

## **The Robert H. Lange Preschool Earns National Accreditation**

The Robert H. Lange Christian Preschool was one of the first early childhood programs to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, (NAEYC) – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new system, RHL went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria. The program received NAEYC accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors to ensure that the program met each of the ten NAEYC program standards. We are so proud to tell you that RHL scored 100% on three of the standards and 100% plus for the remaining seven standards. Extra points were earned for meeting emerging criteria. RHL is accredited until February 28, 2013 at which time we will repeat the accreditation process.

In the 20 years since NAEYC accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 11,000 programs, serving one million young children, are currently accredited by NAEYC-approximately 8% of all preschools and other early childhood programs. “The new NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, childcare centers and other early childhood programs,” said Mark Ginsberg, PhD., executive director of NAEYC. RHL’s accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education, and to help give children a better start.”

The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. As of September 2006, the Associations revised program standards and criteria have introduced a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. NAEYC is committed to utilizing the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.

## **The Robert H. Lange Christian Preschool**

### **Statement of Purpose**

The Robert H. Lange Christian Preschool is a ministry of Mount of Olives Lutheran Church. As such, the preschool welcomes families of the Church congregation and reaches out to families in the community. We join together with the mission statement of Mount of Olives Lutheran Church; "To Know Christ and Make Him Known".

### **Affiliation**

The Robert H. Lange Christian Preschool is a ministry and extension of Mount of Olives Lutheran Church. The Preschool Board and the Preschool Director, under the guidance of the Church Council and Senior Pastor oversee the management of the preschool.

The Robert H. Lange Christian Preschool is a non-profit organization, licensed by the State of California, License # 300600843. The preschool is accredited by NAEYC – The National Association for the Education of Young Children. RHL is also a 5 star school under OC QIS Orange County Quality Improvement System. The preschool also partners with Saddleback College in that college students can do their observations and practicum work here at Robert Lange.

### **History**

Our school opened its doors to community preschoolers on January 4, 1967. Originally named "The La Paz Preschool", it was the first preschool opened in Mission Viejo, alongside Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, the first church in the community. Pastor Robert H. Lange organized the new congregation and said, "Because of the desperate hours in which we live, it is the duty of every thinking Christian to ask himself once again what it means to say "yes" to Christianity. Therefore, as we grow together in Mission Viejo, let us join in giving praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God."

The little mission in Mission Viejo was off to a roaring start. Under Pastor Lange's energetic leadership the church and the preschool were blessed with continued growth. Pastor Lange died of "Lou Gehrig's Disease", at the age of 42, on March 8, 1973. He left behind a legacy of love and a lifetime of dedication to the church and to the Lord Jesus Christ. By special decision

of the Preschool board and council, the La Paz Preschool was renamed the Robert Lange Preschool in memory of its founding pastor.

## **Philosophy**

The Robert H. Lange Christian Preschool embraces the philosophy of developmental appropriateness within an environment of love and Christian care. Every staff member is trained to evaluate these developmental stages and to plan activities which meet these individual needs. Staff work lovingly with both children and parents to create a positive school experience. Recognizing that each child is unique and brings different gifts to our program in the areas of language, values and customs, we continuously work towards providing varied multicultural experiences. On a daily basis, staff plan experiences to meet the child's needs in the following areas: creative, social, emotional, cognitive, spiritual and physical. Throughout the week the child will be exposed to a variety of activities; including, but not limited to: language, art, science, music, Chapel, fine and gross motor, math, cooking and dramatic play. The preschool has an open door policy regarding parents. Parents are welcome at any time. We encourage parents to volunteer their time and talents in the classroom under the teachers guidance. Every day preschoolers will be provide a snack that is nut free and includes at least two of the food groups.

The preschool staff believes in empowering children. To meet this end, children are continuously asked to make choices throughout the day. They decide which activities to engage in under the loving direction of their teacher. They choose whether or not to do art and which activities they would like to be engaged in. The children pour their own juice and put papers in their own tote bags. The staff strives to give the children independence and to instill Christian values. Risk taking is encouraged as the children are instilled with pride and confidence in their own abilities. The curriculum is flexible enough to allow the teacher to expand on topics the children show an interest in.

Each child is special and is greeted on an individual basis by the teacher. Every child is given the opportunity to select a job for the day Staff value who each child is. Our philosophy makes the social and emotional development of each student the top priority. Staff want preschoolers to leave here with a solid foundation and enormous self esteem. We want children to develop coping skills that will carry them through life. We want them to be able to identify their emotions and be able to properly channel those feelings into positive thoughts, words and actions. We also reach out to the needs of the family. Our campus is here to provide emotional support, referrals to outside agencies when necessary and pastoral care when requested. We provide Bible studies for spiritual growth. Parenting classes to assist parents in raising children and lots of opportunities for adult interaction. We honor parents as the first and primary

caregivers of their children. Working together, we strive to provide a solid foundation for the child and the family in a developmental and Christian framework.

**The Preschool provides Early Childhood Education on a non-discriminatory basis according equal treatment to each child without regard to race, religion, national origin or ancestry.**

We are licensed for children 2 years to the age of six. Two year olds may wear pull – ups. Three and four year olds must be potty trained. There is a non-refundable registration fee. Registration priority is in the following order: returning students and their siblings, Mount of Olives Church members, and the general public. Enrollment is on a first come-first served basis. Classes are formed grouping children by birth dates while striving to maintain an equal ratio of boys to girls. When classes are filled a waiting list will be compiled.

### **School Dress**

Children should attend school in clothes that are appropriate for the many “messy” art, sensory and motor activities. We want children to feel free to participate without the concern of ruining “good” clothes. For safety reasons, we ask that all children come to school in closed toe tennis shoes. Cowboy boots, sandals, crocs, shoes with wheels are not allowed.

### **Restroom Independence**

All children must be potty trained and able to use the restroom independently. Please choose clothing that can be easily managed by your child. Elastic waist pants are best. Overalls, jeans with difficult buttons or zippers, and one-piece outfits are usually the cause of bathroom accidents. Children who are potty trained do not wear “pull-ups”. “Pull – ups” are not allowed at preschool.

### **Health**

**Upon enrollment, state licensing requires the submission of a health form signed by the child’s physician. Additional regulations state that the child is to have all standard immunizations. These records must be in the office prior to the first day of school.**

Your child's health is of major importance to us. A daily health check is given upon each child's arrival. The person bringing the child must wait until his/her teacher greets the child before leaving.

Your child will not be admitted to the school or will be sent home if any of the following symptoms of illness are present.

1. The illness prevents the child from participating in facility activities.
2. The illness results in a greater care need than the childcare staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
3. Temperature – 100 degrees or higher
4. Runny nose (thick or runny secretions), coughing, difficulty breathing, lethargy, persistent crying and/or irritability
5. Diarrhea-increased number of stools, increase in stool water, and/or form.
6. Vomiting – one incident
7. Mouth sores with drooling or draining sores.
8. Rash with fever or behavior change.
9. Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
10. Scabies, head lice or other infestations.
11. Impetigo
12. Strep throat.
13. Chicken pox- exclude from school until all sores have dried and healed.
14. Mumps – exclude until nine days after onset of gland swelling.
15. Measles-exclude for six days after onset of rash.
16. Rubella-exclude for six days after onset.
17. Shingles.
18. Respiratory illness.

### **Assessments**

Children are assessed by their teacher within thirty days of enrollment. The teacher then starts a student portfolio to which she adds to on a monthly basis. Formal Assessments are sent home three times a year. Parent/teacher conferences are held in November and in March. In addition, RHL provides Kindergarten Readiness testing for a fee in January. Testing is done by Chancy and Bruce and includes a parent workshop held in the evening where parents are handed the results and given an explanation of those results as a group.

## **Lunch Bunch**

Children may stay at school from 11:45 – 12:30 if they are signed up ahead of time, and space allows, for Lunch Bunch. Signups cost a little more on the day of. A nutritious nut free lunch and a drink must be sent to school along with your child. If items are not in packages with ingredients then a note must be included in the lunch stating the lunch is nut free and be signed by the parent with the current date. **Soda, popcorn and candy are not allowed.** Grapes, hot dogs and cherry tomatoes (any round food), must be cut in half. Please include an ingredient list or a dated note stating that your child's lunch is nut free, otherwise items may be removed from your child's lunch. Please mark your child's name on all lunch boxes etc. **No refund or credit is given if a child does not attend on his/her reserved day.** All lunches are to be put in the containers provided and staff will check them to make sure they are nut free. Any items that are questionable will be removed from the lunch and a note will be sent home. No food is to be brought into the classroom.

## **Early Start**

Children may be dropped off any time between 8am and 9am for an additional fee. Children will be playing on the playground and then walked by staff to their classroom.

## **Snacks**

Low sugar snacks are provided by the preschool in accordance with the nutritional requirements set forth by the State of California, Department of Social Services. These snacks are served mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Snack calendars are posted in the preschool office. Thursdays and Fridays are *Fruit and Vegetable Days*. Parents are encouraged to sign up to bring snack on those days.

## **Late pick up policy**

Late charges can be avoided by planning ahead and allowing plenty of driving time. Children will be escorted to the office at the close of the session or to lunch bunch. A late fee of \$5.00 will be charged for each ten minutes you are late picking up your child.

## **Withdrawal from school**

If it becomes necessary to withdraw your child from school before the end of the school year please notify the office in writing. Thirty days notice is required. If you need to withdraw over the summer when preschool is closed we will be looking at the postmark of your withdrawal letter. If notice of withdrawal is submitted in writing with 30 days notice then June's tuition will either be refunded or applied to any outstanding tuition.

## **Birthdays**

Your child may celebrate his/her birthday by bringing a special snack for the class from the approved birthday snack list. This must be coordinated with the child's teacher as children in the class may have allergies and or other special dietary needs that supersede the approved birthday list.

1. Mini cupcakes or muffins
2. Cheese and crackers
3. Mini bagels and cream cheese
4. 100% juice bars
5. Yogurt tubes with nut free toppings
6. Pudding or jello
7. Oreos and milk
8. Individual ice cream cups
9. Smoothies-parent comes in and makes with the class
10. Quesadillas or guacamole and chips that parent makes with the class

Remember that RHL is a nut free campus. Please read ALL labels before bringing any food item to school.

**All enrollment forms and physician's report must be completed and registration fees paid before a child will be allowed to attend school. Absolutely no exceptions.**

## **Earthquake Kits**

All children need an earthquake kit. You can prepare your own earthquake kit or purchase one from the preschool on the first day of school. If you would like to make an earthquake kit for your child please fill a one gallon zip lock bag marked with your child's name and room number with the following items:

Two 6 ounce cans of juice with pop tops

One 8 ounce bottle of water

Two 4 ½ ounce cans of fruit with pop tops or two dried fruit snacks

Two 3 ounce cans tuna or other luncheon meat with pop-tops

Two cheese and cracker snack packages or two nut-free granola bars

Two plastic spoons or forks wrapped in a napkin

Moist wipes

Solar blanket (purchased from a sporting goods store). This is not a regular sized blanket.

Earthquake kits will be returned to you at the end of the year.

## **Discipline**

As situations requiring discipline occur, teachers will handle them lovingly but firmly in ways which will positively affect the child's self-esteem. When unacceptable behavior first surfaces, the teacher will talk with the child about making good choices in the classroom. If the behavior continues, the child may lose a privilege (i.e. Joey, since you are having a difficult time making good choices in the block area today, you have lost the privilege of playing with blocks for 5 minutes or the rest of the day, depending on the situation. If the behavior continues the teacher may resort to a time out. Time out is only a last resort and the teacher will notify the parent if a child has been placed in time out. If a child bites another student the biter will be removed from the classroom and the Director will notify the parents.

## **Extra clothing**

Each child coming to school needs to bring an extra set of clothing for potty accidents, messy activities and mishaps – juice spills for example. The extra set should include a complete set of clothes; pants, shorts, skirt, shirt, socks, shoes and underwear. All items should be clearly labeled with the child's name. Please send the clothing in a well marked zip lock bag so that soiled clothing can be sent home in the bag. Clothes must come and go each day so that they will be the correct size and appropriate for the days weather.

## **Attendance**

Please notify the school if your child is unable to attend that day. We appreciate knowing whether your child is ill or absent for another reason. No tuition credit is given for illness, holidays or vacations. Notify us immediately if your child has a contagious disease; mumps, lice, chicken pox, German measles, ringworm of the scalp or body, strep throat, conjunctivitis (pink eye), or any rash. We need to let other parents and teachers know that they or their child may have been exposed. We will send home a note giving the date of the exposure and the condition. No child's name will be referred to. Children must be free of fever and all symptoms for at least twenty four hours before returning to school.

## **Authorization for withdrawal and departures**

The State of California requires that all children be signed in and out with a full legible signature. The child will not be released to anyone younger than eighteen years of age. No child will be released without authorization by the parent or guardian. This authorization must be in writing in the child's file. Any additions or deletions must be requested on the form provided for this purpose. We must have written communication for changes in the authorization of pick up. Forms for this purpose are in the preschool office, Persons picking up students may be asked for proper identification.

## **Tuition**

Tuition is predetermined – yearly total divided into 10 equal payments, regardless of holidays, staff in-service days or unforeseen circumstances. NO credit is given for illness or personal vacation. Tuition must be paid in full on the first of each month. Tuition is payable by credit or debit card only. No cash or checks. Any fees incurred because of late payment, changes in accounts, etc. will be passed on to you. **Prepayment of last month's tuition is due prior to the first day of school. All withdrawals must be put in writing, with 30 days notice in order to get that last month of tuition refunded. There are no exceptions to this policy.**

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## **The Robert H. Lange Christian Preschool's Learning Experiences**

### **Opening Circle**

Each child is greeted and begins the day by placing his/her tote bag in the designated spot and then sitting at circle. Each child selects a job from the classroom job chart. The children will discuss feelings, salute the flag, talk about the weather and do calendar. Once a week the child will bring an item to share. The rest of circle will be up to the teacher and it might include one or more of the following activities: reading a book, listening to a flannel board story, singing a song, playing instruments, or talking about the day's events. Each teacher brings her own God given gifts to the classroom and these gifts are reflected in circle activities.

### **Classroom Centers**

**Classroom centers are designed to inspire curiosity, success and a love for learning. We encourage children to make choices and take risks.**

**"Every time you teach a child you deprive him of the opportunity to learn".**

**Piaget**

### **Blocks**

When children construct, create, and represent their experiences with blocks, they grow in the following areas of development. Social/Emotional. In the block area, children negotiate for the blocks they want to use, follow the rules for building safely and exchange ideas. Physical Development, children's small muscles develop when they carry and carefully place blocks to make a bridge or other design. They gain strength in their large muscles and improve hand eye coordination when they balance blocks. Cognitive development, playing with blocks gives children the chance to recreate mental pictures into concrete form. Being able to create these representations of their experiences is the basis for abstract thinking. Concrete understanding

then leads to concepts related to logical thinking. Children learn about, sizes, shapes, numbers, order, length, patterns and weight in the block center.

### **Dramatic Play**

Dramatic play is key to inspiring creativity and imaginative play. Children will deepen their understanding of the world in the Dramatic Play center and develop skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Social/emotional development, To engage in dramatic play with others, children have to negotiate roles, agree on a topic and cooperate with each other. They will recreate life experiences and try to cope with fears by acting out their worries and concerns. Research shows that children who engage in dramatic play tend to demonstrate more empathy towards others because they have tried being someone else for awhile. They have the social skills to cooperate with peers, control impulses and are less aggressive than children who do not engage in this type of play (Smilansky, 1990). Physical development, Preschoolers develop small muscle skills as they button and snap dress up or doll clothes. They practice hand-eye coordination as they put away props and materials. Cognitive development, when children pretend they are using abstract thinking. When they play grocery store they explore math concepts. Language development, Language is essential for children to be actively engaged in Dramatic play. They will also use reading and writing skills when literacy props are included – such as by playing restaurant.

### **Art**

The art center is great for sensory experiences. Children can create and represent their ideas in a visual format. They will draw, paint, glue and create products of their own choosing. Creative art is another way children express what they know and what they feel. Social/emotional, Children will reflect on their thoughts and feelings and give them expression through their choices of media, colors and textures. Physical development, Small muscle movements will be refined when they tear paper for collage or cut with scissors. Children will express their originality and individuality in their art. Art is all about developing fine motor skills. Cognitive development, Children will translate what they know into art. Their feelings and ideas are transformed by their thinking skills into representations of those impressions. Language, Children often talk about their creations and respond to questions as they are engaged in creating art. Teachers may also write down what children say about their artwork as a permanent record of the experience. Lots of vocabulary is learned as children learn about colors and sculptures and other media.

## **Library**

The library can be a place for children to relax in the classroom. As they look through picture books they can retell familiar stories, make up their own stories and gain the inspiration to read and write. Social/emotional, Children learn about people who are like them and those who are different. They develop empathy for those who have challenges and struggles in life. They develop social skills as they re-enact stories and share books together. Physical development - Children strengthen the small muscles in their hands as they use tools for writing and illustrating. They use eye muscles as they follow the pictures and words in a book and turn the pages. Cognitive development children learn how to make predictions and think about cause and effect. As they hear a story, they will connect what they already know to the story. When they retell a story they are sequencing ideas. They will learn basic skills like counting, number recognition, colors, shapes and much more through books. Language Development – All aspects of literacy – reading, writing, listening, and speaking will be strengthened in the library area. When children hear stories their comprehension grows. They will develop phonological awareness when they hear and explore the sounds and rhythms of language in books. They will learn new words and their meaning. They learn how to follow the flow of the written word; left to right, top to bottom.

## **Science**

In the science area curiosity and wonder are key to a successful center. Children will use their senses as they touch, feel, taste, smell and see. They will act on objects and observe what happens next. Social/emotional, Children work together as they explore, make discoveries and solve problems. Physical development, Children develop fine motor skills when they use eye droppers to squeeze colored water or tweezers to pick up objects. They develop hand eye coordination as they use gears or pick up paper clips with a magnet. Cognitive development, Children use all the process skills when they observe and ask questions about the world around them. Children will organize their thoughts by classifying, comparing, measuring, counting and cooking. Language; children will make discoveries and talk about what they have learned. They use new words to describe experiences. Using books and other materials they learn about things that are beyond the classroom walls.

## **Music**

Music naturally delights and interests children. It provides an outlet for children's high spirits and creative energy. Music and movement experiences help children develop both sides of the brain. Social/emotional, these are often shared experiences that help children feel part of the group. Lively music can lift their spirits while soothing music will calm and relax them. They develop social skills while playing musical games. Physical development, Children work on gross motor development and exploring how their bodies move in relation to the music. They improve their balance, large muscle skills and coordination. They work on small muscle skills as they learn finger plays and play musical instruments. Cognitive development, children solve problems while engaged in music. They create patterns with words and chants, they learn about numbers as they clap their hands and stomp their feet. They think symbolically when they pretend to walk like an elephant etc. Language, children develop and refine listening skills as they notice changes to tempo and pitch. They learn new words through songs. They practice following directions as they pass the bean bag from right to left. They develop phonological awareness as they sing B-I-N-G-O and other such songs.

## **Math/Manipulatives**

Teachers use experiences throughout the day to teach math concepts. The key components of math are number concepts, patterns and relationships, geometry and spatial sense, measurement, data collection, organization, and representation.

These descriptions of centers come from *The Creative Curriculum*, which RHL uses for curriculum planning.

## **Chapel**

Chapel occurs on Tuesdays and Wednesday. It is a time where the children are taught songs of praise and worship. They are told a Bible story in a fun filled age appropriate way and they are taught a Bible verse and how to pray.

The RHL preschool is a developmental preschool with a special emphasis on social/emotional development. We also embrace Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences; recognizing that each child is unique and has their own style of learning. Here is a list of the intelligences and a few classroom activities that respond to each.

1. Linguistic: storytelling, journaling, pre-reading word and letter recognition,
2. Logical-mathematical: puzzles, number sequence, patterns, manipulatives
3. Spatial: painting, drawing, blocks
4. Bodily-kinesthetic: dance, movement, dramatic play
5. Musical: singing, humming, playing with musical instruments
6. Interpersonal: reflection, working independently
7. Intrapersonal; cooperative play, sharing, conversations
8. Naturalistic: outdoor nature collecting, science area

Our Jr. K program embraces the philosophies of RHL and in addition uses the CA Preschool Learning Foundations to create a unique curriculum for children. Teachers will explain the curriculum to parents in September.

### **Awards/Recognitions**

NAEYC Accredited

OC QIS 5 star school - Orange County Quality Improvement System sponsored by the Orange County Board of Education

Fight Crime Invest in Kids Partner: in 2010 RHL was selected by the Fight Crime cohort as a model of a quality preschool. Assemblyman Jeff Miller and Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas met here at RHL with other county officials and educators to discuss what an investment quality preschools are for society as a whole.

Robert Lange is a partner with Saddleback College; college students can do their practicum and student observations here at RHL. There are only 4 schools that the college has approved for students to do their student teaching.

## Our day our Robert H. Lange Christian Preschool

<b>AM</b>	Listening, Circle, Job chart, Calendar, Sharing, Songs, Story and Discussion	<b>12:30 – 12:45</b>
<b>9:00 - 9:15</b>		
	<b>*Outdoor Play</b> Climbing equipment Tricycles, Play Dough, Sand and Water play, Process Art, Easel and Finger painting	<b>12:45 - 1:45</b>
<b>9:15 - 10:15</b>		
	<b>Chapel</b> <b>Tuesday/Wednesday</b> Bible Stories, Prayer, Songs, and Birthday Recognition	<b>12:30 - 12:50</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:20</b>		
	<b>Motor Development</b> <b>Monday/Thursday</b> Planned activity to emphasize large muscle development and creative movement (Parachute, Bean Bag Games, etc)	
	<b>*Inside Time</b> Centers: Language, Math, Books, Science, Blocks, Dramatic play, Music, Help yourself art, Cooking and Creative Art. Snack is served during inside time: two food groups are provided.	<b>2:00 - 3:00</b>
<b>10:30 - 11:30</b>		
	<b>Closing Circle</b> Pass out papers, Story and Songs	<b>3:00 – 3:15</b>
<b>11:30 - 11:45</b>		

\*Inside/outside times may be reversed. Variations to this schedule may be made according to class and teacher requests. Other changes may occur due to weather, special activity days, etc.  
(Revised 9/23/11)

## Robert H. Lange Christian Preschool Curriculum 2012-2013

**September:** Welcome Friends

Shape: circle    Color: yellow

Chapel: The Fruit of the Spirit: Love

**October:** Intra-personal Intelligence

Shape: triangle    Color: orange

Chapel: The Fruit of the Spirit: Joy

**November:** Inter-personal Intelligence

Shape: square    Color: brown

Chapel: The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

**December:** Happy Birthday, Jesus

Shape: star    Color: white

Chapel: The Fruit of the Spirit: Patience

**January:** Linguistic Intelligence

Shape: rectangle    Color: blue

Chapel: The Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness

**February:** Musical Intelligence

Shape: heart    Color: red

Chapel: The Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness

**March:** Logical-Mathematical Intelligence

Shape: oval    Color: purple

Chapel: The Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness

**April:** Naturalist Intelligence

Shape: cross    Color: green

Chapel: The Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness

**May:** Spatial Intelligence

Shape: diamond    Color: rainbow

Chapel: The Fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control

**June:** Bodily – Kinesthetic Intelligence

May and June will combine both intelligences

In January, all classes will intensify their focus on Kindergarten Readiness Skills; ensuring each student is moving forward to learn the skills for success in Kindergarten.