



HCA Preschool Educational Philosophy

Holden Christian Academy's Mission is to challenge children to a lifetime of learning, working in partnership with families, to integrate Biblical truth with academic pursuit.

In our Preschool classes we believe in educating the whole child: We provide opportunities for growth **spiritually, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically.**

Spiritually The Preschool curriculum is based on a Christ honoring foundation that includes daily devotions, prayer and worship. We teach that the Bible is God's word and it is true. We see life through the lens of a Biblical framework. For example, when we teach about the seasons; we teach the children that God made the leaves to change colors in the Fall. We teach that God made the bears to sleep in the winter. In the spring we teach that God designed the caterpillars to become butterflies. Our Faith is naturally integrated into all our learning experiences.



Our preschool is staffed by caring, professionals who provide a safe, nurturing, environment with opportunities for **social / emotional** development, throughout the day. Children learn to share and take turns while playing together at Center time and Recess as well as through playing various learning games at Circle Time. Children are coached to use their words to express their needs and their feelings. Love and respect for one another is modeled and taught by teachers.

Cognitively

Ideas in Literature, Bible, Science and Social Studies are introduced through FUN monthly themes Our Preschool provides instruction in Kindergarten readiness concepts through whole group, small group and center time activities. Learning is experiential and purposeful. We provide engaging activities, songs and games to build early literacy and number sense and language development. We often end a unit with a culminating experience to celebrate our learning. Parents are always invited to attend or help with these special days. (Circus Day ,Thanksgiving Feast, Dinosaur Days, Royal Ball, Frog Formal etc.)

We provide real life experiences with Community Helpers through classroom visits from the Fire Dept., a Police Officer, a Dentist and a Nurse/ Doctor.

We provide experiences for explorations and observations in life science and physical sciences. (growing plants, lifecycles ,pet care, magnets, wheels, ramps, magnifying glasses, changes in matter from heat or cold,

Children are able to demonstrate creative thinking and personal expression through process focused art experiences during Center Time. (playdough, various forms of painting, collage, drawing, beading, printmaking)

Children explore rhythm and movement through a variety of musical activities. They sing songs to celebrate and learn new concepts.

Physically our students are given time to explore various manipulative toys that strengthen their fine motor skills, as well as a writing center for coloring, tracing, cutting, gluing and writing their name.

We recognize that God made our bodies and we need to take good care of them. We teach our kids to take care of their bodies; to exercise and eat healthy food. We participate in HCA's organic garden, planting, watering, harvesting and eating from our own garden!

Everyday our students have Recess either outside on our playground or indoors in our GYM. Teachers provide opportunities for gross motor development. (throwing, catching and kicking balls, running, jumping, climbing, sliding, balancing) They play games that get kids moving and also following directions. (parachute, streamers, beanbags, obstacle course, tunnel)

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