

Our Programs

Preparing children for elementary school is an important building block in early childhood education. Each day all of our programs include creative, hands-on, developmentally appropriate activities. Celebration! Childcare follows the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards in the preschool years and utilizes research based curriculums such as The Creative Curriculum™ and Learning Without Tears™. These early childhood curriculums address four areas of development: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language and are designed to foster development of the whole child through teacher-led, small and large group activities.



Children learn through a variety of ways: creative play, art, music, drama, language, early literacy, math, science, building, technology, and exploring our outdoor classroom. Although routines are well-established, our schedule allows for spontaneous learning opportunities. Our teachers enjoy teaching new skills that stimulate each child's natural abilities and creativity, making the most of each child's developing talents. God honoring values are at the center of all of our teachings and are supported through children's chapel, Vacation Bible School, bible stories, and other curriculums such as Godly Play™.

Infant/Toddler Programs

Infant Program - 1:4 ratio

The infant room features a warm, calm, comforting atmosphere with soothing music and just the right amount of sensory stimulation. You can trust your child's highly trained, experienced caregivers to encourage your baby's development with a smiling face and a tender touch.



Toddler Preschool Program - 1:4 ratio

To provide the safest environments for both toddlers and infants, our toddlers are moved from infant rooms to toddler rooms based on each child's level of mobility. In this program we begin to establish routines, sample the preschool curriculum, explore socialization and start early ages and stages assessments. We provide a daily report to parents that communicates their child's developed progress, schedule, and activities.



Full Day Preschool Programs

From naptime to mealtime, from creative movement to purposeful planning, our staff's loving supervision gives preschoolers confidence to begin exploring the world around them.

At Celebration! Childcare we teach pre-reading and pre-writing skills with the goal of cultivating a lifelong love of learning using The Creative Curriculum™. Our child to teacher ratio allows us to give preschool children the attention they need to thrive within nurturing and trusting relationships, while fostering active social participation.

Two Year Old Preschool Program - 1:8 ratio

Social/Emotional - playing near and with other children, participating in group activities, waiting their turn, working out problems with less action and more reasoning, early self-advocating skills

Physical - LARGE MOTOR: running, jumping in place, riding a tricycle, kicking a ball, climbing. SMALL MOTOR: snipping with scissors, turning pages individually, holding crayons with age appropriate grasp, completing puzzles.

Academic Readiness (cognitive) - working with shapes, engaging in make-believe play, using 2 to 3 word phrases, learning primary colors

Language - asking and understanding question forms (what, where...), following two-step commands, naming body parts, working on early communication skills

Three Year Old Preschool Program - 1:10 ratio

We provide a challenging, fun-filled learning environment for our 3 year olds where they can grow while feeling comfortable and secure.

Social/Emotional - showing empathy, beginning to understand give/take and cooperative play through interactive learning centers

Physical - jumping with forward progression, catching a ball, buttoning and unbuttoning, zipping

Academic Readiness (cognitive) - matching colors, learning numbers 1 through 10, drawing shapes/combinations of shapes, writing their name and the alphabet through the introduction of prewriting skills with Learning Without Tears™ curriculum, understanding basic concepts (first, next to, behind)

Language - using simple sentences, asking "who, what, where, and why" questions, telling simple stories, learning words to repetitive songs

Full Day Pre-Kindergarten Programs

The main focus of the pre-kindergarten program is on school readiness. We work closely with area schools to ensure that our children have the skills needed to be successful in kindergarten.

Four Year Old Preschool Program - 1:10 ratio

Social/Emotional - showing greater ability to control intense feelings, wanting to please friends

Physical - strengthening fine motor skills, throwing a ball overhand, lacing

Academic Readiness (cognitive) - counting/sorting objects, memorizing letter sounds, early writing skills, recognizing and developing patterns

Language - self advocating, placing items in common categories, communicating in 5 to 6 word sentences, singing songs

Five Year Old Preschool Program - 1:10 ratio

Social/Emotional - taking more ownership for his/her work, taking pride in work, participating in complex group/team play, developing a delightful, silly sense of humor

Physical - skipping, galloping, alternating stairs, improving bilateral coordination skills

Academic Readiness (cognitive) - learning to count to 100, beginning journaling skills, identifying 3D shapes

Language - retelling stories using past, present, future, and increasing vocabulary words

School Age Program

School Age Program - 1:20 ratio

Celebration! Childcare offers a Before and After School Program that provides a safe and stimulating environment for school-aged children. Children can participate in a variety of recreational activities, receive assistance with their homework, take advantage of our STREAM™ curriculum, or just unwind. This program is offered to grade school aged children. We are open on most school breaks and many emergency closing days for alternate care.



Electives

Celebration! Childcare also offers electives that promote individual developmental potential. Electives vary but may include sports, dance, foreign language classes, and music lessons; there is an additional fee for these classes.

Summer Program

The Celebration! Childcare summer program calendar is packed with exciting, age-appropriate activities, special events and in-house field trips. Toddlers to 12 year olds are sure to have fun. Energetic teachers plan days that are filled with enriching activities that nurture each child's self-confidence and provide a summer of fun learning. Extensive time is spent in our outdoor classroom.

Celebration! Childcare encourages children to develop a love and appreciation for nature through our sizable outdoor facilities.

- Located on 10+ acres of land.
- Frequent nature walks through the savannah, prairie and wetlands.
- Children enjoy butterfly watching in our flower and vegetable garden.
- Playground, bike track, and sledding hill.
- Work in greenhouse.

Celebration! Childcare admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Celebration! Childcare does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admission policies, assistance programs and other school-administered programs.



We Offer

We provide full day childcare that includes an embedded preschool curriculum. **Celebration! Childcare** provides quality, faith based programming at a superior competitive value for Lake County families.

Celebration! Childcare is a nonprofit childcare center providing full day programming for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age.

Enrollment is open year-round, based on availability.



We value the uniqueness of each child and will work with you to build the program that is right for your child. We are able to combine different options to give your child a 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-day **Celebration! Childcare** experience!



Our Staff – **Celebration! Childcare** teachers and assistants are DCFS* qualified, highly experienced and child-centered educators. Select staff receive continuing education and are CPR and First Aid certified.

Our Families – Families are a vital part of **Celebration! Childcare**. We encourage an atmosphere of open communication and welcome parents to get involved in their child's classroom to share in the learning experience. One of the best and most delightful ways of learning about **Celebration! Childcare** is to stop by and visit the classroom. Parents are encouraged to visit. If parents choose to visit during lunch hour, they may eat lunch with the class!

Our Board – We are supported by the Holy Cross Early Childhood Ministries Board, which includes parent representatives and congregation members. Parent representatives serve as liaisons for **Celebration! Childcare** families.

Faith – Christian faith is supported through God-honoring values, children's chapel, Vacation Bible School, bible stories, and other curriculums such as Godly Play™.

Technology – We offer the experience and the exposure to the latest technology in our classrooms. We utilize tablets and age-appropriate learning apps to enhance our curriculum.

Security – The program entrance door is locked at all times. A fob system lock is located at the entrance door. Visitors are only allowed into **Celebration! Childcare** with permission from the director. Security guidelines are located in the Parent Handbook.

***Celebration! Childcare** is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Our Mission

Celebration! Childcare and **CrossWays Preschool** are early childhood ministries of Holy Cross Lutheran Church under the umbrella name of **Building Blocks Childhood Center**.

Together we seek to introduce children with a world that lies beyond the home and to provide a broad base of learning to develop each child's God-given gifts socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually and educationally. Our quality, nonprofit, faith based childcare and preschool programs are designed to provide safe, nurturing environments for children to grow, play and learn.



Our Beliefs

- All children are capable of learning and have individual needs, skills, and talents.
- Partnerships between experienced, caring teachers and parents benefit the whole family.
- Children learn best through experiences that enhance their self-esteem, help them make choices, and develop competencies.
- Children learn best through play based discovery combined with teacher-directed lessons to maximize learning, creativity, and curiosity.
- Connecting children to nature develops children's innate senses of discovery and exploration.
- God-honoring values promote sound, morally based decision making skills and treatment of others.
- Flexible programs best satisfy family needs.



We Celebrate

- The fullest potential in each child.
- The uniqueness of each child and family.
- A nurturing, loving, safe, and secure environment.
- Service to others.
- A child's social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and intellectual development.
- Having experiences that increase the child's awareness of the world around them.
- A love of learning in an atmosphere of mutual trust, respect and responsibility.
- Diversity and culture.

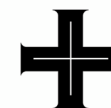


Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday: 6:30 am - 6 pm

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HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Celebration! Childcare
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church

where love and learning meet

Ages
6 weeks to 12 years



Celebration! Childcare

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of Holy Cross Lutheran Church

