

God's Garden

2024-2025

Back to School

Packet

God's Garden Preschool Back to School Letter

Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing God's Garden as your child's preschool. We are so excited to have you join us for the 2024-2025 school year.

Your Child will need the following on the First Day of School:

1. Backpack (labeled with first and last name)
2. Water bottle (clearly identified with first and last name)
3. Complete change of Clothes (pants or shorts, shirt, underwear, & socks) in Ziplock bag in backpack with first and last name on it)
4. Diapers/Wipes – 2's class only (in Ziplock bag in backpack with name on it)
5. If your child is signed up for PM Stay & Play, your child will need a lunch (please put your child's name on his/her lunchbox) – ***We are a NUT free environment – no peanuts or tree nuts***

Please make sure we have received all of the following documents. We must have all of the following before your child can begin school:

- ✓ Emergency Form
- ✓ Registration Form/Parent Participation Agreement
- ✓ Registration and Supply Fee (non-refundable)
- ✓ Birth Certificate
- ✓ Updated Immunization Record
- ✓ Parent Handbook & Classroom Handbook Acknowledgements

Required Immunizations include:

- DtaP: minimum 4 shots
- Polio (IPV/OPV): minimum 3 shots
- Hib: minimum 3 shots
- Hep B: minimum 3 shots
- Hep A: minimum 2 shots (if only 1 – 2nd is given six months after the first)
- Varicella: minimum 1 shot

Registration Forms. Registration forms and fees must be completed to register your child for our program. If you have not already completed your forms, please do so ASAP. If we do not already have one on file, we will also need a copy of a birth certificate and updated immunization records.

Registration Fee. A non-refundable registration fee of \$225 per child for returning families or \$250 per child for new families is required to enroll your child at God's Garden Preschool and will hold your child's spot. Registration fees cover the cost of chapel t-shirts, administrative fees, licensing fees, teacher training, and consumable curriculum supplies for your child's classroom including, but not limited to paint, paint brushes, paper, crayons, markers, glue, glitter, and other consumable curriculum supplies. These fees help us maintain the level of high-quality care that sets us apart from others. All fees are non-refundable. A 15% discount is available for siblings.

Tuition. All tuition is based on a yearly amount and is payable in ten equal installments from August through May. Tuition payments are due on the 1st of the month and are nonrefundable. A 15% tuition discount will be applied to any additional children enrolled in the same family. A 10% Discount may apply to families who wish to pay a full-year of Tuition in Advance by the first day of school. A 30-day written notice is required to withdraw your child from our program.

Tuition Payments. Tuition payments are non-refundable. God's Garden uses Brightwheel for our billing system. Brightwheel allows you to pay tuition online or through an app on your phone! You have the option to pay via credit card or your bank account monthly. Fees do apply. There is a 2.9% fee for credit cards and a \$.90 fee for ACH payments. You can set up autopayments through the App if you choose to do so. Tuition is considered late after the 5th of each month. A late fee of \$15.00 will be added to your account for late tuition.

Scholarships Available: Scholarships help families afford high quality early care and education for their young children. God's Garden offers a limited number of scholarship opportunities yearly. They are made available to families on a first-come, first-serve basis and are tied to family income levels and/or financial hardship. In order to receive a scholarship, families must complete an application, attach the required documentation, and submit to the Preschool Director. Required documentation may include pay stubs, tax records, written statement from current employer, public assistance (AHCCCS, Food Stamps, etc.) letter, etc. Please contact me if you are interested in applying for a scholarship.

Your Child's Health and Safety is our Top Priority. We continue to follow safety precautions in the classroom to prevent the spread of illness, including handwashing, cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting of toys, materials, and furniture. We regularly remind students and staff to cover their coughs and sneezes with an elbow or tissue. We monitor students and staff for illness daily. Your child will be sent home immediately if he/she develops a fever of 100.4°, a cough, shortness of breath, or signs of infection while in our care. Please monitor your child at home for illness daily. If your child develops a fever, congestion, cough, or shortness of breath, please keep your child at home.

Drop Off and Pick up Procedures. Drop off and Pick up will be in your child's classroom. Please sign your child in and out of the classroom daily via the Brightwheel App. You must sign legibly with a first initial and complete last name. Directions for using the App are attached.

Thank you for choosing us for your child's early education. We are so blessed to be a part of your child's life long educational journey. Please contact us with questions. We look forward to beginning a new school year with you.

Warmly,



Michelle Rhodes, PhD
Director, God's Garden Preschool
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www.godsgarden.com
480-460-0081

"But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ~Isaiah 64:8

Important Reminders for the School Year

- **WE USE BRIGHTWHEEL AS OUR BILLING SYSTEM.** Make sure you use the **BRIGHTWHEEL APP** to pay tuition. You can pay via credit card or your bank account (debit card) monthly. Fees Apply. No cash or check accepted.
- **SIGN YOUR CHILD IN DAILY VIA the BRIGHTWHEEL APP.** This helps us keep your children safe and accounted for! You must sign your first initial and last name legibly.
- **TUITION IS DUE ON THE FIRST OF THE MONTH.** Tuition is considered late if received after the 5th of the month. A fee of \$15 will be accessed for all late payments.
- **STAY AND PLAY FEES** will be added to your bill at the end of each month via the **BRIGHTWHEEL APP**
- Please **BE ON TIME** to school each day. Your child will miss out on daily greetings, table activities, and the morning circle if they arrive late. This is an important part of the day. It helps children feel connected to the class and sets the stage for daily learning.
- Please **DO NOT BE LATE** to pick up your child(ren) daily. We all have places to be. There is a late fee for children picked up more than 15 minutes late. A \$15 fee will be assessed for every 5 minutes late.
- PM Stay and Play **EXTENDED CARE** is popular. Please make sure to sign up in the book daily. It is open daily until 4:30PM. The cost is \$10/hour. There is a max enrollment of 16 students in Stay and Play. If you need consistent PM Stay and Play care, please stop by the front desk to get your child on the daily list.
- **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP TO BRING SNACKS** for your child's classroom. Bulk items are best. They can be purchased at Costco, Sam's Club, Walmart, Target, etc.
- We have several students with severe nut allergies again this year so our **entire school is NUT FREE.** Please do not send children with any kind of nut products (including nutella) for snack or in their lunches. We appreciate your cooperation with this.
- **CALL US** or send a message via the **BRIGHTWHEEL APP** when your child(ren) will not be attending school due to illness or sickness, or if there is an emergency that delays you from picking up your child on time.
- **LABEL** both Backpacks and Water Bottles with your child's first and last name.
- Make sure your child has a **CHANGE OF CLOTHES** in a labeled Ziplock bag in their backpack **DAILY** for the entire school year. Children may need to change clothes for a variety of reasons including but not limited to accidents and getting messy during outdoor play, and art and science experiments.
- If you have **QUESTIONS** or **CONCERNS**, please speak first to your child's teacher and then to the director or assistant director, if needed.
- We have an **OPEN-DOOR** policy – Get involved! Please drop by and visit, observe, or volunteer in the classroom. Contact your teacher for more ways to get involved.
- **REFER-A-FRIEND** and earn \$200 in God's Garden Bucks!



Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce this year we will continue to use brightwheel as our online billing system for tuition payments, daily Sign-in and Sign-out, attendance, communication, photos, videos, and so much more!

Directions

Download the  **brightwheel** app on your phone to use at school daily!

Getting Started:

1. **Create a free brightwheel account.** After you receive an invitation via email or text, please create a free parent account using either the web or mobile app. Make sure to use the same email address or cell phone number that the invitation was sent to.
2. **Confirm your child's profile.** You will see your child's profile after you create an account – you can confirm information such as birthday, allergies, and additional contacts. If you do not see your child's profile, please contact us with the email address or phone number you used to sign up. You will not see updates within brightwheel until it is used regularly.
3. **Set your account preferences.** You can adjust your notification preferences within your profile settings on the app.
4. **Add your payment information.** Brightwheel offers secure, automated online payments that save time for us and gives you advanced tools and reporting. Please add your payment information to your profile.

Daily usage:

Use the mobile app on your phone to scan the QR code at your child's class kiosk daily to sign your child in and out of school. This will replace the paper and pencil version of signing in and out daily. You must sign legibly your first initial and last name daily.

We're so happy to be using this state-of-the-art billing system here at God's Garden. We hope you enjoy using it. Please let us know if you have any questions or need help getting your app set up.

Thank you,

God's Garden Front Office Staff

2024-2025 Chapel News

God's Garden provides a loving, nurturing, Christian community environment. God loves children and we want them to know his love. One of the ways we teach children about God's love is by attending Chapel. During Chapel, children learn about God's love by singing and dancing to songs, learning about bible stories, and participating in prayer. Chapel incorporates basic virtues and lessons from the Bible including goodness, kindness, creation, Birth of Jesus, Easter, etc.

We have made a change to Chapel this year. Chapel will be held twice per month again this year, but during the 4th Wednesday of the month, all classes will come to Chapel together on Wednesday (it will be held on the 2nd Wednesday or Thursday of each month and the 4th Wednesday of each month). The 2's class will join as often as they can. Chapel is held in the Horizon Church Worship Center and is led by our Pastor, Children's Director, Preschool Director, Teachers, and/or volunteers from Horizon Church.

Chapel is approximately 15 to 20 minutes in length and begins at 9:20am. Parents are encouraged to participate with us!

Chapel Schedule

2nd Wednesday of the Month

- 9:20AM – 2's MWF Class
- 9:20AM – 3's MWF Class
- 9:20AM – 4's M-F Class

4th Wednesday of the Month

- All classes

2nd Thursday of the Month

- 9:20AM – 2's T/TH Class
- 9:20AM – 3-5 Full Day Class
- 9:20AM – Kinder Class

4th Wednesday of the Month

- All classes

Chapel Dates and Themes

DATES	THEMES
August 21	Creation
September 11 & 12	God Made Me Special
September 25	God Made Me Special
October 23 & 24	Faithfulness
November 13 & 14	Thankfulness
December 11 & 12	Birth of Christ & Joy
January 8 & 9	Patience
January 22	Patience
February 12 & 13	Love
February 26	Love
March 26	Kindness
April 9 & 10	Peace
April 23	Easter
May 7	Goodness

God's Garden Stay and Play (SNP) Extended Care

Stay and Play offers before and after school extended care for children between 2.5- and 6-years-of age. Stay and Play is available before school (**AM Stay and Play**) from 8:15AM to 8:45AM. and after school (**PM Stay and Play**) from 11:45AM until 4:30PM. Students may attend SNP any day of the week; even on days they are not enrolled in school. Children **must be independently potty-trained** to attend. *This means children must be able to go to the potty on their own, pull up and down their underwear, and wipe themselves independently.* Children must bring their own lunch to attend PM SNP. Please write your child's first name and last name on all re-usable containers, including the lunchbox itself!

Fees

The fee for attending SNP is \$12 per hour. If you pick your child up within the hour, you will still be billed for the full hour. Stay and Play fees will be calculated at the end of each month and added to the next month's tuition. It can be paid via Brightwheel, our new Billing System and App.

How to Sign Up?

This program is flexible, and can be reserved ahead of time, or simply the day of (if space permits). Please note, however, that space is limited. Our max is 16 students daily, so early sign-ups are recommended! SNP closes promptly at 4:30PM. If you know you will be late, please contact the office at 480-460-0081. There is a late fee for children picked up after 4:30PM. \$15 fee will be assessed for every 5 minutes late. Please sign your child in daily in the Stay and Play binder, which can be found at the front desk each morning.

Curriculum

During Stay and Play, children participate in a child-centered, discovery-based activities, using the High/Scope Preschool Curriculum. Children learn best when pursuing their own interests and goals, therefore, students are encouraged to make choices about materials and activities for much of their day. Students explore and discover, ask and answer questions, solve problems, and interact with classmates and adults through a combination of teacher directed activities, large and small group activities, and child-centered free choice play. Free choice play encourages independent thinking, decision-making, problem-solving, initiative, imagination, and creativity. Both large group activities (circle time) and small group activities (projects) help refine skills such as following directions, fine motor skills, and verbal communication. With the teacher's guidance, our students gain skills by exploring topics through discovery and investigation, because learning is most meaningful when children are active participants in their learning. Our teachers also work to promote problem solving and critical thinking skills by engaging in conversations during play. Our program is comprehensive and recognizes that all children are unique individuals who learn differently. Differentiated instruction is used to identify where each child is at developmentally and then works to help each child build individual skills throughout the school year. It is a highly individualized process that recognizes each child's unique strengths and needs.

Sample PM Stay and Play Daily Schedule

11:45AM – 12:30PM Lunch

12:30PM – 12:45PM Welcome Circle Time

12:45PM – 1:30PM Free Choice Play or Outdoor Play

1:30PM – 1:45PM Circle Time

1:45PM – 2:30PM Outdoor Play (if weather permits)

2:30PM – 2:45PM Circle Time

2:45PM – 3:15 PM – Snack Time

3:15PM – 3:45PM Small Group Activity (Art, Math, Science)

3:45PM – 4:15PM Free Choice Play

4:15PM – 4:30PM Goodbye Circle

HEALTH GUIDELINES

Dear Parents:

Sick children should be kept home to prevent spreading germs to their classmates and teachers. Young children who have not built up immunity are very susceptible to sickness and disease.

Please keep children home if:

1. Fever 100.0 degrees or more the night before or in the morning before school, before Tylenol is given, always keep home until fever free for 24 hours.
2. Persistent cough.
3. Sore throat (or white spots on back of throat) with fever should see a Doctor. May return after 24 hours on antibiotic.
4. Rash with fever should see a Doctor. If rash is not contagious a note from the doctor is required so the child may return to school.
5. Feelings of nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea the night before or in the morning. May return after 24 hours free.
6. Bad head cold, headache, eyes that look glassy, very stuffy or runny nose, sneezing and sore throat that last 3 days.
7. Earache.
8. Conjunctivitis or "pink eye". Must be on medication for at least 24 hours and eyes must look better before returning to school.

Children need to be fever free and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. If antibiotics are required, your child needs to be on them for 24 hours before returning to school. Also, the first dose of a new medication needs to be given at home where you can monitor any reactions.

Signs/Symptoms of:

Strep Throat – sudden onset of red (sometimes painful) sore throat, fever, listlessness, swollen glands, nausea and vomiting, and headache. Tongue may be coated white and then become bright red. White pus pockets may be present in the back of the throat. It may be accompanied by a rash.

Flu- Fever (usually high), headache, extreme lethargy, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

If in doubt about signs/symptoms above, consider keeping the child home for a couple of hours and see how they are doing, then send them to school if they are doing better and have no symptoms from the above list.

If your child becomes ill while at school:

You will be notified by the office and are expected to pick up an ill child **WITHIN ONE HOUR** after notification.

The following criteria will be considered in determining if your child must go home:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more
- Inflammation of the eyes (excessive redness, glassy or discharge)
- Vomiting
- More than one incidence of diarrhea or loose stool which is not contained within clothing
- Communicable disease as defined by the Department of Health Services/Center for Disease Control
- Unknown rash
- Excessive nasal discharge, especially if yellow or greenish, since this indicates infection
- Pain

If your child was sent home due to illness, he/she cannot return to preschool/child care until he/she has been free from symptoms for one full day (24 hours) following dismissal without the use of a fever reducer or with a doctor's release. This will allow your child ample time to recover and stop the spread of illness to the other children and staff.

After your child has been ill, it is important to adhere to the following guidelines when determining whether or not your child is ready to return to school:

- Mood, appetite, behavior and activity are again normal
- No fever for 24 hours without a fever reducer
- Antibiotics (if prescribed) have been used for a full twenty four hours
- Vomiting, and/or diarrhea cleared for twenty four hours
- Frequent coughing, and/or excessive nasal discharge resolved
- Pain resolved (ear ache, cramps, headache, etc.)

Communicable Diseases

If your child has contracted a communicable disease, please contact the school so other parents may be notified. If your child is exposed to a communicable disease by one of his/her classmates, you will be notified and told to be on the lookout for specific symptoms.

All contagious childhood diseases such as chicken pox, measles, mumps, lice, etc., have specific exclusion dates which have been established by the Arizona Department of Health Services. These exclusion dates must be complied with prior to re-admission to school. If you have any questions, contact our director.

We appreciate knowing about hurts, bruises and/or emotional upsets that occur away from school. You may be asked to sign a slip describing an injury that happened away from school. Keep us informed of significant home events. This allows us to deal sensitively with all situations. If an accident occurs at the center you will be informed.

Please notify us if your child will not be attending school due to illness or for a personal reason.

Never leave a child alone in a car.



Remember to **A C T**



A Avoid Heatstroke

Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving a child alone in a car, not even for a minute. And make sure to keep your car locked when you're not inside so kids don't get in on their own.



C Create Reminders

Keep a stuffed animal or other memento in your child's car seat when it's empty, and move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when your child is in the back seat. Or place and secure your phone, briefcase or purse in the backseat when traveling with your child.



T Take Action

If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations.

**SAFE
KIDS**
WORLDWIDE™

Proud Program Supporter

GENERAL MOTORS

Come Grow With Us



REFER A FAMILY AND GET REWARDED!

Get \$200 in God's Garden Bucks when you refer a family and they enroll. Enrolling family gets 50% off Registration!

*Some restrictions may apply

Your name: _____

I was referred by: _____

Date enrolled: _____

Scented Kool-Aid Play Dough Recipe

Ingredients:

2 cups flour

1 cup salt

1 Package of Kool-Aid (any flavor)

1 cup HOT water

*Additional ingredients can be added to really work the senses: oats, glitter, miniature Styrofoam balls, etc.

Directions: Combine ingredients and mix well. Add more flour if sticky. Consistency should be soft and smooth.

*For best results have children make the Play Dough

Handwashing Song

Tops and bottoms

Tops and bottoms

In between

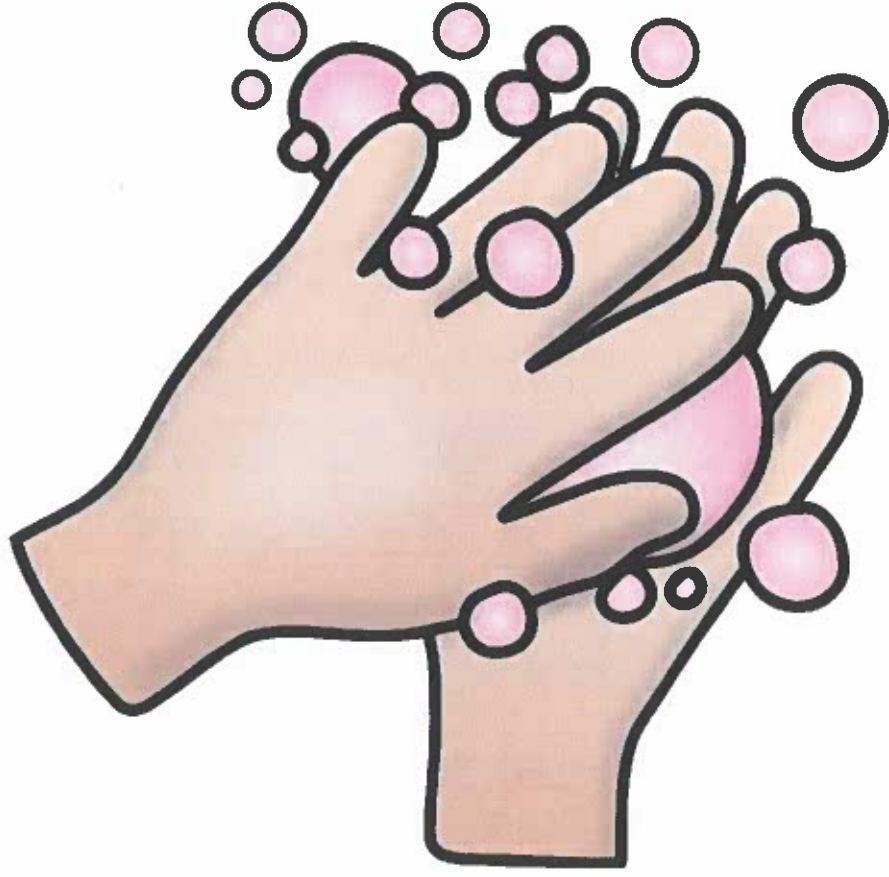
In between

Wash them all around

Wash them all around

Rinse them clean

Rinse them clean



ACSTO

Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization

Donate to ACSTO this Tax Season!

Do you love God's Garden Preschool and you want to show you care? Perhaps you received a scholarship for your child and you want to pay it forward. Did you know you can make a donation to ACSTO and help send a child to Kindergarten at God's Garden for FREE?! Every donation counts!!

If you're an Arizona taxpayer, you can make a donation to ACSTO and receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit in return! This is a way to divert money you already owe to the state, directly to God's Garden. And you will get this money back on your state taxes.

A tax credit is different than a normal charitable deduction. Rather than reduce your taxable income, your tax credit directly reduces your state tax liability (a.k.a. the tax you pay). If you usually receive a refund on your state taxes, a tax credit makes it bigger—it is to your advantage to participate in this program. Please visit the ACSTO website for more information: <https://acsto.org/>.

Tax credit donations can be submitted online to ACSTO prior to filing taxes, but no later than Tax Day (whichever comes first), and still be eligible for the tax credit for the previous tax year.

Arizona State Tax Credit Guidelines:

- This credit is available for all qualifying individual Arizona state taxpayers.
- This is a dollar-for-dollar reduction on the amount of tax you owe to the State of Arizona.
- You do not have to be a parent of a God's Garden student in order to make a tax credit contribution.
- Donations must be made directly to ACSTO.
- Tax Credit contributions are **NON-REFUNDABLE**.
- Visit <https://acsto.org/> for more information.