

The Colts Neck Reformed Church Early Learning Center 2026-2027 School Year

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Stacey Savage, Director

Dear 2026-2027 families:

Thank you so much for your interest in the Colts Neck Reformed Church Early Learning Center (CNRCELC). The information in this packet will explain to you our application process, our mission, educational philosophy, various programs, and registration and tuition costs.

The 2026-2027 school year begins our fifty-sixth year of providing quality early childhood education to Colts Neck and the surrounding communities. Our school's doors opened in 1970 with one class and one teacher. Much like watching a child grow and develop, we had no idea of how our programs would evolve. Our intention was, and has always been, to meet the growing needs of our families while providing early childhood education that is based upon current best practices for educating young children, knowledge of child development, and theories of child behavior. We look forward to serving the community for another fifty-five years!

CNRCELC promotes the development of the whole child through a play-based curriculum (we use The Creative Curriculum®) which inspires curiosity and creativity, encourages independence, and promotes character and a positive sense of self. We are committed to strengthening families by offering opportunities for discussions, parenting and child development workshops, and social events where parents/guardians and children can connect with other members of the community.

For the younger child (starting at about 2-1/2 years old), we offer a half-day Playgroup program which is an introduction to a nurturing, yet structured, environment without the parent/guardian. We are also gauging interest in an extended day program (please indicate your interest in the space marked on the application).

For the 3-year-old child, we offer a traditional half-day preschool program plus an option for an extended day program, and—new for this year—a full-day program for those who turn three on or before October 1, 2026.

For the 4/5-year-old child, we offer a traditional half-day preschool program plus an option for a full-day program.

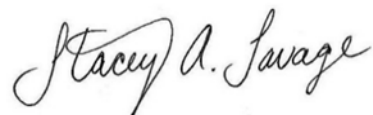
We offer a full-day transitional kindergarten program for 4- to 5-year-olds whose families feel they will benefit from one more year of our small-class environment before entering the public school system, those who are a “young five” with birthdays from June through November, and those who don't meet the age requirement for kindergarten enrollment in their districts.

NEW FOR THE 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR we will offer a primary program for children eligible for kindergarten & first grade. These classes follow New Jersey state standards for kindergarten and first grade and will be taught by certified teachers instructing students in literacy, numeracy, science, and social studies activities using state approved curriculum.

Our cooperative program allows a parent/guardian to assist in the classroom three times per year—to celebrate his/her child's birthday, one holiday, and one floating day mutually agreed upon by the parent/guardian and the child's teacher. There is no obligation to participate in the program, nor is there a tuition discount for participating.

Registration begins February 1st for all new CNRCELC Families. Applications are accepted on a “first-come, first-served” basis with no discrimination against applicants and students based on race, color, religion, or national/ethnic origin. All applications must be submitted online via Brightwheel, our school management software. If you do not already have a Brightwheel account, you will be prompted to create one OR select the option to submit an application from our website, OR via a link which can be emailed to you.

If you have further questions, please contact me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey A. Savage". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Stacey A. Savage, Director

Colts Neck Reformed Church Early Learning Center PROGRAMS & TUITION SCHEDULE 2026-2027

Registration Fee: \$50.00 is due with your application. This fee is non-refundable. Families new to CNRCELC can mail a check or hand-deliver cash/check to the director, Stacey Savage, during regular school operating hours; families who have an existing Brightwheel account WITH A PAYMENT METHOD INCLUDED can choose to add the fee to their existing account. Registration is limited, and all applications will be handled on a first come, first-served basis. An acceptance letter will be emailed on or about April 1, 2026.

Deposit/Tuition Payments: Once you have received your acceptance letter, to ensure your placement in a class, a **deposit of one month's tuition** must be received by **May 1, 2026**. You will receive an invoice via Brightwheel (our school's management software). This deposit is **non-refundable** and will pay the tuition for June 2027. Tuition is divided into ten equal payments and does not reflect the number of instructional days in a month. You will receive your first invoice on August 25, 2026, through Brightwheel. Invoices are due on the first day of each month from September through May.

Mandatory Forms: Upon acceptance, through Brightwheel, you will receive your child's teacher assignment, building maps, drop off / pickup map, calendar, and more in early August. At your individual Parent/Teacher/Student conference (your child's teacher will contact you with the date and time of your individual conference) you will receive a packet with all of our mandatory forms: **Emergency Security form, Emergency Consent form, Universal Medical form,** and if required, **Allergy Action Plan form.** These forms can also be downloaded from our website. The medical form must be completed by your child's physician and include your child's up-to-date immunization record. **Seasonal flu vaccine is mandatory for all children, up to sixty (60) months old, who are enrolled in a preschool/childcare center.** All of these forms **must be returned on or before the first day of school.** They can be faxed to the school at 732-462-4500.

Hours of Operation:***

Playgroup classes are held from 9:00am – 11:45pm. *We are gauging interest in an extended day option which would run from 9:00am – 1:00pm.*

Half-day classes (3's and 4/5's) are held from 9:00am – 12:30pm

Lunch & Learning classes (3's only) extend the half-day class to 1:30pm

Full-day classes are held from 9:00am – 2:30pm

PRIMARY: Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten & First Grade classes are held from 9:00am – 2:30pm

Security measures dictate that all doors to the Early Learning Center remain locked all day.

**** The Early Learning Center reserves the right to combine or cancel classes that are not fully subscribed.*

**Colts Neck Reformed Church Early Learning Center
PROGRAMS & TUITION SCHEDULE 2026-2027**

• **PLAYGROUPE: 9:00am–11:45am**

Days	Yearly Tuition	Deposit / Monthly Tuition
2 days (Mo Tu We Th Fr – choose 2)	\$3800.00	\$380.00
3 days (Mo Tu We Th Fr – choose 3)	\$4300.00	\$430.00
4 days (Mo Tu We Th Fr – choose 4)	\$4850.00	\$485.00
5 days (Mo through Fr)	\$5350.00	\$535.00

• **3-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM: 9:00am–12:30pm *OR* 9:00am–1:30pm with Lunch & Learning *OR* 9:00am–2:30pm**

Days	Yearly Tuition	Deposit / Monthly Tuition
3 ½ days (Mo Tu We Th Fr – choose 3)	\$4000.00	\$400.00
3 ½ days with Lunch & Learning (Mo Tu We Th Fr – choose 3)	\$4950.00	\$495.00
3 full days (Mo Tu We Th Fr – choose 3)	\$6000.00	\$600.00
4 ½ days (Mo Tu We Th Fr – choose 4)	\$4900.00	\$490.00
4 ½ days with Lunch & Learning (Mo Tu We Th Fr – choose 4)	\$6000.00	\$600.00
4 full days (Mo Tu We Th Fr – choose 4)	\$7750.00	\$775.00
5 ½ days (Mo – Fr)	\$5650.00	\$565.00
5 ½ days (Mo – Fr) with Lunch & Learning	\$6650.00	\$665.00
5 full days (Mo – Fr)	\$8900.00	\$890.00

• **4/5-YEAR-OLD HALF-DAY PROGRAM: 9:15am–12:30pm**

Days	Yearly Tuition	Deposit / Monthly Tuition
4 ½ days (Mo, Tu, Th, Fr)	\$5950.00	\$595.00
5 ½ days (Mo – Fr)	\$9650.00	\$695.00

• **4/5-YEAR-OLD FULL-DAY PROGRAM, ALL ENRICHMENT CLASSES INCLUDED: 9:15am–2:30pm**

Days	Yearly Tuition	Deposit / Monthly Tuition
4 full days (Mo, Tu, Th, Fr)	\$8150.00	\$815.00
5 full days (Mo – Fr)	\$8900.00	\$890.00

• **TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN FULL-DAY, WITH ALL ENRICHMENT CLASSES: 9:00am–2:30pm**

Days	Yearly Tuition	Deposit / Monthly Tuition
5 full days (Mo – Fr)	\$9450.00	\$945.00

• **PRIMARY FULL-DAY, WITH ALL ENRICHMENT CLASSES: 9:00am–2:30pm**

Days	Yearly Tuition	Deposit / Monthly Tuition
5 full days (Mo – Fr) Select One: Kindergarten OR First Grade	\$9450.00	\$945.00

HEALTH SAFETY / ACTIVITY FEE: \$150 per year per **family** to help defray costs of sanitization and health safety programs, and activities outside of the regular instructional program.

DISCOUNT (does not apply to Primary):
Sibling tuition – 10% deducted from the lower tuition.

PAYMENT CALCULATION:
For your convenience we have divided the yearly tuition into ten equal monthly payments. The monthly payment amount is NOT indicative of how many classes are conducted during the month, it is simply one tenth of the yearly tuition.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Colts Neck Reformed Church Early Learning Center exists to provide a nurturing, safe but structured environment for children. We are called to build a community of friendship and caring for all of our families through our educational program.

We are inspired to encourage children to grow in God's grace (2 Peter 3:18); grow in knowledge and strength (Luke 2:40); and grow in the understanding and the "living out" of what it means to "love your neighbor" (Luke 10:27).

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Colts Neck Reformed Church Early Learning Center believes in the importance of traditional values – respect, honesty, empathy – and we are teaching and modeling them in our classrooms.

Our play-based program's philosophical principles are based upon current best practices for educating young children, knowledge of child development, and theories of child behavior.

Our primary philosophical beliefs are:

- All children have the right to be nurtured, respected, and embraced as competent.
- Children construct knowledge by active participation with materials and the environment.
- Purposeful play is when children learn through the process of their efforts.
- Children should be guided through both child- and teacher-planned activities that are purposeful and enhance children's skills in all areas of development.
- It is necessary to emphasize the development of the "whole child" with a focus on promoting social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.
- Assessment of children should be on-going, reflective of children's experiences, and occur within the context of daily classroom activities.
- Collaboration between families and teachers supports the development of the child and home-school relationships.

CLASS ASSIGNMENT PHILOSOPHY

Early learning classes function more appropriately if children are placed together according to their developmental ages. Because we do not know some of your children, we attempt to group the children by their birth dates so that they do not feel undue frustration if they cannot perform as others might. We, as educators, know that in "his or her time" each child will achieve his or her potential. The key is to allow the child the necessary time for growth and development. The child whom we do know is placed in class after consultation with his or her teacher, taking into consideration the child's personality, behavior, achievement level, and friends.

OUR APPROACH

Young children learn from their daily interactions with the environment. A carefully planned, rich environment is the foundation for our child development programs. We use the criteria established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to guide us. The Creative Curriculum® by Diane Trister Dodge provides the framework for our classrooms.

The Creative Curriculum® focuses on interest areas and fosters creativity in both children and teachers. Being creative means thinking of new ideas, obtaining information by asking questions, and learning through trial and error. Teachers' creativity is supported by a planning process that encourages them to be innovative in the use of materials and equipment and responsive to children. The Creative Curriculum® provides information for developing an educational setting in which young children can thrive.

The Creative Curriculum® supports your child's teacher every day as she engages your child in meaningful experiences, such as playing with toys, enjoying books and stories, creating art, and going outdoors. In each of these experiences, teachers observe what children do and select materials that match their growing abilities and interests.

The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool is based on 38 objectives for development and learning that focus on all the areas that are most important for school success: social–emotional, cognitive, math, literacy, physical, language, social studies, science and technology, and the arts. These objectives are built into every activity that happens in the classroom, which means that all day long, the teacher is helping your child build skills and knowledge in these important areas.

In the Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, learning happens through “studies”. “Studies”, which span several weeks, are in-depth, project-based investigations of topics that are part of your child's everyday life. They feature topics such as trees, buildings, clothes, and balls. In a “study”, children raise questions about the topic and find answers by exploring, experimenting, and investigating in a hands-on way—through activities that take place in the classroom and outdoors.

Importantly, teachers will follow the lead of the children and pursue the questions and investigations within each “study” that are most interesting to the children in their classrooms, thus promoting a love of learning. Teachers will also continue to have the freedom to add their own “handprint” when planning lessons, utilizing their personal experiences and passions to shape the “studies”.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- **PLAYGROUP (half-day program)**

Playgroup is designed for the younger child as an introduction to a structured environment without the parent/guardian. The Playgroup provides supervised play with age-appropriate toys, simple songs, nursery rhymes, and stories. We also include some gross motor activities through music and occasional outside play. The children in Playgroup do not have to be toilet trained, though it is desirable; however, you must provide a diaper bag with all the necessary items including disposable gloves and a change of clothes. You choose the two, three, four, or five mornings per week you would like your child to attend.

- **3-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN (half-day program, *OR* half day program plus Lunch & Learning)**

Three-year-old classes are three, four, or five mornings per week. The three-year-old program is designed to allow the child to transition from his or her parent/guardian into a nurturing environment. The child is encouraged to develop a relationship with the teacher and take ownership for the classroom. Instruction is individualized which allows the teacher to determine the needs of each child and guide him or her in developing self-confidence and friendships. The program includes free-play, small group work, language development through literature, finger plays, music, and dramatic play. Gross motor development is encouraged through outside play. The Lunch & Learning program adds one hour to the child's day. During this time, your child eats lunch (which you provide) and then has more fun and engaging learning time with his/her teacher.

- **4/5-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN (half-day program)**

For the four- to five-year-old child, classes are held four or five mornings per week (*see below for the full-day option*). The 4/5-year-old program is designed to continue the social development of your child with an increased academic emphasis. The children should transition more easily from their parents/guardians and will learn that they are members of a caring community at the school. Helpful and cooperative behavior is emphasized. Curriculum is thematic, often revolving around holidays, celebrations, and seasons. The alphabet is introduced through a phonetic and project approach. Children are encouraged to visually recognize their first names and are assisted with the manual configuration of their letters. Math is introduced through games. Large and small group activities help to foster your child's love of talking, listening, and reading – the foundations of early literacy.

- **4/5-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN (full-day program)**

This program is for families who prefer a full day of education and care for their children. It provides a positive environment and stimulating curriculum fostering children's creative and intellectual abilities appropriate for their developmental stages. In all of our programs, our objective is to nurture self-esteem and independence and to set the stage for future learning through a positive first experience at school. The children follow the regular 4/5-year-old curriculum (*see description above*), and have additional afternoon instruction in science, geography, and a pre-reading literature class in a seamless five-hour day. Please provide lunch for your child.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- **TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (full-day program)**

The "Transitions" class is a transitional kindergarten program specifically designed for students whose birthdays fall on or after October 1st thus being ineligible to enroll in kindergarten for the current school-year; for students who, based on teacher recommendation, will benefit from the "gift of time" before entering a traditional kindergarten class; and for students who are a "young five" with birthdays from June through November. This class allows the students to develop their readiness skills in a less rigorous and less stressful environment than a kindergarten classroom, preparing them to start their K-12 educational experiences full of confidence and eagerness to learn. It is a full-day, five-days-per-week class featuring a small class size and individualized attention, with a focus on kindergarten readiness. This is a great option for children as an alternative to repeating a Pre-K level class year.

- **KINDERGARTEN (full-day program)**

The full-day kindergarten program follows New Jersey state standards for kindergarten instruction. It provides a foundation in the skills children need to succeed in a formal school setting. Certified teachers guide children in an engaging curriculum based on studies determined by student interest, bringing all areas of the curriculum – literacy, numeracy, science, and social studies – together for our students through interactive activities using the Creative Curriculum®. The program is designed to help each child grow socially, emotionally, and academically. Our small class sizes and individualized attention allow a child to reach his or her full potential, helping him/her to become an independent thinker. Our well-rounded learners have an opportunity to engage in hands-on activities, small groups, and cooperative learning. A typical day consists of a wide array of academic lessons intertwined with a hands-on approach to learning. The goals of our program are to support and enrich our students' kindergarten experiences through a fun and multi-sensory approach to learning. Building self-esteem and a love of learning are central points of focus in our program as these traits provide a firm foundation throughout a child's education.