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*Northdale Christian Academy assists parents by providing an excellent education in a safe, Christian environment.*

Dear families,

We are very excited to share some new information regarding our early childhood program beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Please read on to see what's been happening!

### ***What's new next year?***

Starting with the 2022-2023 school year, we will be offering a combined 3 and 4 year old preschool class, with several enrollment options. Please see the [early childhood program tuition and fee quick reference](#) for a full list of program options.

### ***Why combine 3 and 4 year olds?***

Children in this age group develop at their own pace. A multi-age classroom allows children to work on more advanced concepts if they are ready, or practice other things that they might need more time with. It also gives the older children a sense of leadership and confidence when helping younger students who are new to the class.

### ***What is the student to teacher ratio?***

This classroom will have up to 20 students total with a lead teacher and an aide.

### ***What are the age requirements for the program?***

3 year olds must turn 3 by September 1. 4 year olds must turn 4 by September 1.

### ***Does my three year old need to be toilet-trained?***

Yes. While accidents do happen, independence in the bathroom is part of being ready for a school environment.

### ***What's the difference between the terms Preschooler, VPK, and 3K?***

- The term preschooler refers to all children in the class. All children will follow the Florida standards for 3-5 year olds. Our curriculum ensures all standards are covered throughout the year. Lessons will be tailored to each age group as well as individual students.
- VPK stands for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten. A 4 or 5 year old enrolled in VPK will learn skills that will prepare them for kindergarten. These specific skills are emphasized with the 4 and 5 year olds.
- 3K refers to the children in the class who are 3 years old and focusing on the learning standards for 3 year olds. However, since they are in class with VPK, they will also be exposed to VPK skills.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour, please contact our early childhood director, Mrs. Joanne Mattes at 813-961-9195 or [joanne.mattes@northdalelutheran.org](mailto:joanne.mattes@northdalelutheran.org).