



Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Development Center

5124 Hillcrest • P. O. Box 250769 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72225-0769 • 501-663-0755

December 9, 2022

Dear ECDC Families,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – the infant born in Bethlehem! Joy and anticipation fill the air! Christmas is definitely for children, God’s children! As we once again are able to gather with family and friends, may we be ever mindful of our Savior’s humble birth, His unselfish death on the cross, and His glorious resurrection which were, are and always will be the greatest gifts ever given. We pray your family will make time to celebrate and give thanks for all that is possible because of that first Christmas.

As 2022 draws to a close we are thankful for many things! The children — those who we’ve seen grow another year older and those who have just recently joined our flock of little lambs. The staff — those that have been with us and those that have just joined us — each sharing joy and special gifts. The pandemic is behind us, but all the things we learned and practiced continue to keep sickness at our school to a minimum. Grace Lutheran Church’s continued strong commitment — with the congregation financially supporting the program in a variety of ways — especially in providing us our facilities. Our ECDC families who remain supportive in so many ways are also a blessing!

The new year is sure to be filled with God’s unceasing grace and blessings; promise and possibilities; and — new challenges. We pray for God’s continued guidance as we strive to provide the best for all His lambs entrusted to our care.

Previous years have seen tuition increases primarily associated with maintaining benefits for our staff without affecting our standards, ratios, and programs. Record inflation, hiring and retaining qualified staff so we could increase enrollment all added to the board’s challenges when considering 2023 rates. Federal grant funds have been a blessing not only to the program and staff, but also to ECDC families as they continue to be filtered toward reducing the amount of tuition.

Attached are the rates effective January 2, 2023. In preparing the 2023 budget, the Board of Christian Education took into account:

- 1) ECDC’s enrollment is steady, increasing as staff are hired, and has a substantial waiting list for children two years and younger.
- 2) Staffing – retaining, locating and hiring, maintaining a competitive wage, providing a positive work environment to avoid burnout and the ever increasing cost of benefits – is one of the biggest challenges of many employers today. ECDC is no exception.
- 3) Seeing the importance of continuing many of the health/illness protocols implemented during the 2020-2022 timeframe. Not combining classes and strictly adhering to DHS guidelines as related to illness are making a significant difference in the number of children and staff being out due to illness.
- 4) Maintaining our Better Beginnings Level 3 status, complying with ever changing DHS regulations, and providing the care and program you have come to expect.

- 5) 99% of the school's income is generated by tuition.
- 6) Facing a first time increase for lunches, snacks and milk since January 2005. The cost included in tuition rates has been \$20 per week. For 2023 the amount allocated is \$25 per week thanks to inflation.
- 7) Using retained funds thanks to numerous grant sources helping with operations would allow 2023 tuition to increase 4% instead of the initially projected 5.7%.

In addition, after surveying current ECDC families, the board addressed the matter of providing services until 5:30 p.m. each day. Based on the responses the decision was made to continue with the current operating hours of 7:30a.m. – 5:00p.m. with the option of a 30-minute AfterCare program. The service will be available for a limited number of families (based on available staff) for an additional fee for those families needing the service beginning January 2, 2023. More information on AfterCare and how to register are attached.

In closing, may the joy of Christmas, the anticipation of blessings to come, and thankful hearts that God is our ever present refuge and strength guide each and every one of us into and throughout the coming year!

A blessed and peaceful Christ-filled holiday to your entire family –

Dr. Mary Kathryn Stein, Ed.D.,
Director, Board of Christian Education

Colleen Moorman,
ECDC Director

**Grace Lutheran ECDC Fees
Effective January 2, 2023**

FULL TIME TUITION – 7:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

- **Nursery**
Children 6 weeks to 9 months as of August 1st \$13,520/year (\$260.00/week)

- **Woddlers**
Children 10 months to 18 months as of August 1st \$14,040/year* (\$270.00/week*)

- **Freshman Class**
Children 19 months to 24 months as of August 1st \$14,040/year* (\$270.00/week*)

- **Sophomore Class**
Children 25 months as of August 1st \$14,040/year* (\$270.00/week*)

- **Junior/Senior Class**
Children 3 years old as of August 1st & potty-trained \$12,740/year* (\$245.00/week*)

PART-TIME TUITION — Available for children in Sophomore, Junior/Senior Classes only

- Monday, Wednesday, & Friday \$8,580/year* (\$165.00/week*)

- Tuesday & Thursday \$5,720/year* (\$110.00/week*)

* Includes lunch, milk, and snacks

AFTER-CARE — 5:00 P.M. TO 5:30 P.M.

Space is limited, please ask about availability \$624/year (\$12.00/week)

ENROLLMENT FEE (NON-REFUNDABLE)

(Includes \$50 registration fee & 12-month supply fee of \$250) \$300.00/child

ANNUAL SUPPLY FEE (NON-REFUNDABLE)

Payable in two installments on August 1 and February 1 \$250.00/child

● www.gracelutheranecdc.com ● 501-663-0755 ●

Grace Lutheran Church Early Childhood Development Center



P.O. Box 250769 • Little Rock, AR 72225-0769 • (501) 663-0755 • ecdc@gracelutheranlr.org

Child Aftercare Registration Form

AfterCare fee is added to weekly tuition. It is not refundable if not used.
AfterCare may be cancelled with a one week notice

Please Print or Type All Information

- ◆ Family Name: _____ Daytime Phone: _____
- ◆ Child's Name: _____ Age: _____
- ◆ Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Current Classroom: _____

AFTER-CARE REGISTRATION

_____ 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. — Monday through Friday \$624/year (\$12.00/week)
Space is limited, please ask about availability .

Total Amount Paid at Time of Aftercare Registration = \$ _____

I have read the Grace Lutheran ECDC AfterCare information on the back of this form, understand that the AterCare fee is added to tuition, is not refundable and may be cancelled with a one week notice.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Daytime Phone: _____

Date Registration Received: ___/___/___	ECDC USE
	Date Admitted to AfterCare: ___/___/___
	Date of Withdrawal from ECDC: ___/___/___ for (reason): _____

Grace Lutheran ECDC AfterCare:

- ◆ Times: 5:00p.m.-5:30p.m., Monday through Friday when school is in session from 7:30a.m. to 5:00p.m.
 - ◆ in the event of school early dismissal and/or closure, AfterCare is cancelled.
- ◆ Cost: AfterCare is added to tuition.
- ◆ Registration for AfterCare is accepted on a first-come basis for the available spots.
- ◆ There is a cap on the number of children we accommodate as follows:
 - ◆ 5 Nursery aged children
 - ◆ 10 Toddler to Freshman aged children consolidated into one class;
 - ◆ 10 Sophomore to Junior/Senior aged children consolidated into one class.
- ◆ AfterCare classes will follow state ratios.
- ◆ Children are only allowed to attend AfterCare on days they have attended school and have not been sent home with a health concern.
- ◆ Families may cancel AfterCare participation with a one week paid notice.
- ◆ Families picking up after 5:30p.m. will be charged a late-pick-up-fee of \$2.00 per minute per child.

Single Day AfterCare is offered if :

- ◆ space is available for the requested day;
- ◆ it is prearranged no later than 11:00 a.m. on the requested day.

The cost for Single Day AfterCare is \$14.00 per day per child.

Grace Lutheran ECDC reserves the right to cancel or amend the AfterCare program as necessary.
