

Parent Handbook
2023-2024

St. Luke's Little School
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This collection of information was compiled to introduce parents to
The St. Luke's Little School Preschool Program and the
responsibilities we jointly assume for the school.
**Please read carefully for you will be responsible for the
information contained herein.**

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WELCOME!

Thank you for choosing Little School as your child's preschool. We are a preschool program that is designed to meet the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of a child in a positive, loving atmosphere, with a Christian educational emphasis.

Philosophy

St. Luke's Little School programs are designed to provide a developmentally appropriate, play-based, Christian curriculum and to affirm each child through group and one-on-one interaction. Each child is viewed as an individual with unique needs and abilities. The children enrolled in the program will find a world of educational materials, friendly and caring adults, and other children who are exploring the world beyond their own homes. Under the guidance of a highly trained staff, the program provides a variety of enjoyable learning activities such as art, music, and storytelling. This is balanced with opportunities for play and social interaction. Children will be exposed to all of the Early Learning Developmental Guidelines which include logic and reasoning, mathematics, social studies, English language skills, literacy skills, language skills, creative arts, physical development, social emotional development, science, and approaches to learning. The children will also be encouraged to develop a respect for cultural diversity. The philosophy of the program stresses a positive approach to discipline. Clear and consistent limits are intended to enhance the child's self-esteem while protecting that child from harm and maintaining the safety of other children.

St. Luke's Little School strongly encourages and appreciates regular communication between parents and staff. We recognize that parents are the most significant adults in the child's life, and we will do everything possible to ensure the parents' involvement with our programs.

Non-discrimination Policy

St. Luke's Little School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, nationality, or ethnic origin. Admission of children with special needs is in compliance with the ADA. Reasonable effort is made to accommodate the child's needs and to integrate the child with other children. St. Luke's Little School will provide services for children with physical or learning difficulties if the teacher is qualified to provide adequate and appropriate education and care. A conference will be provided with the director, teacher, nurse consultant, and parents to determine if St. Luke's can provide an adequate program. In the event that a child needs constant supervision or care, the parent, at their cost, will pay for a full-time aid.

Service Providers and Individualized Learning Plans

At Little School, we strive to meet the individual needs of each child and provide an inclusive educational environment. If your child has an Individualized Education Plan, an Individualized Family Service Plan, an Individual Learning Plan, a Behavior Intervention Plan, or other plan, we have resources to assist with meeting their needs. In addition, we collaborate with Douglas

County School District, Child Find, All Health Network, and other service providers such as speech therapists. We welcome services to occur here at Little School to meet your child's plan.

Curriculum

All children will learn the Letterland Literacy curriculum. Letterland is a whole-child curriculum in that it teaches all of the Early Learning Developmental Guidelines. Letterland provides children with a basic knowledge of letter sounds with pictograms, phonemic awareness, phonics, and all major subject areas at a developmentally appropriate progression. Students will be exposed to the Learning Without Tears curriculum as well. This program is also a whole-child curriculum, but there is more emphasis on fine motor skills including proper pencil grasp, cutting skills, and upper body strength to prepare children for writing, sentence building, word structure, and more. Both curriculums integrate all of the eleven Colorado Early Learning and Developmental Guidelines which are physical development, social emotional development, language development, literacy development, English language development, logic and reasoning, math development, science, social studies, the creative arts, and approaches to learning.

Language and Interpreter Services

Little School offers interpretation services through google translate, adaptive technology, and S'more online communications. We can provide an interpreter for your parent-teacher conference. Each classroom iPad has software that allows teachers to communicate with parents in their native language for a backup, if an interpreter is not available immediately. We also have staff who are able to speak Spanish. A copy of this handbook can also be given in a family's native language upon request. Please see the office staff for alternative versions of this handbook or speak to your child's teacher if an interpreter is needed.

Bilingual Classrooms

Little School will hire a bilingual teacher or assistant teacher who is fluent in the dominate language of any classroom that has a dominate second language represented in the classroom (50% or more of the children speak the same second language). Little School supports a child's home language and will do everything we can to honor each child's home language in the classroom.

Quality Improvement Plan

At Little School, we strive to provide our children with the most up-to-date practices in education. Each year, we create a Quality/Unified Improvement Plan that helps us provide quality educational services and business practices. You will receive a parent survey in the fall. The results of that survey will be shared with families and be used to create goals and implement our Quality Improvement Plan. Stop by the office to see our Quality Improvement binder for more information and our parent survey results.

Staffing and Licensing

Teachers and Assistants:

St. Luke's employs certified teachers and administrators who are considered highly-effective in the field, and who have been background checked through three agencies. All staff is required to complete extensive continuing education requirements yearly. All staff is annually trained in CPR, First Aid, and emergency response.

Primary Caregiver Practices

Each child in our care will have one lead teacher and one assistant teacher. The lead teacher will remain with the child for the entire day including outdoor times. The assistant teacher will also remain with the same group of children for the day. This promotes the formation of a strong emotional bond and increased development across the domains of learning.

Continuity of Care

We offer parents the option to remain with the same teacher two years in a row if that teacher is changing age levels the following school year. We cannot guarantee staffing from year to year, but we strive to provide continuity of care if requested. Continuity of care can be requested on your registration form if you are interested in staying with the same teacher the next year.

Director and Assistant Director

The director, Kelly Amadeo, has extensive schooling and experience in Early Childhood Education and higher. She has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, a master's degree in Elementary Education, an Ed.S in Educational Leadership, and she is currently working on her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. She is highly qualified with a director qualification letter from the state of Colorado. There are two assistant directors, Amanda Lewis and Cali Miodonski who both have bachelor's degrees in elementary education and early childhood education, and classroom experience. Both assistant directors hold large center director's certificates from the state of Colorado.

A director or assistant director is on school premises during our business hours. In addition to the administrative responsibilities, the director's responsibilities are to represent Little School within the United Methodist Church and community, offer guidance, mentor the Little School staff, and adhere to all aspects of state licensing rules and regulations. The director is well versed in the Colorado State Rules and Regulations for state licensing of preschools.

Resources for Families and Referral Procedures

At Little School, we offer a variety of support resources for each family. Each year, our staff is updated on the referral procedures so you can feel comfortable discussing referral options for your child or family with any of our qualified and trained staff. Every staff member is trained to help any of our families receive the resources and services they need. Stop by our parent resource center next to the front office to get more information regarding mental health, developmental support and Child Find services, basic needs support such as food banks,

pediatrician and dental contact information, diaper services, and more. Please see the office staff for contact information and fliers. We offer speech, hearing, dental, and vision screenings along with behavioral assessments with signed consent forms. All of our support providers will provide screening results and observation results to parents through email or mailed letters. We are here to help all of our families be successful in all areas of life. Some of our partners include: Love Inc., Child Find, All Health Network, Children's Hospital, Suanne Ediger Speech and Hearing services, Lions Club, Warren Village, and more.

Parenting Classes

St. Luke's United Methodist Church and Little School offer a variety of parenting classes available to Little School parents throughout the year. Check the marquee outside and the Little School Monthly Newsletter for classes available. Some examples are, Yoga for Preschoolers, The Meaning Behind the Behavior, Keeping our Children Safe, Social Media safety, Child Anxiety, and more.

School Nurse

We have a nurse consultant from Children's Hospital who makes monthly visits to ensure all children are safe, all allergy paperwork and medication is complete and up-to-date, and to offer delegation trainings to meet the medical and physical needs of all of the children. She is available to offer her expertise to Little School during our open hours Monday-Friday.

All Health Network

With the help of a grant, we have weekly visits by a behavioral health therapist and counselor. The counselor offers teaching assistance and advice for all our teachers with a wide variety of situations. Should you or your child request additional support from the therapist, we can offer assistance after we receive written permission from you for further evaluations. Please see the parent resource center or your child's teacher to get more information. This is available to all our Little School families. If you would like more information regarding All Health Network, please see any of our staff members. We are all trained annually at helping families receive the services they need.

Enrollment and Registration

Children who enroll at Little School must be 2½ by the first day of school, immunization compliant, and completely potty-trained (3 year-olds and older) for our licensing requirements.

Although enrollment is open, limited space and staff requires program size restriction. Application for enrollment will be prioritized and considered according to the following order of categories:

- 1) Currently enrolled students with tuition accounts up to date
- 2) Siblings of currently enrolled students
- 3) Others in the community

Students will be placed in the most appropriate class according to birth dates. We cannot guarantee requests for specific teachers or placement with specific friends. Every effort will be made to place siblings together on the same days. In the event that we have full enrollment, a waiting list will be maintained. Children may begin Little School any time during the year, if space is available. Being placed on a waiting list does not guarantee placement the following year but does give special attention.

Little School enrollment opens in January. There is a non-refundable school supply fee that is due once you receive email confirmation that we have a spot for your child. Payment of this fee guarantees a spot for your child. If the payment is not made within two weeks of being offered a spot, we will release your spot and give it to a child on our waitlist.

The registration fee/school supply fee varies for the 2023 school year depending on the number of days your child attends preschool. Paperwork will be completed online, and must be completed by June 15th. Any paperwork that is not completed on time will accrue a \$25.00 late fee.

General Health Appraisal forms (signed by both the parent and doctor), immunization forms, and one month of tuition, which is applied to May 2024, is due on August 1st. General Health Appraisal forms and immunization records can be emailed to LRegistration@stlukehshr.com, faxed to 303-470-5615, or dropped off at our black Little School mailbox on the north side of the building. If any of those items have not been turned in by August 1st, a \$25.00 late fee will be added to your account. Students may not start at Little School if any of the following items are incomplete or missing: complete registration packet (online), general health appraisal form, immunization records, and one month of tuition (applied to May 2024).

Immunizations

Children must be immunized according to the Little School policies and procedures and state requirements unless a proper exemption form is completed annually. If your child is on a delayed schedule or has an exemption, please contact the director, Ms. Kelly, to discuss this further and fill out the appropriate exemption forms. Appropriate exemption forms will be required to remain in compliance with immunization laws.

Medical Insurance and Providers

Little School documents all student's medical home and insurance information. Resources are provided at our parent resource center and by request if you are needing a primary care doctor, health insurance, dentist, vision specialist, speech therapists, or hearing screenings.

Transition Support

Little School offers a variety of opportunities that help children move through transitional times while enrolled. Here are some examples:

- Little School hosts a Meet-the-Teacher day before the school year begins. If translation services are needed for families whose native language is not English, please email the director to set up a translator for your meet the teacher event.

- Kindergarten Transition Meetings in December
- Explorers Transition Meetings in December
- Transition tips and meetings for potty-training with our non-potty-trained classes. Please see your child's teacher for specifics.
- Tours that allow you to meet the teacher and children if enrolling later in the year
- Resources to help you find doctors, dentists, and support services in the area
- Trial days approved by the director and with the appropriate forms completed
- If you are experiencing a transitional time at home such as a move, new baby, divorce, or change in employment that may affect your child, please see our parent resource center next to the office for some helpful resources and support. The director also has a library of resources where you can check out books to borrow.

Individualization: Little School will help each student with transitioning to preschool. Some examples include the use of security objects to help with separation, trial days for new students who start after our first day, observation days, and assistance from our mental health professional through All Health Network.

Class Days, Times, and Tuition

2.5-year-old Program Must be 2.5 by the first day of school of the current year

M/W:	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: \$240.00 per month
T/TH:	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: \$240.00 per month
F:	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: \$135.00 per month

3-year-old Program Must be 3 by October 1st of the current year

M/W:	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: \$240.00 per month
T/TH:	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: \$240.00 per month
M/W/F	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: \$345.00 per month

4-year-old Program Must be 4 by October 1st of the current year

M/W/F:	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: UPK Funded (part-time)
T/TH/F:	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: UPK Funded (part-time)
T/TH:	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: UPK Funded (part-time)
M-F	9:00am to 1:00pm	Cost: UPK Funded (half-time up to 15hrs) + \$150/mo for additional 5 hours

Explorers 5-year-olds: Must be 5 between April 1st and October 1st

M/T/W/TH	9:00am-1:00pm	Cost: \$450.00 per month
M-F:	9:00am-1:00pm	Cost: \$545.00 per month

Our Explorers Program is our 5-year-old program for children who turn five between April 1st and October 1st and who are not attending kindergarten. These classes are designed to assist children who may need additional social, emotional, physical, or cognitive growth and maturity, and who are not quite ready for kindergarten according to their teachers and parents. This class is not a repeat of the four-year-old preschool program, and it is not a kindergarten class. Efforts are focused on kindergarten readiness, and creating a successful transition to kindergarten. In addition to academics and social skills, teachers focus on helping children to be more independent.

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

BeforeCare

This is an opportunity for parents to drop-off children before school starts from 8:30am to 8:55am. This class is monitored by lead teachers who ensure that each child makes it to his/her own classroom each morning at 9:00am. You do not need to sign up for this class in advance. Assistant teachers will take your child from the BeforeCare room to their regular classroom and check them in.

Any amount of time between 8:30am and 9:00am

Cost: \$5.00 per day

AfterCare

We offer an AfterCare program from 1:00-2:45pm. This involves a naptime, outdoor time, snack (provided by the parent), crafts, and free play. You must sign-up for this class using the online link and sign-up 24 hours in advance. If you cancel less than 24 hours in advance, your account will still be charged. Parents pick-up their child from AfterCare at the north side preschool door.

Any amount of time between 1:00pm and 2:45pm

Cost: \$20.00

Inclement Weather Procedure

If DCSD closes due to inclement weather, we too will be closed for the whole day. If DCSD does a delayed start, we too will delay the same amount of time. For example, if DCSD delays for 90 minutes, we will start at 10:30am. We will send an email, post on our Facebook page, post on our website, and notify 9 News, Channel 7 News, and CBS News Channel 4 in the event of a closure or delay.

Closure Policies

Little School will continue to collect tuition for up to 30 days in the event of an extended closure for an unforeseen reason. After 30 days, Little School will offer alternative forms of education, in an alternative location, or tuition will cease if those options are not available.

Late pick-up

If you are more than 15 minutes late to pick-up your child, they will be sent to the AfterCare Program and your account will be charged \$20.00 for the day.

Payments and Fees

School Supply Fee: A school supply fee is due when you receive enrollment confirmation for your child's spot at Little School. 2 days/week = \$105, 3 days/week = \$120, 4 days/week = \$135, 5 days/week = \$150

Tuition Policies: Tuition is due the first day of the month beginning in September and ending in April. Automatic withdrawal is processed on the first of the month through SmartCare. Tuition is based on the total days of school for the year and divided up evenly among 9 months. Tuition is not pro-rated for holidays and breaks. If tuition is more than 30 days late, your child may not attend school until the entire balance is paid.

Tuition for May 2024: The last month of tuition is due with your enrollment paperwork by August 1st of the current school year. If this is not paid by August 1st, a \$25.00 late fee will be added to your account.

Late fees: Monthly tuition payments are due no later than the 10th of each month. A late fee of \$25.00 will be applied to your account on the 10th for any unpaid tuition.

Additional fees: Fees accrued through the month such as BeforeCare and AfterCare are due the following month with your tuition.

Withdrawal reimbursement: Should a student withdraw in or before March, May tuition will be refunded or applied to your child's thirty-day notice for withdrawal. May tuition will not be refunded if a student withdraws in the months of April or May.

Forms of payment: Online payments are available through the Smartcare for Parents App. We accept bank account payments (no extra fees), credit card payments (fee of 2.8% each time), and payments by check. We do not accept cash payments for tuition.

Cash is not accepted except for extra activities or special events. The Little School office does not keep cash in the office.

Bank fees: In the event of an automatic withdrawal denial or bounced check, a fee of \$20.00 will be added to your account.

Withdrawal Policy

Written notice of the intent to withdraw must be submitted to the director 30 days prior to the date of withdrawal. Parents are responsible for 30 days of tuition from the time of the written notice even if the student withdraws immediately. Parents of children who leave the program for disciplinary reasons before the 15th of the month, will be responsible for a full month of tuition. Children who miss school for illness and/or vacations will not receive a discount or refund of tuition.

Little School reserves the right to un-enroll any child for any reason without refund shall they deem it necessary.

Discipline Policy

At Little School, children are taught the appropriate skills and language to deal with conflict, which may be used throughout their entire school career. Positive reinforcement and redirection are our primary forms of discipline. It is our intent to assist children through an uncomfortable situation and help them to understand how to be a positive advocate for themselves. Little School staff encourage children to express their emotions through interactive play and puppets when appropriate.

Children who deliberately bite, hit, kick or scratch other children will be immediately removed from the situation. An appropriate consequence will follow at the discretion of the teacher, director, and the parents will be notified. Habitual harmful behavior will be handled on an individual basis and the welfare and safety of the group as a whole will be considered when a decision is made to allow the child to return to the class. A conference will take place with the parents, teacher, and the director. A child may be removed from the classroom for a period of two weeks and returned for a probationary period of two weeks. A joint decision between the director and teacher will be made at the end of that time as to whether or not the child is ready to rejoin the program.

Medication Policy

Should medication for asthma or allergies be necessary, it will be stored safely in the child's classroom and labeled with the child's name, picture, dosage, and doctor's name. Each teacher, who is assigned to a child with allergies or requiring medication, will be properly delegated to administer the medication by our staff nurse from Children's Hospital. A child who requires medication at school must have a Child Allergy Form and an Allergy and Anaphylaxis Action Plan signed by both the parent and doctor. It must not be expired, and it must be turned in before school starts. According to rules and regulations of the State of Colorado, we cannot allow children with missing paperwork to attend school until the paperwork is complete.

Sunscreen

The Colorado Rules and Regulations for preschools and daycares require students to have sunscreen on before attending school. To ensure the health and safety of all children, we ask that all parents apply sunscreen to their child before school each day. If your child has an

allergy, or you do not want your child to wear sunscreen, please indicate this on the permissions form located in the registration packet. If parents forget to apply sunscreen, Rocky Mountain Sunscreen will be available at the office to apply to your own child at school.

Sanitation

Little School is required to sanitize and clean all classrooms, toys, and equipment daily. Commercial grade and state approved cleaning solutions are used on all surfaces. Little School cleans all areas each night. Children and staff will wash hands frequently throughout the day. Please let teachers know if your child has a sensitivity to soap, and in that case, please provide a safe soap for your child to bring to school. Additional paperwork is required. We also have air purifiers in every classroom that circulate and clean the air regularly.

Potty-Training

Our 2.5 year-old classes are the only classes licensed for diaper changing. If your 2.5 year-old is not potty-trained, a fee will be added to your account of \$30.00 per month. When your child is potty-trained that fee will be removed. All other students are required to be in underwear. Pull-ups are not allowed. According to our state license regulations, we are unable to wipe children. We have a highly trained staff that can give verbal cues to your child on how to wipe themselves. We are sensitive to potty-training and work hard to help your child develop independence with potty-training. If you have any issues or troubles with potty-training or regression, please contact your child's teacher or our director. We would be willing to help offer advice and work with you. We are able to help children with buttons and zippers, and we work to teach them how to manage those on their own as well.

Illnesses and absences-How to report an absence of any kind

Please complete the online form on the home page of our website if your child will miss school due to illness or vacation. Our licensing department requires us to track symptoms of illness to prevent and document outbreaks of contagious illnesses. All children will remain anonymous when we report to the Department of Early Childhood.

Covid Clause

All students and parents must adhere to any Covid procedures and protocols in place at Little School and St. Luke's United Methodist Church. This includes mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing, entering the building, travel quarantines, and other safety measures.

Antibiotics: Children who are on a doctor's prescribed medication should remain home for 24 hours to give the medication enough time to prevent the spread of the illness.

Vomiting and diarrhea: Children must be 24 hour vomit and diarrhea free before returning to school. This means you must wait 24 hours from the last vomit or diarrhea episode before your child may return to school

Fevers: If your child has a fever, we will call you. A fever of 100.4 degrees or greater requires that your child goes home. In the event a parent or emergency contact cannot be reached, the child will be supervised and cared for at the health office until a responsible party is available.

Colds and illness: Please refer to the “How Sick is too Sick” document below and on our website under the FAQ section to determine if your child should stay home.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RcdCmU4SYXwmVhJrA3Pyk0gP0MTDCIkF/view>

Separation Anxiety

In the event a young child is crying or screaming and continues to do so for over half an hour, the teacher and director will make a joint decision as to whether or not the parent should be notified. Age and separation anxiety will be taken into consideration, as well as the comfort level of the child. Our hope is to provide a secure, loving environment that children will feel completely at home in.

Visitors

All preschool visitors are asked to use the north and south preschool doors and not the main church entrance when coming to the preschool. All visitors are required to sign in at the front desk. For your child’s safety, the doors of the church and preschool are locked at all times. There are video doorbells at each entrance of the church which allow the staff to see any visitors before the doors are opened. Please ring the doorbell, and wait for an audio response from our office staff if you need to enter the school.

Parents of children who attend classes on the south side of the building, please use the south parking lot. Parents of children who attend classes on the north side of the building, please use the north parking lot. Parents with strollers may use the north entrance where there are no stairs.

Parent Volunteers

We love having parent volunteers. Our classroom teachers can utilize volunteers to their discretion. Please understand that sometimes students in classrooms do not do well with parent volunteers, and it can cause separation anxiety for some students. Therefore, teachers decide how best to utilize volunteers, and if it is appropriate for their students each year.

Little School office staff frequently ask for volunteers for school-wide projects. We invite parents to join our advisory board, help with special events, and help with projects both at home and in the building. Please keep an eye out for volunteer requests through our newsletters and emails.

Drop-off and pick-up

Please always bring your cellphone to check your child in and out. You will scan a QR code in order to drop off your child. According to state laws, preschool parents must physically hand-off their child to a staff member of Little School. We do not have a drop-

off lane, and parents/guardians must walk their preschooler into the building. We will not release any children to adults who are not on their safe pick-up form.

If you have a sick or sleeping child in your car, and need assistance picking up or dropping off your Little Schooler, please call the office (303-791-1982) and one of our staff will be available to help you. Please do not leave children unattended in the car. All children must be accompanied into and out of the building.

Little School uses a secure app called SmartCare for parents to sign their child in and out. It is also used to verify safe pick-ups, emergency contacts, and parent information. All parents, guardians, and safe pick-ups will be required to have the appropriate sign-in information on the app in order to take a child home. If you are not listed on the app under the child's profile, you will need to go to the office to verify information. It is strictly forbidden to forge the signature of another adult. For each child in our care, we must have at least one (non-parental) emergency contact with current phone numbers in case of an emergency. Please download the Smartcare for Parents app and verify your email address prior to Meet the Teacher Day. You will be trained in how to sign your child in at that event.

Parents that arrive at Little School intoxicated or under the influence of drugs or marijuana will not be allowed to leave with their child until 911 has been called and assistance arrives.

Social Media

All parents sign an agreement that they will not post photos of other children on their social media accounts. This policy includes photos parents take on their own along with photos parents receive from teachers through the SmartCare app. This is for the safety of the children in our care. We will post photos of children on our social media pages with the permission of the parents only, and we will never post names of children or tag parents in the posts. Our social media pages are used to promote our school and share updates on occasion with parents.

Website (stlukeslittleschool.org)

Little School maintains a website and Facebook page with important information, updates, snow closures, calendar, and special events. Please check the website for new information frequently. We also send information via email, including our monthly newsletter. Make sure you provide the office with a current email address.

Contacting Us

Little School is in session August 14th through May 26th. You may reach us by phone Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm at 303-791-1982. We observe all holidays and follow the DCSD conventional calendar for most holidays. Please see the calendar on our website for specific dates.

Summer Hours

Our office is closed May 30th-August 11th. Please email for questions as our phones are not regularly checked.

During the summer months, you may email our director, Ms. Kelly, at kelly@stlukeshr.com.

For registration questions, you may email our registrar at LRegistration@stlukeshr.com

All other staff is off during the summer.

Our staff returns to Little School two weeks prior to our first day of school. During the first week of August, you will hear from your child's teacher welcoming them to their class. You will not hear about teacher assignments prior to August 1st.

Accountability Structure

The following structure of accountability for the Little School Preschool, a program of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, is as follows:

1. Kelly Amadeo-Director
2. Michele Kaminsky- Clergy St. Luke's United Methodist Church
3. Amanda Lewis, Assistant Director
4. Cali Miodonski, Assistant Director

Parent Concerns

In the event of a concern, please make all attempts to handle the situation with the teachers first. If your concerns are not handled properly, please feel free to reach out to the director, Kelly Amadeo at kelly@stlukeshr.com.

Communication

Teachers will be in contact with parents on an ongoing basis to make sure that they are fully aware of how their child is progressing. Please bring any questions, comments, or concerns to the teacher first. If your concerns are not properly handled, please reach out to the director at any time.

Little School feels it is in the best interest of all children to speak in private and not in front of children or other parents should you have a concern. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher about a concern you may have, please arrange a time with them outside of our normal school hours. You may also reach your child's teacher via email. Email addresses can be found on our website or by following the pattern: firstnamelastinitial@stlukeshr.com

Media and Technology

On rare occasions, for educational enhancement, children may view movies, DVDs or iPads with a teacher. Media is never used by children alone at Little School. Since children are with us for a short period of time, we do not feel that electronics are a proper use of their educational time. Only G rated videos containing Christian and/or educational content will be allowed. At no

time are movies, DVD's or iPads used as a replacement for interactive preschool learning and play.

Parent Teacher Conferences: (Twice a year)

You will have a chance to have a parent teacher conference twice during the school year. The first one will be in November, and the second one in April. Both conferences are formal 20 minute conferences with your child's teacher. We do not have regular school on those days, but we do provide a childcare room for your Little Schooler and their siblings if needed. We encourage all of our parents to ask their child's teacher how their child is progressing on a weekly basis. We strive to communicate with our families on a regular basis and not just at parent teacher conferences. Note: If you are not able to attend parent-conferences on the scheduled days, teachers will email you an update on your child, but they are not required to offer a conference on a different day. Some of our teachers have 24 conferences to conduct, and spreading them out for parents who are unable to attend is very difficult on our staff. We do promise to offer an update on your child, and if you are out of town, we always offer zoom calls for conference day.

Confidentiality

Little School will maintain the confidentiality of all student records as required by state law. Written permission is required by each parent before teachers are allowed to distribute personal information to other parents. All student records are confidential and private in accordance with the FERPA Act.

Emergency Drills and Procedures

All of our staff is FEMA-Emergency Preparedness trained. Fire, tornado, and lock down procedures will be practiced with your children at Little School monthly. This is critical to their safety while at Little School. This is a requirement of the state of Colorado, and it will help children be better prepared when they enter elementary school and experience the same drills.

In the event of an unforeseen event (fire, water damage etc.) where Little School staff and children must be evacuated, children will be supervised and escorted to Christ Lutheran Church next door to the south. They will remain with their teacher until a parent has been contacted for pickup. Pickup will be at Christ Lutheran Church.

In the event of a natural disaster such as a flood, tornado, excessive lightning, or other dangerous events, children will remain inside the building until the threat has ceased. We will be in contact with parents, but please do not call the school. We need to keep phone lines open during this time. Children will be supervised by staff at all times until parents arrive.

Child Abuse and Neglect

The Colorado State Department of Child Protection Services requires that teachers, administrators and those working with children, who have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, report it immediately.

Should there be a complaint about St. Luke's Little School, director or staff, it shall be addressed directly to the clergy of St. Luke's United Methodist Church. If the complaint is of a state matter (i.e., suspected child abuse) it should be brought to the attention of the Douglas County Department of Social Services. (303-688-4825)

If you have concerns about our facility or would like to review a licensed facilities file, please consult the Division of Early Care and Learning at 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, Colorado 80203-1714 or at 303-866-5958.

Child Supervision

Children attending St. Luke's Little School are supervised by an adult at all times. Teachers are instructed to keep attendance and note children's absences. Teachers are required to count children frequently during their class time, especially when exiting and entering the classroom, after bathroom time, outdoor time, or special programs.

Lost Children

Should we not be able to locate a child, the director, assistant director, and lead teacher for that class will notify the entire staff and begin an immediate lockdown. If parents are at the school, they, (and/or siblings) are requested to enter their child's classroom and shut the door. The assistant teacher will remain with the class. All means will be initiated to locate the child. If the child is not located after a thorough search, the authorities will be notified.

Accidents and Injuries

All accidents and injuries, severe or minor, will be documented with our administrative staff and injury reports will be filled out by both the lead teacher and the parent. Incidents and injuries that require a doctor or hospital visit, at the request of the parent or teacher, will be documented through the Department of Human Services Childcare Division.

For minor injuries, bump, bruises, and scrapes parents will be notified at the end of the day. All of our staff is CPR and first aid certified.

Food Policies and Procedures

Lunches

Parents are asked to provide lunches for their child each day they attend Little School. Lunches are not shared among children. According to the Rules and Regulations of the state of Colorado, parents are encouraged to include four food groups and milk or milk substitute in children's lunches. Children are encouraged to bring water bottles each day. Lunch time is also a social time. While teachers encourage children to eat their food, sometimes food will come home because the child was socializing with his and her friends. Children are never withheld food or rushed through lunch time. Lunch time is a fun and social time for our children, and they are under the guidance of their lead teacher during this time.

Snacks

Parents are asked to provide snacks for their child for the day and a second snack for AfterCare if they are to attend AfterCare that day. According to the Rules and Regulations of the state of Colorado, at least two food groups are required for each child at snack time. Each child will bring their own snack and water bottle to school.

Allergies

We are very sensitive to food allergies and other allergies in the classroom. Your child's teacher will let you know if any foods need to be avoided for lunchtime or snack time. It varies per classroom. Our assistant director discusses food allergies with each family, and assists the teachers in setting up guidelines and regulations for food brought into the classroom. If your child has an allergy of any kind, please feel free to contact little.school@stlukeshr.com. Our teachers are delegated by our Nurse Consultant from Children's Hospital to administer EpiPens (or other types).

Clothing

We cannot guarantee that the clothing your child wears will not come home with paint, playdough, or other substances on them. Please dress your child for an active, sometimes messy, day. Please put shorts or leggings under dresses. Always send your child with a complete set of clothes (including extra shoes or flip flops) in their backpacks. Children may need to change clothing if they get wet or have an accident. If your child has a bowel movement accident, our state license regulations require us to call the parent or guardian to come help change the child.

Shoes

Please dress your child in sturdy shoes for climbing and running. Please pack boots in your child's backpack in case the ground is wet or snowy. It is recommended that you pack a small pair of shoes in their bags in case they have an accident and their shoes get wet. We do not keep extra shoes at Little School.

Outdoor Time and Active Time

We follow the "Weather Guidelines for Children" when determining if it is too warm or too cold outside. We feel outdoor time is extremely important. Please pack clothing for your child to remain warm and dry when they go outside. If extreme temperatures prevent us from going outside, children will get a chance to expend their energy and build their muscles in a large indoor space. Your child will have an outdoor time of 30 minutes or more every day, weather permitting.

Backpacks

All children will need a backpack to carry their snack, lunch, water bottle and extra clothes in. Please bring this to school every day. Teachers will send home completed projects, newsletters, and other valuable information.

Show and Tell and Items from Home

Please label all items that you bring from home. We do our best to make sure items are not lost at Little School, but we cannot guarantee items will not be lost. Masking tape with your child's name is sufficient enough to label those valuable security items and show and tell items. Each teacher does show and tell differently. They will let you know when it is your child's turn to bring their show and tell item. If your child requires a security object, please discuss this with your child's teacher. We will encourage students to leave their items in their backpacks, and sometimes knowing it is nearby is enough for most children. We would hate for anything to happen to a security object so we try to eliminate those from the classroom.

Nature Walks and Field Trips

Nature walks are taken on occasion to enhance your child's education. Walking field trip permission forms (for around the church) are signed with our enrollment papers and will be kept in the child's file during the school year. Specific forms will be signed in order for a child to participate in a walk off premises. Activities away from school are not encouraged because of the state requirements for proper car seats.

Birthdays

We love birthdays at Little School. Your child's teacher and the music teachers will celebrate your child on their birthday. Please do not deliver invitations to parties to school unless every child in the class will receive an invitation. This will avoid any hurt feelings. Please discuss birthday celebration policies with your child's teacher. We strongly discourage messy treats such as cupcakes, or treats that are large and sugary such as full-sized donuts. Please keep in mind that preschool children have small stomachs and their bodies can only tolerate so much sugar.

We want to thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's early years. We take our jobs very seriously, and we know that this is a first school experience for many of our students. We are a family at Little School, and your child and your entire family are very important to us. We have a loving and happy staff. Please reach out to any of our staff for any questions, concerns, advice, or support. We are here for you, and we appreciate your support.

St. Luke's Little School Staff