

HAYWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

EARLY LEARNING CENTER – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is your pre-school 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?

Three and four year old children 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.

When does the school year start and end?

In general, ELC students begin in mid-August and end their school year in late May. We have 10-month, 11-month, and 12-month program options available.

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

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 will provide breakfast and afternoon snack to full-day students. Lunch is an additional cost to our families. Parents may order from the school's menu or provide their own meal so long as it meets the licensing requirements (NC Meal Guidelines) for pre-school aged children. The school orders lunch from area vendors since we do not yet have a facility in which to cook our own meals. Breakfast is provided for half-day students.

Do you have nap time?

Full-day preschool students are encouraged to rest quietly. A cot is provided for comfort.

Is there a dress-code?

Students may wear clothing of their choice as long as it is appropriate for play and is easy to slip up and down when using the restrooms. We do not allow pre-school children to wear flip flops to school. 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 pre-school curriculum, along with teacher created units and materials. Our ELC is a kindergarten-readiness program that offers a well-balanced program that includes structured activities, creative play, and free choice activities.

Do pre-school students get to play outside daily?

We recognize that preschool students learn best through play. Students need large motor activities offered to them each day, as well as fresh air. Weather permitting, outside playtime is provided daily. Students are also provided 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 Special Education. 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 (provided that space is available). Please call our office to schedule a tour. Once we have received your completed online application and application fee, a spot is secure.

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, pre-school age students are not eligible for financial aid.