



P. O. Box 127, Houghton, New York 14744  
(585) 567-2264

## Valley Preschool Information

We are very pleased that you want to send your child to Valley PreSchool during the 2023-2024 school year. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to become acquainted and involved with your child. Because of this, we want to do all we can to make this a memorable time of learning, growth, and fun. In order to do so, we want to inform you of the activities your child will be involved in while at Valley PreSchool.

Please take a few moments to read and fill out the following Application and Liability/Medical Release. The outer “folder” portion of this application contain information about Valley Preschool and are intended for you to keep for reference.

Valley Preschool, sponsored by the Houghton Wesleyan Church, is entering its 55th year of operating! We meet from September through May on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:00 - 11:45.\* The program is designed to supplement the home experiences of children ages two through five year olds and to help meet their developmental needs.

At VPS, children actively explore, investigate, experiment, create, and communicate, forming an understanding of self, others, and the world. In this social setting, children learn to share, participate in group activities, take turns, follow directions, and make decisions independently. In addition to the social learning experience, our flexible curriculum provides opportunities for concepts to be developed and understood. A variety of topics are explored using books, songs, finger plays, drama, and group discussion. Topics include Bible stories, comparing and contrasting, holidays and seasons, shapes and numbers, forming sets, understanding patterning, recognizing letters and their sounds, children's literature, science concepts, and many others. Lessons and activities incorporate chances to improve fine and gross motor skills, use analytical thinking, sharpen listening skills, follow directions, develop language skills, and share creative ideas. Field trips and special visitors enhance our school experiences. All of this prepares the children to be lifelong learners.

*\*We are currently considering some expanded options. See questions on page 6.*

# Valley Preschool Admittance & Field Trip Information

## Acceptance Policies for Valley PreSchool

- 1. Children entering VPS must be 2 years old by September first of the school year.** Those who will turn 2 after this date will be eligible to enter the program the following fall. There will be no accommodations made in January for children who miss the cut-off date.
- 2. Children entering VPS should be working on toilet training.** Especially at the beginning of the year, we have frequent, “built-in” bathroom breaks which eliminates most accidents. Please be sure your child knows that teachers at school will ask them to go and feel free to come down to try out our potties if it's helpful. Feel free to ask us about any concerns.
- 3. Acceptance into the VPS program will be on a first come first served basis within each age group (2, 3 or 4/5 yr. olds) so it is wise to apply early.** We will limit the number of students in each age group, so it is possible one age will fill faster than another.
- 4. Applications will be reviewed by the director and available to staff and the Valley Preschool committee.** Acceptance notices will be sent out throughout the summer. You will get a letter late in August giving you necessary info before school starts (VPS typically starts a week after the local public schools). VPS currently meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00-11:45 am.
- 5. Valley PreSchool admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, and any other school-administered programs.**

## Field Trips

Each year we typically have some off-campus field trips. Most of these are walking trips (the firehall, fall or spring nature walks, etc.). If a trip of this type is more “spontaneous” we leave word with the office and are close by for a short outing. On the permission form page of the application, there is a box for you to check giving consent to our local walking trips.

Some trips may require vehicle transportation. Parents help with transportation for these trips by driving their own children or by car pooling. Additionally, we can use the church van to transport up to 10 children. In this case, we ask parents to buckle their children's car seats in at drop off time on the day of the trip. Prior to these longer trips you will receive information which will give you the details including destination and activities while there, time of departure and return, proper dress for the trip if applicable, etc. In order for your child to participate in these field trips, we will provide a separate permission slip with the details of the trip for you to sign in the days prior to the trip.

In addition to the separate permission forms, we ask that you fill out the Liability/Medical Release on the back page. Please note that we need signatures from BOTH parents except in the case of separation or divorce. We will keep this information and emergency medical/insurance information on file so you will not have to supply this information for each trip. We do ask that you notify us if any of this information changes so we may keep our records current.

# Valley PreSchool Financial Information

**A registration fee is due with each application.** This fee pays for materials, equipment replacement, and supplies ordered over the summer and throughout the year. It will be refunded if we are unable to admit your child. Checks should be made payable to: “**Houghton Wesleyan Church**”.

*There are financial benefits to applying early. Fees for registration are as follows:*

\$25 if application and fee are received by June 30th

\$50 if application and fee are received after June 30th

**Financial Policies** – Tuition covers the salaries for teachers and assistants. VPS is in session from September through May\* with some months containing more sessions than others, but payment is divided into equal monthly amounts. The full per student cost for the coming year is \$1,440 or \$160/month (\$5.82/hr.).\* **Our Stone Soup fund makes a discount available to all VPS families who ask, making it possible for you to pay \$10 less (or \$150) per month.** There is an additional 10% discount for families with multiple children enrolled. **We also have larger need-based partial scholarships available.** There is a check-box on the application to request information about scholarships and to indicate interest in participating in the Stone Soup discount. **Over the summer we will be looking into further ways to offer assistance with tuition, and will keep you updated.**

You may choose from the following payment plans:

1. \$160 (or \$150) per month September through May, due on the first school day of each month
2. One payment of \$1,440 (or \$1350) for the year, payable on the first day of school
3. Two payments of \$720 (or \$675), due the first day of school and January 1
4. A plan of your choice which is approved by the VPS director and committee
5. If your child attends part of a month due to illness, vacation, or withdrawal you must still pay for the entire month.
6. If you withdraw your child from VPS and have chosen one of the larger, lump sum payment options, your account will be reviewed and adjusted appropriately.

**\* We are continuing to explore offering more days per week and extending our school year into June for those interested, so the cost listed is for three morning/week through May.\***

