

Parent Handout and Policies
Mother's Day out Program of Epiphany Lutheran Church
5515 West Broadway
Pearland, Texas 77581
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www.shiningthelight.org/mdo
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“And He took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The mission statement of Epiphany Lutheran Church is to help people grow into a living relationship with Jesus and His Church, through worship and fellowship; understand God's purpose for their life, through Bible study and prayer; and to go forth as Jesus' Ambassadors, to care for and share His Good News with all people.

Epiphany Lutheran Church Mother's Day Out is licensed by the state and was established to help meet the needs of young families in the Pearland community. It is our calling and privilege to provide a program where children are cared for in a loving and secure environment, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through everyday activities. Children attend chapel in the sanctuary on a weekly basis where they experience worship and singing.

We are committed to the belief that “children learn by doing”. In partnership with parents, we provide well balanced, age appropriate activities, including the introduction of colors, numbers, shapes and the alphabet. Social skills are a very important part of being a preschool child. Classroom activities focus on the importance of sharing, listening and cooperative play. All classes will enjoy enrichment activities that will include PE to focus on gross motor skills while enriching their language development. It will also include music with an introduction to Spanish through music.

Our Pre-K 4 classes focus on preparing the children for Kindergarten in a variety of fun ways. This includes encouraging independence, expanding fine and gross motor skills, reading readiness, and math/science concepts. Circle time is used to introduce new concepts, including the calendar, show and tell, student of the week, etc. Creativity is promoted through the use of centers, art and music. Pre-K 4 classes are offered for 2 or 4 days per week.

ENROLLMENT

Epiphany Lutheran MDO enrolls children of any race, color, national and ethnic origin. Classes are filled on a first come, first served basis. MDO registration is open in February. Very young children thrive best in small groups. In order to provide the best setting for your child/children, we strive to keep our staff/child ratios and our class sizes small.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Staff/Child Ratio</u>	<u>Max. Class Size</u>
Infants	1/3	6
Toddlers	1/5	10
Two-Year-Old	1/5	10
Three-Year-Old	1/ 5 & 1/6	10 & 12
Four-Year-Old	1/9	18

MONTHLY TUITION / REGISTRATION

Tuition is based on the number of days the school is open, taking into consideration holidays and/or PISD closures. MDO is intended to be a school year commitment; thus, our income must have continuity. Our program runs 9 months however, payment is divided over 8 months, September-April. Your last payment will be April 2021. Monthly tuition is due the first week of each month, no later than the 15th. Credit is not given for a child's absence, including vacations, illness, teacher workshops, nor is credit given if the school must be closed due to weather events, national emergencies, or any other events beyond the school's control. Checks, cash, Bill Pay from your bank, and credit cards are acceptable forms of payment. Checks should be made out to ELC-MDO, with your child's name in the memo section. Payments made later than the 15th of the month will incur a \$10 late fee. A discount of \$75 will be given to anyone who chooses to pay their year in full by September 15th.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$100 per child for 2 days a week
 \$200 per child for 4 days a week

This fee is required to secure your child's spot and is non-refundable.

Monthly tuition for the 2020/2021 school year is as follows:

<u>1 child 2 days \$215</u>	<u>2 children 2 days \$375</u>	<u>3 children 2 days \$590</u>
<u>1 child 4 days \$430</u>	<u>2 children 4 days \$810</u>	<u>3 children 4 days \$1240</u>

Epiphany Lutheran Church Mother's Day Out Tax ID# 76-0334759

ENROLLMENT TERMINATION

In the event you decide to terminate enrollment early, a paid two week notice is required.

DISCIPLINE

ELC-MDO has a Christ-centered atmosphere of love and acceptance of individual personalities. In order to provide a safely structured environment, general rules are established and are reviewed frequently so that children will learn expected behaviors. Inappropriate behavior is treated as an opportunity for teaching. Teachers will first re-direct children, then anticipate and eliminate potential problems, providing positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior. Warnings and time outs are used when necessary. Biting cannot be tolerated and is considered inappropriate behavior. When necessary, we will discuss the situation with the parent and agree upon a strategy to help the child resolve the problem.

Policies

1. **Mother's Day Out offers *two separate* programs, held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Wednesdays and Fridays. The hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Our doors open promptly at 9:00 a.m. It is very important for the children to arrive on time for school, as we are shaping our children's attitudes and habits at this early age. A child's tardiness disrupts the classroom schedule and many times the child misses out on activities. Children must be signed IN and OUT each day on the attendance sheet outside your child's classroom door. The emergency number for that day should be added here, and the person picking up. No child will be allowed to leave with a person without authorization. If the person listed on the attendance sheet changes during the day, a phone call to the director will be necessary. Identification is required any time the teacher does not recognize the person picking up your child. This is for your child's protection. A late charge will be assessed to all parents picking up children after 2:00 p.m. The fee is \$1.00 per minute per child. Parents should allow themselves adequate time to talk with the teacher and gather their child's belongings before 2:00 p.m.**
2. **Teachers will be ready to greet you and your child at 9:00. If you choose to come into the buildings before 9 am, please wait in the narthex (main building) or hallway (gym building). There are clocks in both buildings for your convenience. All doors, with the exception of the main office entrance (East church entrance under the portico) remain locked during the day and are reopened at 1:30. If you need to pick up your child early, or drop off lunch or forgotten supplies, please do so through the MDO office in the main building.**
3. **To protect the health and well-being of the children in the Mother's Day Out program, all children must show proof of current inoculations prior to enrollment. These records must be kept up to date and kept in our files throughout the year. Please do not send your child with a fever, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, green runny nose, or any other obvious illness. We ask that you keep your child home until they are free of fever, diarrhea, and vomiting for 24 hours without medication. You will be contacted immediately should your child become ill. If we are unable to contact you, we will contact someone on your Emergency and Medical Form. If an emergency should arise you will be contacted and/or your child will be taken to the hospital you have put on your Emergency and Medical Form. Any medication that needs to be given during MDO hours should be put in a zip-lock bag in the original container with clear instructions and given directly to the**

Mother's Day Out director to administer. Medications are NOT allowed in children's bags or lunch kits.

- 4. Please note that we observe all Pearland I.S.D holidays. You will be notified of these dates. Epiphany MDO will be closed for weather-related problems and any other reason P.I.S.D. closes. Tune in to local TV, MDO Facebook or MDO website if weather is threatening. *MDO staff is required to attend workshops during the year. Tuition is required for this training date. Advance notice will be given via the calendar for the school year.**
- 5. Parents are to hand your child and bags over to the teachers (PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE ROOM). Gates must be remained closed and classroom doorways must be monitored by the teachers for your child's safety. EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH POLICY REQUIRES THAT ONLY TRAINED AND SCREENED PERSONNEL BE ALLOWED IN CLASSROOMS WITH CHILDREN. Only one parent at the door at drop off and pick up. Please wait in line to drop off and receive your children. This is a safety issue, sometimes children see their parents at the crowded door and run out, leaving the teachers unaware that one of their students has been picked up.**
- 6. Children will begin lunch with a prayer. Each child must bring a nutritious lunch with a clear or light-colored drink in a spill proof cup. Some suggestions for lunch treats are cheese, crackers, lunchmeat, sandwiches, raisins, cut up fruit, celery, or carrot sticks. Please do not send soft drinks, red jello or yogurts, or an abundance of sugared treats. Morning snacks, consisting of crackers, pretzels or low sugar cookies and water are provided.**
- 7. We will be happy to help celebrate your child's birthday by the parent providing cookies, muffins or donut holes. NO CAKE OR CUPCAKES PLEASE. You are welcome to provide plates and napkins for your child's special day! Please let your child's teachers know the week before you plan to bring the snack. Other special occasion & holidays are celebrated in the classrooms throughout the year.**
- 8. Children in the toddler class through three-year-old classes must bring a mat for rest period. Because of space restrictions, the thin folding mat is preferred. These mats can be purchased at Wal Mart, Target or a teacher supply and can be covered with a king-size pillowcase. Other type mats are acceptable as long as they fit in the storage space provided. All children will rest (not necessarily sleep) during rest time. PLEASE MARK EVERYTHING clearly with your child's name. (lunch kits, mats, "blankies", pacifiers, diaper bags, bottles, coats, sweaters, etc.). We ask that you dress your children in clothing that can be easily removed for diaper changes or potty time. Elastic waist pants work best so that the children can learn to take care of themselves at potty time. Dress children comfortable for active play! Girls wearing dresses should wear shorts underneath. Because the safety zone in our playground consists of pea gravel, and because we do have climbing equipment, we ask that for your child's safety and comfort, please send him/her in rubber soled shoes. Velcro shoes work best so that the children can remove pebbles from their shoes during playground time. (No sandals, boots or flip-flops please). ALL CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE AN EXTRA SET OF CLOTHES IN THEIR BAG AT ALL TIMES.**

- 9. ALL CHILDREN TURNING 3 ½ YEARS OLD MUST BE COMPLETELY POTTY TRAINED. CHILDREN TURNING 3 YEARS OLD MUST BE IN THE PROCESS OF ACTIVE POTTY TRAINING.** Children must stay in a pull up or diaper until COMPLETELY potty trained. Accidents happen and are understandable; however, children should be aware and capable of using the toilet by this age. Repetitive accidents often affect self-esteem in children and as childcare professionals, we are concerned for your child's social and emotional well-being.
- 10. The daily evaluation forms that are sent home at the end of each day are a way of keeping you informed and involved of your child's daily activities. If your child has had an off day, keep in mind that the situation or concern was handled at school. Take this opportunity to remind your child about appropriate behavior, but further punishment is not needed, as this may confuse your child. Thank you!**
- 11. Wednesdays and Thursdays are chapel days. Chapel begins promptly at 9:20 am. After dropping your child off in their classroom, we ask that you please clear the hallways, as the children will be moving throughout the halls to the sanctuary in the main building. If you arrive after 9:20 and the chapel doors are closed, please remain in the narthex with your child until chapel time is over. It is your responsibility to make sure your child gets in with his/her class when exiting chapel.**
- 12. Monthly newsletters are passed out to each child at the beginning of each month. These include important activities and dates. Please keep these in a handy spot to refer to each month. Newsletters are posted throughout the buildings, as well as on our website.**
- 13. Please visit our website (shiningthelight.org/mdo) for all MDO information, including monthly newsletters and any updates. You can also find us on Facebook! You are welcome at any time during the day to call or visit our program and observe the childcare center's operation.**

***MDO STAFF:** Epiphany's Mother's Day Out staff is warm and caring individuals, striving to assist you in raising your child in a positive, loving Christian environment. Criminal history checks and FBI fingerprinting are conducted on all MDO and church staff persons. The Safe and Secure Program, CPR and first aid are also required. Other training includes 24 hours of various workshops designed for Early Childhood Providers. For information about local licensing offices, look on the Protective and Regulatory Services website at: www.tdprs.state.tx.us. The Child Care Information line at 1-800-862-5252 also has information about local licensing offices. We will be happy to let you review a copy of the minimum standards provided by Child Care licensing.

***This is a Drug Free and Gang Free Zone facility. The gang-free zone is within 1000 feet of your child care center. Gang related criminal activity or engaging in organized criminal activity within 1000 feet of the center is a law violation and is therefore subject to increased penalty under state law.**

A Parent's Guide to Child Care

More Information

- [Local Child Care Licensing Offices](#)
- Child Care Information Line: 1-800-862-5252



On This Page

- [Who is Child Care Licensing \(CCL\) and what do they do?](#)
- [What should you know when searching for a child care program?](#)
- [What responsibilities do you have as a parent?](#)
- [What should you do when you have concerns?](#)

Dear Parent

A child care program can have a tremendous influence on your child. A good program may improve language skills, social skills, and build self-esteem. While no child care operation can replace a parent's love and attention, well-chosen child care can complement your efforts and enhance your child's development.

When you choose regulated child care you and your family join in new experiences and relationships. You, the child care director and/or primary caregivers have a responsibility to protect the health, safety and well-being of your child. The Texas Child Care Licensing Division, is part of this partnership, too.

Who is Child Care Licensing (CCL) and what do they do?

The Child Care Licensing Division (CCL) protects children in child care settings through regulation and education. With the assistance of child

care providers and experts in areas such as child development, early childhood education, fire safety, health and sanitation, Child Care Licensing develops minimum standards.

CCL inspects licensed child care centers, such as before and after-school programs, school-age programs, and licensed and registered child care homes to make sure these operations meet the minimum standards for their child care program. All regulated child care operations must meet basic health and safety requirements.

CCL also investigates all reports of abuse or neglect and violations of the minimum standards and licensing laws. One example would be a report of an individual providing child care to an unrelated child without a permit. These operations are unregulated and considered illegal operations.

What should you know when searching for a child care program?

While each child care operation is responsible for meeting minimum standards, many child care operations exceed these requirements. Each operation has its own special personality and approach to educating and caring for children. Your child will benefit from the time you spend researching and choosing a child care operation that meets the needs of your child and your family. Child care is a choice. Make it an informed one by following these steps:

1. Research your options. If possible, begin gathering basic information several months before you think you will need child care. Many operations have waiting lists.
 - Check out our website - www.TxChildCareSearch.org*External Link* to find regulated child care operations. You can also view details about services offered by the child care operation, inspection dates, and any minimum standard violations.
 - Check out our website - www.dfps.state.tx.us to view the minimum standards for the type of child care program you are interested in
 - Talk to friends, family, and other parents about their recommendations of regulated child care.

2. Narrow your list to a few child care centers or homes that interest you.
 - Arrange to visit the child care operations to compare their programs. If you did not review the inspection reports on our website, you will want to ask each operation about their history with Licensing.
 - Visit the operation when children are in care so you can see the type of activities the children are engaged in and you can see how the caregiver interacts with children. Keep in mind the individual needs of your child. Imagine what it would be like to spend 10 hours every day in that environment. You may want to ask if you could bring your child to the operation and spend a couple of hours so your child can explore the operation and interact with the caregiver.
 - Meet with the caregiver or Director. Discuss any of your concerns and make sure your questions are answered to your satisfaction. Use the [Top 10 Questions to Discuss when Choosing Child Care](#) when talking with the caregiver and Director. If you have any reservations about the caregiver or the operation, trust your instincts and keep looking. You may want to come back to the operation unannounced.

3. Make a pros and cons list and choose the most appropriate child care program for your child and your family. If you have any specific questions about an operation's compliance with minimum standards before you make your choice feel free to contact your [local Licensing office](#).

What responsibilities do you have as a parent?

It is important that you establish a good relationship with your child care operation. Parent involvement and active communication can ensure a positive child care experience for both you and your child. Here are some other responsibilities you have as a parent:

- Provide the necessary information. The child care operation must obtain certain information from the parent about their child upon enrollment. It is important you provide this information so the child

care operation can ensure the health and safety of your child. Some examples are:

- Complete list of emergency contacts and persons your child may be released to.
 - Emergency care authorization and physician information.
 - Current list of immunizations.
 - Preschool health statement.
 - Indication of any special needs or allergies.
 - Medication authorizations.
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- Read all the material the child care operation provides to you. A licensed or registered child care provider is required to provide you with a copy of their operational policies. It is important that you read, understand, and ask any questions.
 - Keep talking with your child's caregiver. Good communication with your child and child's caregiver is vital from the very beginning and will help ensure good care for your child. Be mindful that a caregiver's main responsibility is the supervision and care of children. If having a discussion with your caregiver becomes a distraction, it may be a good idea to set up a conference time.
 - Be your child's advocate. Ask your child about their day, what they did, who they saw or anything special that day. Share their excitement about new friends, new skills, listen to their concerns and give them a chance to boast about their achievements.

What should you do when you have concerns?

You may find yourself displeased about something that has happened at your child's child care operation. It is important you communicate your concerns with the director or caregiver. There may be a misunderstanding that can easily be resolved.

If you feel the situation isn't resolved and you believe the operation is not meeting the minimum standards, you should report your concerns to a local Licensing office or contact our Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-

5400. Licensing staff will investigate all reports of minimum standard violations.

If you suspect your child has been abused or neglected you must report the situation immediately to the Child Abuse Hotline. Parents who suspect that their child has been abused in child care sometimes remove their child from the operation, but do not report the problem. This leaves other children in danger. Be seriously concerned with your child care operation if you see that:

- Parents are not encouraged or allowed to visit the operation during the day.
- Children are left without direct adult supervision.
- Classrooms are continually out of control or there appears to be too many children in care.
- Caregivers are scolding and yelling at children.
- Caregivers are physically rough with children and allow rough play.
- The operation is unsanitary or has unsafe conditions.
- Your child is unhappy about being left at the facility and this doesn't improve over time.
- Your child comes home with unexplained bruises or injuries.
- Infants are napping in unsafe sleep conditions.