



Crosskids Parent Handbook 2025-2026

Crosskids Mission

Our commitment at Crosskids is to provide a Christian environment, guiding children in comprehensive growth.

- Our staff will give attention to all aspects of your child's development: academic, social, emotional, physical, artistic, and spiritual.
- At Crosskids, your child will be in an atmosphere that is permeated with Christ-like values, confidence, security, and love.

Crosskids Vision

Crosskids strives to partner with parents in providing and equipping each child with the truths of God.

- Proverbs 22:6 (CEV) "Teach your children right from wrong, and when they are grown they will still do right."
- Our staff is committed to developing well-rounded children who are accepting, loving, and confident as well as curious, eager, and excited about learning.

Crosskids Philosophy

Young children thrive in an atmosphere that encourages fun interactive play.

- Our curriculum matches this belief, allowing Crosskids staff to teach developmentally appropriate lessons through role play, creative arts, and hands-on learning.
- All of this is conducted in an atmosphere that follows the belief that children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3).

Contacts

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Curriculum

Children will be learning/reviewing a letter a week and spiraling through numbers and other math concepts. We use concepts from Learning Without Tears (formerly Handwriting Without Tears) to introduce those concepts necessary for writing and reading readiness. All teachers lean on their educational experience and background, allowing them to use the knowledge they have been equipped with to enhance the curriculum and make it their own.

Crosskids uses the Orange curriculum for our Bible lessons. The Orange curriculum ensures our children understand God made them, God loves them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever. This curriculum combines child development and theology to create a comprehensive preschool ministry curriculum and strategy for every phase of a kid's life to influence their faith from birth to graduation.

Crosskids uses *Scholastic My Big World* to support our monthly social studies and science themes. Each child is sent home with two developmentally appropriate magazines monthly, allowing families to engage in the learning fun as well.

As a bonus Crosskids has enrichment programs such as monthly reading, music and movement with the Hope Mills Public Library's Librarian.

Classes

All classes follow the North Carolina public school system's cut off age of August 31st. Each classroom can house a maximum of 10-13 children daily, with the exception of the kinder prep class (PALS) with a max of 20 students.

Little Bits: One year and walking

Owls: Two year olds

Bugs: Two year olds

Butterflies: Three year olds

Fish: Three year olds

PALS (Playing And Learning Simultaneously): Four year olds

Preschool Management System

Crosskids Preschool uses a preschool management system called Playground. Each parent will be invited and expected to register for the Playground Parent App. This app has many great features, including allowing parents to make updates to your child's emergency contact/approved for pick up contact information, instant message teachers and administration directly, receive updates from your child's teacher, update your personal family calendar with absences/vacations, make payments via credit card*, eCheck (ACH), and set up automatic monthly withdrawal. Additionally, parents will receive important messages from the Director on the Playground Parent App newsfeed.

* All credit card transactions are subject to a convenience charge.

Registration, Fees & Tuition

Crosskids Preschool admits children of any race, religion, and national or ethnic origin from the ages of one to preschool. Children must be the appropriate class age by August 31st. Your registration fee guarantees a position for your child at Crosskids. **Registration fees and resource fees are non-refundable.** Please make every effort to submit the online registration form in a timely manner.

Registration fee: \$150 for the first child
\$120 for each additional

Resource fee*: One-time payment equivalent to one month's tuition (e.g., If your child's tuition is \$210.00/month, your Resource Fee will be \$210.00). This fee includes all classroom materials for the entire year and is required by August 1, 2025. Failure to pay the resource fees will lead to the forfeiture of the enrollment spot. For registrations after August 1st, the Director will provide guidance on the due date for the resource fee.

**A refund of 10% of the resource fee is applicable for withdrawals from the program within the initial three months of starting school.*

Monthly Tuition:

2 day: \$210 (M/W or T/TH)*

3 day: \$270 (M/T/TH or T/W/TH)*

4 day: \$310 (M-TH)

***2 day and 3 day options NOT offered in PALS (4-5 year old class)**

Please note there is no additional cost for lunch bunch.

To increase the number of days you would like your child to attend, contact the Director. If space is available, your child can increase the number of days immediately. If they are not available, your child will be placed on the waiting list for an increase in days. To decrease the number of days, there must be another family that is able to attend the days that are requested to be dropped. If this is not available at the time of request, the family must continue to pay the original tuition amount.

Tuition is due by the 1st of each month. Any payment received after the 5th of the month must include a \$25 late fee. Your child can not continue in the program after the 5th if tuition AND late fee are not paid. Continual late fees will result in your child's dismissal from the program. The monthly tuition is a set amount for each month, August through May, regardless of absences, holidays, or closures due to inclement weather, power outages, or other situations beyond our control.

Payments can be made through Playground, cash, or personal check. All checks that come back as insufficient funds will be penalized a \$25 fee. After two returned checks, all future payments must be made by money order or certified check.

A two week notice in writing to the Director is required when withdrawing your child from Crosskids Preschool. A prorated amount will be charged for the effected month.

Helping Hands Parent Volunteer Program

To help reduce the cost of tuition, a parent can volunteer time helping at Crosskids. The parent volunteer must pay for their own background check (\$25) and be able to work the entire day of operation (9:00-1:00). Parents must read, sign, and abide by the information provided on the volunteer form (provided when shown interest). The Director has the right to terminate volunteers who have difficulty abiding by the Crosskids mission, vision, and philosophy, as well as the expectations found on the volunteer form. Parent volunteers must work in a classroom other than their children's. The tuition reduction amount per day of volunteering is **\$20**.

Drop-in Program

Sometimes unexpected things happen within your schedule. The drop-in program allows you to have your child attend Crosskids on a day they are not enrolled, providing you with more flexibility in your schedule to deal with the unexpected. Simply call Crosskids the morning of or earlier, if you know the date ahead of time, and the Director will let you know if there is room for your child to attend. The drop-in program is **\$30** for the day. You must pay before dropping your child in the classroom.

Discipline

Crosskids believes in positive behavior management. Praise and positive reinforcement are effective methods of changing unwanted behavior. The teachers encourage the children to make wise and appropriate choices by being proactive in the classroom. Teachers are guiding children to be responsible with their actions and aware of their feelings. The staff at Crosskids does this by modeling appropriate behavior, using children's mistakes as learning opportunities, anticipating, and eliminating potential problems, redirecting children to another activity or a more acceptable behavior, and listening and acknowledging children's feelings and frustrations.

At no time are corporal punishment, humiliation, or fear tactics acceptable.

For minor behavior disruptions, Crosskids' staff will follow these steps:

1. Anticipate and prevent any unacceptable behavior.
2. Discuss with all the children appropriate ways of behaving in the situation.
3. Talk individually with the child, discussing appropriate behavior and explaining why certain behaviors are unacceptable.
4. Separate the child from the group and redirect to another activity.
5. Discuss the situation with the parent at the end of the school day.

If after these steps, along with positive reinforcement, a child continues to be disruptive, the following steps will be conducted by the staff:

1. Documentation of incidents, providing a copy for the parent.

2. Refer the discipline issue to the Director.
3. Conference with the parent.

The Director may follow one or more of the following options:

1. Discuss with the child the issues occurring and the appropriate ways of behaving in the situation.
2. Call parent and create a conference to discuss the situation.
3. Request the parent shadow their child for a day.
4. Work with the child, parent, and teacher to create an incentive program and or an action plan to encourage correct behavior.
5. Dismiss the child from the program if there are no significant signs of improvement after conferencing and implementation of an incentive program.
6. If a child is dismissed from the program, they are not eligible for reenrollment until the following school year, where the child will be carefully monitored the first few weeks of school. If the child exhibits the same behavior issues, the Director has the right to dismiss the child from the program. The month's tuition will be prorated and reimbursed.

If a child causes physical harm, seriously threatens another person, or destroys school or personal property, the following actions may occur:

1. A behavior report will be written and signed by the parent and teacher. A copy will be given to the parent and the Director.
2. The child will be suspended immediately for a minimum of one enrolled school day with no refund of fees.
3. A mandatory conference will be held with the lead teacher, Director, child, and parents before the child can return to Crosskids.
4. A second incident may result in a longer suspension or permanent dismissal from the program for the remainder of the school year.
5. If a child is dismissed from the program, they are not eligible for reenrollment until the following school year, where the child will be carefully monitored the first few weeks of school. If the child exhibits the same behavior issues, the Director has the right to dismiss the child from the program. The month's tuition will be prorated and reimbursed.

All disciplinary actions taken are at the discretion of the Director and are determined based on the individual factors of age, development, and the specific circumstances surrounding each incident.

Arrival/Departures

Our school day is 9:00-12:00 with Lunch Bunch from 12:00-1:00. **Please do not drop off your child before 9:00.** Time before school is used for staff prep time, discussing any important reminders for the day, devotions/prayer, and dropping their own children off to their appropriate rooms.

Parents are expected to drop their children off with our intake team at the entrance of our school and sign them in daily. **Please make every effort to bring your child to school on time. Teachers have a full curriculum to implement, and tardy children distract from the learning.** The front doors lock at 9:15 and you must call to be let in. Again, please make every effort to be on time, as opening the door is an inconvenience when it becomes a habit.

Pick up time is at 12:00 noon if your child will not be staying for Lunch Bunch. If your child will be participating in Lunch Bunch, then pick up time is between 12:30-1:00.

There is a late fee for each child that is picked up after 1:00. There will be a 5-minute grace period. The late fee is \$5 for the first ten minutes and \$1 per minute after that for EACH child. If you are aware that you are going to be late, please call ahead to let us know. If Crosskids is called in sufficient time, in emergency situations, the Director can decide to waive the fee. **Late fee payments must be made before the child attends school.**

Security

The safety of the children at Crosskids is important to us. During school hours, the doors to the school will be locked. Doors will open at 9:00, lock at 9:15, and unlock again at 12:00. If you need to get in the school during these hours, call Crosskids and the Director will walk you to your child. If you are picking up early, a member of the Crosskids team will bring your child to you at the entrance of the preschool.

The preschool has an intercom system for instant communication (walkie talkies are used when necessary). All staff and volunteers receive a background check. No one is allowed in the preschool area during school hours without being chaperoned by the Director.

Any tours with prospective Crosskids families are made after school hours.

Health Policies and Standards

Each child enrolled at Crosskids preschool must have a health form on file that is signed by a physician within the first month of enrollment.

Crosskids will follow the North Carolina Child Care Standards on illness. Children will be excluded from care at Crosskids if they have the following:

1. Two episodes of diarrhea
2. One episode of vomiting
3. Red eye with white or yellow discharge until 24 hours after treatment.
4. Lice. The child can return once the child is nit free and has a note from their doctor that treatment has been given.
5. Chicken pox or rash suggestive of chicken pox.
6. Unexplained rash. A doctor's statement stating that the rash is not contagious will be required for admittance.
7. Tuberculosis, until a health professional states that the child is not infectious.

8. Strep throat, until 24 hours after treatment has started
9. Pertussis (whooping cough), until five days after appropriate antibiotic treatment
10. Hepatitis A virus infection, until one week after onset of illness or jaundice
11. Impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment
- 12.** Fever of 100* or higher. Must be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of a fever reducer.
13. Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease. Fever free and inflamed and/or open sores have healed. All mouth sores are gone. Note from health professional to return to school.

COVID-19 Health Policy

Parents are REQUIRED to notify Crosskids Preschool if their child has tested positive for COVID-19 or been exposed to a positive case.

- Children testing positive with COVID-19 must be excluded from childcare for 5 days after the first day of symptoms or date of COVID-19 test, if they have no symptoms.
- Children may return to childcare after 5 days if they have no symptoms or symptoms are improving and they have been fever free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications, **but must continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others (children 3 yrs and older, children testing positive younger than three please see below).**

Parents who do not want their child to wear a mask, must keep their child home for a total of ten days to minimize the risk of infecting others.

Children under 3 years of age will be required to stay home for 10 days as masking is not recommended for children under 3 years.

If there is a surge in positive cases in our external community and/or preschool community Crosskids reserves the right to REQUIRE masks for all children and adults in our facility and/or close the facility. Tuition discounts and refunds are not given for school closures related to health issues.

When your child is not feeling well, please be considerate of those that your child could come into contact throughout the school day. Ask yourself, "Would I want another child feeling this way around my child?"

If your child begins to show symptoms of illness during the course of the school day, a parent will be notified to pick up your child. If your child contracts any contagious disease, please inform Crosskids so other parents can be notified.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is included in the tuition of the children at Crosskids. School hours are 9-12. Lunch Bunch is from 12-1. Inform the lead teacher in the morning on the days you would like your child to stay for Lunch Bunch. Crosskids does not provide the food; children must bring a lunch from home. Microwaves are not available for heating up lunch. You may pick up your child from Lunch Bunch from 12:30-1:00.

WE ARE A PEANUT FREE FACILITY.

Snacks

Children will have a daily snack time. Parents must provide the snack. Please make a conscious effort to bring a healthy, nutritious snack to reenergize your child. This snack should include a healthy beverage, like water, milk, or 100% fruit juice. Foods that have no nutritional value, like cupcakes or potato chips, should not be considered for snack. These can be saved for a special occasion, like a birthday.

Dress

Dress your child appropriately for a school atmosphere:

1. No open-toe shoes or flip flops.
2. Refrain from shorts or skirts that are shorter than arm length.
3. Wear shorts underneath skirts and dresses.
4. Weather appropriate clothes. Crosskids will go outside each day the weather permits. Winter outdoor play continues until wind-chill factor is 35*.
5. Dress your child in clothing that they are able to take on and off independently when going to the bathroom.
6. We will be getting messy! Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

Make sure to have an extra set of clothing at school in case of emergencies. The lead teacher will let you know if another set needs to be replaced.

Inclement Weather Policy

If Cumberland County Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Crosskids is closed. Crosskids will open at regular hours when schools are on a delayed schedule unless notified.

As stated in the tuition section, monthly tuition is a set amount regardless of inclement weather. Days are not made up due to inclement weather. The Directors maintains the right to modify tuition and make up days to their discretion due to inclement weather.

Potty Training

While parents are responsible for potty training their children, we commit to support those efforts in the classroom. If the child is in the training phase, s/he should remain in a pullup or training pants. If your child is wearing pull-ups, they MUST be the ones with the

easy open sides. This makes any necessary changes in the bathroom quicker and more efficient.

Crosskids defines a potty-trained child as one that can articulate the need to go to the bathroom and remain accident free.

Potty Training Policy

All three and four-year-old students must be fully potty trained before entering their respective classrooms. Summer is a great time to potty train. There is more time to stay home and focus on helping your child successfully learn to potty.

- Children are expected to demonstrate the ability to independently pull their pants up and down. We encourage parents to dress their three and four-year-olds in loose-fitting clothing around the waist to facilitate an easier and more independent experience when pulling pants up and down during visits to the restroom.
- Students must be capable of washing their hands after using the restroom. Proper handwashing is a crucial component of maintaining a hygienic environment.
- For sanitary reasons, we do not use or allow training seats or potty inserts in our preschool facility. This policy is in place to uphold high standards of cleanliness and hygiene.
- If a child in the three-year-old class is not exhibiting the necessary potty training skills, such as informing the teacher about restroom needs and remaining accident-free, parents will be notified. They will then be given three weeks to collaborate with us at preschool while working with their child at home. If, after this period, the child still does not demonstrate an understanding of potty training skills, they may be offered a placement in the older two-three year old class, provided a spot is available. In the absence of an opening in the older two-three year old class, the child will not be eligible for continued care until they have achieved full potty training.
- If there are medical or other reasons that a child 4 years or older is not potty trained, please contact the director.

Communication

At Crosskids, we believe communication with parents is essential for the best quality care for their children. Lead teachers will provide an emailed monthly calendar of events and special activities, along with a monthly email from the Director. If, at any time you would like to discuss, in depth, your child's day with the lead teacher, please create a conference time for immediately after school. Please respect the fact that your teacher is guiding children in learning activities when your child is dropped off and does not have time to discuss your child's progress in length.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a wonderful event to celebrate! If you would like to bring in a special treat for your child's class, please make sure to notify the lead teacher at least a week in advance so appropriate arrangements can be made (must be store bought). If your child has a summer birthday, their half birthday can be celebrated in the classroom (six months before the birthdate). Goodie bags are acceptable treats also. Please do not bring gifts for the birthday child to open in front of the class.

Parents Night Out/Parents Day Out

As an additional service to the families, Crosskids provides parents night outs or parents day out, where parents can have peace of mind that their child is in a safe environment with adults who love and care for them. The cost is \$25 for the first registered child, and each additional sibling (even if not enrolled at Crosskids) is \$15. This cost includes pizza, fruit, and juice. Registration takes place a week or two before the event. Registration space may be limited based on staff availability, as this is a non-required, volunteer event for them.

Parents night out helps Crosskids raise funds to purchase necessary school items and/or provide an opportunity to bless a family/organization in town.

Please read and acknowledge the agreement of terms and conditions outlined in the handbook. Agreement will be made on registration form.