

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Preschool

Home Visits Three, Four and Five Year Olds

The home visit is very important as it is the initial contact the teacher makes with the child and family. It provides an opportunity to meet the child in the comfort of his/her home. When the teacher is invited into the home, children can see for themselves that parents and teachers are forming a relationship. It builds trust and fosters a sense of security in the children. The home visit is a chance to learn key facts about the child (i.e. siblings, favorite toys and activities, pets, etc.) which are useful in getting to know him/her and for planning meaningful classroom activities.

Tips for Organizing Home Visits

Look through your class list and organize addresses according to zip code. It helps to have a city map as you plan your home visits.

Plan dates and times when you will be able to conduct visits. Select specific areas which are close to one another on any given day to save time and gas.

Make phone calls to families to set up the visitations. Be willing to provide alternate dates for them if your first suggestion is not convenient. It is ideal to be able to give them a choice of times.

Let parents know what to expect over the phone. The home visit is for the child. It will be brief, approximately 15 minutes. Your purpose is to visit with the child, allow him/her to show you his playroom or bedroom, pets, or favorite toys.

During the home visit, make the effort to keep the attention on the child. The home visit is NOT a time to conference with parents. Be polite but take responsibility to maintain the focus of the visit which is for the child. You might want to bring something to show the child about you or the classroom.

Let the child know when you are nearing the end of your visit. "I am going to need to leave in one more minute. Is there anything else you would like to show me before I go?"

You may begin your home visits before preschool begins and plan to have them finished by mid-September. A fee of \$12.00 per home visit will be paid upon completion of all home visits.

