each school day. Your child's bag provides a way for them to carry home any work/projects they've completed.

MORNING ARRIVAL:

Children are admitted into the school at 8:30 am. If your family is providing snack or your child has a birthday celebration, you are expected to come in at 8:20 to drop off the items – please use the back door at the playground. Teachers use the morning to prepare for the day; this is not a good time for a drop-in conference. If you need to drop your child off early, you must confirm that this is ok with the Head of School in advance, and this should only be in the case of an emergency or a one-time occurrence. As mentioned above, mornings are for lesson planning, snack prep, and sometimes birthday celebration set-ups.

Drop-off procedure:

- Please **park** in the parking lot on the north side of the school, in a parking space. The parking places closest to the steps should be left available for those families with infants or younger children.
- **Please use extreme caution in the parking area as children are moving about.**
- **Parents are responsible for their child's behavior until they are greeted by a teacher at 8:30.**
- At 8:30 a teacher will come to the landing on the entrance stairs to receive your child.
- Please say your goodbyes, bring your child to the bottom of the short stairs, and wait for the teacher to receive your child. Your child should have their bag, jacket, etc., and be prepared to start their day.
- No parents are to come into school in the morning unless pre-approved by the Head of School and then they will use the back door by the playground.
- Each child will be greeted in the morning by at least one teacher demonstrating grace and courtesy.
- All children should be received by 8:40. Teachers have to get into the class and begin the day.
- Anyone arriving late should come into the school through the back door at the playground and sign in. This is a state requirement. Please be courteous and depart quickly.

Your child may do a certain amount of crying or protesting before coming up the steps. This is normal! The less upset you appear by this behavior, the sooner it will stop. Remember, we are trying to teach independence and self-reliance. The sooner a child is allowed to exercise self-reliance, the more self-reliant he/she will become.

If you have information to pass on to the teacher, please be prepared with a note you can hand to the teacher, call/text, or leave a message, or send an email to childrenshouse@fpcosms.com

MORNING DEPARTURE:

It is extremely important that parents pick up children promptly at 11:30. Pick-up is done the same way as drop-off. Parents form a line and/or gather near the bottom of the small stairs, and a teacher will bring your child(ren) down to you. Young children are often quite distressed when parents do not arrive when they are expected to. We encourage you to please make every effort to be prompt.

Afternoon Departure: Same as above but at 2:30 pm.

RAINY DAY ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:

On a rainy day during active rain or a storm, we will use the longer stairs that are covered for both arrival and departure. A teacher will still come out and be at the bottom landing. Another teacher will help your child up the stairs and inside safely. If you are unsure on a wet/stormy day, just look to see where the teacher is standing and you will be able to tell which set of stairs to use.

LATENESS CHARGE FOR LATE PICK UP:

There will be a **\$5.00** charge for every ten minutes of lateness, beginning at 11:40 am. This also applies to the afternoon program/full day when a child is picked up after 2:40 pm. Invoices will be sent to families with more than one late pickup per month.

SNACK:

Snack will be provided in a self-service fashion each day in the classroom. Every family will be assigned one week during the school year to provide snack for the school – please bring enough snack for 44 people each day. If you have more than one child at the Children's House, your children will share the same snack week. Snack is brought to school daily - ready for serving. **The student(s) of that family will bring the snack into the school each morning with the help of their parent. Please come to the back door at the playground by 8:20 am and hand off to a teacher.** A teacher will help the student(s) set out the snack using the correct serving equipment. We ask that snack items be healthy, natural and fresh. We do not allow sugar, dyes, or heavily processed foods. No drinks are needed. Snack will be provided in the class from 8:30 until 11:20.

Some suggested snack foods are:

- Any vegetable – cleaned and ready to eat
- Any fruit –cleaned and ready to eat
- Hard cheeses – cheese cubes, cheese sticks
- Nuts, trail mix, cereals, or granola - not overly sugared or processed
- Finger sandwiches made at home
- Crackers, pretzels, veggie straws/chips
- Hummus
- Yogurt (no go-gurt or tubes of yogurt) with fruit or granola

Total snack serving should be about ½ cup in size – even if the snack has multiple items, the entire snack should not exceed ½ cup in size. Any extra food will be sent home with your child(ren) each day. If you send food that is not appropriate for snack, it will be sent home and not served.

*If providing snack for school is a financial hardship for you, please speak to the Head of School in private and other arrangements can easily be made.

WATER BOTTLES:

Children will bring their own water bottles each day. Please have fresh WATER ONLY in it each day. They have proven to be easy for the children to access when thirsty, and more environmentally and financially friendly for the school. Each child needs to have their water bottle with them each morning at arrival. It should have their **name clearly visible and a lid that closes and keeps spills to a minimum.** Your child should be able to open and close it with ease and without help from a teacher. They will use their water bottle during playtime, snack time, and lunch if they stay for the afternoon. We/they will refill it as needed throughout the day for your child (we have filtered water). We will provide examples at the parent meeting if you are unsure of what to purchase, etc.

SCHOOL LUNCH:

If your child stays for the Afternoon extended day or Kindergarten, they will need to bring a packed lunch along with their water bottle in the morning. The lunch boxes stay in the child's cubby until 11:30. Please provide cold packs if needed. As with snack and birthday celebrations, we encourage children to eat healthy and nutritious food. They will see their teachers eating likewise. Please consider portion control when packing lunch. If you see food being brought home, it is because we asked your child to bring home what they didn't eat. We are happy to help, but children should be able to open any containers you send and their food should be easy to plate for them to help encourage independence. We do have a microwave and can heat anything that requires warming. The children will all have their water bottles and we will also offer milk each day. Desserts are up to your discretion and if desired, please remember it should be a small treat and appropriate in serving size. **We do not allow candy or icing at school.** Because we are teaching table manners and correct eating habits, we ask that children **do not bring go-gurts or squeezable pouches of any sort for lunch.** The children who stay for lunch will be part of the set-up process from washing, moving, and setting the tables. This is quite a process, so we usually begin eating closer to 12:15 or even 12:30 pm most days. Children will eat their lunches on plates and will have a cup if they would like milk to drink. We sterilize our dishes and cups each day after use in the dishwasher. The children help in loading dishes into our dishwasher as part of the clean-up process from lunch each day.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:

You will receive a VERY detailed guide to The CH's Birthday Celebration from EmilyBeth. If at any time you misplace it or the email, just let her know. To summarize this special tradition:

We celebrate birthdays with a group lesson on the earth and the sun. The child walks around a rug, circling the "sun" (a candle), while carrying the globe – one walk for each year of the child's life. This teaches the earth/sun relationship and that the year is the amount of time it takes for the earth to circle the sun one time.

A birthday celebration is a time for the child's family to come to school and help us celebrate the birth and life of our friend. **We ask that you arrive with your child at 8:20 am, just before**

morning arrival, to set up the birthday rug. Please come back at 10:45 am for the birthday celebration, and we should be finished by 11:15 am. We will provide seating for you and your guests.

- We ask that you send a picture from each year of the child's life as well as an outfit from infancy or a special friend or lovey – these should arrive at school with the child in the morning as we lay these items out for display during the day. Please do not send anything irreplaceable.
- We ask that you provide us with information (in writing) to mark the developmental milestones for each year of your child's life – for instance, the place of birth, how much he/she weighed, when he/she first walked, favorite toys, etc. If you write it out for us the first year, you will only need to add to it one year at a time.
- We ask that you provide a special snack for your child's birthday celebration: **A napkin and a sweet treat (small in size).** No other snack items or drinks are necessary as we provide daily snack in the classroom. Up to 50 napkins for students, teachers, and guests, and the same number of muffins, cookies, brownies, etc. are needed. **No icing of any kind, please – we will not serve it.** Please do not send candy, tokens, or gift bags to school. We will not allow them to be passed out. **The treat – ready to serve - should be dropped off in the morning with your child at 8:20 to set up the birthday rug.**
- You are welcome, but not required, to participate in a long-standing tradition in which the child gives a book to our school library in honor of his/her birthday. We will read this book on the day of the celebration at dismissal and you can write an inscription inside the cover to commemorate your child's special day.

With 40 children and 30+ weeks of school, we try to have only 2-3 birthday celebrations per week - with a few necessary exceptions. We will let you know your child's birthday celebration day before the start of school. We try to have them on the actual birthday or at least within the week of your child's actual birthday. Wednesday mornings are when Pastor Scott visits the classroom; we prefer that birthdays are not scheduled for Wednesdays. Summer birthdays will be celebrated as "half birthday" celebrations during the school year (about 6 months from their actual birthday). We ask that you approve this before the school year starts and mark the date in your family calendar, as our schedule affects 40 children and is difficult to change. Although we certainly understand that you may want to record special times at school (ie: birthday celebrations, parties, and other school events), please be considerate of others who may appear in these pictures/videos who may not want to be posted online or on other social media platforms.

OPEN HOUSE:

After the parent meeting and before school phase-in starts, we will have an open house. This is an opportunity for the student and parent to come into the school for a short visit to tour the environment and meet the teachers. We want to make sure a child can identify the locations of their cubby and the restroom. School bags, decals, and t-shirts will be given that day to incoming first-year children. Please enter the school from the parking lot north side and exit at the back door onto the playground.

- If your last name begins with A-O, you may come from 9:00-9:45.
- If your last name begins with P-Z, you may come from 9:45-10:30.

Your time in the school should last 15-20 minutes. We want the child to have an introduction, or reintroduction for returning students, to the environment but we do not want to encourage children to work without having lessons. We know parents and children love to see each other at the end of the summer and we encourage you to have those visits outside on the playground or on the church campus. We try to keep the classroom as peaceful and quiet as possible for the new students as this is their first encounter with the school.

DISCIPLINE:

Physical discipline of any kind will not be inflicted on any child. In general, we follow Rudolph Dreikur's philosophy that the child should understand the "logical consequences" of his behavior. If you don't put your glass back on the shelf, it will not be there the next time you want to get a drink. If you forget to be polite and say "excuse me," your friend will not let you by. If you run in the classroom, you will lose your freedom to move about freely for a short time. Loss of freedom is used in some cases both inside and out on the playground.

In the case of recurring problems, the Head of School will contact the parents of the child by phone. The behavior will be discussed, and help from home will be solicited. Feedback will be given to the parents. If the behavior has stopped, the process ends. If the behavior continues, a conference will be set. The conference is to discuss the problem further and set up a plan to help change the behavior, set goals, and establish a time frame. If the behavior persists, another conference is scheduled, and recommendations are made as to whether the school and the child are the best fit. The effects of the behavior on the other children in the classroom are considered. It will be determined at this time if the child can remain in the school or if the child should be withdrawn.

HEALTH:

- Each child must have an up-to-date shot record (form 121). We must have this in our files before your child starts school each year. This form must be kept up-to-date, and the Head of School will contact you when your child needs a new one.
- If your family wants a religious exemption for Immunizations, a **122 form is required** and must be obtained through the state health department before the start of school. Please visit their website to make an appointment at msdh.ms.gov.
- When a child appears to be ill at school, a parent will be called/texted, and the child will be made comfortable until the parent arrives.
- The school must be informed if there has been exposure to any communicable disease.
- Medicine **will not** be administered to your child without a written note of instruction and discussion with a teacher.

Please do not send your child to school on days when he or she is not feeling well.

When a child doesn't feel well, home is the best place for them to get better. We request that you keep your child home if he or she:

- Is developing a cold or has a cold less than three days old.
- Has a sore throat or earache.
- Has swollen neck glands.
- Has a "fresh" runny nose.
- Has red/pink, itchy, or runny eyes.
- Has an unusual rash or sore.
- Has had a fever in the last 24 hrs.

- Has had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hrs.
- Acts sleepy or complains of a headache.
- Appears ill to you.
- Has visible head lice or nits in their hair - child must be nit free to return to school.

If your child is sick at school and you are called to pick him up, we expect the child to stay home the next day to recover.

CLOTHING:

Please send your child to school in play clothes and comfortable shoes. They are less restrictive and are more conducive to classroom activities. In general, for a child who is just learning to use the bathroom by himself, belted pants are an obstruction. If you choose clothing with front openings and encourage him to help himself, you will be adding to his self-confidence. All clothing should be suited to the weather and washable to minimize the disaster of accidental spills. If your child comes home in different clothing, it is best to make no comment or criticism. Simply wash and return the clothes.

We play and work hard at The Children's House. Please include one change of clothes in your child's bag. They may or may not need them often, but in the case they get a little too dirty outside, they can change and be more comfortable.

SHOES:

Sensible, soft-soled shoes are best to support and protect the developing foot of the child. Shoes that are easy for your child to take off and put on by themselves are preferred. **Absolutely NO flip flops, cowboy boots, wheelies, shoes with wedges, heels, or hard soles.** These shoes are not conducive to the environment inside or out on the playground. If we notice these kinds of shoes on your child's feet, you will be asked to bring them appropriate shoes. If it is a rainy day, children may wear rain boots for arrival, dismissal, and outside play. Please have a regular pair of shoes for them in their school bag. Rain boots are not suitable for quiet "walking feet" once inside and working. They are also uncomfortable for children to be able to sit properly on the ground and at the line. **Children should wear socks every day or have a pair in their bag.** As the year progresses, children are allowed to take their shoes off during the work cycle (this can be more comfortable when working on the ground at rugs). They must be wearing socks to be able to do this.

BAD WEATHER:

If Ocean Spring's public schools are closed due to weather conditions, we will also be closed. At times, we may opt to have school if these conditions are due only to bus pick-up for the public school system. You will receive a phone call or a text if we choose to be open. If the Ocean Springs delay is two hours or more, we will not have school that day.

OBSERVATION/CONFERENCES:

After Thanksgiving vacation, if you would like to observe the classroom, please contact the Head of School to make an appointment. It is less disruptive if we have no more than one extra person at a time in the classroom. "Check-In Meetings" will be held in the fall for first-year families to get an idea of how their child is doing at a new school and environment. Other meetings during the fall are held on an as-needed basis. In January, Kindergarten conferences are held. In the spring, both 1st and 2nd year families will receive a detailed parent/teacher conference. If you have any

questions or problems, we are ALWAYS available to discuss your concerns. We also encourage you to share your talents and interests with us in the classroom.

AT HOME:

In the home, as much as possible, reinforce the Montessori training and discipline. To encourage neatness, try to give your child a low shelf for toys rather than a toy box. Hang pegs and clothing bars at a level within your child's reach. Encourage independence. Speak to the Head of School if you'd like more ideas on how to keep your home life and school life consistent for your child.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

If this three-year stay is difficult for you financially, please ask about scholarship availability.

PLAYGROUND CLEANUP DAYS- How does this work?

We ask a parent/family(s) each year to coordinate volunteers from each age group and help keep the playground in nice order. The playground needs upkeep multiple times each year:

- August- in time for the first day back to school
- Fall just before the Fall Festival
- Winter just after Christmas Break
- Spring before the Easter party and/or Graduation

We have 4 families co-coordinating this year! The Haines, Fletcher, Pitchford, and Emile families will be heading up the 4 major cleanup days. You will receive emails from them as the year progresses and clean-up days are needed for the specified times listed above. Keeping the playground looking its best consists of power washing decks and equipment, raking, spreading pine straw and mulch, planting, and possibly some minor upkeep of equipment. The school has a small budget to accomplish this work. The budget does not cover the cost of pine straw, plants, and repair parts if needed; it only helps—donations are GREATLY appreciated. If you would like to volunteer your time and/or money to help the coordinators with these tasks, please speak to the Head of School or reach out to them directly.

“GOD’S LITTLE GARDEN” -GARDEN PROGRAM/COMMITTEE

Our garden is located on the CH playground. Volunteer parents make up the committee, where they help with the upkeep and teaching of what is growing and happening in our garden. They also work closely with EmilyBeth on how to incorporate what we are growing into the classroom. You will receive updates from EmilyBeth if your child was the “garden helper” for the week via texts and with pictures. Our garden families also help us compost with earthworms. **The Haines, Emile, and Pitchford families are the current families assisting us with making this program possible.** Please let EmilyBeth know if you have interest in helping or serving on the Garden Committee in the future!

PARTY PLANNERS:

There are various parties/functions during the school year that are planned by a party-planning committee. Most parties start at 10 am. Parents plan, implement, and pay for all parties. There are guidelines set by the Head of School for each event, which are handed to the party-planning parent(s). If you are interested in volunteering to be the party planning parent for your child’s class,

please speak to the Head of School or sign up at the Parent Meeting in August. There will be a table for you to visit for more information that evening.

Parties/Functions Include:

- Fall Festival – Playground party celebrating the fall. We have scarecrows, fall themes, food and craft stations. This party takes place just before/around Halloween but is not a dress-up costume party.
- Christmas Program and Party – This party takes place on the last day of school before Christmas break. The children sing songs in the church sanctuary, and then we move into the church fellowship hall for a party with food and fun.
- Easter Egg Hunt/Party – This party takes place on the school playground during the week before Easter. The children hunt eggs, eat, and do crafts at stations.
- Graduation/End-of-Year Program and Party – Non-Kindergarten parents throw a graduation/end-of-school-year party in the fellowship hall or playground (weather permitting) following a graduation ceremony in the church sanctuary.

FUNDRAISERS:

At The Children's House, we are fortunate that our costs are kept in check. The School Board, Head of School, and Financial Administrator work hard to ensure a stable budget. The amount of money each family pays in tuition is carefully managed to support the school's overhead, teachers, and material needs. We will only hold a fundraiser if there is a special need.

SCHOOL WISH LIST:

We are often asked by parents if there is anything we need for the school. The Head of School can provide a wish list of materials upon request.

SMALL HANDS PROMOTION:

Small Hands Catalog - most years you will receive a Small Hands catalog in early October. This catalog has materials that are wonderful for children at home. You may purchase materials through this catalog if you wish. One parent volunteer will coordinate the order and distribute the orders when they arrive. When the order is made, the school receives a merchandise certificate (based on the amount of the total school order) that allows the teachers to order materials for the school.

THINGS TO REMEMBER 2026-2027:

Your Child's Birthday Celebration is on _____

Your Family snack week is _____

Monthly Tuition is _____. Tuition is due on the 1st of the month and late if received after the 5th. Please add a \$20 late fee to your tuition amount if your payment is made after the 5th.

COMMITTEE COORDINATORS 2026-2027:

Playground Parents: Paul Haines and Danielle Pellegrin (Ivy), Luke and PageAnn Fletcher (Carson), Susan and Alex Emile (Micah), Genevieve and Jonathan Pitchford (Willow)

Garden Parents: Paul Haines and Danielle Pellegrin (Ivy), Susan and Alex Emile (Micah), and Genevieve and Jonathan Pitchford (Willow)

Party Planners: Lindsey Plash (Penny), Savannah Ortego (Mabry and Wilder), Emily Gabardi (Evans), Jessica TeSelle (Riley), and Erin Pitzer (Tatum Grace)

Scholastic Book Order Parent: Kelly Darnell (Everett)

Small Hands Coordinator: Carla Culpepper (Colin)