



The date for our Open House is Sunday, February 1, from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. At Open House, tuition rates and registration forms for the 2026 — 2027 school year will be available. Since our Open House is for current families, as well as prospective families, this is the perfect opportunity for you to visit the classrooms and meet and talk with teachers as you consider preschool for your child. As we shared in the December newsletter, our class offerings will be similar to this year, and are as follows:

Younger Multi-Age Swallowtails Class: (younger two year olds) — Potty trained not required

Younger Multi-Age Monarchs Class: (older two and younger three year olds) — Potty trained not required

Intermediate Multi-Age Class: (must be three years old) — fully potty trained is required to start**

Older Multi-Age Class: (older threes and four year olds, age cutoff to be determined) — fully potty trained is required to start**

KinderPrep: (five-day-a-week program for children who will be four years old by August 31, 2025 and moving on to kindergarten the following year) — fully potty trained is required to start**

**Please note that our "Fully Potty Trained" policy states: "St. Luke enrolls children who are not yet potty trained into our youngest classes, where the classrooms are set up for diapering and potty training opportunities. Only children who are fully potty trained may move up into our older classes."

Fully potty trained means that the child does not wear diapers or Pull-Ups for any portion of the school day, that there is no pattern of accidents, that both urination and bowel movements take place consistently in the toilet, and that the child is able to take care of restrooming needs independently."

Registration for currently enrolled students and church congregation members begins on Monday, February 2.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Monday, December 22— Monday, January 5: Christmas Break — No School, Preschool Offices Closed

Thursday, January 1: Check www.aps.edu/schools/transfers for APS Transfer Form

Monday, January 5: Teacher Inservice Day — No School

Tuesday, January 6: Welcome to 2026! First Day Back to Preschool

January 7: Private Pay Tuition Due — A \$15 late fee will be assessed for payments received after January 9

Thursday, January 15: Fire/Property Evacuation Drill at 9:30 am

Monday, January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 20: Preschool Committee Meeting — 7:00 pm Over Zoom

Wednesday, January 21 & Thursday, January 22: Lions Club Operation KidSight Eye Screenings (See Pg. 2)

Thursday, January 28 & Friday, January 29: Get Quiet Drills at 9:30 am

Sunday, February 1: Open House from 3:00 pm — 5:00 pm

Monday, February 2: Registration begins for currently enrolled families

Tuesday, February 17: Registration opens for the public

Please note: Due to Christmas Break, January tuition will be due by January 7. A late fee will be assessed for payments received after January 9.



New Mexico Lions Club Operation Kidsight

The **New Mexico Lions Club** will be visiting St. Luke Preschool with the **OPERATION KIDSIGHT** program. Children ages three and older will be given a free eye screening with parent consent. Please see the attached Consent Form for Eye Screening located on page 8. **Only students whose parents return the Consent Form to the office will be able to participate.**



The Albuquerque Northeast Lions Club will provide screenings on the **mornings of Wednesday, January 21 and Thursday, January 22** during your child's class time. Results will be provided to parents that same day.

If you would like for your child to be screened, please **fill in only the highlighted areas on the form**, and return it to the office by **Tuesday, January 20**. Hard copies are available in the office.

The entrance gate and door security code will change over Christmas Break.

You will receive the new code when we return in January.

Summer Preschool

Again this summer, we will be offering *Summer Preschool* for the currently enrolled children whose families have exhibited the need for consistent care — Monday through Friday, 8:00 am — 4:00 pm.

In January, we will be reaching out to these individual families with an invitation to join us for *Summer Preschool* from May 26 — July 10, 2026.



Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas programs. The children shared the Christmas Story in such a joyful and precious way. We hope you had as much fun as we did! Thank you to all families who provided treats for our receptions.

Upcoming St. Luke Spirit Days!

- Thursday, January 8th
- Friday, January 16th
- Thursday, January 22nd
- Friday, January 30th



Your child can wear his/ her St. Luke t-shirt for Spirit Days or any day!

Children's Worship

- Thursday, January 8 — Little Boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)
- Friday, January 16 — Little Boy Jesus in the Temple
- Thursday, January 22 — The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)
- Friday, January 30 — The Good Samaritan

Parents and Family Members Are Welcome to Join Us!

KinderPrep (Kathy & Sydney) - 9:30 am
Thursdays only

Older Multi-Age (JoEllen and Moriah) and
Intermediate Multi-Age (Kelly & Daisy) -
10:45 am

Monarchs (Jessica and Jena) and
Swallowtails (Laura & Aaliyah) - 11:15 am

You are a child of God. You are wonderfully made, dearly loved, and precious in his sight. Before God made you, he knew you. There is no one else like you.

As we move into the colder months, it's time to be aware of how closures and delays work. *If APS cancels or delays school, we will too.* This is for APS CITY SCHOOLS ONLY. East Mountain Schools could be cancelled while APS in the city still remains open.

If APS *in the city* announces a 2 hour delay:
◆ Students enrolled 9:00 — 12:00 or 9:00 — 12:45, classes will be cancelled.
◆ AM Extended Care begins at 9:00 am for students who are enrolled in AM Extended Care and 9:00 am — 3:00 pm.
◆ Students enrolled in the 9:00 — 3:00 programs — class begins at 11:00 am.
◆ PM Extended Care ends at 4:30 pm for students who are enrolled in PM Extended Care.

The safety of families and staff is our priority. In the event we have a delay or a closure for the day, you will be notified by e-mail and Brightwheel no later than 6:00 am.



Illness Policy

Thank you for your help with the health and wellness of the preschool community. Together we make a difference!

- Send a Brightwheel message or an e-mail to both Lori and Jane any time your child will be absent, even if he/ she is not sick, as we are required to track absences.
Lori — stlukes@thuntek.net
Jane — stlukepreschool1956@gmail.com
- In order to return to the preschool following illness, children (and staff) must be: **fever free (without medication), diarrhea free, and vomiting free for 24 hours, and able to participate in the school day successfully with respect to energy level and engagement. Children with excessive amounts of mucus and coughing should remain at home to help minimize illness at the preschool.**

If your child becomes ill while at school, you will be called to pick him/ her up within 30 minutes of receiving the call. Please be sure to keep your local contact information updated with us. If we are unable to get in touch with a parent, we will continue calling down the list of emergency contacts until we reach someone.

More detailed information about illness, health, and safety can be found in the Family Handbook starting on page 20.



Squishing, rolling, sculpting, molding . . . young children love to play with playdough. Add some props from around the house and playdough play becomes a powerful way to support your child's learning. This simple preschool staple lets children use their imaginations and strengthen the small muscles in their fingers – the same muscles they will one day use to hold a pencil and write. Using playdough with you, a friend, or siblings supports your child's social skills such as sharing, taking turns, and enjoying being with other people. Playdough also encourages children's language and literacy, science, and math skills – all at the same time.

Homemade, or out of a can, playdough can provide hours of fun and learning at home. Besides the playdough, all you need are a clear surface, a few household items, and lots of time for fun.

Around-the-House Playdough Props (small items should not be used with children under the age of 3)

- Birthday candles
- Blocks
- Bottle caps
- Cookie cutters
- Combs
- Garlic press (be prepared to give it up forever)
- Large buttons and other objects that can be pressed into the playdough to make a design
- Feathers
- Leaves, twigs, pebbles
- Plastic knives, forks, and spoons
- Rolling pin or bottle
- Small toy people and animals
- Straws
- String or shoelaces
- Tea strainers

What children learn

Playdough play at home or school supports development and learning in many areas. When children use playdough, they explore ideas and try different approaches until they find one that works. They compare and contrast objects ("Mine's a fat pancake and yours is skinny"), actions ("No, don't cut it! Scrape it, like this"), and experiences ("We're not making a snake – we're making a road"). In their experimenting, children come up with their own ideas, satisfy their curiosity, and analyze and solve problems. These are all skills that help children learn and succeed in school.

Social and emotional development

Creating with playdough lets children feel competent ("I'm good at rolling the dough") and proud of their accomplishments ("Hey, I made a dog"). Pounding, flattening, and squeezing are healthy and safe outlets for extra energy. They can also help children cope with strong feelings. When children seem stressed or angry, get out the playdough and props!

During playdough time at school, children talk about what they're making and how. Re-create this atmosphere at home by inviting siblings or playmates and including yourself in the play. Make comments about their work ("You cut it again"). Ask questions so children can describe and think about what they are doing ("What does this do?"). Connect their play to the real world ("Can you make a red tomato? A green one might not be ripe"). Teach cooperation ("I can help you make your car"), and observe and compare actions ("I'm rolling my dough, too"). Interactions like these contribute to development and learning, helping to prepare children for success in school and in life.

Creativity and imagination

With playdough, young children express their ideas through art and make-believe play. At the same time, they learn *symbolic thinking* by pretending that the playdough is something else ("That thing with the antlers is a moose"). Your child might pretend to make tortillas, dumplings, or pizza, or create alligators, airplanes, or houses.

Older preschoolers — say, 4 or 5-year-olds, often make detailed playdough creations. With one or more friends, they may imagine themselves to be construction workers building a highway, prehistoric hunters pursuing a woolly mammoth, or pastry chefs baking and selling cookies, cupcakes, and donuts at a bakery. You can join in their pretend play too!

Language and literacy

Through playdough play at home, children practice listening to and talking with friends, siblings, and adults (you!). Materials like playdough help children build their vocabulary as they explain what they are doing. For example, when a child exclaims, "Chop!" as she brings down the plastic knife, she uses just the right word to describe her action.

Children use language to invent stories about their playdough creations. You may notice your child using facts or ideas from books you've read together. Children also refer to things they did or saw in their everyday lives ("This is a burrito like we had at lunch").

When the two of you make a batch of playdough together, your child learns about print and why people write. Following the recipe helps him connect written and spoken words and learn that writing can be used for different purposes. In this case, the writing explains how to make playdough. Encourage him to roll snakes and use them to form letters. Discuss action words like *pound* and *slice* and descriptive words like *mushy* and *sticky*.

These types of experiences help children learn new words and communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively — skills they will need when they learn to read and write in the elementary grades.

Science

Young children learn about science through hands-on experiences. They learn by observing, thinking, and talking about how materials feel and how they change. You can encourage scientific thinking. Provide sawdust or sand to add to the playdough and then talk about how this new kind of dough looks and feels. Introduce words like *texture, grainy, smooth, and lumpy*.

Your child might declare, "I'm making this flat!" as she pushes down on playdough with the palm of her hand. Or she may say, "I'm making it soft," as she adds water to dry playdough to make it more pliable. When you ask, "What do you think would happen if we added too much water?", you are helping her understand the scientific concept of *cause and effect*.

Math

Measure and count while you make a batch of playdough together. Your child can learn about measurement and numbers by filling the cup and comparing the size of teaspoons and tablespoons, and about counting as he adds the ingredients.

Children note changes in shape and size as they comment on, compare, and contrast the objects they make ("I made a triangle" and "Mine is a tiny ball and yours is big"). Others notice who has more or less playdough. Ask your child to count how many pieces she is making or to arrange her creations by size or color. Encourage mathematical thinking by asking, "What shape is that?" "Which snake is longer?" or "How many pieces do you have now?"

These play experiences encourage children to practice counting, learn about shapes (geometry) and how they relate to each other (spatial sense), and practice sorting and classifying. Such mathematical ways of thinking prepare children for learning more complex math concepts in the coming years.

Physical development

While poking, rolling, and squishing playdough, children develop the small muscles in their fingers and hands. They use hands, fingers, and tools to pound, push, poke, shape, flatten, roll, cut, and scrape. Through these manipulations, children develop eye-hand coordination, the ability to match hand movement with eye movement. They also gain strength and improve dexterity in their hands and fingers, critical areas of physical development for writing, drawing, and other purposes.

Playdough is a powerful learning tool for many reasons. And when you play with playdough at home with your children, you'll discover the most important reason of all: it's just plain fun!

Source

Recipes are from Laura J. Colker, *The Cooking Book: Fostering Young Children's Learning and Delight*. 2005. Washington, DC: NAEYC

Playdough recipes

On-Cloud-9-Dough

What you need:

- 1 cup water
- food coloring
- 6 cups flour
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- *measuring cups*
- *mixing bowl*
- *wooden spoon*



Directions:

1. Mix water and food coloring in bowl
2. Add flour and oil
3. Stir
4. Knead until smooth

Variation:

For the first step, children can drop the food coloring in the water and watch the color spread.

Note:

Dough can be reused; store in the refrigerator in an airtight container.

Bouncy Playdough

What you need:

- 2 cups baking soda
- 1 cups water
- 1 cup cornstarch
- *measuring cups*
- *medium mixing bowl*
- *fork*
- *medium saucepan*
- *wooden spoon*



Directions:

1. Place ingredients in bowl
2. Mix with fork
3. Place mixture in saucepan
4. Bring to boil on medium heat
5. Cook, stirring constantly with spoon, until thick
6. Let cool

Note:

Only the supervising adult should test the dough's temperature. Dough can be reused; store in an airtight container.



Albuquerque Northeast
Lions Club
"Operation KidSight"

Dot Bean (505) 980-8820
dglbean@gmail.com

Registration and Consent for Eye Screening

Please Screen My Child I have read, and agree, with the information on this sheet and will provide all requested Follow up information.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date: _____

Please Print All Information Legibly

M () F () Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Child's Name _____

Parent / Guardian Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Cell Phone Number _____

Emergency contact number _____ Emergency CTC Name _____

Type of Insurance: Private () Medicaid ? () None ()

Has your child been previously seen by an eye Doctor ? Y () N ()

Does your child wear corrective lenses ? Y () N ()

African American () | Caucasian () | Hispanic () | Native American () | Other()

The Albuquerque Northeast Lions Club, is giving a free vision screening test.

Your child is eligible to have a state of the art digital image taken for evaluation to determine if your child should be tested further by the eye specialist of your choice.

The photo screening and evaluation may determine the presence of eye disorders including far and near sightedness, astigmatism, strabismus, anisometropia, exotropia, esotropia and media opacities (i.e. cataracts). Correction of vision disorders at an early age may greatly improve a child's ability to learn.

NO PHYSICAL CONTACT IS MADE WITH YOUR CHILDS EYES AND EYE DROPS ARE NOT NECESSARY.

By signing this form you give permission for your child, to participate in this screening event. You also agree that you understand and consent to the following:

- I, the parent or legal guardian, understand that I am responsible for arranging for a full eye exam with an eye care professional if I am informed that such an exam would be beneficial for my child by the Digital Image evaluation. I also agree that I will provide the required follow up medical information if further evaluation is indicated.
- The information obtained from this vision screening is to be considered a preliminary procedure only and does not constitute a diagnosis of or absence of vision problems. It should be utilized only as a part of a comprehensive eye care program which includes regular optometric / ophthalmological exams.
- The Albuquerque Northeast Lions Club, may keep the names of children screened and the date in order to provide follow up or to avoid unnecessary duplicate screening and may use a separate entity NMLOKS for follow up process. Follow up contact may include information on financial resources available to assist in obtaining eye care .
- The Albuquerque Northeast Lions Club, will not be held accountable for any errors of commission, omission or other misdiagnosis.



New Mexico Lions Operation KidSight



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Form 10.7.10