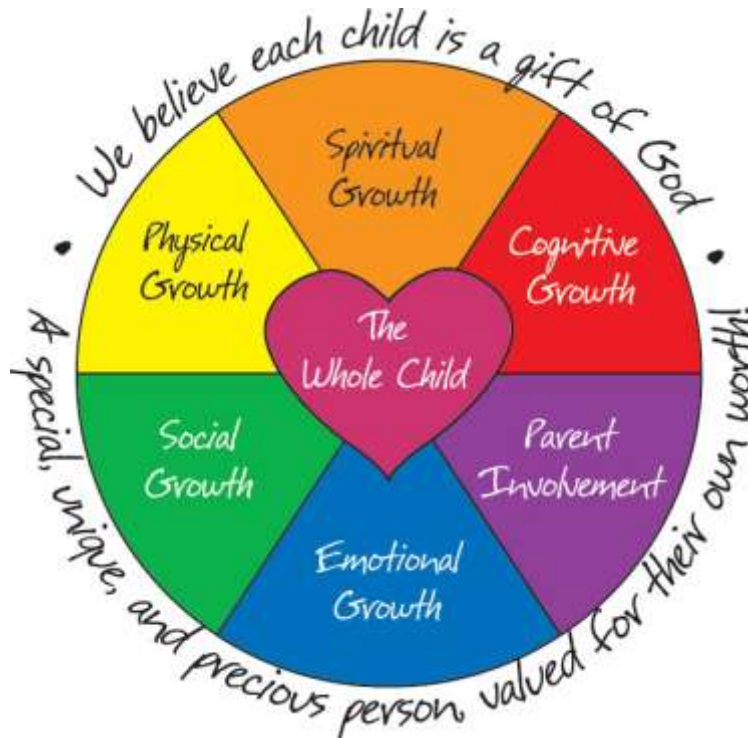


First United Methodist Church Preschool



420 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

719-884-2500

Patricia O. Lindau, Ed.D
Director

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Our Mission

The First United Methodist Church Preschool (FUMC Preschool) and Mom's Morning Out (MMO) are ministries of First United Methodist Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado. We are dedicated to surrounding children with a loving, safe environment where they will grow in their love of self, others and learning.

We believe that each child is a gift of God—a special, unique, and precious person—valued for their own intrinsic worth.

Our Philosophy

FUMC Preschool and MMO are play-based programs that respect and nurture each child's innate creativity, spirituality, curiosity and desire for competence and connection. Most important, we want to foster a relationship with each child and their family that promotes trust and demonstrates God's love.

Whole Child Wellness Model Elements

Spiritual Growth—our atmosphere surrounds children with experiences that reflect God's delight and love for them through modeled relationships, chapel and curriculum. While we are a Christian congregation, we honor and value children of all faith traditions.

Cognitive Growth—our stimulating and well-planned curriculum encourages creativity and cooperation as children learn through active play and firsthand experiences.

Emotional Growth—our supportive atmosphere gives children the tools and respect to build a positive self-image and feelings of self-worth and self-confidence.

Social Growth—our environment provides children with opportunities for playing and cooperating with other children and adults as they develop a growing awareness of their needs, rights, and feelings as well as those of others.

Physical Growth—our structure includes equipment and activities that promote each child's physical development and growth and involves both large and fine muscle movements and skills.

Parent Involvement—as partners with families, we value working together to meet their needs. Parents are always welcome in the classroom and we encourage them to share their diverse talents and interests with the class and the school.

In order to accomplish these goals, First United Methodist Church Preschool will hire staff who are committed to our mission and philosophy, who are qualified through the State and who feel that teaching young children is a calling and not just a job.

Welcome to our program! We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding time with your child. Our activities are planned to enrich their lives and their development. We are a play-based program that incorporates spirituality into our curriculum daily.

Please read the following information, discuss any concerns with the director, sign the agreement sheet on the last page and return it to the school. This copy is for your files.

Center Policies and Procedures

Registration and Getting Started

Admission and Registration

Our school has an open enrollment policy; all children between the ages of 18 months and 6 years of age are admitted to our program, as space permits, without regard to race, religion, national origin, sex, or impairment status. However, new children will not be enrolled for the school year after February. They are welcome to enroll for the upcoming summer and fall sessions. We encourage all children to participate in all activities, including indoor and outdoor activities with the other children.

Before a child can be admitted to our program we must receive a health form, and a current immunization record. State law requires that “A Certificate of Immunization or approved alternate Certificate of Immunization must be on file at the Childcare center the **first** day the child enters at the childcare center. A new Certificate of Immunization must be done every new school year.” We also accept non-immunized children under two conditions per state law. If immunization creates a health risk for your child, a Certificate of Immunization with the medical exemption on the reverse side must be signed by a licensed physician - **NO EXCEPTIONS**. If immunization is against your religious or personal belief, you must sign the religious or personal exemption on the reverse side of the Certificate and provide a written statement of explanation.

Registration is processed when we have a completed registration form, signed by the enrolling parent(s), and the non-refundable, annual registration fee & first month of tuition, which secures a space for your child. When a child enrolls in the program we assume it is for the entire school year and we budget and plan accordingly.

For the sake of consistency and continuity of care, children are placed in classes for the duration of the academic year, from September to May. They do not move to another class on their birthday or mid-year, as they might in a day care setting.

Children in the preschool must be 2 ½ years old by Oct. 1 of the enrolling school year. Those children with September 1 –Oct 1 birthdays will enroll after their birthday due to state licensing requirements. In the Mother’s Morning Out program, children must be 18 months old by Oct. 1 of the enrolling school year.

Tuition and Fee Schedule

Tuition is due by 5th day of each month. Any account unpaid on the 5th day of the month may incur a \$50.00 late fee. If payment is not received by the 15th of the month, the child will not be able to continue attending classes until the office has been contacted. Please notify the director if you are experiencing financial difficulties.

A 10% reduction in tuition is given to families with more than one child enrolled or active military families. There is also a staff tuition scholarship for eligible FUMC employees, on a space available basis.

Prompt tuition payment is expected; regardless of how many days he/she actually attends school that month. No deductions are made for absences, illness, vacation, or snowdays. Tuition rates are uniform every month.

For the program to have full benefit and influence upon your child, regular attendance is very important. To maintain proper ratios, children will not be able to make up missed days. They will be able to attend only on the days they are enrolled.

If a check is returned for non-sufficient funds, the accounting department will contact you and attempt to run the check again upon request. If the check is returned a second time, cash or cashier's check will be required as payment for the returned check. You are responsible for any fees incurred in this process.

Calendar

Our school year runs September through May. Our summer program is held during June and July depending upon the level of parent interest. August is reserved for facility maintenance.

September through May, we set our calendar with School District 11's schedule in mind. There will be variations (i.e. Teacher Workdays, Good Friday, Parent/Teacher Conferences,) as we strive to provide the most appropriate and consistent educational experience for children. Please see our school calendar for details.

Schedule Changes

It is important to provide children with a consistent class schedule for the benefit of the children themselves, teachers, and administrative and billing staff. Schedule changes will incur a \$50.00 change fee, which is half of the annual registration fee, unless extraordinary circumstances are present. This applies to the school year and to all summer sessions as well. The most recent schedule on file will stand until the end of an enrollment period unless the office is notified by the parent or guardian. Please inform the office promptly of any changes for billing accuracy. In the event that a child leaves the program and decides to return in the course of the same school year a new registration fee of \$100 will be assessed.

Parking

Parents are asked to park in the church parking lot located at the St. Vrain entrance. The spaces across the alley belong to the bank, and cars will be towed at the owner's expense. If more parking is needed, short-term parking is available across St. Vrain. Please park in the blue spaces; the red spaces are reserved for FUMC employees.

Our Program

Class Schedules and Hours

Our program offers two, three or five day attendance options in some classes. The Young 5s class is the exception to this with a four-day schedule.

Preschool classes are held from 9:00-12:30 with before school care available from 8:00-9:00. MMO classes are held from 9:00-12:15.

After School Care/Afternoon Explorers Class

When enrollment permits an optional afternoon enrichment program will be offered to self-toileting children. It will begin at 12:30 and end at 4:30. To allow for emergency situations each child will be allowed a maximum of two p.m. care drop-ins per month, if ratios permit. The director will consider any further needs on a case-by-case basis. All drop-ins MUST be scheduled with the director twenty-four hours in advance.

Signing In and Out

It is required by law that you must sign your child in and out of the center each day he/she attends. This helps the teachers to know the whereabouts of your child especially when on the playground or during a fire drill. The sign-in sheet is located in the classroom or with the lead teacher if the class is away from their room. Kindly sign the sheet legibly.

Arrival and Departure

Because First United Methodist Church Preschool strives to provide an active learning environment, punctuality is very important. We understand occasional tardiness, but encourage everyone to be considerate in this area. If your child arrives late and the class is away from the room, please take your child to join their class.

Parents who arrive after their child's class has ended must pay a late fee of \$1.00 per minute, due immediately. Please be courteous to our staff as they too have families and responsibilities of their own. If a parent is more than 30 minutes late, every effort will be made to contact the parent. If no one can be reached, the staff will call the police department and/or the Department of Human Services at which time your child will be released to them.

Religious Content

While preschool aged children are too young to understand theological concepts about faith and God, studies have shown that these are the years when children form their concepts about God and the way God relates to them. They learn that God loves and cares for them just as the significant people in their lives take the time to love and care for them. It is this deep respect and love for children that Jesus modeled whenever He spoke about or related to children.

It is our goal to model Christ's love to all of the children entrusted to our care. Through example, rather than indoctrination, we believe children will develop a healthy relationship with God. During sacred time and monthly chapel they will be affirmed and blessed as the beloved children they are!

Parent Involvement

Children will be engaged in process-oriented art, developmentally appropriate music and movement and language and culture activities that are connected to the weekly class curriculum. If you or someone in your family has an occupation, hobby or interest that would broaden and enrich the children's classroom experience please share your ideas with your child's teacher. We welcome your input and participation.

Visitors and Volunteers

Parents with children enrolled in this program are welcome to visit the school at any time, and are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom. This can be done many ways...read a story, help with a project, have lunch with your child...or many other ways. Please remember you're important to your child's school experience. We love and appreciate our volunteers!

Other visitors and observers, adults and children, are encouraged to observe classes by appointment. All visitors, including parent volunteers and parents visiting a session must, by state law, sign in and out of the building on the visitor's sign in sheet located outside the office. Anytime a visitor or stranger enters our building, our staff will ask them to sign in and to wear a visitor badge. Any person who is unable to identify themselves or who does not have a legitimate reason to be at the center will be asked to leave.

Clothing

Dress you children in play clothes and sturdy shoes. Paint, glue, and messes are part of preschool play. Kindly leave an extra change of clothes for your child. Be sure all items are labeled with your child's name. Jackets, sweaters, hats and gloves should be worn as weather dictates. Outdoor play is part of our daily schedule unless extremely bad weather is present. Children who are in MMO classes must have an adequate supply of diapers & diaper wipes.

Items from Home

Should your child bring personal items such as toys to school, the teacher will store them until the end of the day or ask that it be kept safe in the child's cubbie. These items will be stored, but may be given to the child as needed.

If a class has Show 'n' Share days, children are encouraged to bring books, science, art, or any item that is special to them. Guns, knives, or weapons of any type including toy weapons are not appropriate for school. We cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of any toys or other items. Please do not send items of value such as jewelry, money, or electronic games to school.

Supervision of Children

Whenever possible our program follows the United Methodist Church policy called Safe Sanctuaries. This means that children will be under the supervision of two teachers at all times. Teachers are responsible for the safety, care, comfort and supervision of each child.

Discipline Policy

Discipline is a key to learning. Children find security in consistent structure and discipline. As Christian teachers, we can discipline in a way that reflects God's love. Children must be told or shown what we expect before they can meet those expectations.

Following the example of their parents and teachers, children are expected to practice kindness and respect toward each other and their surroundings. In the event that this does not occur, discipline will consist of positive reinforcement, redirection, and possibly time away from a specific area. Use of physical or verbal punishment is not permitted by anyone on the school grounds.

If a problem is serious or a parent needs to be informed, the director will do so; however, we will try and solve minor problems and not save them up for the parent to solve. If the behavior fails to improve over time we may have to terminate services. We will always be willing to work with you and will provide information regarding programs in our community that can assist you and your child. Parents are also responsible for their child's damage to school property (i.e., destroyed books, puzzles, shelf items, broken fire alarms, etc).

Field Trips and Special Activities

In the event that our program plans a field trip, information and permission slips will be distributed in advance. Every child attending **MUST** have a signed permission slip on file with the office before the day of the field trip. Also, we do not provide transportation. A child must be dropped off and picked up at the site by an authorized party.

Your child's teacher has discretion about birthday celebrations in their classrooms. Please ask for guidelines. If you wish to have a party at your home or elsewhere, we will put invitations in cubbies or parent pockets. Please do not pass out invitations at school any other way, as children who do not get an invitation usually feel disappointed.

Our classes will occasionally hold special activities or parties. When events are planned the teacher will put it on the calendar, discuss it with parents, and put a sign up sheet if donated items are needed.

We host an Open House at the beginning of the fall session. Other Special Events may be scheduled throughout the year.

Home and School Communication

We strive to facilitate open communication between home and school. Teachers publish a monthly newsletter and curriculum calendar, which goes home during the first week of the month. It is then posted along with the class' daily schedule on a bulletin board outside the classroom. Please read this information and bring any questions to your classroom Lead Teacher. This is also a great opportunity to volunteer your time and knowledge in the classroom. If the class is studying animals, and you're a vet, zookeeper, animal trainer, etc. let them know. They'd love to give you time to share with the students!

Short notes may be written in the comment box on the sign-in sheet, but please do not write any notes of a confidential nature here, as everyone has access to it.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

When you wish to talk with your child's teacher about your child, please make an appointment with the teacher to talk outside the scheduled classroom hours or arrange a phone conversation.

Preschool teachers will conduct two scheduled conferences during the school year. Please plan to attend if at all possible. The parent, teacher, or director may request additional conferences at any time. MMO holds parent/teacher conferences in the spring, but MMO staff is ready and willing to meet with parents about questions, concerns, or communicate about the day.

Photographs

Upon registration you give First United Methodist Church Preschool permission to take pictures or videos of your child/children. These pictures and videos will be used by the teacher and school only. These photographs and videos will not be used for any publicity.

School pictures are taken once a year and include both an individual and class photograph.

Meals and Snacks

Children in Bears will eat a mid-morning snack provided by the parent. Children in all other classrooms will eat a lunch. Those children who stay for the afternoon session will need an additional snack packed for them. We ask that parents provide their child with a nutritious snack or lunch. Some suggestions would be fruit or protein for the morning snack; sandwiches, ravioli, or spaghetti, for lunch; and fruit or protein for the afternoon snack. Please also provide drinks for your child depending on the length of time that they are here at school.

Due to allergies we make every attempt to be a peanut free environment. No peanut products or peanut butter sandwiches are allowed at school.

Health and Safety

Allergies

Allergies are a serious concern. Please inform us upon enrollment of any allergies your child has, so we can list them in the class file and be sure they are correctly flagged in the emergency information log. We suggest that you teach your child about his/her allergy and encourage him/her to verbalize what they cannot eat or play with. We strive for a peanut free program.

Diapering and Toilet Learning

We provide facilities for diapering in our 18 month old MMO classroom and our 2 ½ year old classrooms. In case of accidents the restrooms are emergency changing facilities. For children in diapers or pull-ups, parents are responsible for providing diapers and wipes. If a special need is diagnosed at this time the case will be reviewed according to Preschool policy.

We require children entering our 3 ½ to 4 ½ year old classrooms to be completely toilet learned. We defined this as being able to use the facilities unassisted, including the ability to self-wipe and wash/dry hands after toileting. Staff will closely monitor toileting and provide encouragement and direction.

Nap/Rest Time in After School Care/Afternoon Explorers

Rest time is required by the State of Colorado to be offered to all children who remain at school over 4 hours per day who have not yet enrolled in Kindergarten. In compliance with this rule, full day children will be provided with a quiet, rest time. Children who are non-sleepers must rest for at least 30 minutes. Children will be provided with a sanitized cot. Parents should

provide bedding, clearly marked with the child's full name. Bedding must be taken home each Friday for laundering and returned Monday. Please do not send sleeping bags, as we do not have adequate room to store them.

Medication Policy

All prescriptive and non-prescriptive medication and individual special medical procedures can be provided only on written order or prescription from a physician to the center, with knowledge and written consent of the parent(s) or guardian(s). Medication must be kept in the original container. Prescriptive medicine containers must bear the original pharmacy label that shows the prescription number, name of medication, date filled, physician's name, child's name, and directions for dosage. When no longer needed, medications must be returned to parents or guardians. All medicines and drugs will be kept in a storage area inaccessible to children and according to pharmacy instructions. Only staff members who have passed a medication administration class will give prescribed medication or treatments.

Health/ Sick Policy

This center is a well child facility. When your child is not feeling well, please let them rest comfortably at home. Likewise, if they become ill during the school day and cannot participate comfortably in group activities we will call you to take them home. Children with the following illnesses must be excluded from our center. Following are examples:

Diarrhea	Ringworm
Chicken Pox	Scabies
Head lice	Roseola
Strep Throat	Upper Respiratory Complications
Hepatitis A	Vaccine Preventable Diseases
Herpes	Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
Impetigo	Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)

Most of these illnesses cease to be a reason for exclusion 24 hours after treatment has begun or symptoms have disappeared. Check with your doctor or the director for more information.

Sometimes it is difficult to determine when a child should stay home. Below is a list of symptoms that can serve as guidelines:

Lethargy, extreme sleepiness, ear pain, vomiting, rash with or without fever, fever above 101 degrees axillary (under the arm), persistent crying for an unknown reason, large amounts of yellow-green nasal discharge, or difficulty breathing or wheezing

If a child becomes sick at school they will be isolated until the parent arrives to prevent other children from getting sick.

If your child has or has been exposed to communicable illnesses such as, but not limited to, hepatitis, measles, mumps, meningitis, diphtheria, rubella, salmonella, tuberculosis, giardia, or shigella, outside the center, please inform the director. If a child that comes to the center has

been exposed, the director must inform parents, staff, and the health department. Each child's confidentiality will be maintained.

When your child is absent from school please call the Preschool Office, 884-2500, and leave a message to let us know whether your child is sick, at a dental/medical appointment, has relatives visiting, is on vacation etc. The director will pass the information onto the child's teacher.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are practiced school-wide on a on a regular basis. All of the rooms are equipped with fire alarms, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. Teachers will take the sign-in book with them and perform a headcount to ensure everyone is present.

Transporting Children

Our center does not transport children.

Releasing Children

No child will be released to a person who does not have proper authorization and identification. If an unauthorized person attempts to pick up your child, you will be notified immediately. The parent is responsible for listing all persons authorized to pick up their child. The original form is kept in the child's folder and a copy is kept in the classroom. Please be sure to notify the persons you list, so they are aware they must have a valid photo ID if they are asked to pick up your child

Inclement Weather Policy

On snowy mornings, please listen to your radio or check Channel 11 for closure information. If School District 11 is closed, we are too. If District 11 announces a "late or delayed start," we will open at 10:30. The director has the discretion to close the school even if District 11 has a late start or has regular school if she is concerned about the safety of the staff or children. If an "early pick-up" is announced, our program will require you to pick up your child in a timely manner.

If the weather is excessively hot, the children may go out for a 15-minute playground time. Water will be made available to the children, and there are shaded areas on the playground. The teachers will use discretion as to whether the children will go outside on an excessively hot day. Please apply long-lasting waterproof sunscreen to your child before bringing them to school.

In the event of a tornado warning, all children and staff will be taken to an interior hallway in the basement of the church. We will remain there until the threat has passed.

Children with Special Needs

We work closely with families when a specific concern arises which may affect a child's ability to learn. We will inform and assist families with references and appropriate channels for further evaluation if needed. This applies to all families regardless of their resident school district.

Our building is accessible to the handicapped, however depending on the need we may or may not be able be adequately equipped to care for a special needs child. If we cannot accommodate a child, we will suggest alternative programs that can better serve the family and child.

The **Resource Exchange** (719-577-9190) is an excellent source of free information for parents and families with questions about their child's development. Another free source of professional

services to help evaluate your child's speech, behavior and learning is the **Child Find** department of any public school district. Your child's pediatrician can also be a good source of information and support. All of these resources are highly regarded in the community. Research clearly shows that early intervention is the key to your child's confidence and success!

Biting

While we recognize that biting among young children does occur, steps must be taken to try and prevent such situations. If your child bites another child we will fill out an incident report for all parties involved and notify you at pick up or with a phone call. If biting continues to be an issue, a parent/teacher conference will be scheduled, and we will try to resolve the problem. If any child bites hard enough to break the skin that child will be sent home. A conference with the director, teacher and parents will be scheduled before the child may enter the program again.

Child Abuse

Child abuse in any form (physical, emotional, verbal, or psychological) will not be tolerated. The professional staff at First United Methodist Church Preschool is required by law to report any suspicion of child abuse to the Department of Human Services. If any staff member has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect a report will be made. If a parent suspects a child is being abused they should notify the Department of Social Services at 636-0000. Once a report has been made, investigators have the right to interview staff and children in care and to obtain names, addresses, and telephone numbers of parents and children enrolled in the program.

Child Care Licensing

Our facility makes every effort to provide a safe, healthy environment for our children. In the event that you believe a violation of any rule or regulation occurs at our center, a complaint may be made to the licensing department,

The Colorado Department of Human Services
Division of Childcare
1575 Sherman Street
Denver CO 80203-1714

OR CALL (303) 866-5358 OR 1-800-799-5876

Emergency Closures

In case of emergency closures due to building dysfunctions, weather, evacuation in case of fire, tornado, or any other disaster we will follow the following procedure. We will move to the grass near St.Vrain Street. The teacher will take the sign-in sheets and perform a head count to ensure every child is present. If it is necessary to move to an indoor location due to weather or hazard, we will move to First Congregational Church (20 East St.Vrain). We will then call parents or guardians to pick up the child. If we are unable to reach a parent or guardian, we will call emergency contacts on the child's emergency form until someone is located who can come pick up the child. If the emergency contacts cannot be reached, the child will stay with the director or a lead teacher until contact has been made.

Emergency Procedures

In case of emergencies due to a medical problem, accident, or the loss of a child, we will follow the following procedure. Call for emergency assistance (911). If necessary we will render first aid while waiting. We will contact the child's parent or guardian. Next, we will attempt to contact the child's emergency contacts if the parents cannot be reached. We will contact the correct authorities within 24 hours.

Missing children

Below is our procedure for locating and informing parents & authorities about missing children:

1. All FUMC employees of the church will be notified.
2. The entire building will be checked.
3. All outdoor areas will be checked.
4. FUMC will inform the police.
5. FUMC will inform parents/guardians.
6. FUMC will contact the Center for Missing Children

Accidents

If a child has an accident, even a minor injury, we will complete an accident report form. The teacher will bring it to the office and explain it to the director. This pre-made form, will include the time of the incident, how it happened, who witnessed it, what was done for the child, and note any observations. Accident notification to the parents will then be filled out and given to the child's parent or guardian. The lead teacher will be in charge of notifying the parents.

In the event of a serious accident, the preschool will notify the parents or emergency contact immediately. If the situation is a 911 emergency, 911 will be called first and followed by the parents. Parents will be informed which hospital the child is being transported to. An incident report will be filed and copies given to the parents and the State Licensing Department. Parents will be responsible for any costs incurred.

Every member of our staff is dedicated to the well being of your child. We all work together to make our program one that is filled with the good things that God has so generously provided. Thank you for sharing your child with us.

I have read the Parent Handbook and understand the policies and procedures for First United Methodist Church Preschool. Continued enrollment is based on complying with all policies.

Child's Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Director Signature _____

Date _____