

# Crossgates Methodist Children's Center

21 Crossgates Drive Brandon, MS 39042

(601) 825-0555 Colleen Smith, Director

[thechildrenscenterbrandon.com](http://thechildrenscenterbrandon.com) OR [crossgatesumc.org](http://crossgatesumc.org)

## WAITING LIST INFORMATION

Thank you for considering Crossgates Methodist Children's Center for your child's early education. 2015 marks 23 years that the Children's Center has served the community. The Children's Center has a reputation for superior nurturing care for babies all the way through school age children. We have a wonderful learning environment where all the important things are taught at each stage of development. In 2007, the Children's Center was chosen to be a pilot site for establishing the Environment Rating Scales through the MSU Early Childhood Institute. During the assessment, CMCC's program scored a near perfect score, acknowledging the efforts of the excellent staff at CMCC to provide a premiere program for early education. The Quality Rating Improvement Systems program is now offered throughout the state to help raise the standard of early care and education for all Mississippi's children.

Since we do have a waiting list, we cannot promise you that your child will have a spot in our center. Once your child's name is on the waiting list, **WE ASK YOU TO CALL AND CHECK IN WITH US ONCE A MONTH.** We note on your waiting list sheet the date that you called, and that you are still interested each time you call us. **We check through our waiting list every month and remove names of those who have not kept current contact with us.** Calling in periodically also helps us to get to know you and recognize your name. Remember, though, that we do have very limited space available - *especially* in the younger groups - so we can make no assurances of when a spot will come available.

Sometimes a spot will come available sooner than you need it, and you may decline a position or accept the spot and begin paying. Once we notify you that a spot is available and give you a start date, upon your acceptance of the spot, you will need to come by the office and **pay your registration and supply fees AND your first week's tuition.** Your child's name will NOT go on our rolls until that time. The entire payment is **non-refundable** because at that time, we will begin to turn others away for that spot. Also, at this time, you will need to fill out forms and bring in your child's updated immunization records (Form 121). If you decline the spot, your child's name will be removed from our waiting list. You would need to come back to our office and fill out a new form to get back on our waiting list.

### **CLASS HOURS:**

Fulltime classes - (Infants through 4's) 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Afterschool - School Pick Up until 6:00 p.m. (We pick up from Rouse, Stonebridge, and Brandon Elementary Schools)

### **Current tuition rates as of February 2015 are:**

\$157/wk Infants & Creepers	(\$680/month)
\$147/wk Toddlers	(\$637/month)
\$143/wk Twos	(\$620/month)
\$124/wk Preschool (3 & 4)	(\$537/month)
\$ 67/wk Afterschool (41 weeks per year)	
\$113/wk Schoolage Summer Camp (11 weeks per year)	

### **Current annual fees are (these nonrefundable fees are charged EACH YEAR):**

\$100 — Registration Fee for 1st child / \$50 for each additional child
\$ 80 — Supply Fee (per child) 0-2, ASP
\$150 — Preschool Supply Fee (per child)
\$ 60 — Summer Swim Fee (Preschool & ASP)
\$110 — Summer Camp Only Fee (inclusive: registration/supply/swim fee)

**Note:** Summer Camp only children must pay full tuition in advance before Memorial Day.

Thank you again for considering Crossgates Methodist for the care and early education of your child. Center hours are 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., but for questions, call the office from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You can check out our webpage at [www.thechildrenscenterbrandon.com](http://www.thechildrenscenterbrandon.com). Email Colleen at [colleen@thechildrenscenterbrandon.com](mailto:colleen@thechildrenscenterbrandon.com).

# CROSSGATES METHODIST CHILDREN'S CENTER

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## WHAT IS PRESCHOOL AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTER?

Children are eligible for CMCC Preschool when they are three years old and fully potty-trained; we follow the Rankin Schools for cut-off dates for entrance, which is currently September 1. CMCC Preschool is the best program anywhere to prepare your child for lifelong learning. Our program is a hands-on "discovery" style Christian curriculum called WEE Learn. We also use the state Early Learning Standards which has been adopted to better prepare our students for the common core standards they will encounter in elementary school. Research has proven that children who go through a developmental program like ours are better prepared cognitively, socially, and physically for school entrance. We also emphasize Christian values in the classroom, learning Bible stories and verses as well as going to chapel at the church once a week. Since every one of us is born to discover and explore naturally, our focus as a center-based program is to have an environment that encourages children to discover and explore.

Our Preschool is supervised by the Center Director, Colleen Smith. Colleen has worked for CMCC for almost eighteen years, twelve of those as Assistant Director. Colleen is a volunteer at heart, and spends weekends working with the Jackson Friends of the Animal Shelter, Crossroads Film Festival, and various state early childhood associations. In 2009, she was awarded the Helen Harley Award from the Southern Early Childhood Association, an award given to emerging state leaders. She serves as an officer with Jackson Association On Children Under Six and is the Past President for the Mississippi Early Childhood Association. Colleen also serves as Immediate Past Chair of the Child Care Advisory Council for the Mississippi State Department of Health, representing MS Supreme Court District I childcare providers and having impact on childcare policy throughout the state. In 2012, Colleen worked as the Educational Consultant for a national publishing company to revise the book [A Special Gift](#), that is distributed nationwide to preschoolers in private programs (including the CMCC four year old classes).

CMCC Preschool consists of four full-time classes of threes and fours. All classes have Teaching Teams with Lead and Assistant Teachers in each group. During the school year (which begins in mid-August, following the RCSD calendar), the children have many wonderful extracurricular learning experiences scheduled, including field trips to the MS Museum of Natural Science, the Pumpkin Patch, the Jackson Zoo, and more to enhance classroom learning. Children enrolled in Preschool may also enroll in several other programs (for a separate fee) such as: Beverly's School Of Dance, ComputerTots, KinderTOT, and SoccerShots. Students here learn about family, animals, space, community helpers and transportation, just to name a few of our thematic units. Because all children are "discovery" learners, CMCC Teachers use science experiences and projects such as magnets, planting seeds to watch them grow, incubating eggs and watching baby chicks hatch, etc., to give each child a well-rounded Preschool experience. Preschoolers participate in the Monarch Rescue in April, studying caterpillars as they make a chrysalis, then watching them become butterflies in May! Daily, the children are working with their hands, developing fine motor skills needed for writing - constructing things with paper, wooden blocks, glue, modeling clay, yarn, paint, etc. Children need EXPERIENCES in order to learn our language, not activity sheets, iPad apps, or rote memorization! In addition to music, we implement early math and language activities. Books and printed materials fill the classroom as new vocabulary words are emphasized weekly. We add in a large dose of the arts, using drama, music, movement, painting, and more to enhance the units each week. Our program has a creative arts emphasis to help develop skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, and higher executive function learning skills that are critical for additional learning later in life!

In addition to the daily learning activities, there are two performances scheduled at the church in which the children perform for families and friends. During these simple programs, parents, extended family, and friends are able to see the children perform and the preschoolers build their confidence to overcome any fear of being in front of an audience. The children have a wonderful time, practicing just enough to get their parts learned, but not too much to take away from the preschool day.

You will be amazed at how much your child will learn with each stage of development. A child has many wonderful things to look forward to when he or she attends CMCC Preschool. Our goal is to create an atmosphere for children so that their first school experience will instill in them a love for school and learning. Parents of CMCC graduates and local kindergarten teachers tell us CMCC children are well-prepared for *big* school.