

Should you have any questions about our school or our program, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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## FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL

LITTLE HANDS. BIG ACHIEVEMENTS.

**First United Methodist Preschool** provides a warm, nurturing, yet challenging environment in which children can grow and develop physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Our goal is to provide the opportunity for children to develop to their full potential, and become confident and eager learners. The attitudes of the staff and the conditions of the learning environment affirm the value of each child.

We recognize the importance of play and develop our curriculum around it. The Preschool program is inspired by **Creative Curriculum for Preschool** which emphasizes child-sized, comfortable, safe, and orderly environment. Our program supports self-exploration, socialization, and decision making by the child and incorporates **Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning**: Comprehensive standards into centers and curriculum.

First United Methodist Preschool does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, or national/ethnic origin.

**The philosophy** of our development program is that children learn through play. Preschool activities alternate between teacher-directed, child-directed, and small group events. A daily routine is followed to provide consistency and stability.

Stories, music, art, games and many other hands-on-learning activities are included in our program. We believe that children grow through discovery play and an investigation of things in their world. We encourage the children to use pretend play and creative thinking, and provide them with opportunities for decision making and choices within appropriate limits. Through this approach, we strive to instill a love of learning in the children, to prepare them with the social skills they need to be successful, and to help them progress through developmental stages. Above all, our environment is where children are treated as individuals with love and respect, and where children learn to show love and respect for themselves and one another.

### **2 ½ year old class**

The program stresses interaction with children and adults, learning to separate from parents, and functioning within a classroom setting. Social/emotional development during this period is about socialization-the process by which children learn the values and behaviors accepted by society. It is also about becoming a competent and confident person. Two/three and five days offered.

### **K3**

The focus of this program is also social development. Threes are often described as being in transition. Three-year olds are learning to trust that their parents, teachers, and other important people in their lives will take good care of them. Children practice the skills of cooperation, sharing, and problem solving techniques as they operate within a group. Two/three or five days offered.

### **K4**

Fours are working on many of the same developmental tasks as 3's but at a higher level. Fours are a wonderful mix of independence and sociability. They like doing things on their own. The program provides developmentally appropriate activities which includes Kindergarten readiness skills.

**First United Methodist Preschool** also offers **extended day** with a before and after care program, giving parents the option of an all-day program. The Preschool program provides developmentally appropriate child care in an age-blended classroom which includes 30 minutes of outside play each day, weather permitting, weekly chapel and music, field trips, classroom celebrations and library time.

Although denominational doctrines are not taught at First United Methodist Preschool, basic Christian values are presented as part of the daily routine, such as: grace before eating and Bible stories as part of our curriculum.