



**Trinity School of Texas
Early Childhood
Frequently Asked Questions
2022 - 2023**

Q. What type of daily schedule will my child have?

A. The two and three-year-old classes begin at 8:00 am and finish at 11:30 am. Pre-K is a full-day class from 8:00 am-3:00 pm. Each day EC students will enjoy classroom time as well as “specials” classes (ie. music, art, etc), chapel (twice a week), and playground. At 11:30 am students will either go home or stay for Extended Enrichment which is open until 6:00 pm. Pre-K students have the option to go to Extended Enrichment from 3:00 - 6:00 pm.

Q. Are the teachers certified?

A. Pre-K teachers are certified teachers. Two and three-year-old teachers may be certified teachers or have vast experience in early childhood education.

Q. Will my child have art and music?

A. Yes. EC students have art and music twice a week.

Q. Will my child have computers?

A. Two and three-year-old students have the opportunity to use iPads once a week. Pre-K students will go to a computer class once each week.

Q. Are Early Childhood students exposed to Spanish or any other foreign language?

A. Early Childhood students will go to Spanish class two times a week.

Q. Will my child go on any field trips?

A. Regular field trips are planned for students in Pre-K and up. Students in the 3-year-old class go to Ecoland in Kilgore.

Q. Will my child get to perform in any programs?

- A. Yes, students perform on Family Day, La Posada Christmas program, and in a spring musical each year.

Q. Do students in the program take daily naps? What type of nap mat is recommended?

- A. Two and three-year-old students that are signed up for TST Extended Enrichment will take daily naps. Pre-K students will have a designated daily rest time. Any nap mat is acceptable and will be sent home each Friday for washing.

Q. Will there be an aide in my child's classroom?

- A. Yes.

Q. How large are the classes in Early Childhood?

- A. Two and three-year-old class size is limited to 12 students. Pre-K is limited to 14 students.

Q. Will my student wear a uniform every day?

- A. Yes, students will wear "daily uniform" on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. On Wednesdays, they will wear "dress uniform." On Fridays, students may wear a Trinity spirit t-shirt and uniform bottoms.

Q. Will my student eat lunch with his/her class? Do they get snacks during the day?

- A. A morning snack is provided for EC students. Two and three-year-old children signed up for Extended Enrichment will eat lunch with their class. Pre-K students will eat lunch at school. There is also an afternoon snack.

Q. Do students take naps during the day?

- A. Yes, right after lunch.

Q. Will my child have recess every day?

- A. Yes, as long as the weather permits.

Q. Will my child have P.E. every day?

- A. EC students go to P.E. twice a week for 30 minutes.

Q. Do students in Early Childhood attend chapel?

- A. EC students attend chapel once a week at the church and once a week in a classroom.

Q. Where will my student be dropped off and picked up?

- A. EC students are dropped off and picked up at the Martin Building - second awning. If students are enrolled in Extended Enrichment they may be picked up in the 3:00 pm carpool at the same location as they were dropped off. Each family will be issued a carpool tag to be placed in the front window of the vehicle driving through the carpool line. If picked up at a different time, parents may walk in and sign them out from the classroom.

Q. Will my child buy his/her own school supplies?

- A. School supplies are included in school fees and will be received on the first day of school.

Q. Will my child have a summer reading assignment?

- A. Early Childhood does not have summer reading assignments, but daily reading is encouraged.

Q. Will my student get to go to the library?

- A. Yes, EC students go to the library for 30 minutes each week. Three-year-olds and Pre-K students are allowed to check out a book weekly.

Q. Are there Early Learning Standards that teachers use to prepare their lessons?

- A. Teachers use the Preschool TEKS early learning goals, objectives, and benchmarks.

Q. How do your teachers stay current on child development and new teaching methods? What types of professional development do they participate in?

- A. Trinity Early Childhood teachers are active members in the SAES (Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools) early learning community and also a member of Region VII, specifically the early childhood cohort. We have many professional development opportunities that we take advantage of through these memberships.

Q. How do teachers communicate with parents?

- A. All parents are encouraged to use their myTST account to communicate with teachers and see what their children are learning each month. With our youngest students, teachers often text and email as well. Teachers share newsletters and pictures from the classroom via MyTST.

Q. How is discipline handled in the classroom?

- A. Trinity believes in restorative discipline with natural consequences. Teachers utilize “time away” when a child needs to be removed from a situation. Teachers work with students on problem-solving and righting a wrong. Teachers are in touch with parents regarding any needed discipline issues and enjoy working alongside parents in guiding the student together.

Q. Does my child need to be potty-trained?

- A. For the two-year-old class, no. However, students need to be potty-trained before they enter the three-year-old class. Teachers in the two-year-old class work with families when a student shows interest in using the potty to make sure consistent methods are being used in addition to encouraging the child in a similar manner.

Q. Are your teachers CPR/First Aid trained?

A. Yes, teachers are CPR/First Aid trained every two years.

Q. Is there a place parents can look to find out what their child is learning in the classroom?

A. Yes. Teachers post their lesson plans on myTST.

Q. How much time do you spend outside?

A. Recess is 30 minutes. Teachers also take advantage of nice weather by relocating lessons outdoors on occasion.

Q. What happens when a student misses school?

A. The parent should contact the school by phone or at office@trinityschooloftexas.com to notify the school of an absence.

Q. If parents have a question or problem, do they call the teacher or the office?

A. If the question is about attendance, parents should contact the office. If it is classroom-related, they should contact their classroom teacher.

Q. Are there regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences in Early Childhood?

A. We have two parent-teacher conferences - One in the Fall - October and one in the Spring - March.

Q. Can parents volunteer in their child's classroom?

A. Trinity welcomes parental involvement in all facets including the classroom. Teachers let parents know ways they can be involved in classroom life and typically have sign-ups. Parents may always reach out to the teacher and let them know if they are interested in assisting in the classroom.

Q. May I join my child for lunch occasionally?

A. Yes, parents may check-in in the main office and meet their child in the Hollandsworth Commons for lunch. There is a designated table for parents and students to eat together. Please notify your child's teacher ahead of time.

Q. What type of progress assessments are given to students in the classroom? How do you monitor learning and student growth?

A. Students are formally assessed three times a year. Teachers use the early learning benchmarks and look for development and mastery. These assessments are shared at parent-teacher conferences.

Q. Does my child need to bring his or her lunch every day or can we order a lunch? What about drinks as well?

- A. Students have the choice of bringing lunch from home or ordering lunch from the school cafeteria. Monthly lunch menus are provided as well as an app for ordering lunch. If your child forgets lunch, you may call the school to order a “911” lunch.

Q. What if my child needs medication?

- A. Complete the parent’s authorization for medication (found on myTST or in the Main Office) and submit it with the medication in a labeled ziplock bag. The medication must be in the original prescription container with the identity and usage label. An approved faculty/staff member will administer the medication to your child.

Q. Does my child need a backpack, water bottle, or any other items?

- A. Early Childhood students should bring a backpack and reusable, leak-proof top water bottle to school each day.

Q. Is there anything else my child will need at school?

- A. Each child should leave a change of clothes in their cubby at school, diapers and wipes (for 2 yr. olds) and a blanket or “lovie” if they are staying for Extended Enrichment.

Q. How are birthdays celebrated at school?

- A. Students are welcome to celebrate their birthday with a treat for the whole classroom. Something may be sent in from outside the school or you may purchase a traditional TST birthday cookie cake from the school cafeteria (link provided in the Titan Tidbits and myTST). Parents are also invited to attend their child’s birthday blessing at EC/ LS Friday Chapel on the Friday of their birthday week.

***For additional information, please refer to the *Trinity School of Texas Parent-Student Handbook* found online on the myTST Resources Board.**