

**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**  
**45 First Avenue**  
**Red Lion, PA**

***Preschool Curriculum***

Philosophy

We believe that children have a natural curiosity and motivation for learning. Children bring a variety of experiences to school which are the result of interactions with self, family, peers, and this world in which the child lives. The child's understanding of concepts and ideas is derived from these learnings and is based on environmental experiences. The child should be viewed as a unique individual with an individual background, individual needs and individual strengths. Different levels of ability, development and learning styles are expected, accepted, and used to design appropriate activities. Children are expected to be mentally and physically active as they participate in a planned, but flexible, preschool experience. Learning for preschool aged children should be fun, stimulating, interesting, and should ultimately create a love for learning. Learning should be evident in all developmental areas including the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual areas.

**Goals**

Our goal is to create a positive learning experience within a Christian environment. Through offering a balance of activities including both social and pre-kindergarten academic skills, our preschool program hopes to provide each child with the opportunity to grow socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, and academically.

Student growth in these areas will be enhanced by methods such as use of thematic units, learning centers, circle/group activities, free play experience, field trips, guest speakers, hands-on activities, and special parties/programs.

We offer a 2-day/week class for students who would be eligible for Kindergarten in 2 years and a 3-day/week class for students who would be eligible for Kindergarten the following year. Our 2-year curriculum is intended to introduce, develop, refine and reinforce skills in the areas of language arts, math, science, health, social studies, thinking, physical education, music, and art. Ultimately, the overall outcome of our program depends heavily on the close and sincere collaboration between home and school. We hope to provide an open line of communication so parents can experience the joy of watching their children grow and succeed.

**General Curriculum objectives**

1. To provide children with a firm foundation on which the cognitive learning of later years will be built.
2. To encourage the child to develop at his/her own rate--physically, socially, emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually.
3. To meet the basic needs of the child.

4. To introduce and build basic skills in the 2-day program and to refine, reinforce and further develop those skills in the 3-day program.
5. To provide children with activities so that they may develop an aesthetic appreciation of the arts through song, rhythm instruments, books, dance, role play and drama, self expression, and art.
6. To encourage and build cooperative skills, manners, values, and to understand the importance of respecting oneself and others.
7. To develop an interest in literature through books, storytelling, poetry, music, and finger play.
8. To develop an awareness of good health habits such as exercise, dental, personal hygiene, and nutrition/diet.
9. To stimulate an interest in kindergarten readiness skills through activities in language arts, science, math, physical education, health, music, art, and social studies.
10. To provide fundamental knowledge of our common Christian heritage.
11. To involve parents in the preschool experience by communicating through frequent newsletters, holding parent conferences, organizing special programs, utilizing parent volunteers, and creating an open line of communication between the teacher and the parent.

### **Specific Curriculum Expected Outcomes**

#### **Language Arts**

Language Arts involves the skills of language including speaking, listening, reading, writing, and thinking. Our main objectives are to provide the child with a foundation for future reading development. The following specific outcomes will be addressed:

1. To develop alphabet/letter awareness
  - a. To be able to say the letters of the alphabet (in order)
  - b. To become familiar with capital and lower-case letters.
  - c. To be able to associate some letters with their sounds
2. To be able to recognize his/her own name
  - a. To be able to copy his/her own name (2-day)
  - b. To be able to write his/her own name (3-day)
3. To become familiar with his/her full name, address, phone number.
4. To be able to listen to short stories and answer simple questions about the story.
5. To develop an awareness of rhyming words.
6. To develop an awareness of opposites.
7. To be able to retell a story in their own words.
8. To be able to make up an ending to a story.
9. To make simple predictions about a story.
10. To be able to speak in front of the group (show and tell).
11. To memorize simple fingerplays, songs and poems.

#### **Math**

The objective of the math curriculum is to provide an introduction to numbers, shapes, and basic mathematical skills. Expected outcomes for mathematics skills are:

1. To recognize numbers.
2. To develop and improve individual counting abilities.
3. To recognize basic shapes (2-day), and to draw basic shapes (3-day)
4. To recognize colors.
5. To count objects using manipulatives.
6. To count calendar days.

### ***Thinking Skills***

Through practice of the following thinking skills, learning may emerge from concrete to the abstract, preparing students to be better independent thinkers and problem solvers. Many thinking skills can be incorporated into the various curriculum areas. The following thinking skills will be introduced to the student over the 2 year program:

1. Sorting
2. Classifying
  - a. Grouping same and different
  - b. What does not belong?
3. Matching
4. Sequencing
5. Problem Solving
6. Recognizing Patterns
7. Memorization
8. Compare and Contrast

### ***Motor Development***

The students will be given ample opportunity to grow physically through use and practice of motor skills. Skills include both large motor skills and fine motor skills. The following activities will be introduced to improve motor skills.

Large Motor Skills: Movement/spatial awareness, movement activities, locomotor activities (walking, hopping, skipping, galloping, marching), simple manipulative skills such as throwing and catching, simple ball skills, non-locomotor skills (bending, twisting, turning, pushing), pulling, balancing skills, cardiovascular and calisthenic activities.

Fine Motor Skills: Finger plays, cutting with scissors, manipulatives, lacing, tying, sewing buttoning, zippering, playdough activities, puzzles, legos, blocks, painting, writing, tracing letters.

### ***Social Studies***

Through Social Studies and social interaction, the child will develop an awareness of the world around him/her. The following content outcomes will be addressed:

1. The student will be introduced to holidays and participate in special activities related to specific holidays: i.e. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Easter.

2. The student will become aware of the various people in the community: fireman, policeman, postman, minister, teacher, etc.
3. The student will become familiar with the calendar including the months, identifying the date, learning the days of the week.
4. The students will learn to play and work cooperatively, showing respect for others, displaying acceptable manners, acting responsibly, following directions, obeying rules, sharing and participating in an acceptable manner.
5. The student will become aware of the family unit/structures and share family experiences.
6. The student will become aware of the various cultures in our world and the differences which exist among peoples of the world.
7. Through Preschool Chapel, the student will become familiar with the church as a place of worship and will participate in a lesson which is directed by the Pastor.

### **Science/Health**

Science and Health are important to the child in education. Through meeting objectives in these areas, the child will better understand the world in which he/she lives and will hopefully make healthy personal choices because of knowledge gained.

1. Seasons: The students will become aware of the changing seasons and the characteristics of each season. Content will include the different types of weather, seasonal changes in weather, how to dress in certain kinds of weather.
2. Weather: Through the use of a weather chart, the students will be able to identify the weather each day.
3. Health habits: the student will develop an awareness of proper basic health habits including hygiene, diet, and exercise.
4. Safety: the student will be exposed to safety in the areas of Fire and Pedestrian Safety.

### **The Arts**

Our program will provide daily opportunities for aesthetic appreciation and expression through art, music, and drama. Our objectives are that the student will grow socially, spiritually, intellectually, physically (motor skills) and emotionally through participation in planned activities in the arts. Self-esteem can also grow through expression in the arts.

1. Art: The students will use various media to produce artwork related to themes and curriculum. The student will incorporate the use of the fine motor skills during creative activities.
2. Music: Music will be used for movement activities, instructional purposes, special themes, and for enjoyment activities throughout the year. Students will learn various songs related to themes and curriculum areas.
3. Drama: Through fingerplays and basic movement activities, the students will be involved in creative movement and drama.

### **Special Notes**

A separate curriculum has not been devised for the 2-day class and the 3-day class. This does not mean that the classes duplicate content taught/introduced. Though the basic skills may be the same, different levels of mastery are expected for the different age groups. Activities will be selected for the 2 classes which are developmentally appropriate for the age of the student .

The 3-day class meets one class more than the 2-day class each week enabling the 4-5 year group to expand a bit more on the curriculum objectives.

Preschool aged children learn through repetition. The fact that a child is introduced to a concept does not mean that the concept is mastered. Many of the preschool skills introduced will continue to be developed and reinforced throughout the elementary school experience. Our goal is to give students the best foundation possible at the preschool level, preparing the child for a rewarding kindergarten experience.

While instilling a love for learning, we hope to make the preschool experience a productive and enjoyable one. We feel this curriculum will give your child the best opportunity to meet that challenge.

***The Preschool Curriculum was reviewed and revised by committee and teachers during the 2018-19 school year utilizing feedback from kindergarten teachers and staff from the Red Lion Area School District.***