

The Prince of Peace
Christian
Early Learning Center

UNITED!

Many Parts - One Body
Many Purposes - One Mission



PRINCE *of* PEACE

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL & EARLY LEARNING CENTER

4000 Midway Road, Carrollton, Texas 75007
www.popcs.org 972.447.9887 972.447.9328

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Prince of Peace Christian School and Early Childhood program. As a parent, you have prayed, researched, sought counsel, and examined all possible educational options so that you can make the right educational decision for your child. It is a privilege that you are considering Prince of Peace Christian School. It is my belief that children thrive in a Christian environment. At POPCS you can expect an academically strong program, as well as devoted teachers who demonstrate excellence in the classroom. Teachers openly model Christian principles daily and are positive role models for our students. We are committed to building lasting relationships with students and families. At POPCS we know your name... our intentionally smaller environment allows us to know your child and your family. Teachers, parents, and administrators partner together during your child's educational journey. We believe that each of us is held accountable to God for what children are taught. Proverbs 22:6 is speaking directly to parents and educators as it says "Train a child in the way he should go and he will not depart from it."

Our approach to learning during these early years is one that invites exploration and encourages curiosity. We strive to be a 21st century school of excellence. Our job as educators is to prepare the generation the world has been waiting for.

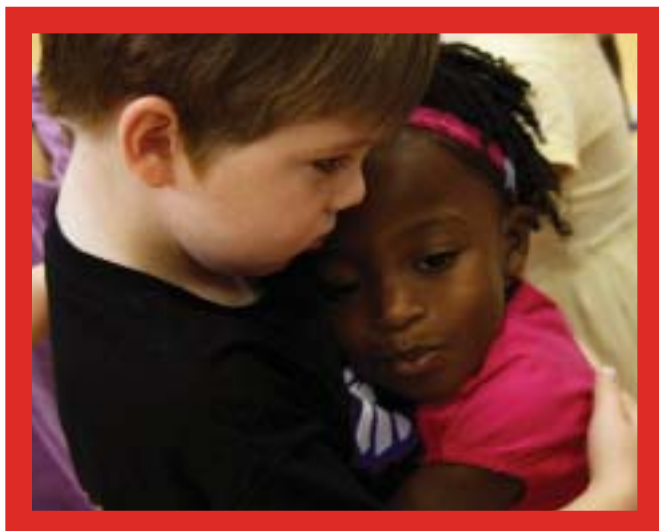
I look forward to meeting each of you and encourage any questions you may have. My promise to our families is that each day I will work to fulfill our mission statement focusing on the uniqueness of each child as a child of GOD.

For His Children

Lynn Keckonen



Early Childhood Director
972-447-0532 ext. 472



Prince of Peace Christian School

Prince of Peace Christian School and Early Learning Center in Carrollton is a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence providing academic excellence from preschool through the 12th grade in a caring, Christian environment. The Early Learning Center opened in 2009, serving ages 6 weeks to 2 years. Prince of Peace Christian School began as a preschool in the fall of 1980 with an enrollment of 25 students. Now 890 students strong, Prince of Peace Christian School has grown to a 37.5 acre campus with over 150,000 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities, including a \$6.5 million Fine Arts Center, and brand new athletic complex. Each grade level's average scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills are in the top 3 percent nationally and students' SAT and ACT scores exceed local, state and national averages.



Preschool Curriculum

Our children experience the adventure of learning and the joy of success through our hands on curriculum. Everyday Math and Handwriting Without Tears are award winning examples of preschool curriculum . Motivating early learners is achieved with an "I Can Do This" attitude, along with materials and literature that work together to inspire and encourage academic success. Learning Centers include Math, Science, Fine Arts, Technology, Early Literacy, Oral Language, Social Studies and Social Development as well as an introduction to Spanish. Each preschool class participates in faith lessons and weekly chapel time. Children enjoy weekly specials that include: Technology, Library and Letter Detectives. Music, offered twice each week, provides experiences in rhythm, marching, simple instruments and singing. Physical Education is offered through our Creative Movement class. We warm up those little muscles as children work on large motor control and hand-eye coordination. Each child is given the opportunity to shine individually often through POP Star and class leader days.

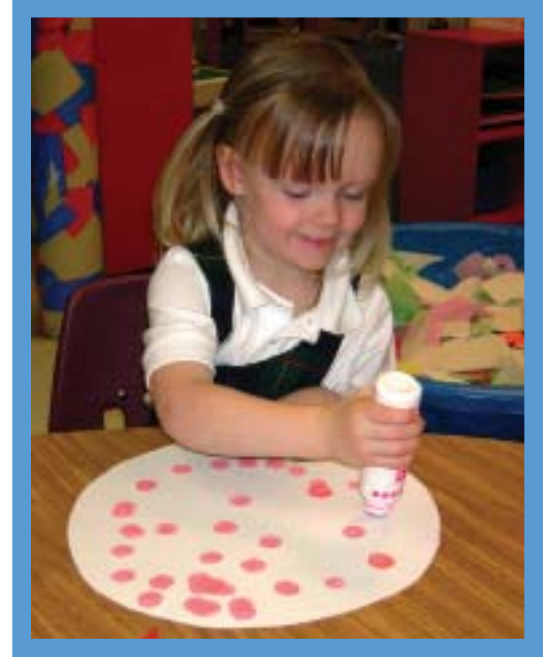
All children travel through developmental stages and we know that God has a timetable for each child. Through the Learning Center approach, the uniqueness of each child is allowed to thrive in an environment that will challenge all children.



PRESCHOOL AT A GLANCE...

“Jesus’ love is like a circle. It is round and never ends.” “Blue, blue, Jesus loves you.” “F” is for firefighter, family, and fun friends.” Here at Prince of Peace, preschool is a place where our children learn and grow through experience and creative, hands on learning. Our curriculum includes literature, math, science, Jesus time and much more. These are incorporated through interactive centers within our classrooms, through group lessons and activities led by our teachers, and through extra special thematic days throughout our school year. The POP preschool experience includes special shape days, color days, and letter days, all designed to increase preschoolers’ knowledge of these concepts, as well as add an extra special touch and excitement to our curriculum.

Shape days in preschool are super fun! Our teachers are transformed into Shape Super Heroes, making shapes more memorable for our little ones. Circles, squares, triangles and many more are brought to life by exciting super heroes who make shapes super fun and easy to remember!



Color days in preschool are just that... colorful! Preschoolers leave their uniforms at home on these days, wear the color of the day, and anxiously await the visit of the Color Fairy! With the help and creativity of the Color Fairies, preschoolers learn to identify each color, while incorporating memorable activities all about each color.

Letter Detectives is a distinctive part of each week which helps preschoolers identify letters and their sounds. This letter time allows preschoolers to experience each letter in ways that both capture attention and increase ability to remember and identify both upper and lower case characters. Special days are devoted to every letter. Art, science, math, and classroom centers often incorporate the letter of the week and may include special visitors and activities which happen outside the classroom as well.





Centers within our classrooms are both fun and purposeful. At these young ages, a child's work is play! Children are able to incorporate the use of many skills while having fun during center time. Blocks and home centers, reading and math centers, writing and puzzles, not only enhance fine motor and manipulative skills, spatial ability, and creativity, but also encourage social skills needed throughout life. At Prince of Peace, preschoolers learn how to be friends, while learning about their friend, Jesus.



Early Literacy is embedded in all areas of our program. Writing centers, word walls, and letter detective take place daily. Every one of us loves a good story and story teller. Library time is a great introduction to the school library, including how to be respectful of the books, using inside voices so that everyone can enjoy the story and discovering how to pull a book to look at and then, how to remember where it goes when we want to put it back. Our librarian entertains and delights our preschool children on a weekly basis. Parents have the opportunity to go to the library with their child and check out books, as well as participate in the twice yearly book fairs.





Making a Joyful NoiseThe Lord says....make a joyful sound. Preschool children at Prince of Peace do make a joyful sound in music. Is it always musical? Well, maybe not, but lots of laughter and giggles will accompany the musical games, rhythm instruments, drum beats and sound vibrations. This all adds up to a wonderful appreciation for music. The preschool children perform on the BIG stage in our Fine Arts building three times a year: Grandparents Day, Christmas and our "end of the year" program. There is nothing more precious than to see children excited to perform for you and enjoying their little voices. Our Preschool and Early Learning Center music program is taught by Mrs. Brenda Porter. She has been part of our program for over 18 years. Each classroom enjoys music twice weekly.

Preschool children in a **computer** lab? Yes, once a week the 4 year old classes go to the elementary lab. The Preschool children learn computer basics, mouse control and are introduced to many fun learning games that are then installed and used on our classroom computers.



Hola, buenos dias, Senora!
Preschoolers are learning **Spanish** and loving it! Senora visits the 4 year old classes once a week. Children are introduced to Spanish as they work on our names, greetings, colors, shapes, and numbers.

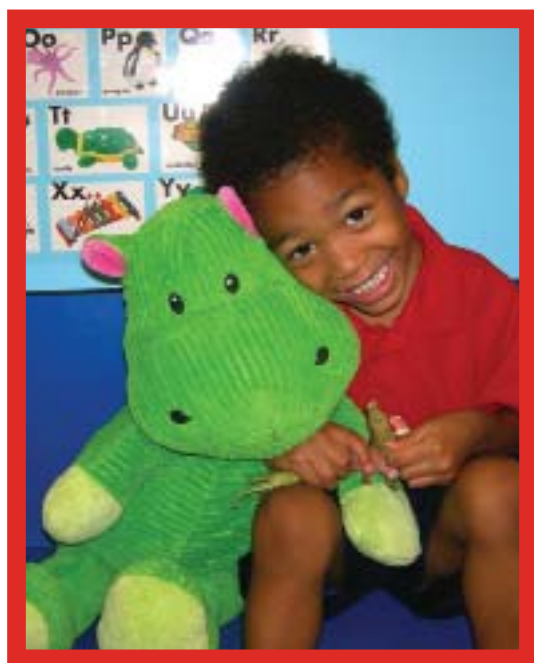


Physical Education is a favorite activity time in preschool when the “Train your brain” program begins. P.E.at POP is an experience that children cannot wait for. Do they move?? Do they groove?? Do brain synapses fire left and right?? The answer is YES!! The kids are using everything that God gave them, and then some, with our wonderful P.E. program. Our coaches work with our young group two times a week. Being active is amazing and fun at POP.



Auction, Gift Gathering and 100 Day events!

98... 99... 100! 100 Moves! 100 Gifts! It's the 100th day of school! Each year we count the days until the 100th comes, and then it's time to celebrate! To help kick off our school's yearly gift gathering for the auction fundraiser, preschool takes the lead in bringing 100 gifts for donation to auction. Then it's time to move on into the gym, which has been transformed into an obstacle course of 100 moves! It's an exciting day of moving and giving! Auction is our school's largest fundraiser. Our preschool classes help to raise even more funds with the priceless donations of our beloved class mascots. The lucky winner of each takes home that year's mascot and creative journal keepsake from that ever-so memorable year in preschool. He or she also wins an extra special day away from school with the teacher. Finny the Fish, Bubbles the Monkey, Stinky the Skunk, Biscuit the dog, and Cat in the Hat are greatly missed, but are for sure enjoying their new homes. That's what happens when you're the highest bidder! We give our parents and POP friends 100 plus thanks for all donations and support of our school!



“MANY PARTS, ONE BODY”

Through our program’s **“Bridging”** activities, we are sharing God’s word with our children. Scripture tells us that **“there are many parts, but just one body”**. Our **“Bridging”** activities bring different age groups together for learning, sharing, and fellowship. Several of these special events are meant for the entire family; others take place during the school day and involve only the students. They all serve the same purpose.....to bring us together as “one” school family.



Our first “bridging activity” of the year is our **“SLEEPYTIME STORY NIGHT”** when the teachers of the preschool department and the ELC invite the children, dressed in their pajamas, and their parents to join us for an hour of bedtime stories, cookies, milk, and fellowship. This is the perfect time for the ELC students and their parents to meet their future preschool teachers, and to make new friends.



Our **“STONE SOUP FEAST”**

in November is based on the book “STONE SOUP” by Marcia Brown. It is a special time for all preschoolers and ELC 2 year olds to invite their parents to enjoy a special soup lunch or dinner that has been prepared by the children and faculty. Our teaching staff will serve the meal to our guests as a way of saying “thank you” for allowing us to partner in the care of your children, and especially to thank God for all that He has blessed us with here at Prince of Peace School!





“ART NIGHT”held in March, is a family evening for all of our children, their siblings, and friends to join us for an evening of “hands-on” art activities. Sometimes there are individual pieces to take home; other pieces are group projects and will be left here for all to enjoy. The large art pieces that you see hanging in the preschool hallway, as well as on the wall in our indoor play area, were completed during two different **“ART NIGHT”** events. Please take a look!



“POP’N UP”! Our 4 year olds **“POP UP”** to Kindergarten! This is a day when our 4 year old classes visit one of our Kindergarten classrooms. They spend 30-40 minutes with the Kindergarten teacher who presents a special learning activity to the children. This gives our preschool students a “taste of Kindergarten” and a chance to interact with their prospective teachers. It’s a pretty big deal to sit in those kindergarten chairs! The Kindergarteners really enjoy being our **“Kindergarten Buddies”** and sharing their teachers and classrooms with us! The 4 year olds also have a snack day of friendship fruit salad and an afternoon of kite making with their **“Kindergarten Buddies”**.



CHAPEL Our children attend chapel on Wednesdays every week. It is a time of celebration and coming together to praise our Lord, Jesus Christ and to learn basic Bible principles. It is quite engaging and interactive for the children. Our goal is to help the children understand the greatness of our God that they may grow in a personal relationship with Him. We have fun in worship and play. As a large group we celebrate birthdays and pray for each other and our community.



As children loved by God, we want our children to also love others. In this we teach them to love their families, classmates, teachers, and those that they don't even know. We have taken on some mission projects that extend God's love from our world here at Prince of Peace, to others in countries far away. We have collected and continue to collect money to send to **"Water to Thrive"** to build wells and filtration systems in Africa to give the people there clean water to drink. The children were shown "dirty" water, and with that illustration it was explained to them that they could make a difference with their offerings. With the children's offerings some wells have been dug and the people living there now have clean water! The children have seen a tape of when the first water was pumped from one of the wells. We got to see the joy and elation on the faces of those people as they received our gift of water and God's love! Our children are learning to be Jesus' hands to the world.



Preschool Scope and Sequence

Language and Early Literacy Development

Experiencing Children's Literature

The Child:

- * Listens with increased attention.
- * Listens and engages in exchanges about literature.
- * Listens for a different purpose.
- * Demonstrates a literal meaning of story.
- * Draws pictures based on a story.
- * Begins to differentiate between reality and fantasy.
- * Begins to retell sequences of events in stories.

Speech

The Child:

- * Produces speech with increasing ease and accuracy.
- * Perceives differences between similar sounding words (e.g. goat-coat)
- * Experiments with new language sounds.
- * Attempts to engage in role-playing.

Vocabulary/Verbal Expression

The Child:

- * Shows a steady increase in listening and speaking vocabulary.
- * Links new learning experiences and vocabulary.
- * Uses new vocabulary in communication.
- * Uses sentences of increasing length in everyday speech.
- * Refers to self in first person.
- * Dictates a story.
- * Demonstrates the use of language to retell stories or events.
- * Knows pictures (icons) go with certain labels (words).
- * Dictates a caption for drawing.
- * Begins to interpret pictures orally.
- * Asks questions and makes comments related to the current topic.
- * Gives simple directions.

Phonological Awareness "Early Word Recognition"

The Child:

- * Demonstrates increased awareness of letter sounds and can make sound matches.
- * Begins to break words into syllables by clapping.
- * Listens and recites familiar poems, chants, and songs with ease.
- * Identifies rhymes and rhyming sounds. Participates in rhyming games.
- * Develops letter recognition skills through words in the environment.
- * Associates the names of letters with their shapes.
- * Matches upper and lower cases of the same letter.
- * Begins to make some letter and sound matches.
- * Begins to identify high frequency words.
- * Begins to predict what will happen next in stories.

Written Expression

The Child:

- * Understands that writing is used to communicate ideas.
- * Attempts to connect sounds in a word with letter forms.
- * Has opportunities to use writing materials on a daily basis.
- * Begins to dictate words and phrases to an adult for recording.
- * Prints name.
- * Prints random letters.
- * Attempts to write notes, lists, and messages as a form of play.

Mathematics

Numbers

The Child:

- * Participates in activities that relate to number sequencing and counting.
- * Counts concrete objects to ten or higher.
- * Can describe the concept of zero.
- * Begins to compare objects using language such as: same, more than, less than, etc.
- * Recognizes how many are in a group without counting.
- * Combines, separates, and names, "How many".
- * Begins to identify first and last in a series.
- * Identifies use of numbers in environment.

Patterns

The Child:

- * Imitates patterns of sounds and physical movements (e.g., clap, stomp, clap, stomp)
- * Recognizes patterns in the environment.
- * Recognizes and reproduces simple patterns of concrete objects.
- * Repeats AB patterns.

Geometric Shapes

The Child:

- * Recognizes, describes, and names shapes.
- * Begins to investigate and predict the results of putting together two or more shapes.
- * Puts together puzzles of increasing complexity.

Measurement/Data/Classification

The Child:

- * Participates in measuring activities.
- * Makes size comparisons (e.g., taller than, smaller than).
- * Uses tools to imitate measuring.
- * Begins to estimate and compare.
- * Uses scale, begins to understand weight (e.g. heavy, light).
- * Collects data by counting.
- * Begins to understand tally charts.
- * Helps conduct simple surveys.
- * Sorts objects into groups.
- * Sorts and classifies material in more than one way.
- * Sequences objects.

Time/Money

The Child:

- * Recognizes and names coins.
- * Begins to understand the concept of money.
- * Begins to categorizes time intervals (e.g. in the morning after snack).
- * Uses terms such as before, after, yesterday, tomorrow, morning, etc.
- * Correctly uses and understands the present, past, and future tenses of verbs.

Preschool Scope and Sequence

Science

Science Processes

The Child:

- * Begins to perform simple investigations.
- * Shows interest in investigating unfamiliar objects, organisms, and phenomena.
- * Uses one or more senses to observe and learn.
- * Compares objects and organisms: Identifies similarities and differences.
- * Explores materials with simple equipment (e.g. pouring, spooning).
- * Begins to offer explanations using his/her own words.
- * Describes observations.
- * Shares observations and findings with others through discussions or pictures.
- * Predicts what will happen next.
- * Uses patterns (such as growth) to predict what will happen next.
- * Participates in creating and using simple charts.

Life/Physical and Earth Sciences

The Child:

- * Groups organisms and objects as living or non-living.
- * Recognizes that living things have needs: water, food, air.
- * Demonstrates a beginning awareness of life cycles.
- * Identifies animals and plants as living things.
- * Investigates and describes state of matter (solid, liquids, or gas).
- * Observes and describes properties of rock, soil, and water.

Technology Applications

The Child:

- * Starts, uses, and exits software programs.
- * Uses a variety of devices such as mouse, touch screen, keyboard.
- * Follows basic oral cues.
- * Uses a variety of software packages with audio, video, and graphics.

Social Studies

Culture/Cummunity

The Child:

- * Gives personal information such as name, age.
- * Begins to learn address/phone number.
- * Names jobs, classmates, personnel, etc.

Fine Arts

Art

The Child:

- * Uses different colors, textures, and shapes to create meaning.
- * Uses a variety of materials (clay, paint, crayons).
- * Begins to use area as a form of self-expression.
- * Shares ideas about artwork.
- * Becomes aware of great artists.
- * Shows interest in experimenting with color.

Music

The Child:

- * Participates in classroom music activities.
- * Begins to sing a variety of songs.
- * Begins to play classroom instruments.
- * Begins to distinguish among the sounds of common instruments.
- * Responds to various tempos through movement.
- * Becomes aware of great composers.
- * Begins to follow a beat.

Social Development

The Child:

- * Begins to be responsible for behavior and actions.
- * Develops a sense of personal space.
- * Expresses interests in self-direction in learning.
- * Demonstrates confidence in self.
- * Adheres to reasonable classroom rules.
- * Shows an awareness of respect/feeling for others.
- * Responds to suggestions from others.
- * Participates in large and small group activities.
- * Shares equipment/materials.
- * Cooperates with others in groups.

Gross/Fine Motor Development

The Child:

- * Demonstrates a sense of balance.
- * Throws/kicks objects in particular direction.
- * Demonstrates ability to catch bean bag/ball.
- * Develops skill to bounce and catch.
- * Coordinates arms/legs (swinging).
- * Pincher skillis more in control.
- * Demonstrates ability to master self-help skills (e.g. zipping/buttoning).
- * Traces, then draws independently.
- * Outlines shapes and irregular figures.
- * Scissor use becomes more developed.

Preschool Curriculum Overview



Faith – Concordia Faith

- * God Made the World
- * Jesus Knows My Name
- * Adam and Eve
- * Noah and Jacob
- * David & Daniel
- * Jesus' Birth
- * Jesus Grows Up
- * Jesus' Miracles
- * Jesus' Disciples
- * Jesus Dies & Arises
- * Peter, Paul & Timothy



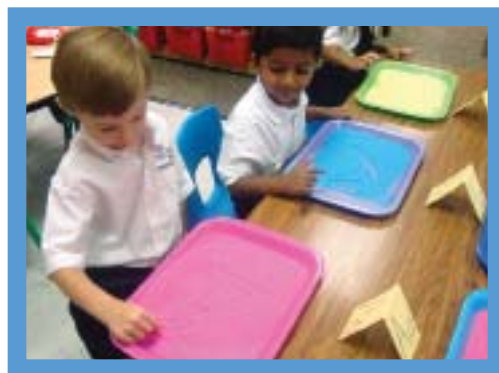
Themes

- * God made ME - What Will I be?
- * Gathering God's Harvest
- * Helping Hands from Thankful Hearts
- * Joy to the World
- * Jesus Warms Our Hearts
- * A Joyful Heart is a Healthy Heart
- * Moving Along God's Way
- * Celebrate New Life
- * God Loves All Creatures
Great and Small



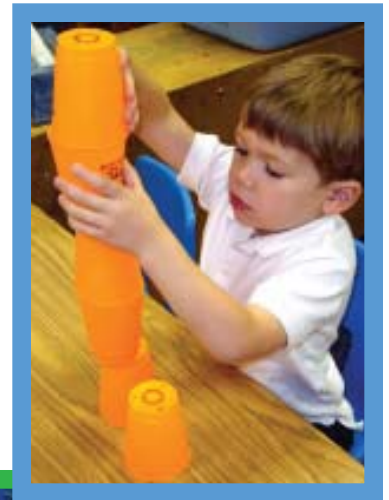
Language Arts

- * Listening Comprehension - Short Stories, Rhymes, Early Literacy
- * Speech Production /
Discrimination
- * Vocabulary
- * Verbal Expression
- * Phonological Awareness
- * Print & Book Awareness
- * Letter Knowledge
- * Early Word Recognition/
Sight Words
- * Introduction to Spanish



Math

- * Numbers & Operations
- * Patterns
- * Geometry & Spatial Sense
- * Measurement
- * Time Concepts
- * Classification
- * Data Collection
- * Money



Science

- * Simple Investigations
- * Observing Through Senses
- * Gathering Information
- * Using Simple Tools
- * Identifying Similarities & Differences
- * Using Patterns to Predict
- * Observing Changes in Size, Color, Position
- * Weather & Sounds
- * Participation in Experiments
- * Cognition and General Knowledge of the Computer
- * Open-ended software that allows opportunity to explore,
make choices, and discover the impact of decisions



Social Studies

- * Self Image
- * Family
- * Relating to Peers
- * Community/Global Awareness
- * Similarities and Difference
Among God's People
- * Mission work-Giving to Others



Art Appreciation

- * Collage design
- * Blending mediums
- * Weaving
- * Directional art
- * Watercolors
- * Free form sculpting
- * Artist techniques
- * Intro to mediums
- * Sensory Art
- * Art History



Music

- * Introduction to Instruments
- * Rhythm
- * Beat
- * Musical Games
- * Simple Instruments
- * Music and Movement
- * Intro to Musical Terms



Field Trips, Special Events & Activities

- * Elm Fork Nature Preserve Hike and Picnic
- * Stone Soup Feast
- * Grandparents' Day Program
- * Christmas Concert and Birthday Party for Jesus
- * End of the Year Program
- * Dallas World Aquarium
- * Wacky Wednesday
- * Easter Parade and Spring Picnic
- * Art Night
- * 100 Physical Moves for 100 Days



Curricula: Concordia Faith, Math Their Way, McMillan Math & Music

TOP TEN REASONS FOR CHOOSING PRINCE OF PEACE

10. **21st Century Skills:** Preschool teachers are challenged to prepare the next generations of learners by fostering Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Inquiry, Analysis, Communication, Collaboration, Adaptability, Initiative, Entrepreneurialism, Curiosity, & Imagination!
9. **Bridging Activates:** Older students become mentors taking on the responsibility and the opportunity to inspire our young learners through: athletics, drama, science, literacy, technology and academics,
8. **Secure Campus:** We use state-of-the-art campus security technologies to insure that all students are safe.
7. **National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence:** Prince of Peace Christian School was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education. This honor is given to less than one-half of 1% of all the non-public schools in the nation.
6. **Outstanding Educators:** All Prince of Peace teachers are highly experienced with 40% having earned a Master's Degree. In addition, on-going Professional Development initiatives are required to assure that current best practices are used consistently.
5. **Strong Early Literacy Program:** Early literacy consists of Shared, Guided, and Independent Reading and Writing, incorporating Phonemic Awareness, Vocabulary, Comprehension and Fluency.
4. **Relationships begin in Early Childhood that last a life time:** Relationships between: teachers and children, POPCS and families, children and their teachers and parents but most importantly between Children and Jesus Christ.
3. **Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum:** We offer an age-appropriate challenging academic program rich in hands-on experiences. Award winning handwriting Without Tears, and Every Day Math curricula are offered beginning at age three. In addition all early childhood students participate in Spanish, Computer, PE (especially designed for young bodies), Art, and Music programs weekly. Enrichment opportunities include special event days which are part of every week. Letter detectives and shape heroes are just a few of the highlights.
2. **More than 25 Years of Educational Excellence:** Prince of Peace has been serving the North Dallas area since 1981 and has earned a reputation for a high quality Early Childhood Education program in a caring and nurturing environment.
1. **Christ-Centered Character Education:** Biblical truths are incorporated into all areas of learning emphasizing Christian Character Traits such as Self-Control, Respect, Kindness, and Honesty. "Train up a child the way he should go and he will not depart from it." Proverbs' 22:6

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