

Placement Guidelines:

Is my child ready for Bethel Buddies Preschool?

The following are a few distinctions to help you understand the different expectations of the Early Childhood program compared to a toddler classroom or daycare. Please try your best to determine how your child will be behaving in the following areas when he/she would be beginning school with us.

Toileting: Potty training is a multi-step process and children fall somewhere on the continuum while they are working to be fully potty trained. Bethel Buddies defines potty trained as being able to identify when they need to use the restroom and being able to follow through all the necessary steps independently. Staff are not expected to help with toileting - including wiping. They can coach and encourage but it is expected that children manage each step on their own. We expect that some children will have an occasional accident but frequent accidents (defined as daily or multiple days during the week) are an indication that the child is not fully potty trained.

*If your child is still wearing pull ups at home or to bed we do not consider them fully potty trained.

Age: Children must be at least three years old to begin. He/she must be able to identify the sensation of needing to use the toilet on his/her own and follow through with all necessary steps.

Social skills: While learning to play is a skill the children are constantly developing, preschoolers are expected to be able to play cooperatively with other children and use their words rather than taking toys from other children or being physical in an effort to have their way. If your child is still in the stage of taking toys and books from other children, he/she should probably join a toddler class where allowances can be made for this behavior that help the children learn to master this impulse.

Care of self: The Early Childhood teachers will expect a certain degree of independence when it comes to self-care. The students should be capable of taking on/off his or her own clothing, such as coats, hats, mittens, as well as taking on/off his/her clothes to use the toilet, including tights and underwear. While the teachers are happy to help a child who is wearing a certain outfit (such as a pair of overalls which may on occasion be a challenge) the preschool student generally should be able to undress on his/her own. The child should also carry his/her own personal items such as lunch boxes and art work, and be able to determine what belongs to him/her when asked direct questions such as; is this your coat? or is this your lunchbox?

Two Step Directions: Children should be able to follow two-step directions such as; please take off your coat and wash your hands, or go and get your lunch and take a seat at the table.

Communication: Students should be able to communicate their basic needs to a teacher and a peer. If help is needed to use the bathroom or have a drink of water, they should be able to ask the teacher for help.

Sitting: Students will be asked to sit for short periods of time for circle time, activities, and lunch. While many children are able to do this better than their parents might think, if you know from experience that your child cannot sit still for short periods of time than he/she should probably be in a toddler class or daycare where the expectations for this are not as high.

Mouthing/Oral Fixation: Children enrolled should not put things in their mouth other than food. If your child still tends to mouth things to explore their texture, then he/she will be a better fit in a toddler class where items are sanitized daily for this purpose, and there are no items that could pose choking hazards to your young child.

We hope this helps you to understand the differences between a daycare and preschool programs. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have further questions! **Bethel Buddies Staff will work to ensure that the program is successful for all students. We reserve the right to make final decisions about the appropriateness of the program for the child's needs.**

I have read and understand the expectations for my child in Bethel Buddies Preschool.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date