

# Preschool Options

## What class options are available?

Learning environments are based on age, not on a child's skills. Within each class, teachers will support and challenge a child where they are developmentally. Zeeland Christian Preschool offers classes with 2-day, 3-day, and 4-day options.

**Must be three or four by Sept 1st of the school year enrolled**

**Threeschool** - A play-based learning experience designed specifically for three-year-olds and young four-year-olds. Students gain independence and grow in their ability to learn from others, to participate in a group, and to play well with peers.

**Preschool** - A kindergarten readiness program for four-year-olds, preschool teaches both academic and social skills. Teachers work with children individually and as a group, assessing students' skills and working to help each child prepare for the coming year.

**Drenthe Site** - Since 2005, we have held preschool classes in the education building behind Drenthe CRC. Families who live in the communities surrounding Drenthe find this site to be a great Zeeland Christian Preschool option for their family.

## What types of skills will my child learn at Zeeland Christian Preschool?

- How to pray and worship with friends
- Letters, numbers, colors, shapes
- Name recognition and writing
- Taking turns and sharing
- Developing independence



**Zeeland Christian School**

### Preschool Truths About God

- ✦ God made everyone.
- ✦ God loves everyone.
- ✦ God hears our prayers.
- ✦ God is always with us.
- ✦ God can do anything.
- ✦ God is mighty and strong.
- ✦ God sent Jesus to save us.

# Creation Ridge

Since 2020, nature-based threeschool and preschool classes are held on the 155-acre Ridge Point Community Church site. This is a ZCS experience in an outdoor classroom and offered in both English and Spanish.

## How do Creation Ridge classes look different from other ZCS classes?

- Classes are outside for at least 90 minutes each day in all weather, except extreme conditions.
- Classes take daily hikes outside of the main playscape space.
- Students learn using natural outdoor elements as tools and for imaginative play.
- A list of required outdoor clothing items is provided for families.
- Tuition is slightly higher due to facility costs and added expenses for a nature-based program.

## Creation Ridge Adventurers: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 PM

Adventurers is a two-hour experience for students in preschool and young fives who have already completed a year of education at Creation Ridge and are currently enrolled in another ZCS class. Students may stay after their morning preschool class at Creation Ridge or come to Creation Ridge at 1:00PM to join their friends and enjoy the afternoon adventuring around the property with their teachers.



# 2022-2023 Preschool Schedule

Online Registration: [zcspreschool.eventbrite.com](https://zcspreschool.eventbrite.com) opens January 27, 2022 at 7 PM

Morning classes run 8:45-11:30 AM.

Afternoon classes run 12:30-3:15 PM.

**Threeschool Classes: Children must be 3 by September 1, 2022**

ZCS Site	Class #	Days of class	Language
Central Ave	Session 1	Monday/Wednesday Morning	English
Central Ave	Session 2	Tuesday/Thursday Morning	English
Central Ave	Session 3	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session A	Tuesday/Thursday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session B	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session C	Tuesday/Thursday Morning	Spanish

**Four-year-Old Preschool Classes: Children must be 4 by Sept. 1, 2022**

ZCS Site	Class #	Days of class	Language
Central Ave	Session 4	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	English
Central Ave	Session 5	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Afternoon	English
Central Ave	Session 6	Tuesday/Thursday/Friday Morning	English
Central Ave	Session 7	Monday - Thursday AM, plus the option to add afternoons up to four full days.	English
Central Ave	Session 8	Monday - Thursday AM, plus the option to add afternoons up to four full days.	Spanish
Central Ave	Session 9	Tuesday/Thursday/Friday Morning	Mandarin Chinese
Drenthe	Session 10	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session D	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session E	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Afternoon	English
Creation Ridge	Session F	Tuesday/Thursday/Friday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session G	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	Spanish

*All children enrolled in Zeeland Christian Preschool must be toilet trained and independent in the bathroom. No pull-ups are allowed. Our staff will coach children in the bathroom but not physically assist them. Exceptions are made for children who have a specific plan with our Support Services staff.*

# Paths to Kindergarten

Chart created by ZCS

This is the traditional path that many families have chosen for their children.



Threeschool is a great opportunity for children to learn how to “do school” before they begin the kindergarten readiness structure of preschool. Our teachers have found that children who complete threeschool are very well prepared for preschool.



This is a good option for children who have birthdays between September 1 and December 1. If you think your child will benefit from a year of Young Fives (5 mornings a week), give your child a year of preschool before beginning Young Fives.



If your child has a fall birthday but you are not ready to start them in Young Fives, start your child in threeschool and then work with the classroom teacher to determine if preschool or Young Fives is the best option for your child for the next year.



This option includes three years of schooling before kindergarten, but it may be a great option for a child with a summer birthday who enters threeschool as a young three-year-old. Even after the year of preschool is finished, Young Fives is an option to give the “gift of a year” to a child who still needs time to grow and develop skills before entering kindergarten.



If your child has had good educational experiences outside of a school setting, he/she may do well with a year of Young Fives and then kindergarten.



There are varying paths to choose from for a child’s journey to kindergarten. Parents make choices based on their child’s birth date, time at home vs. time at preschool/in childcare, family schedules, and more. **There isn’t a right or wrong choice--the best choice is whatever is best for your child.**

The state of Michigan requires that a child turns five by September 1 of the year he/she enters kindergarten. This means that all children should be five, turning six, during their kindergarten year. (Some children with late summer birthdays start kindergarten as six-year-olds.)