

Sonshine Times

Sonshine Christian Preschool

Located inside the Harvey Oaks Baptist Church
14515 Harvey Oaks Avenue, Omaha, NE 68144
402-208-7333

www.sonshinechristianpreschool.org

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Our mission is to ensure a Christian based, safe, hands-on, developmentally appropriate, fun learning environment that meets the needs of the whole child...physical, spiritual, emotional, social, and intellectual. This is done by providing a variety of experiences in art, children's literature, music, dramatic play, fitness, cooking, and gross motor activities. We provide an environment where children can discover for themselves, become self-directed and independent, and experience activities that will help them grow and develop.



Before Handwriting

By Ellen Javernick

Children have long been taught to write their names by parents who find their children highly motivated to acquire this skill. But it is wrong to assume that children who proudly write their names are ready to learn to write other letters and words.

When should formal handwriting begin? Most experts agree that children are not ready for handwriting until they have acquired six prerequisite skills. Parents can help their children develop these skills so that they will be ready for handwriting when they enter school. Here are some suggestions...

***Small Muscle Development--** Children need to develop fine motor coordination before they can hold and manipulate a pencil. Activities that involve puzzles, snap beads and pegboards are excellent for small motor development. Provide preschoolers with little cars, people and animals give them opportunities to use small muscles. Modeling with playdough, screwing jar lids, lifting beans or sand with small spoons, painting, cutting and tearing can all enhance small muscle development.

***Eye-Hand Coordination--** These skills are closely related to small muscle development skills, since children need muscle control to accomplish tasks that the eye and brain want done. In addition to the activities suggested above, provide children with opportunities for construction with a variety of blocks and with hammers and nails. Following dots, pasting, and finger painting also enhance eye-hand coordination.

***Holding Skills--** Children must be able to hold a writing tool before they can write. Before they are ready to learn how to grip a pencil, they can learn how to grip other objects. Provide children with objects for sand and water play. Give them gardening tools and kitchen utensils to play with to help them prepare for holding a pencil.

***Ability to Make Basic Strokes--** Most children learn early to make lines and circles necessary for handwriting, but these strokes need to be refined. Circles need to be round and closed. Lines need to intersect properly. Activities such as drawing, painting and stirring give children the opportunity to develop these basic strokes.

***Perception of Letters--** Before children are ready for formal writing, they need to be able to recognize letters and notice the likenesses and differences. To help children develop this skill, play recognition games with them. Label their clothes. Together look for signs, "read" boxes in the store and play games.

***Understanding Language--** An understanding of what written language stands for and how it is used to communicate is essential prior to formal handwriting instruction. Encourage children to "write" such things as lists, letters, books and signs. Have them dictate songs and stories and then read them together. Read stories from their favorite books. As they memorize the words, point out the words on the printed pages.

By Helping children acquire prewriting skills, parents can make formal handwriting easier and more fun for them when they are ready for it!

Already?

Fall Registration 2017-2018 school year!

Fall registration opens February 1, 2017!

Classes fill quickly and are on a first come first serve basis.

Download a registration form and class information from our website or pick up a form from your child's teacher.

www.sonshinechristianpreschool.org

*****refer a new student and upon their paid registration you may choose one of our awesome summer classes for free!*****

Tours are available to new families, please have them call (402)208-7333 to schedule a tour!

Fun Fridays !

9-11:30 am

Fun Friday is another an additional morning available to **all** Sonshine students. Sign up is located just inside the entrance door at school.

It is a great way for your child to meet some new faces and visit with old friends as well!

Each session

is \$10.00/month or \$30.00 when you sign up for the entire month.

January Calendar

January 16: No School, Martin Luther King Day

January 19: Daddy and Me, P2 and P3 Classes 7:00pm-8:00pm

Daddy and Me Night!

Thursday, January 19, 7-8pm

Dads, Grandpa's, Uncles....

Please join us for an hour of non stop fun, SNOW FUN!!! This evening is available for Mrs. Dickens and Mrs.

Hammes' P2 classes!

See you there!

February Calendar

February 1: Registration opens up for the 2017-2018 school year

February 16-17: No School

February 16-17: Conferences for P2(Hammes MWF) and P3(Dickens MTWTR) Classes only! Sign ups will be posted outside the classroom door

February 20: No School, Presidents Day

Fitness on Mondays! Wear your tennis shoes and be ready to work out!