

LHUMP Program Plan

Lake Harriet United Methodist Preschool is a play-based program operating Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. Infants and toddlers are enrolled for full time programming, Monday – Friday, 7:30am-5:30pm. Preschoolers attend school from 9am to 12:30 pm. There are optional programs to enroll in; Preschool Plus, that is offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 12:30pm-3pm, STEM Fridays from 9am-3pm, and flexible drop off (7:30am – 9am) and pick up (3pm-5:30pm) that is available Monday – Friday. We are licensed for 96 children. We enroll children from the time they are six weeks of age until the entrance of kindergarten. We have a 4:1 ratio of infants (six weeks to 18 months) to adults, 7:1 ratio of toddlers (18 to 36 months) to adults, and 10:1 ratio of preschoolers (36 months to entering kindergarten) 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 that 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. During all these situations the children are learning through asking questions and exchanging ideas. Music and movement are an important part of their daily schedule as well. Each cage group has a scheduled time for large motor play indoors and on the playground, weather permitting, and structured quiet times in their own classroom.

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.

The Program Plan is developed and evaluated in writing annually by a staff person qualified as a teacher under part 9503.0032. The Program Plan is available for parents on request.