

Our Mission:

We provide a nurturing, safe daycare environment that lays a strong foundation of the Christian faith for children during their “tender years” of childhood.

Our Approach:

We believe that a creative, discovery-rich environment helps children of every age reach learn and reach important developmental milestones, foster friendships and build Christian character.

Our Licensing:

Tender Years of Deale, LLC is a child care center regulated by the Maryland State Department of Education COMAR 13A.16 and licensed by the MSDE Office of Child Care Region 1.

Our Religious Affiliation:

Tender Years of Deale, LLC is operated by Reverend Faith Wilkerson, an ordained elder in the Global Methodist Church.

Biblical Worldview Environment:

All children develop a worldview influenced by what they hear, see, experience and are taught. A “biblical worldview” holds that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, teaching us that we are created in His image for the purpose of glorifying our Creator and being reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:26, Ephesians 2:4-9) We seek to share the gospel so that their hearts and minds know the joy of the Lord, so that they may confess that “Jesus is Lord” and believe that God raised him from the dead. (Romans 10:9)

Our Motto:

A Christian daycare where we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind..for the joy of the Lord is our strength. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Luke 10:27, Nehemiah 8:10)

Hours of Operation: 7:00am- 5:30pm

Monday - Friday

Our Program:

We offer experiences, care and nutrition to assist infants toddlers in reaching developmental milestones so they will be successful in school and later life. By 2025, our center will be fully implementing Beyond Centers and Circle Time© (BCCT) a play-based curriculum based on child development theory as well as research on play and brain development. This play-based curriculum is substantiated by research, based on current and past research, and grounded in the theories of Vygotsky, Piaget, Freud, and Erikson. Piaget placed great importance on the education of children. It examines the development of the child engaged in the three types of play – sensorimotor, structured construction, and dramatic play.

How Infant Toddlers Grow and Develop: Supporting Healthy Brain Development

At Tender Years of Deale, we seek to lay a strong foundation for your child to reach developmental milestones and support healthy brain development. We understand that while your child is in our care, we become one of your child’s earliest teachers. With that great responsibility, we strive to do all that we can to support and encourage children along the continuum of learning.

Based on the research of Jean Piaget, we help children take an active role in the learning process across all their stages of development. Across all the age-level classroom, we offer play-based learning opportunities. It may be hard to believe but, yes, even babies learn through play. Exploring by way of touching, grasping, tasting, or simply looking at toys is how a baby’s brain

grows. Our infant rooms provide clean toys across safe, comfortable floor space where babies have freedom of movement. Even daily supervised “tummy time” is an important form of play for young infants. Songs with movement for babies after 4 months old, like “Row, Row, Row, Your Boat”, are great for language as well as gross motor skill development. At every age, opportunity to hear books read, nursery rhymes shared and songs sung enhances childhood development in four major areas: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language.

Holding, cuddling and talking to your infant are also important for her brain! Our teachers physical and emotional contact with your baby is essential. For example, eye contact, warm and soothing voices as well as responding to your baby’s vocalizations will foster social connection and promote language development. The development of strong attachment relationships lays a foundation for children’s sense of personal identity and self-esteem, as proposed by researcher J. Ronald Lally who called for a focus of identity development in the context of infancy. (Lally 1995, 58–59; Zero to Three 2009).

Our play-based curriculum, Beyond Centers & Circle Time and Beyond Cribs and Rattles is substantiated by research, based on current and past research, and grounded in the theories of three types of play – sensorimotor, structured construction, and dramatic play. Infants and toddlers are supported in healthy brain development through playful, loving, language-rich experiences that are at the center of our program.

Total Inclusion Approach:

All children belong. We feel that there is great benefit to providing a place for all children whether they are a “neurotypical child” or a child with special needs. By combining children in playgroups, children benefit in language and socio-emotional development. The neurotypical child may serve as a model for a special needs child in language and socio-emotional development. On the other hand, a peer with special needs helps other children gain understanding of communicating across differences and grow in compassion. Acceptance of diversity encourages children to appreciate and respect differences in others.

We believe that each child is a gift from God, and we value the uniqueness of every child. Our center, though faith-based, does not discriminate based on religion, creed or denomination. We provide inclusive settings that recognize children's varied abilities, interests, needs, and learning styles. We believe that a creative, discovery-rich environment helps children of every age reach learn and reach important developmental milestones for future health and well-being.

Our Schedule:

Tender Years of Deale will be open Monday - Friday from 7:00am - 5:30pm for children age 6 weeks - 15 years. Children must arrive at the center no later than 9:00am. Each playgroup has a daily schedule. Infant schedules are individualized.

Our Calendar:

We are closed on the following dates. Please note that this schedule reflects changes from previous years.

Non-Operating Days	2024-2025	Calendar of Closings
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Fourth of July	Thursday, July 4, 2024	
Summer Recess	August 5 - August 9, 2024 <i>(no tuition owed for this holiday)</i>	
Labor Day	Monday, September 2, 2024	
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 28, 2024	
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 29, 2024	
Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December 24, 2024	
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25, 2024	
Day after Christmas	Thursday, December 26, 2024	
New Years Eve	Tuesday, December 31, 2024	
New Years Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2025	
MLK Jr. Day	Monday, January 20, 2025	
President's Day	Monday, February 17, 2025	
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2025	
Staff Professional	Thursday, May 1, 2025	
Staff Professional	Friday, May 2, 2025	
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26, 2025	
Fourth of July	Friday, July 4, 2025	
Summer Recess	August 4 - August 8, 2025 <i>(no tuition owed for this holiday)</i>	

Policies and Procedures

Enrollment

Children will not be accepted into our care before completing all of the documentation of the Welcome & Enrollment Packet.

Step 1: Review About Us page on the website and familiarize yourself with our center. Express interest by completing the Online Application.

Step 2: Our director will contact you to schedule a visit or phone call interview. If there is an opening for your child, you will be given the Welcome & Enrollment Packet.

Step 3: Complete and return the Welcome & Enrollment Packet along with any registration fee, first week tuition and deposit,

- Annual Receipt Acknowledgment Form
- Program Selection with Tuition & Fees Agreement
- Acceptance of Family Handbook (initial specific policies)
- Acceptance of Calendar of Scheduled Closings
- Emergency Form (one per child)
- Health Inventory Forms (one set per child)
- About My Child Profile (one per child)

For how to un-enroll, see *Contracts for Care*,

Annual Registration

Each June, current families will be offered an opportunity to re-enroll. The Re-enrollment Packet is an annual registration and must be completed by August 1 and returned with the \$90 Annual Registration fee. The Re-enrollment includes an updated Family Handbook, update Program Agreement, Tuition and Fees Agreement, updated Calendar. Families are required to have updated Emergency Form and Health Inventory, which reflects updated report of child's health and vaccination.

Disciplinary Policy (COMAR 13A.17.07.03c Child Discipline)

Tender Years of Deale will abide by the above COMAR regulation. There will never be physical punishment of any kind.

Behavior Management

Behavior is a form of communication. Children must learn the social & soft skills related to the appropriate behaviors needed to be successful in life. At Tender Years of Deale, we use both proactive and reactive approaches to behavior management. In our programs, children participate in explicit experiences designed to help them build their understanding and ability to meet acceptable behavior expectations. Appropriate behavior at Tender Years of Deale is defined by following three basic expectations:

- We respect self and others.
- We respect and care for our school and personal property.
- We observe personal and school boundaries (e.g. playground, classroom, etc.)

Intolerable Behaviors

Aggressive, reckless, harassing or bullying behavior which jeopardizes the health, safety, or welfare of the child, other children, the greater community, or staff members are immediately recorded on an Incident Report, which is filed with administration and shared with families.

A conference with the parents may be requested, and a student may be suspended, expelled, or the parents may be asked to withdraw their child from the center.

When a child has been significantly injured, the parent is also notified by phone promptly and the incident is documented with the Incident Report Form. All copies of Incident Reports are placed in a child's file, one copy each in the file of anyone involved.

Incidents of harm resulting from intolerable behavior towards another child can result in immediate suspension or expulsion from the center.

Biting/Pushing Policy

Biting and pushing is unfortunately not unexpected behavior for infants/toddlers. Some children and many toddlers communicate through this behavior. However, biting/pushing can be harmful to other children and to staff. This biting/pushing policy has been developed with both of these ideas in mind. Our goal is to help identify what is causing the biting/pushing and resolve these issues. If the issue cannot be resolved, this policy serves to protect the children that are bitten/pushed. If a biting/pushing incident occurs, regulations require that the parent of the child biting/pushing and the parent of the child who was bitten/pushed be contacted. Names of the children are not shared with either parent.

When Biting/pushing Does Occur:

Our staff strongly disapproves of biting/pushing. The staff's job is to keep the children safe and help a child that bites learn different, more appropriate behavior. We do not use techniques to alarm, hurt, or frighten children.

For the child that was bitten/pushed:

1. First aid is given to the bite. It is cleaned with soap and water. If the skin is broken, the bite is covered with a bandage.
2. Parents are notified.
3. The "Incident Report" form is filled out documenting the incident.

For the child that bit/pushed:

1. The teacher will firmly tell the child, "We do not bite/push." And ask them to check in with the child who was hurt.
2. The child will discuss with a teacher how the other child may feel and what other ways there are to deal with their frustration.
3. The parents are notified. The "Incident Report" is filled out documenting the incident.

Moving forward:

The child will be shadowed to help prevent any biting/pushing incidents. The child will be observed by staff to determine what is causing the child to bite (teething, communication, frustration, etc.) The child will be given positive attention and approval for positive behavior.

When biting/pushing continues:

If a child inflicts 2 bites/pushes in a one week period (5 days of school attendance) in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, a conference will be held with the parents to discuss the child's behavior and how the behavior may be modified.

If the child again inflicts 2 bites/pushes in a one week period (5 days of school attendance) in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, the child will be asked to take a one week break from the school.

If the child again inflicts 2 bites/pushes in a one week period (5 days of school attendance) in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, the parents may be asked to make other day care arrangements.

If a child, who has been through step 1 and 2 and then goes 3 weeks (15 days of school attendance) without biting/pushes, we will go back to step one if the child bites/pushes again. If a child bites/pushes twice in a 1 hour period, the child will be required to be picked up from preschool for the remainder of the day.

Child Abuse

All of our staff are mandated reporters and will report EVERY suspected instance of child abuse or neglect directly to the protective services unit of Anne Arundel County. PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN SUCH MATTERS - these suspicions and reports will only be discussed with

necessary academy staff and leadership in addition to protective services. If a staff member suspects an adult is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, they will not relinquish a child to said adult if they are operating a vehicle.

Clothing and Outdoor Gear

Each child should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather and ready to play. Comfortable, durable play clothes are suggested, and sturdy sneakers are recommended. Sandals, crocs and flip-flops are inappropriate and unsafe for much of our daily outdoor play activities. Families will be asked to provide rain boots (that will remain at the center) for outdoor play on wet days. Snow gear for winter will also remain in children's cubbies. In late spring or summer, we may request water shoes for special water days.

The following clothing items should be clearly labeled with the child's first & last name and always at the academy for use:

- Rain boots
- Rain coat (we value outdoor time rain or shine)
- Snow boots (winter)
- Snow pants (winter)
- Winter coat (winter)
- Mittens / Gloves (winter)
- A change of clothing (including underwear, socks, & shoes) so that your child can be changed as needed during the day.

Cell Phones, Tablets or Electronic Devices

Children are not to bring cell phones, tablets, iPods or any electronic devices (including electronic games) to the center. For those families who send devices to school with school-age children, please note that devices will not be accessible by children during their time at the center. All devices must be kept in in backpack during before/ after care. Devices that are found being used by children will be held by the Director until returned to the parent at the end of day. Repeated use of a device by a child may result in the device being kept regularly in a locked area for parent retrieval.

Concerns & Conflicts

We subscribe to the belief that concerns & conflicts should be resolved at the lowest level possible. Our educators are trained and supported in resolving conflicts. Parents/guardians should contact and schedule a time to discuss any concerns with their child's teacher before contacting others.

Please understand that our primary responsibility during the day is to provide a safe and caring environment for children. While partnering with families is essential to complete this responsibility, conversations about student conflicts and/or concerns should not be had within earshot of the children. Please email the teacher directly to request a time to converse. Educators will have scheduled times throughout the week to check emails and schedule times to talk with parents about conflicts or concerns.

Contracts for Care

Annual contracts will be provided in June and must be returned by August 1 each year. We recognize a family's childcare/educational needs may change before the end of the year. Families may cancel care at any time, but we prefer that families give 30 days notice. The deposit will be applied to the last week of care or any unpaid balance. Notice of un-enrollment should be provided in writing to the center director (faith@tenderyearscenter.com).

Drop-off & Pick-up

Our families will walk children into the center and sign children in/out.

Permission to pick up a child by an adult other than the parent or guardian can be arranged by adding the person's name to the approved pick up list. If an adult, other than those verified by the pick-up list, wish to pick up a child, there must be written permission from the parent/guardian. Notes can be sent with the adult picking up or emailed to faith@tenderyearscenter.com

Vehicles should not be allowed to idle in the facility's designated parking areas at any time, including during drop-off and pick-up.

Electronic Media/Screen Time Policy (COMAR13A.17.09.01.E6 Program Requirements)

Tender Years of Deale will abide by COMAR regulation and will limit the use to those children 2 years and older to view age appropriate interactive technology that will NOT replace creative play, hands-on learning and social interaction. Tender Years of Deale also understands that children over age 2 will view no more than 30 minutes of age appropriate educational passive technology per week the only exception being a special event.

Passive technology is defined as video clips/movies may be used on a limited basis to extend learners' understandings about specific project topics. This only applies to our learners two and older; children under two will not utilize any passive technology during open hours. All videos/clips will be approved by our center director Faith prior to sharing with children and will not exceed 30 minutes per week except for special occasions (families will be given advance notice of these occasions).

Also please see *Cell Phone, Tablets, Electronic Devices Policy* stating that children are not to bring cell phones, tablets, iPods or any electronic devices (including electronic games) to the center. For those families who send devices to school with school-age children, please note that devices will not be accessible by children during their time at the center. All devices must be kept in in backpack during before/ after care. Devices that are found being used by children will be held by the Director until returned to the parent at the end of day. Repeated use of a device by a child may result in the device being kept regularly in a locked area for parent retrieval.

Illness

If a child is sick (e.g., vomiting, diarrhea, productive cough, fever of 100.4+, etc.), please keep her/him at home. Children should not return to the center until they have been symptom free while unmedicated for 24 hours. Families should communicate with the center by 9:00 AM (if possible) if a child is out for illness or for any other reason by emailing faith@tenderyearscenter.com. The center will communicate with playgroup families, of children older than 2, if more than 30% of the group appears inflicted by the same illness. The Director shall immediately transmit to the health officer a report of the name and address of a child or a staff member who appears to be infected with a reportable communicable disease or who has been exposed to a reportable communicable disease as indicated in COMAR 10.06.01.03.

Inclement Weather

It is our goal to remain open as long as it does not jeopardize the health or safety of our staff or families. If there is a need for a closure or delayed start, a community-wide text will be sent out promptly.

Late Pick Up / Overtime Charge

Our center closes at 5:30pm, if you pick up after 5:30pm there will be charge of \$5 for every 5 minutes overtime. Please contact the center if you are having a delay in picking up.

Meals & Food

We provide an AM and PM snack each day. A snack calendar will be posted on the bulletin board. All children must bring a water bottle to school daily. This must have their name labeled on it. Parents/guardians provide lunch for children. Once children are able to sit upright, they begin partaking of meals with others. For our infants, this occurs in individual chairs with trays. Around 12 months, children begin eating in child-sized chairs at child-sized tables. Snack and mealtimes serve as wonderful experiences where children develop their language and social emotional skills.

Medicine

General medication, whether prescription or nonprescription, may not be administered to a child without parental permission that is documented as follows:

- Parental permission is documented on a medication authorization form.
- A licensed health practitioner has approved the administration of the medication and the medication dosage.

Prescription medication may not be administered to a child unless at least one dose of the medication has been given to the child at home. If medication is by prescription, it shall be labeled by the pharmacy or physician with:

- The child's name
- The date of the prescription
- The name of the medication
- The medication dosage
- The administration schedule
- The administration route
- The duration of the prescription
- An expiration date that states when the medication is no longer useable.

Nap Times

By law, we are required to offer a nap for minimum of two hours for all children.

Pet Policy

Maryland state law allows service animals to accompany individual students, guests or staff in schools under the criteria provided by the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act. During the school year, animals may be invited to the classroom for special events or as a class pet. Tender Years of Deale will notify parents in advance of any animals taking part in a school-sponsored activity.

Photography & Video Permission

TYD uses photography and video to document children's learning process & experiences. At times, these images and videos may be used by Tender Years of Deale to highlight our programs. By accepting admission to TYD, parents/guardians acknowledge this policy. There is no opting out of photography and video documentation that is shared to reflect the learning process & experiences.

Families DO have an option to opt-out of photos used for external communication by signing the PHOTO POLICY CONSENT form. During the school year, staff take photographs, videos and recordings of school activities in the classroom or at events, in emails to parents in our newsletter or on our bulletin boards or printed publicity materials. Some photographs may capture your child's participation, directly or indirectly and may be published through our website, social media pages, news bulletins, billboards, and ads. With this, we seek your consent in allowing us to publish photos which may involve your child to the said platforms.

Schedule

Children in our Young Infant group (3-8 months) eat, sleep, and play on demand. Instead of a daily/weekly group schedule, the playgroup area will post activity plans for each individual child addressing all five learning domains and will be updated as each child moves through his/her milestones.

For older children, we have a general daily & weekly schedule posted in the playgroup's classroom. All planned activities begin at 9am so we ask that parents bring the children no later than 9am so that they can benefit from the program.

Smoking/Vaping

Obviously, this is for the adults. But just a reminder that the use of any tobacco/marijuana product or nicotine/marijuana vapor product is prohibited on our property or at any TYD sponsored activity. If a staff member suspects an adult is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, they will not relinquish a child to said adult if they are operating a vehicle. See *Child Abuse*.

Staff Certification/Training

All of our staff meet minimum certification requirements regulated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and Office of Childcare (OCC).

Supplies

Please see “clothing” section for required parent-provided clothing.

In addition, families must provide a labeled water bottle or sippy cup that remains at the academy during the week (infants 3-6 months are exempt from this requirement). Water bottles will be sent home at the end of each week for cleaning and should be returned to the academy at the beginning of the next week. Children under 12 months and using bottles, must bring in 3-6 each day (depending on age) clearly labeled clean bottles each day. Any bottles that are used during the day will be sent home during pick up for cleaning and sanitizing. Throughout the year, families may be asked to contribute supplies (often reused materials), as they are able, that connect with project themes. Families are always welcome to donate supplies of facial tissue.

Personal Items from Home

Please limit the personal items that your child brings from home to lunch box, water bottle, clothing, special items for sleeping, books, or unit materials for sharing during circle time or for projects. Label everything with your child’s name. Special items for sleeping will remain in student’s cubby area until rest time. Also please see *Cell Phone, Tablets, Electronic Devices Policy* and *Clothing and Outdoor Gear and Supplies*.

Age Groups

Young Infant: 6 weeks - 8 months

In our young infant program, we recognize the importance of a safe, nurturing environment. Play materials, and routines are important but the adult is the most vital ingredient at this stage. Our curriculum is individually designed and the intentionally planned experiences assist our young infants in their development through loving and caring child/adult interactions. Food, sleep, and play experiences occur based on individual needs of children. Some of the first ways infants participate in faith formation is through music and baby’s first bible.

Older Infant: 9 months - 17 months

With our older infant program, children begin following a simple schedule during their day. Food and naps still occur somewhat on demand, but this stage includes playful, language-rich lessons developed & delivered within small groups or pairs of children. Baby books that share the gospel and hearing adults say together The Lord’s Prayer lays the foundation of “a faith that comes by hearing.” Shared mealtime experiences, with prayer before a meal, promotes faith as well as table etiquette and manners. Our adults continuously assess children and adapt activities as necessary.

Toddler: 18 months - 24 months

The young toddler is an eager learner who needs to touch, smell, taste, hear, and see everything. That includes the Bible! By this age, the Bibles are able to be held and even chewed. Children hear the Bible read as well as continue with prayer and praise daily. The schedule for this stage is more structured than the older infant, but still flexible and based on play experiences guided by the caring adult. At this age, all domains continue to be addressed and project topics are selected from a combination of adult observation and children’s expressed interests. Sustained outdoor exploration is promoted through the use of outdoor free play centers.

Twos & Threes

At this stage, the older toddler turns into a child. Their brain reaches 80% of an adult size brain, the body becomes more balanced, and there is an ability to learn new skills quickly. Milestones include: Striving for

power/autonomy, Tantrums, Continued development of language, gross & fine motor skills, and make-believe play skills, Beginning of social play with others and Potty training. Their love of ritual & routines during this time leads to increased enjoyment in the pattern of praise and prayer. Further participation in weekly chapel and daily prayer. Outdoor time is maximized at this stage. Project work is driven by child interests and occurs in longer sustained periods than previous stages.

Fours - Fives

When we put together our daily schedule, we recognize the older preschool learner thrives within a combination of routines and choice/autonomy. Our schedule has a pattern of prayer, play and learning that promotes discovery, curiosity and appreciation for the blessings God has given us each day. We spend much time outdoors appreciating the change of seasons and the life that is all around us.

It's important that our preschoolers fundamentally understand that God made the world and God is bigger than anything our minds can imagine. However, God knows us, loves us and became small like us. Sending His Son, born a baby, who became our Healer, Teacher, Friend and Savior.

School-Age Care, Ages 6-12

We understand our school-age youth need engaging experiences that are designed to explore interests, make friends, and feel connected with trusted adults. During the school year, children attending before and after care may also attend full-day when school is closed or cancelled due to weather. During the summer, weeks are arranged by general themes (nature, animals, drama skills, etc.). Children help determine the direction of each camp by sharing their interests with the adult who then designs experiences, arts/crafts, and activities.

During the school year, a variety of student and adult led clubs (gardening, bible academy, art, STEM, Destination Imagination, etc.) will be offered based on the interest of children.