

UALC Preschool Program Descriptions 2012-2013

Above all, our purpose is to teach children about Christ and Christian values. Each week the children will discover not only a little more about themselves, but also who they are as children of the Heavenly Father, deeply loved and cared for by Him. Our main goal is to reach the deep places of the heart, and allow the opportunity to hide God's word in these tender hearts. It is a chance for the children to embrace for themselves a relationship with Jesus and for Him to return the embrace!

Our programs use the Ohio Early Childhood Academic Content Standards as the basis for our curriculum planning. To view the Standards, you may visit the Ohio Department of Education website.

All areas of development (cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual) are addressed on a daily basis in a play based learning environment. Children experience small and large group activities and choice time. Typical math activities include graphing, patterning, sequencing, and number quantity games. Reading readiness activities include story formation, letter-sound recognition games, and left-right orientation games. Small motor skills are developed through the use of writing and art tools, manipulative instruments and toys, lacing cards, stringing beads, etc. Large motor skills are developed in playing on indoor and outdoor equipment, ball play, movement to music, and regular exercise routines. Cooperative games and activities reinforce social skills. Bible stories are read and related to real-life in play and retelling activities.

UALC Preschool is committed to low student/teacher ratios. Low ratios facilitate children's feelings of safety and security within the classroom setting. Small ratios are conducive to the formation of friendships and better socialization. The quality of instruction and implementation of the programming improves with smaller class sizes because teachers are able to give more one-on-one instruction time to each child and the children are given more time to respond in group situations.

Three Year Old – Pilgrims

Requirements:

- Must be three years old by September 30 to start at the beginning of the school year.
- Must be toilet trained by the first day of school

Ratios:

- 13 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

- Monday and Wednesday mornings 9:00-11:30
- Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9:00-11:30

Tuition

- \$125 per month x 9 months (\$1125 annual)

Program Description:

The three-year-old program is designed for the first time preschooler. Although a three-year-old is beginning to crave some independence from adults (particularly Mom and Dad) they still need lots of reassurance, support, and an environment that emanates safety. Three-year-old children want to be in the same space with children of their age. However, the rule of governing play is usually "parallel play" rather than an interactive model seen with the typical four and five year old.

In our Pilgrim program, we help children with the developmental tasks of separating from home, sharing, and ease of task switching. Knowledge acquisition is obtained through experiential type activities involving as many of the five senses as possible. Activities provide opportunities for exploration through dramatic play, role-playing, toys, blocks, and games. A language rich environment is provided in stories, songs, dramatic play, and pre-writing activities.

Four Year Old – Explorers

Requirements:

- Children must be four years old by September 30.

Ratios

- 15 children/2 adults in our single-size classroom
- 17 children/2 adults in our double classroom

Scheduled Classes

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings 9:00-11:30
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings 9:00-11:30
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons 12:35-3:05

Tuition

- \$165 per month x 9 months (\$1485 annual)

Program Description:

Our four-year-old program encourages children to ask questions and explore answers. Innovation is evident in our Explorer classes since the children are encouraged to express themselves through building, art, music, movement, language, dra-

matic play, etc. The center of a four-year-old child's universe is typically himself. Our teachers understand this as being a very natural and necessary part of child development and growth. One of the goals in our Explorers program is to help each child feel his needs are being met while learning to respect the needs of others. We help children develop self-control and the ability to make good choices. We practice using language to aid cooperation and problem solving.

The four year old program provides a language rich environment which encourages children to continue to learn letter recognition and writing concepts in real life situations where they typically learn the best. The teachers provide opportunities for children to immerse themselves in environmental print and uses of language for them to self discover the conventions of language arts. This is done in many different ways including modeling and role playing. The child continues to gain knowledge as he uses hands-on activities involving the five senses. He is encouraged to explore and to be independent. He is actively engaged at all times in this environment that emphasizes activities that prepare him for kindergarten.

Three and Four Year Old – Inventors

Requirements:

The youngest child in this class must be three years old by August 31. The older children are young four year olds who will not be going to kindergarten the following year.

Ratios:

14 Children/2 Teachers

Scheduled Classes:

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings 9:00-11:30
- Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9:00-11:30
- Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 12:35-3:05

Tuition:

- 2 sessions per week = \$125 per month x 9 months (\$1125 annual)
- 3 sessions per week = \$165 per month x 9 months (\$1485 annual)

Program Description:

This program gives children the opportunity to learn and discover at their own pace. By presenting situations that are developmentally appropriate for the children, this class will meet the needs of three and four year olds. Teachers meet children where they are in terms of their fine motor, large motor, social and personal needs. Through free choice learning, the children can explore the classroom and cooperate with their

classmates. Learning centers, such as science, math, writing, process art and dramatic play, help the children to grow socially, emotionally and intellectually. The children capture knowledge through play and circle time. As the year progresses, the teachers introduce letters and sign language through circle time activities. This class prepares children for our older programs by helping them become comfortable with classroom routines, expectations and verbal communication.

As in all of our classes, the curriculum will be directed to the activities that are developmentally appropriate for each child. Therefore, there may be many activities for varying abilities in the Inventors Class. Group dynamics in this class may be different, as compared with a class of children closer to the same age. The program is a combination of our Pilgrims and Explorers classes, described above, where children work cooperatively and independently.

Five Year Old – Discovery

Requirements:

Children should be five years old by December 31 and must not be six years old before May of the school year.

Ratios:

18 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings 9:00-11:30
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons 12:35-3:05

Tuition:

- 4 sessions per week = \$195 per month x 9 months (\$1755 annual)
- 3 sessions per week = \$165 per month x 9 months (\$1485 annual)

Program Description:

A typical five year old has a vocabulary of approximately 2000 words and begins to spontaneously use adjectives and adverbs correctly. A five year old understands concepts of time, spatial relationships, and is able to carry the plot of a story. A five year old moves from simple numeral recognition to an understanding of number quantities.

The Discovery Class is designed for self-discovery of information related to the different school subjects. It is for the older student who is ready to explore more in-depth cognitive learning and independent problem-solving skills. The student spends part of his day focusing on language arts, writing and social studies. In this time, he

is exposed to a dramatic play area where he continues to work on social skills as well as develop creativity. He will spend time at the writing table learning important pre-writing skills and develop confidence in his writing ability. Another part of his day is spent in the math and science area. Using manipulatives, pre-math skills are emphasized and practiced with many interesting activities. Science is taught and discovered using motivating and exciting hands-on methods. The curriculum is developed with the approach of preparing the students for their kindergarten experience and building their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive abilities.

Four and Five Year Olds – Adventurers

Requirements:

Youngest child must be four years old by August 31. They should not celebrate their sixth birthday before May of the school year.

Ratios:

17 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings 9:00-1:00

Tuition:

- \$215 per month x 9 months (\$1935 annual)

Program Description:

Children in the Adventurers Class should be going to kindergarten the following year. This class is extended to four hours, rather than 2 ½ hours as our regular program. The four hours will allow more daily activity/project time. The Program Descriptions for four and five year old children are outlined under the Explorers and Discovery Classes. There are areas designed for improving math/language skills, sensory exploration, imaginative/dramatic play and gross-motor skills as well as daily art/creative activities. Developmentally appropriate curriculum for the age groups and the individual children will be implemented. Each child should bring a light (small) lunch each day to the Adventurers Class.

F.A.B. Fabulous Fridays! Friday Adventures In Books

Requirements:

Children who are enrolled in our Explorers Classes that don't meet on Friday mornings and in our Adventurer and Discoverer classes may join this class.

Ratios:

18 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

- Friday mornings 9:00-11:30 offered in three sessions with an overall literature theme.

Tuition:

- \$80 per 8 week session

Program Description:

An adventure in literature encompassing reading and writing readiness, math readiness, science exploration, social development, social studies, Christian curriculum and more. Through the themes in one or two books or stories each week, we will nurture the child in all of these areas in a developmentally appropriate environment. Each eight week session focuses on a specific topic, such as the animal kingdom, Caldecott Books, famous artists, children around the world, habitats, book making, or cooking.

A class that is the hallmark of our philosophy that children learn in a play based atmosphere. This is demonstrated by the many opportunities that the children have to experiment through discovery and free choice.

The day begins with circle time activities. Through literature, the children learn various topics that will be covered during the day. After a book is shared, the children have the opportunity to explore many different centers. Through movement, art, writing, music and science, the children develop a better understanding of the topic of the week. These free choice activities that are guided by the teachers help reinforce the literature.

FAB Fridays help complement the children's weekly classes by encouraging them to continue their social and emotional growth. The children have the opportunity to build relationships with children from other classes in a unique setting. This helps them to adapt to new circumstances and roles.

Enrichment

Early Birds

This is an optional activity time from either 8:15-9:00 am or 8:30-9:00 am. Children from any of our 2 hour morning classes may join this group. Tuition: Add \$10/mo. (8:30-9:00 am) or \$15/mo. (8:15-9:00 am) for each day of the week (e.g. Add \$10 for coming every Tuesday.)

Music

Music classes at UALC Preschool are multifaceted. Using the curriculum as a guide, music is planned to complement the themes and topics discussed and discovered in the classrooms. Music class is intentionally child-focused and all-encompassing. It is always the plan to expose children to a wide variety of music from all over the world and across time. Music is yet another opportunity for children to use motor skills. Large motor skills are practiced each week through dance, parachute play, dance ribbons and scarves, beanbags, and other manipulatives.

Fine motor skills are also stressed as the children learn many signs from the American Sign Language as they learn and participate in singing. Early reading, writing, and math skills are very important as children learn to recognize the words that they are singing based on colorful and engaging posters, handheld manipulatives, story books written in song form, and simple games that reinforce the way that language is formed and put together. Number recognition is also accomplished through the use of manipulatives. Social and emotional development is fostered through the use of drama, puppetry, and music chosen especially with preschool development in mind, for example songs about families and friends, the five senses, travel, and playtime. General music themes are reinforced each month as specific activities are designed to help develop the child's sense of rhythm, tempo, dynamics, and pitch through the use of instruments, and music selections that allow the child to participate in making music.

The most important function at UALC Preschool in music is to teach the children that they have an opportunity to participate in worship to the Lord. Each child will be exposed to many Bible memory verses set to music. Bible stories are told through song, often accompanied with the child participating in a dramatic way.

Praise Time

The preschool staff members together plan our Christian curriculum, choosing annual themes, such as "Super Heroes of the Bible", "Treasures", "Fruit of the Spirit", "Noah's Ark". The children are introduced to these concepts in Praise Time, and then the classroom and music programs support and expand them.

This class is one of our specials. It strengthens our Christian curriculum by meeting once or twice a month and offers a special place where children may learn and ask questions as they grow to know and love the Lord. Praise Time is presented by the director. This unique opportunity broadens the children's learning experience through Bible stories, verses and songs. The children gain knowledge through puppet shows and role playing. This class helps children to realize that each of them is one of God's children, cherished and loved by the Creator of the Universe. This class is unique because not only are Christian values being highlighted, but also the children are still discovering, learning and growing according to the state content standards.

Lunch Bunch

From time to time throughout the school year, we offer an extended lunchtime from 11:30-12:30 to the children enrolled in UALC Preschool. Up to seventeen children may participate in this social time together as they eat their lunches brought from home, and then an activity time featuring music, games, and cooperative play.

Tuition: \$5 each day attending

"Practical Pathways To Parenting"

This is a parent support group offered through Upper Arlington Lutheran Preschool. We meet once a month where you will hear valuable and practical information on how to really enjoy your children and help them to mature and grow. Most importantly, it is a time to discuss and encourage

Psalm 127:3 "Behold, children are a gift or heritage of the Lord."