

UALC Preschool and Kindergarten Mission Statement

We at Upper Arlington Lutheran Christian Preschool and Kindergarten are committed
“to be and to make disciples of Jesus Christ”
by providing a Christ centered environment where children are nurtured spiritually,
physically, socially, cognitively and emotionally in a developmentally appropriate
environment.

Program Overview

- UALC Preschool and Kindergarten uses the Ohio Early Childhood Learning and Development Standards as the basis for our curriculum planning. To view the Standards, you may visit the Ohio Department of Education website. [Click here](#)
- We welcome students of any race, color, socio-economic background, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities of the school.
- We are 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 can give more one-on-one instruction time to each child and the children are given more time to respond in group situations.
- We are a play-based learning environment where all areas of development (cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual) are addressed daily by implementing a developmentally appropriate curriculum for all age groups.
- 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, 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.

Programs Offered:

Inventors - Three and Four-Year-Old

Requirements:

- The youngest child in this class must be three years old by September 30th.
- The older children are young four-year-olds who will not be going to kindergarten the following year.
- Must be toilet trained and use the bathroom independently by the first day of school.

Ratios: 14 Children/2 Teachers

Scheduled Classes:

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

Program Description

- Children will be immersed in learning and discovery at their own pace through free choice activities.
- Children have opportunities to build social and emotional skills of separating from parents and learning how to transition during a class day.
- Knowledge is obtained through interactive circle times, experiential free choice time, vibrant art experiences, and creative dramatic play experiences, all encompassed in a literacy and language rich environment.
- We aim to strengthen the areas of gross motor, fine motor, math and literacy acquisition, cognitive approaches to learning, and positive social interactions with adults and peers alike.
- Children are introduced to 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.

Explorers - Four and Five-Year-Old

Requirements:

- Children must be four years old by September 30th.
- Must be toilet trained and use the bathroom independently by the first day of school.

Ratios: 15-20 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

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

Program Description

- Our Explorer 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, dramatic 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.
- Our Explorer 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 ways including modeling and role playing.
- Children continue to gain knowledge through hands-on activities involving the five senses.
- Children are encouraged to explore and to be independent.
- Children are actively engaged in activities that prepare them for kindergarten.

Adventurers - Four and Five-Year-Old

Requirements:

- Children must be four years old by September 30th.
- They should not celebrate their sixth birthday before May of the school year.

Ratios: 20 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

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

Program Description

- Children in the Adventurers Class should be going to kindergarten the following year.
- This class is extended to four hours, rather than 2½ hours as our regular program. The four hours will allow for more daily activities and project time.
- The program descriptions for four and five-year-old children are outlined under the Explorers and Discoverers classes.
- There are areas designed for improving math/language skills, sensory exploration, imaginative/dramatic play and gross-motor skills as well as daily art and creative activities.
- Each child should bring a light (small) lunch each day to the Adventurers Class.

Discoverers - Five-Year-Old

Requirements:

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

Ratios: 20 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings 9:00am-1:00pm

Program Description

- The Discoverer Class is designed for older Pre-K students who are ready to explore more in-depth cognitive learning and independent problem-solving skills.
- It is an extended, 4-hour session designed to prepare children for the longer day of kindergarten experience the following year.
- Discoverer students spend part of every school day choosing and exploring rich, purposeful materials designed for cognitive growth in all domains of development.
- During this time, social skills and creative processes are developed as teachers coach and spur children to think critically.
- The children have direct instruction small group experiences and learning centers geared towards language arts, social studies, science, or math concepts.
- Many exciting hands-on activities are offered daily.
- Special projects and themes are explored over longer periods of time to allow children to attach skills in context and remember what they learn.
- This class will provide students with a comprehensive direct, multisensory, and structured approach to letters, sounds, beginning spelling and beginning readings using the Orton-Gillingham Approach to the Preschool level with a trained teacher. This is unique to the Discoverer class.
- Each child should bring a light (small) lunch each day to this class.

Kindergarten

Requirements:

- Must be five years old by September 30th.

Ratio: 18 children/1 teacher, 1 aide

Scheduled Classes:

- Monday through Friday 9:00am–1:00pm

Program Description

- This class will be taught in a fun, loving, Christian environment where each student's strengths will be recognized and encouraged as they build upon their skills.
- Letter and sound recognition, high-frequency sight words, segmenting and blending words, reading strategies, word families, exposure to fiction and non-fiction books, and handwriting will all be components of this class.
- Math will be taught with hands-on methods.
- Language arts, writing and math will be emphasized through theme teaching with the integration of science and social studies.
- The children will develop social skills such as problem solving, following directions, and participating in large and small group activities.
- Special classes in computer, physical education, art, and music are a part of the Kindergarten curriculum. They will also hear Bible stories and value lessons.
- A research-based curriculum will be used to enhance the above specifics and the Common Core standards will be met.

Special Classes – Classes are for all students enrolled at UALC

Music

Music classes at UALC Preschool and Kindergarten are multifaceted. Using the curriculum as a guide, music is planned to complement the themes and topics discussed and discovered in the classrooms. It is always the goal 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 through dance, parachute play, dance ribbons and scarves, beanbags, and American Sign Language as they learn and participate in singing. General music themes 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.

Praise Time

The preschool staff members collectively plan our Christian curriculum, choosing annual themes, such as "Superheroes of the Bible," "Fruit of the Spirit," "The Armor of God." The children are introduced to these concepts in Praise Time, and then the classroom and music programs support and expand them. 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. This unique opportunity broadens the children's learning experience through Bible stories, verses and songs. The children gain knowledge through puppets, art, service projects and role playing. This class helps children to realize that each of them is one of God's children, cherished and loved. The most important function at UALC Preschool and Kindergarten 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 stories told through song.

Enrichment - Additional charge for the following classes.

F.A.B. Fabulous Fridays!

Friday Adventures In Books

Requirements:

- Children who are enrolled in our Explorers, Adventurer and Discoverer classes that do not meet on Friday mornings may join this class.

Ratios: 18 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

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

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 books each week, we will nurture the child in all 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.

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

Early Birds

Requirements:

- Children from any age group may join this enrichment program.

Ratios: 18 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

- Monday through Friday 8:15am–9:00am

Program Description

We offer early drop-off daily for additional activity time.

Lunch Bunch

Requirements:

- Children who are enrolled in Inventors and Explorers classes may join this enrichment program.

Ratios: 18 children/2 teachers

Scheduled Classes:

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11:30am-12:30pm

Program Description

We offer an extended time for lunch to the children enrolled in UALC Preschool and Kindergarten. This is a social time together as they eat their lunches brought from home followed by activity time featuring music, games, and cooperative play.