



## UALC Preschool and Kindergarten

# Program Descriptions

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 Learning and Development 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 and Kindergarten 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- and Four-Year-Old - Inventors

### Inventors

#### Requirements:

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

**Ratios:** 14 Children/2 Teachers

#### Scheduled Classes:

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings 9:00-11:30
- Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9:00-11:30 or 8:45-11:15
- Monday and Wednesday mornings 8:45-11:15

#### Program Description

Children will be immersed in learning and discovery at their own pace using developmentally appropriate practices. In this program we provide 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.

This program gives children the opportunity to learn and discover at their own pace. 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.

## Four- and Five-Year-Old Explorers

### Requirements:

- Children must be four years old by September 30.

### Ratios:

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

### Scheduled Classes:

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings  
9:00-11:30
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings  
8:45-11:15

### 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 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.



## Four- and Five-Year-Old Adventurers

### Requirements:

- Children must be four years old by September 30.
- 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 am-1:00 pm

### 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 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.

## 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 9:00-1:00

### Program Description

The Discovery Class is designed for older Pre-K student who is 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. Discovery 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 creativity processes are developed as teachers coach and spur children to think critically. Another part of each day 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

### Five-Year-Old - Discovery (Continued)

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. This will be done using the Orton-Gilligham Approach to the Preschool level with a trained teacher. This is unique to the Discovery class. Each child should bring a light (small) lunch each day to this class.

## Kindergarten

### Requirements:

- Must be five years old by September 30.

**Ratio:** 15 children/1 teacher, 1 aide

### Scheduled Classes:

- Monday through Thursday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

### 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. The children will develop social skills such as problem solving, following directions, and participating in large and small group activities. Language arts, writing and math will be emphasized through theme teaching with the integration of science and social studies. 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.

## Enrichment

### 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 9:00-11:30 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 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.

### Early Birds

This is an optional activity time from 8:15-9:00 am. Children from any age group may join this group.

### 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. 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



### **Music (Continued)**

instruments, and music selections that allow the child to participate in making music.

The most important function at UALC Preschool 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.



### **Praise Time**

The preschool staff members together 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. 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 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.

### **Lunch Bunch**

We offer an extended lunchtime on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11:35 am-12:30 pm to the children enrolled in UALC Preschool. This is a social time together as they eat their lunches brought from home, and then an activity time featuring music, games, and cooperative play.

UALC Preschool and kindergarten welcomes students of any race, color, socio-economic background, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities of the school.

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