

HAYWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

EARLY LEARNING CENTER – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is your preschool located?

The Early Learning Center is located on the South East corner of the Main Campus at 77 Sutton Loop in Waynesville. The physical address is 106 Hampshire Drive in Waynesville.

How long is the school day?

Children in the three-year old program have the option of three mornings (M/W/F) or five mornings (M-F) from 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM and three full days (M/W/F) or five full days (M-F) 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Children in the four-year old program have the option of five mornings (M-F) from 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM and three full days (M/W/F) or five full days (M-F) 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

When does the school year start and end?

In general, ELC students begin in early to mid-August and end their school year in late May for the 10-month program. A 12-month program is available depending on the needs of our families.

Does HCA's ELC adhere to the NC Child Care Licensing laws?

Yes, because our operating hours exceed 6 ½ hours per day of care, we are required to follow the NC State guidelines that apply to Religious Exempt schools (GS-110).

What meals are included in your rates?

The ELC provides breakfast to all students and an afternoon snack to full-day students; these items are included in the cost of tuition. Lunch is offered on Thursdays this year (2021-2022) through a program with Tuscola High School and is FREE. Parents should provide their child a lunch daily so long as it meets the licensing requirements (NC Meal Guidelines) for preschool-aged children. Thursday is the only day parents can order for their students and the order should be placed with the teacher by 8:30 AM.

Do you have nap/rest time?

Yes, full-day preschool students are encouraged to rest quietly. A cot is provided for comfort. Students may bring a small pillow, blanket and stuffed animal to be used during rest time.

Is there a dress code?

Students may wear clothing of their choice as long as it is modest, appropriate for play and is easy for the student to slip up and down unassisted when using the restroom. Flip-flops are not allowed. Shoes should be fully enclosed or have a heel strap to ensure safe play. Girls must wear shorts under dresses and skirts.

What kind of curriculum do you use?

The ELC uses the Abeka preschool curriculum, along with teacher created units and materials. Our ELC is a kindergarten-readiness program that offers a well-balanced education, which includes structured activities, creative play, and free choice activities.

Do preschool students get to play outside daily?

Yes, our students are outside almost every day, weather permitting. We recognize that preschool students learn best through play. Students need large motor activities offered to them each day, as well as fresh air. Outside playtime occurs daily, weather permitting. Students are also provided additional movement once a week during a music class.

What is your child/staff ratio?

The state of N.C. provides child/staff ratio requirements for licensed preschools; however, HCA's ratio is lower than the required ratio due to our emphasis on an optimal learning environment and quality care of our students.

Is the pre-k teacher licensed?

Yes, our pre-k teachers are licensed and our Preschool Director has a BA in Birth through Kindergarten as well as having completed her Director's Training. Regular staff training and safety workshops are attended each year.

How do I secure a spot in the ELC?

Qualified students may enroll at any time during the school year (if space is available). Please call our office to schedule a tour. Once a family has toured and we have received your completed online application, application fee and resource fee, a spot is secure, assuming the student will be starting immediately following the application process. For students who apply but do not intend to start right away, a spot will be held as long as the class is not full. If the class becomes full, the family (of the spot that is being held) will be contacted regarding options for proceeding. It may become necessary for the family to pay the monthly fee to hold their spot if they are not ready to send their student but there are other families waiting for that spot. This will be addressed on a case-by case basis.

In general, a student that qualifies should be able to:

- Meet the appropriate birth date guidelines; appropriate age by July 1st
- Meet normal growth and development guidelines
- Successfully separate from their parent
- Verbally communicate their needs to the teacher
- Be fully potty trained and self-sufficient in the restroom

Is there financial assistance for preschool families?

No, preschool age students are not eligible for financial aid.

Do you accept vouchers or subsidy?

No, we do not accept vouchers or participate in the Subsidized Child Care Program.