



Protocols for the 2020-2021 School Year

Dear Calvary Preschool Families,

We pray God's gracious presence has been with you during these summer months, keeping you healthy and close to Him. Our August 13th start date is around the corner.

The past 6-months with COVID-19 has been unsettling and ever-changing, disrupting our normal activities for our children, families and communities. Because of the ongoing fluid conditions it is imperative that parents read and understand all communicate given by the school.

Calvary Preschool believes our first duty as a school is the safety and health of the children entrusted to our care. We take very seriously the call to love and care for your child. Because of this, we are following all New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) and New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) guidelines. ECECD is the state organization that gives schools licensure for operation, formally known as CYFD.

In this email we are notifying you the specifics of all ECECD and NMDOH requirements from the *Health and Safety Guidance for New Mexico Child Care Centers and Early Childhood Professionals* document which can be found at:

https://www.newmexicokids.org/wp-content/uploads/child_care_health_and_safety_guidance_english.pdf.

And within two weeks, this same information (along with any updates) will be posted on Calvary Preschool's website for you to reference at any future time: <https://calvarychurchpreschool.com/>

We know many of these new regulations are an inconvenience to families and add layers to an already hectic schedule. But rest assured, we are not implementing these steps because they are enjoyable, but because they may help with the prevention of the disease at our school. Bottom line: we love your child and take seriously his or her health. We ask that you cooperate with grace, love and flexibility, as things might change.

In an effort to kick off the school year right we've elected to provide you with as much information upfront in order for your family to understand and navigate the data. We know the first day of school can be fun—with added frenzy—for small children, and many parents want it to be one of the most memorable events in the child's early life. And as much as we agree with you, we must abide by the ECECD and NMDOH documents in order for us to successfully navigate this season.

Part 1: Protocols for the New School Year

Please review all the information provided by ECECD and NMDOH. Each family will be responsible to abide by the rules. Here's some of the new protocols:

1. There will be new check-in procedures, including daily temperature checks and health screening paperwork.
2. Staggered pick-up and drop-off times. Children will be checked in/out of the classroom outside door.
3. There are new sanitizing procedures for classroom materials, bathrooms and playground equipment.
4. All adults and children must wear masks to and from the school.
5. What children bring to school will change dramatically (limiting back-and-forth material). Anything that comes in at the beginning of the week will remain at the school until the end of the week.
6. Entry into the Preschool is limited to staff and students only. Parents or volunteers will not be permitted inside the school until restrictions are lifted.
7. Each class will remain as a group and will not interacting with other classes.

Again, these are just some of the highlights of the NMDOH and ECECD documents. We ask that each family read over the entire document and bear in mind that changes may still be forthcoming. We love your children enough not to lower our standards of care for them, so please be respectful of the rules.

Part 2: Calvary Preschool Steps For Success

In this part we will highlight for you what Calvary Preschool is doing to ensure the safety of your child.

1. Classroom items will be sanitized regularly.
2. Children's hands will be washed regularly.
3. Groups of kids will not be mixed, including Chapel.
4. Bathrooms will be sanitized after each classroom's use.
5. Playground equipment will be sanitized after each classroom's use.
6. Each class will have its own set of outdoor toys.
7. Each student will have his or her own classroom supplies.

Again, these are just some highlights of the things we will do at the Preschool to help protect your child's health and safety. It behooves each parent to read over the entire documents mentioned earlier in this email.

Part 3: Things to Know-Changes

In addition, please note some new changes for this school year.

1. Please do not send your child to school with a backpack or a lunch box.
2. All lunches must be packed in a paper bag with your child's name written on the outside.
3. Folders will not be sent home on a daily basis. Instead classwork and notices will be sent home at the end of the week.
4. Two sets of clothes must be provided in a zip-lock bag with the child's name on it.
5. Students can't bring water bottles to school. The school will provide disposable cups of water to the children, their hydration is very important.
6. Before-school and after-school care will change. (More specific details will be sent in a later email.)
7. Children will have access to his or her own supplies, they cannot bring items from home.
8. New drop-off and pick-up procedures:
 - a. We encourage all families must park in the East Parking Lot.
 - b. All families will drop-off and pick-up their child at his or her given classroom, at a designated time.
 - c. Each family will sign-up for a drop-off and pick-up time. (Signup Genius will be sent out to all families in a later email.)
9. All large-group, in person events (Orientation, Parent Teacher Fellowship, Open House, etc.) will be virtual.

We know this information is daunting. We too, feel the responsibility of enacting and understanding the required protocol. But God is good and will guide us. Please note: our staff will be trained on these protocols and are required by the State to be tested prior to the start of school. Our goal is to keep everyone as healthy as possible.

This said, this will be a great year for all involved. We are working to keep the year it as "normal" as we can, but also bearing in mind the requirements of this "new normal"—at least through the Fall and Winter Semester.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office at 505-338-0183.

Teresa Garcia
Director