

Program Plan

Lake Harriet United Methodist Preschool is a half-day program operating Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week. The morning session is from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and the afternoon session is from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. We are licensed for 50 children in each session. We enroll children from the time they are three years of age and toilet trained until the entrance of Kindergarten. We have a 10:1 ratio of children to adults. Children are supervised at all times.

The curriculum is based upon discovery, guided exploration, and play. All classrooms provide situations and activities that allow children to develop at their own rate. Attitudes and habits are developed as children work and play together in an environment that provides opportunities for physical, cognitive, and social growth. Many concepts are taught incidentally as the children participate in classroom activities. They are learning to share, to take turns, to appreciate other children, and about the world in which they live. As the children expand these concepts they begin to understand their community, and our society, and to respect and care for the environment.

Some of the main goals of our program are to teach the children the value and excitement of learning and to help them develop a positive self-concept. It is important the children see themselves as successful learners. They must feel free to risk failure and be comfortable with mistakes. Children who are able to work and play with other children and adults and who are beginning to channel their emotions into outlets that are acceptable are adjusting to group situations and beginning to feel a part of the community. Each child's physical, cognitive and emotional progress will be documented on the child's record and conveyed to the parent/guardian during conferences.

It is important that children are well nourished, have adequate rest, and are healthy so they can fully participate in classroom activities.

Activities are available (both teacher directed and child initiated) that reflect the needs and the interests of the children. There are carefully planned activities that allow children to be actively involved. Through block play, art experiences, science activities, dramatic play, and large motor activities, the children develop many necessary skills. Music and movement are an important part of their daily schedule as well. During all these situations the children are learning through asking questions, and exchanging ideas. Each classroom has a scheduled time in the large muscle room and structured quiet times in their own classroom. All classes are outside the last 15 minutes of each day, weather permitting.

Children are naturally curious and want to learn and it is our goal to help them observe, ask questions, and develop their problem solving skills. At the same time all children must have the opportunity to make judgments and decisions so they will become self-disciplined, self-guided and self-directed.