



St. Thomas Preschool

5150 N. Valley View Rd. ~ Tucson, AZ 85718

(520) 577-0503 Fax: (520) 577-0441

stthomaspreschool@gmail.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How do I visit St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool? The easiest way to visit our preschool is to call the office at (520) 577-0503 and set up an appointment. This way we can be sure to have the time set aside to give you a tour of the classrooms and playground and answer all your questions. We would prefer to schedule tours on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings.

Do you have to be Catholic to attend St. Thomas Preschool?

No, you do not have to be Catholic to attend our preschool. However, we are a Catholic preschool and teach the children daily about how to live as Jesus did. In addition, we study Advent, Lent, Saints, Jesus' family, and many of the Old Testament heroes like Noah and Daniel. These subjects are all taught at the developmental level of the children. Active parishioner families of St. Thomas the Apostle church receive special consideration in terms of acceptance, sometimes to the exclusion of other families applying to St. Thomas Preschool.

What are the [staff](#) qualifications of the teachers at St. Thomas the Apostle?

Teachers are required to have a Bachelor's Degree with an Early Childhood emphasis. This emphasis could include an early childhood endorsement, teaching certificate for elementary education, or child development. In addition, teachers are required to have teaching experience in the early childhood field. Finally, all teachers meet the state requirements according to the Arizona Department of Human Services, including reference checks, fingerprinting and background checks, negative T.B., proof of current immunization for MMR and Tetanus, and all staff are CPR and 1st aid certified.

What is the staff/child ratio in the classrooms?

Our staff/child ratio is much lower than the state of Arizona's requirement of 1:13 for 3 year old children and 1:15 for 4 year old children (our ratio is 1:6 in the 3 and 4 year old classrooms and 1:9 in the toddler classroom). We have a teacher and a full time assistant teacher in each room, and the class sizes range from 16 to 18 per day. The class dynamics and girl/boy ratio play a part in determining the size of the class.

Are parents able to volunteer in the classroom?

We love to have parents in the classrooms! St. Thomas has an open door policy – if you want to be in the classroom, we want you there! If a parent would like to be a regular volunteer, we ask and the state requires that you go through a training program run by the director and assistant director. The training program takes about one hour and is done while the children are at school so you do not have to find childcare.

In addition, all regular volunteers are required to be fingerprinted and meet the state mandated requirements, but we make it as painless as possible! If a parent would like to volunteer in the classroom less often (1-2 times a semester), you simply see the teacher and sign up.



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Is St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool licensed?

Absolutely, St. Thomas meets all state of Arizona licensing requirements. The state makes yearly visits to verify we are in compliance. All licensing records are available for review.

Does St. Thomas have a curriculum?

We have developed an in-depth curriculum that was adopted by the Diocese of Tucson for all other Catholic preschools to follow, as well as the Arizona Infant/Toddler and Early Learning Standards. It focuses on the development of the individual child and is implemented throughout the school day to insure all children are encouraged in their individual journey. The curriculum is also available in the office for review.

Can the children nap?

We provide a nap room for those children who need to nap. The room is quiet with some great classical music and a back rub! Nap time is from 12:30pm – 2:30pm or until the child wakes up. If the children do not need a nap, a stimulating afternoon program is available.