



# **Chevy Chase United Methodist Church Preschool**

## **Parent Handbook 2023-2024**

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# Welcome to Chevy Chase United Methodist Church Preschool (CCUMCP)

This handbook describes our program and the philosophy that shapes our daily activities. We hope it will be helpful to you in your interactions with the children and the staff, and that your experiences here will be rewarding for both you and your child. The areas that are highlighted indicate activities or policies that are not allowed under regulations put in place for the COVID-19 pandemic beginning September 2020. When Montgomery County rescinds the COVID-19 policies currently in effect, we will revert to operating as described in those highlighted areas.

Please note that all policies and procedures outlined in this handbook are subject to change by the preschool's Advisory Council during the course of the school year. Families will be notified in writing when changes occur.

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## Mission Statement

*At CCUMC Preschool we are dedicated to building a foundation for our children rooted in Christian values that will nurture their compassion for the world around them and encourage them to develop into the fullness of their potential.*

## ORGANIZATION

The Chevy Chase United Methodist Church Preschool was established in 1967. It is a non-profit, self-supporting program under the auspices of the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. Ultimate responsibility for the program is vested in the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church Charge Conference. The Conference oversees the Church Council, which considers proposals from the preschool's Advisory Council and evaluates the state of the Preschool. The Preschool's Advisory Council sets policy, establishes all fees and employs the staff, which includes the Director, Administrator, teachers and classroom assistants. The preschool's Advisory Council is made up of members of the Church who have children enrolled in the program, the two administrators, a staff representative, and, possibly, additional preschool parents who are not members of the Church.

Parents play an active role in the school - participating in their child's classroom, driving on field trips, helping with class and school events, working on fundraisers, and serving on the Advisory Council. Monthly Council meetings include a "Parent Forum" where families may bring ideas or concerns to the Council. A parent orientation meeting is held at the beginning of each school year to outline the program and policies, and to familiarize parents with daily classroom routines.

CCUMC Preschool does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational and/or admissions policies, scholarship and other school-administered programs. This non-discriminatory policy pertains to all applicants, students and staff and thusly affords them all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally made available within CCUMC Preschool.

CCUMC Preschool operates under a Certificate of Approval from the Maryland State Department of Education. Please read their pamphlet, "[Guide to Regulated Care](#)" for more information. Any complaints about CCUMC Preschool that involve any threat to the health, safety or welfare of a child should be immediately registered with your regional [Office of Child Care](#) and, in certain circumstances, with the Child Protective Services division of your local department of social services which can be accessed by calling (240) 777-4417.

## PHILOSOPHY AND CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

The most important thing children should develop in their early years is self-confidence and a belief in the essential goodness of the world around them. Our program strives to reinforce the confidence and trust of children in themselves and the people they meet in an environment away from home. A "healthy self-concept" is an immeasurable and vaguely defined goal, but that does not lessen its importance. Respect for the child as he or she is and for what he or she wishes to become precedes all learning and is intrinsically entwined in it. Warm and loving relationships come first and are the basis for all the learning experiences that the program tries to provide.

We believe each child needs to recognize his or her individuality as valuable and unique. Confidence and trust in this individuality should be reinforced within both the family and the preschool environment. We are committed to helping each child develop a sense of self-worth, a respect for his or her needs and rights as an individual, as well as those for others. In this vein, we work intentionally to promote the development of good manners and positive virtues. The entire school utilizes a virtues curriculum that emphasizes one virtue per month. Teachers help children develop an understanding of these virtues through the use of books, classroom activities, and when appropriate, community service activities.

We seek to expose children to community life through field trips, community service projects and classroom units so that they are able to see themselves in relation to families, communities and all of God's world. By providing them the opportunity to interact with role models (e.g., firefighters, dentists, recycling truck operators) from the larger community, we help them to develop an understanding of the positive impact that an individual can have on the world around him or her. By then giving children hands-on opportunities to partake in community service projects, children develop a sense of their own ability to effect positive change in their community even as a young child.

We provide guidance and encouragement to each child with a healthy, supportive, and accepting atmosphere - one that cultivates enthusiasm and discovery. We try to stimulate within each child the desire to learn, to observe and to explore, in order to gain an understanding of the world. We provide hands-on experiences and activities appropriate to each child's interest and developmental level. We hope to foster positive attitudes toward the school experience and lay an educational foundation that will support learning in primary school and beyond.

We believe children need to explore the world, observing, examining and questioning things previously unknown. Each child is encouraged to develop his or her own interests and explore his or her own ideas in an atmosphere where there is freedom to learn. We encourage meaningful communication and imaginative self-expression. Through storytelling, reading, circle conversation, sharing, dramatic play, and individual conversation with peers, teachers, participating parents and visitors, our program contributes to the child's development of listening and speaking skills, critical and creative thinking, visual and auditory skills and hand-eye coordination. Other language arts objectives are the fostering of an appreciation of the spoken and written word, of the joys of good literature, and of a rich vocabulary.

The preschool also strives to expose children to the languages and cultures of foreign countries. We believe that children who learn another language are developing increased problem-solving skills, creativity and cognitive flexibility in addition to developing a more global perspective of the world.

Our program attempts to help each child develop the skills and understanding needed for quantitative thinking and to make the transition from perception to problem solving. By the time each child has completed the pre-K program our goals in mathematics are to establish the meaning of number concepts through actual usage; to help each child learn to organize things into groups, count in sequence and recognize the numerals from 1 to 20; and to understand the use of shapes, patterns, measurements and designs in concrete and representational form.

We believe that a child will gain an understanding and knowledge of basic scientific concepts best through observation and exploration. Therefore, we encourage a scientific attitude through questions, discussion, simple investigation and evaluation of information. Occasionally pets are brought into the classroom, encouraging children to observe and help with family pets. Neighborhood walks and field trips to nature centers help the child develop an appreciation and respect for all living things.

Children are also encouraged to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings through the use of art materials. They paint with brushes, sponges, string, marbles, and fingers. They also use crayons, glue, scissors, chalk, clay, and much more. In these activities, a child will explore the use of materials and develop confidence in the creative process. Each child will also learn to recognize colors, shapes, line, form, texture and design, and to develop the fine motor skills needed for writing and drawing.

A special session each week for music and rhythms, taught by a music specialist, provides the children with an opportunity to use different musical instruments and respond to ideas and feelings expressed through music.

We strive to help each child learn to control and enjoy his/her body, to learn and use safety concepts, develop motor skills and a sense of spatial awareness, balance and coordination. Weekly fitness and sports sessions are included in the program during the winter months by [Jump Bunch](#). Outdoor activity on playgrounds with climbing apparatus, swings and riding toys is scheduled each day.

Teachers work together in teams, meeting monthly to plan curriculum and special events. This helps ensure that each class is exposed to the same concepts and ideas, although the approach in individual classrooms varies because of the differences in class dynamics, maturity levels of students and individual teacher preference.

The kindergarten curriculum prepares students to master the skills that are outlined in the [Montgomery County Public School System's](#) curriculum standards. The preschool also uses the [Handwriting Without Tears](#) curriculum for developing children's coloring, drawing, counting and handwriting readiness.

Individual parent-teacher conferences are held during the year at which time classroom activities and the progress of each child is discussed. At other times throughout the school year, parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns they may have with their child's teacher and/or with the Director.

To foster positive relationships between parents and children, preschool teachers send home daily communication about the experiences in the morning classrooms. It is our hope that with knowledge of particular aspects of their child's day, parents will have the opportunity to hold meaningful conversations with their children to reinforce the learning of the day, demonstrate their interest and involvement in their child's education and establish a pattern of dialogue about school that will extend into the primary school years and beyond.

## **SPIRITUALITY**

The United Methodist Church is a Christian church based on biblical faith. It strives to be an inclusive society without regard to ethnic origin, economic condition, gender, age or handicapping conditions. It affirms global mission and connection with other denominations in spirit and cooperation. In this ecumenical spirit, the preschool also strives to affirm God's presence in other faith traditions.

We affirm a child's spirituality and believe children should be aware of God's presence in our lives. The children say a blessing together before snack each day and participate in three brief non-denominational church services in the sanctuary at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY**

## 2023-2024 School Year

### Staff

Each class is staffed by a teacher and an assistant. All teachers and assistants hold the credentials required by the Montgomery County Office of Child Care (OCC). In addition, all staff members receive substantial continuing education training in early childhood education each year. All staff members maintain current certificates in First Aid and CPR.

CCUMCP provides a morning preschool program that maintains a certificate of approval from the Maryland State Board of Education. The program includes classes for children from two to five years of age. A range of classes is offered for each age-group, from two to five mornings a week. All morning preschool classes meet from **9am until 12noon**.

### Morning Preschool Classes

#### Class Ages and Schedules

**Mid-year 2s (January-June)** For children who turn 2 between September 1 and December 31

**Two Days**-Tues/Thurs,

Class size – 10

**Two-year-old classes** – For children who turn 2 prior to September 1

**Two Days**-Tues/Thurs

**Three Days** – Mon/Wed/Fri

**Five Days** – Mon-Fri

Class size – 10

**Three-year-old classes** – For children who turn 3 prior to September 1

**Three days** - Mon/Wed/Fri

**Five Days**-Mon-Fri

Class size – 12

**Pre-K Classes** - For children who turn 4 prior to September 1 (we also have a class designated for children who have already turned 5 and need one more year of pre-k before moving on to Kindergarten)

**Five Days** – Mon-Fri

Class size – 16

### Extended Day Programs

It is our belief that the extended day programs, with the exception of the Early Bird program, provide enrichment and an opportunity to acclimate children to a longer day before starting kindergarten. To participate in afternoon activities children must have celebrated their third birthday and must be potty-trained (no diapers or pull-ups) unless specifically designated as a class for children under three years of age and no potty-training requirement. There is no age requirement or potty-training requirement for the Early Bird program. Children are escorted from their morning classroom to the afternoon classroom at 12:10pm. All extended day classes are staffed by a teacher and assistant. If afternoon classes are cancelled due to COVID, a tuition credit for the cancelled days will be given to the student's account.

#### **Extended Day—noon to 2:30pm, Monday—Thursday**

These classes are available to students in the 5-day 3's program and the pre-K program. Enrollment takes place prior to the beginning of the school year and is assumed for the entire school year. Teachers provide a variety of activities including music, foreign language, science, and art and crafts. The schedule includes lunch, provided by the family, and outdoor play. The program commences the second week of school and continues until the last Thursday of school.

#### **Extended Day—noon to 2:30pm, Friday**

These classes are available to students in any 3's or pre-K class and may include mini-sessions (classes which are 6-8 weeks in length focusing on topics like yoga, basketball, soccer, gardening) or be a stand alone foreign language class taught in conjunction with the mini-sessions. These classes commence the second week of school and continue until the Friday prior to graduation. Mini-sessions, often taught by outside companies, may involve a surcharge on top of the normal Extended Day fees. Opportunities to enroll in Extended Day on Fridays will occur over the summer as the schedule is finalized.

#### **Extended Day for 2's—noon to 1:30pm, Friday**

These classes are available to students in any 2's program and will be offered based on sufficient enrollment which usually occurs after the Christmas break. Unlike other Extended Day classes, this special class for 2's does not have a potty-training requirement.

#### **Early Bird – 8:30am to 9:00am, Monday – Friday**

In this early morning drop-off program, children begin the day at 8:30am in the *Early Bird* classroom. They are escorted to their regular classroom at 9:00am. The program is available to all children enrolled in the preschool. Advance booking is not required.

### **APPLICATION AND ADMISSION**

#### **Registration**

Registration for all classes, both morning and afternoon, is done online through the [parent portal](#). The user id and password for the parent portal is created by the parent. For technical issues or password support, parents should contact the Director or Administrator. A user's guide for the parent portal may be found under the "Communication" tile on the portal.

The deadline for registration for morning preschool classes for the upcoming school year is the last business day in January. Priority is given to full members of Chevy Chase United Methodist Church (full membership by December 1 of the preceding year), Preschool Advisory Council board members, children currently enrolled in the program and their siblings, and to alumni families. Spaces remaining in the program after the above have been registered are assigned on a lottery basis in early February. Wait lists, assembled by children's birth dates and gender, are maintained for classes that are fully enrolled. These wait lists will be dissolved on February 1, 2024, and spaces will not be filled after that time. Names are not carried over to the following school year.

Registration for Extended Day takes place at the time of morning registration. If there are more applicants for Extended Day than allotted spaces, the spaces will be assigned through a lottery. After May 1, 2023 students are considered registered for the entire year and are responsible for tuition for the entirety of the year. In cases where class is cancelled because of COVID concerns, a tuition credit for the days of cancellation will be placed on the student's account.

#### **Placement and Progression**

Class placement is based on the child's birth date and the availability of openings in classes meeting on the days selected by the parent. A gender balance is sought in each class. Because we have such a strong team of teachers at CCUMC Preschool, we are confident that each child will thrive in any class in which he/she is placed. We will not, therefore, accept requests for particular teachers. Whenever possible, children are placed in a class with a friend.

Children remain in a program (e.g., 2's program) for the entirety of the school year. Progression of children within the program is based on the child's birth date and is not done at the request of the parent. For example, a child who is 2 years old as of September 1st will not be placed in the 3's program. Any diversion from age grouping will be on the recommendation of the classroom teacher to the Director after at least six weeks of the child's classroom participation.

### **Withdrawal**

Children are accepted for enrollment at CCUMC Preschool with the expectation that they will adapt to the program. If a child has not settled in after a reasonable period of time, the Director may ask that the child be withdrawn.

A very clearly explained and reiterated framework of behavior is set forth by the teachers so that each child learns that the rights, works and individuality of others are to be respected and, if need be, protected. The Director will ask that a child be withdrawn if, after consultation with the teacher and the child's parents and a three week trial period, the Director decides that the continued participation of the child would be detrimental to the best interests of any or all concerned. Additionally, if parents fail to meet parent participation commitments, scheduled payments, or pay other fees owed (such as late fees), their child can be excluded from the program.

If a child is withdrawn from the program, parents must give 30 days' written notice to the Administrator. Refunds for morning tuition, if granted, will be given for the period following 30 days written notice at the discretion of the Advisory Council (based on extenuating circumstances). Once parents have submitted the non-refundable tuition deposit, they are committed to paying tuition for the entire year. No refunds will be issued after April 1.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Health and Safety Requirements for Children**

A health inventory form and immunization and lead certificates, provided by the preschool and signed by the parent and the child's physician, must be completed and returned to the preschool office before the child may enter the program each year. The form includes a parental statement on the health status of the child and a physician's report on the child's health based on an examination within one year of the child's first day of school. The child's immunization record must indicate that the child has received all required vaccinations. If there is deviation from the OCC mandated vaccination schedule, parents must provide a letter signed by the child's physician stating the reasons for the deviation. The physician must indicate that the child has had appropriate screening for lead poisoning by completing the Lead Testing Certificate.

Children who are ill should not attend school and parents must report the illness to the school as soon as possible providing specific information regarding the illness (e.g., fever with no other symptoms, sore throat and cough). The administrators will recommend a course of action in accordance with guidance provided by the Montgomery County Department of Health and/or the Maryland State Department of Education.

Likewise, if a family member becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms that should be reported to the preschool as



well. CCUMC Preschool must abide by any COVID policies or guidance as required by Chevy Chase United Methodist Church, Montgomery County Department of Health and/or the Maryland State Department of Education. Those policies and guidelines may change during the year and will be communicated to the preschool community as they are received from the regulatory agencies. To understand how illness will affect the opening/closing of classrooms, please consult the most recent guidance provided by the Montgomery County Department of Health and/or the Maryland State Department of Education.

If children become ill during the school day, they will be kept in a designated sick room with one of the administrators. Parents will be notified and asked to pick up as soon as possible. Children experiencing fever, vomiting or diarrhea may not return to school until the child has been fever, vomit or diarrhea free for 24 hours without medication. Since those symptoms are also indicative of COVID, the child must provide a negative COVID test, antigen or PCR, prior to return. If a child becomes sick, with one or more COVID-like symptoms (i.e., vomiting, fever, diarrhea, persistent cough, congestion, new onset of loss of smell or taste, headache (especially with fever) or sore throat) during the school day the student will be removed from the class and the parents will be notified. Apart from children experiencing fever, vomiting or diarrhea, who must be picked up, parents may come to the school to administer a COVID test. If negative and feeling well enough, the child may return to the classroom rather than going home. Children or staff who test positive for COVID, regardless of vaccination status, must stay out of school through Day 5 (with Day 1 being the day after the onset of symptoms or positive COVID test, whichever is earlier). The child or staff member may return on Day 6 IF asymptomatic or symptoms are improved and masked through Day 10 as long as they have been fever free for 24 hours without medication.

Children or staff who are considered exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID, must monitor themselves for symptoms. If symptomatic, they must follow the steps outlined above. If asymptomatic, the exposed child or staff member may attend school or work as long as masked through Day 10 (with Day 1 being the day after the last exposure to the COVID positive individual). The exposed individual must test at some point between Day 3 and Day 5 providing a picture of the negative test result to continue attending school or work.

When there is a case of COVID reported, the Maryland Department of Health will be notified to determine the appropriate course of action. CCUMC's Licensing Specialist at the Office of Child Care will also be notified. As is consistent with our normal policy, families of children within the class with the sick child will be notified of any illnesses. Notifications about illnesses will be communicated to the entire school as determined by Maryland's Department of Health.

In the event of an epidemic, the preschool will comply with any decision to close schools by the Maryland Department of Education and/or the Department of Health and Human Services.

Parents should ensure that both the teacher and the administrators are fully informed about any specific allergies their child has. HIPAA law requires that a child's medical information remain confidential. By signing the Handbook Acknowledgement parents agree to allow the preschool to disclose pertinent medical information concerning allergies and health concerns. This disclosure, the health alert notice, shall take the form of a list of children who have health concerns, including allergies, to be posted in the office and in each classroom. This list will include the child's name, class name, allergen or health concern and medicines prescribed, if applicable. This alert will be visible to allow for any staff members, substitutes or co-oping parents to access the information quickly. If a child suffers from a serious nut allergy and the parent desires that the classroom be made "nut-free", then it shall be made so. Popcorn, peanuts and grapes (unless cut) should not be sent to school, as they are a choking hazard.

Students found with live head lice will be sent home early from school; and must be treated for head lice before returning to class. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice. A child who has been infected with head lice must be checked by the preschool office before returning to the classroom. Routine checks of all children in the child's classroom (whole school if necessary) will be carried out following an outbreak of lice in the school.

The school follows procedures for hand washing, diaper changing and otherwise limiting the spread of infection recommended by the Office of Child Care (OCC) of the Maryland Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

**In the case of an absence from school of three days or more due to acute illness, a written statement from the parent or physician that the child may return to a regular schedule is required.** In any case, parents are requested to inform the office if their child will be absent from school.

The preschool staff cannot administer any medication, lotions, drops or sunscreen to a child without written consent and clear directions from the child's parent or guardian. The administration of medicine and, in some instances, diaper rash ointment, requires directives from the child's physician upon the proper forms (**Medication Authorization and Administration**). Forms for this purpose are available in the office or on our website.

In accordance with the Maryland Department of Education all children who attend Preschool will need to have developmental screenings conducted. Based upon their age at the time that school began, children will be required to have up to 2 screenings per school year. Children birth- 36 months at the time that school began will be required to have 2 screenings while children 37 months and older will only be required to have one screening per school year. The first screening for all children must be completed within 100 days of the beginning of the school year. For those children required to have a second screening, it must be completed by June 1, 2024. Parents should consider this process as part of required documentation in order for the child to attend our or any early childhood program in the State.

Maryland has approved five different screening tools which may be used. Of these tools CCUMC Preschool has chosen the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. Parents will go to this site, [ASQ online](#), to enter their child's information and to complete the questionnaire which should not take any longer than 15 minutes. This may be done on your home computer or any mobile device. Once you have submitted your answers to the questionnaire, it will be scored automatically. The results of the screening will be sent to the Preschool office.

Parents must provide emergency contacts on the parent portal. The emergency contacts include the names and contact information for a child's doctor as well as information for adults authorized to pick up the child in case of medical or other emergency. The emergency contacts listed on the parent portal must be kept current. Separate permission forms are required for participation in each field trip.

### **Health Requirements for Participating Parents**

Each adult who will be assisting in the classroom (when allowed) or driving on field trips must complete a medical [report](#) form provided by the preschool and signed by a physician no earlier than six months before the parent's first participation day.

### **Safe Sanctuaries Policy**

CCUMC Preschool, as an outreach of the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church, is committed to complying with the minimum requirements of the Church's Safe Sanctuaries policy. This includes adherence to the

following rules and procedures by parents and/or staff:

1) Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect – Maryland law requires that all school employees, including volunteers and substitutes, report suspected abuse and neglect to the proper authorities in order that children may be protected from harm and the family may be helped. If parents suspect, through observing a child's appearance and behavior, that a child may be either abused or neglected, they are required to notify the Director of their suspicion and then report that suspicion directly to the Department of Social Services, Protective Services Division at 240-777-4417. In an emergency, the local police should be notified.

2) Sexual Misconduct Questionnaire - All employees and parents working with young children are required to complete an annual [Sexual Misconduct Questionnaire](#) provided by the preschool. The questionnaire requires standard contact information and three unrelated references.

3) Release of Information – Staff, paid substitutes, and parent classroom volunteers are required to complete a [Release of Information form](#) that authorizes the OCC of the Maryland State Department of Education to have access to any files or records of child and adult abuse or neglect in the possession of a State or Local Department of Social Services. The form must be notarized.

4) Criminal Background Check – All employees and paid substitutes must submit, prior to commencing work at the preschool, to a federal and state criminal background check. Only those parents who have completed the required forms (i.e., release of information form, medical report and sexual misconduct questionnaire) may drive on field trips or assist in the classroom (when allowed). Extended family members, friends and caregivers are welcome to visit, but they may not substitute for parents on scheduled participation days.

### **Discipline Policy**

A clearly explained and reiterated framework of behavior is set forth so that each child learns that the rights, works and individuality of others are to be respected and, if need be, protected. As a general rule, the teacher and her assistant will take responsibility for maintaining discipline in the classroom. Staff will use a positive approach to discipline including logical or natural consequences, emphasizing teaching and guiding the children, rather than punishment. Techniques used are re-direction, communication in language the child understands, modeling and encouraging appropriate behavior, allowing children to express their feeling and ideas, and, if necessary, allowing children time and space within the classroom to think and gather themselves. Physical punishment may never be used by staff or participating parents for any reason. Verbal abuse (i.e. language that is belittling or demeaning to children) is not permitted. Food or beverage may not be withheld from a child as a form of persuasion, punishment, or used as a reward. Likewise, children may not be forced to eat or drink. Children may not be isolated out of sight or hearing of staff or participating parents. Children must remain under supervision at all times.

### **Screen Time Policy**

Educational and age-appropriate technology including programs, applications, noncommercial television programming, videos, streaming media, and e-books may be a lively addition to the classroom setting. These forms of technology may be used to augment or support classroom activities, but may not take the place of creative play, physical activity, hands-on exploration, outdoor experiences, social interactions, and other developmentally appropriate learning activities for children. For example, a teacher may wish to utilize the Scholastic online tools in combination with the hard copy of the Scholastic Weekly Reader used in the classroom. Use of interactive technology will be extremely limited both in duration and frequency. No form of technology will be used during snack or lunchtime. No video, television or streaming media may include brand placement or advertising for unhealthy or sugary food or beverages.

Non-interactive technology such as videos, television and streaming media will be used seldom or not at all. An

example of an appropriate use of non-interactive technology would include allowing students to watch the National Zoo's Panda Cam should they be studying pandas. Should a teacher decide to use non-interactive technology in any manner that would exceed 30 minutes, the teacher will provide parents with written notice as to the nature and duration of the programming viewed and the reason for its use.

### **Confidentiality**

Classroom experiences should be kept confidential. Parents and staff members should not discuss another child's behavior with another parent or in front of other children at school.

### **Health and Safety reminders**

Vehicle Drop-off – Drivers should proceed *slowly and carefully* through the lot. Children should be seated on the left-hand side of the car. Drivers should remain in the car while staff assist children out with his/her belongings, and proceed only when signaled to do so.

In the Parking Lot – Drivers entering the lot are cautioned to proceed slowly (maximum 5 mph) and to watch for children at all times. Pedestrians approaching the building should always walk on the *sidewalk, not across the parking lot*. Adults escorting children should walk on the curb side, keeping the child away from possible danger.

On the Stairs – Children should walk by themselves up and down the stairs. They should not be carried. They should walk on the right-hand side going up and down, holding on to the stair railing.

On the Playground - The playground is open to the community during daylight hours whenever the preschool program is not in session. We ask that all equipment be treated with care. Safety rules on the playgrounds are as follows:

- *Slides* – Children should slide down on their bottoms, feet first.
- *Tables* – Tables are for eating and art. Standing on benches and tabletops is not permitted.
- *Swings* – Swings should be used in a back and forth motion, not twisting and unwinding. Children should stay out of the swing radius area.
- *Sandbox* – Sand should remain in the sandbox
- *Aggressive play* – While active play in the playground is supported, aggressive play such as hitting, kicking, pushing, tackling, punching, and karate is not permitted.

Parents are requested to ensure that children follow these rules both during and after school hours.

Chevy Chase United Methodist Church and its preschool program assume no responsibility for injuries incurred on this playground other than those covered by insurance and law.

Hygiene – All children and participating parents must wash their hands immediately upon entry into the classroom. This practice reduces the introduction of germs into the classroom from outside and will aid in reducing the level of illness within the classroom. In keeping with good hygiene practice, children and participating parents are asked to wash their hands thoroughly before eating, after using the bathroom and after coming into contact with bodily fluids. See [CDC guidelines](#). Diapers will be changed at least once during each class session.

### **Fitness and Sports Program**

Weekly fitness and sports sessions are included in the program during the winter months by [Jump Bunch](#). Outdoor activity on playgrounds with climbing apparatus, swings and riding toys is scheduled each day. In the case of inclement weather, teachers may take their classes to Phillip's Hall, the large parish hall on the lower level, for exercise and play. Phillip's Hall is stocked with equipment to facilitate gross motor activities.

### **Building Security**

A 24-hour video surveillance system monitors all visitors entering and leaving the education building. The preschool building remains locked between the hours of 8:30am and 2:30pm except on days with special church

activities. Preschool families may access the preschool building by utilizing a security code assigned by the preschool office. Other individuals seeking access to the building will gain access by pressing a buzzer answered by someone in the preschool office and may be required to show identification before being granted entrance. Classroom doors are locked when the class is on the playground or elsewhere in the building. Children are escorted to and from the bathrooms and are always under the supervision of an adult. Participating parents are advised not to leave personal belongings unattended in the building.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

The preschool has taken steps to increase the safety and security of students in the event of a terrorist attack or other serious emergency in the vicinity of the school or the Washington area. Preparedness focuses on maintaining a communication plan, a supply of food, water and other essential supplies to meet the needs of the school community for three days, and establishing an evacuation plan, including an alternate site ([Chevy Chase Country Club](#), 6100 Connecticut Avenue with a phone number of 301-652-4100). In the case of an emergency which causes us to seek shelter at our alternate site, a message to that effect will be left on the preschool's voicemail as well as on a note in the entryway, if possible. Families are requested to send in an emergency bag for their child containing overnight clothes and other essential personal items in the event that is necessary to "shelter in place" for an extended period of time.

Evacuation drills are held once a month.

### **Asbestos Management Plan**

The preschool facility was initially inspected for asbestos-containing materials in 1991. Subsequent inspections have been made every three years, and regular surveillance is carried out as required by law. The preschool's asbestos management plan is available for review in the church office during office hours.

### **Insurance**

Children and staff are covered by the general liability insurance policy of the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. The preschool also participates in an accident insurance plan that provides benefits for injuries that occur going to and from school, during school hours, and on field trips. Chevy Chase United Methodist Church and its preschool program assume no responsibility for injuries incurred on school property other than those covered by insurance and law.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Parent Education and Resources**

Information on local parenting classes and seminars are available from the preschool office. The office also maintains files on services available to families, both public and private. The preschool periodically hosts parent seminars on topics of interest to families.

### **Consultants**

Following consultation with parents, the preschool may engage a consultant to assess a child about whom the teacher has a specific concern. A speech/language pathologist screens those children in the preschool about whom teachers or their parents have concerns in the winter. The preschool staff makes referrals to occupational therapists and child psychologists on an as needed basis.

### **Calendar**

Students and their parents will have an opportunity to meet the teachers, visit the classroom and attend a class playdate prior to the beginning of school. In addition, parents will be expected to attend a parent orientation

meeting in the evening prior to the beginning of school. For children in the two's program, the first day of class will consist of a two-hour class while all other classes will begin with a full, three-hour morning. The preschool program concludes in early June. The preschool's calendar may be found on the school's [website](#) as well as on the [parent portal](#).

### **Parent Portal**

The [parent portal](#) is password protected and may be accessed only by currently enrolled families. For password reset or other technical support parents should contact the Administrator or Director. Parents may access a calendar of events, required paperwork, and other resources as well as register for all activities and classes via the parent portal. To understand how to utilize the parent portal parents should click on the "Communication" tile and find the document Parent Portal User's Guide.

### **Emergency Closing Policy**

The preschool follows the emergency closing policy of Montgomery County Public Schools. When MCPS close because of inclement weather, unsafe travel conditions or another emergency, the preschool will be closed. When MCPS announce a delayed opening (two hours late), preschool classes will begin one hour late (10:00 am) for all classes. In cases where MCPS are not in person and do not need to make determinations regarding weather related closures, the preschool Director will make that determination. Parents will be emailed by no later than 7am on the morning in question. *Extended Day* programs will be held as usual, provided the weather does not deteriorate during the morning. In this case, parents will be called to collect their child at 12:00pm [MCPS' closings](#) are publicized on local radio, television, the internet and on the MCPS emergency information line (301-279-3673).

In the event of an epidemic, the preschool will comply with any decision to close schools by the Maryland Department of Education and/or the Department of Health and Human Services.

If school is closed because of adverse weather conditions or another emergency, no make-up days will be held and no refunds will be issued.

### **Communication**

The preschool strives to maintain good communication with families. This is done through a variety of means including daily emails from class teachers. Parents should expect to receive an email each day before 6pm briefly recounting the events of the day often including pictures and including information about upcoming events and activities. We hope this will encourage more meaningful conversations about school between parents and children. In addition, the office sends home a monthly newsletter, keeping families informed about school news and events with educational articles about child development. In keeping with our efforts to be good stewards of the environment, most communication will be sent electronically. Copies of the newsletter are posted on the school website.

### **Clothing**

Children should dress in comfortable play clothes that can take hard, messy wear. Dress children in shoes that promote safety. Crocs and flip-flops are prohibited while close-toed shoes and sneakers are encouraged. Some teachers may request a set of shoes to be brought and worn only in the building to help with hygiene. All classes will spend some time each day outside on the playground, except in unfavorable weather. It is important that staff, participating parents, and children are dressed appropriately for this activity. All outerwear must be clearly labeled. Items left at school are kept in a "lost and found" area in the office.

Children who are not fully toilet trained must bring disposable diapers, wipes and a change of clothing in a bag



that will be kept in the classroom until needed. If children are in pull-ups, they should be the kind that fasten and unfasten like diapers to facilitate changing them. Children should be in disposable diapers when they come to school and their clothing should facilitate the changing of diapers or toilet training.

### **Face Masks**

In case of the onset of illness or during days when children are required to be masked due to exposure to COVID, we request that children keep a supply of two back up masks marked with their name (KN 95 masks or their equivalent are recommended, but not required.)

### **Snack and Lunch**

The children eat a snack mid-morning. Snacks (and lunches if applicable) are provided by parents and should be packed in a lunch box or insulated type container. Snacks and lunches are not refrigerated. Parents are requested to provide a nutritious snack, including a beverage (preferably a re-usable water bottle). Parents are asked not to provide sweets (i.e., cookies, candy). These may be enjoyed at home after school.

Children remaining at school to participate in any of our extended day programs eat lunch at school at 12:15pm. Their lunch is provided by their parent, packed in a separate lunch bag from their snack.

Parents should ensure that the teacher, other class parents and the office are aware of any food allergies a child may have. Popcorn, peanuts and grapes (unless cut) are choking hazards and should not be sent to school. If a child has a serious allergy to a specific food (e.g. peanut products) parents in that child's classroom may be requested to exclude that food from their child's snack. The school does not provide refrigeration for children's snack or lunch.

### **Photographs**

Class and individual photos are scheduled each year in the early fall. An opportunity for sibling and family photos to be taken is also offered to current and alumni families. Photographs and videos of the children may be taken on various occasions such as birthdays, holidays and special events. Photos may be displayed in promotional materials, in arts and crafts projects, on wall displays within the school, on the preschool's web site and sent home as part of daily communication emails.). Parents are requested to confirm their consent of photos or videos taken of their child in the Preschool's registration application.

## **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

### **Arrival**

Drop off will begin at 8:55am for all students. If you arrive prior to that time either park in the lot or continue to pull around to the large playground. Pedestrians approaching the building should always walk on the *sidewalk, not across the parking lot*. Adults escorting children should walk on the curb side, keeping the child away from possible danger.

Parents who utilize the car line for drop off are requested to place the sign, provided by the Preschool, indicating the child's class in the dashboard of their car. This will help our staff more easily identify your child and, hopefully, speed up the car drop off system. Additional signs are available in the preschool office.

Should a child be brought to school after the normal drop off period, then the parent must escort their child to the classroom or playground to sign them in and entrust them to the teachers' care.

### **Arrival Drop Off Locations:**

1. Main entrance off the parking lot for all 2's and 3's
2. Curve in the parking lot near the large playground for all pre-K's

### **Dismissal**

Pick up will take place from the classroom or playground as indicated by your child's teacher by noon for the morning program or 2:30pm if from the Extended Day Program. Pick up will take place via a car line in the parking lot beginning at 11:50am for the morning program and at 2:25pm for the extended day classes in cases of rain (more than a drizzle). In case of a car line pick up, those driving should display the name strip, provided by the school, either clipped to their visor or in the front window. Drivers should pull up to the main entrance. Staff members will bring the child to the car and place them inside. Parents or caregivers that are noted in the parent portal are required to sign out their child each day as required by the OCC. If there is a change in your child's pick up the Administrators or teachers must be notified.

Should parents need to pick up their child before the end of the school day, they should proceed directly to the classroom to do so and must sign out their child on the sign in/sign out sheet.

Children should be picked up promptly. Children remaining 10 minutes after the class has ended will be taken to the preschool office for pick-up. A fee of \$10 is charged if the parent is more than 15 minutes late.

### **Parking on the Street**

A limited number of legal parking spaces are available on the streets surrounding the school. Parents are requested to observe all local parking restrictions. No parking areas are sign-posted and in most cases indicated by a yellow painted curb.

### **Parking in the Church Lot**

A limited number of off-street parking spaces are available in the lot for parents and caregivers to park their cars while escorting children to class each morning and for pick-up in the afternoon. **Cars should be parked only in spaces NOT reserved for handicapped and the parsonage – these spaces are clearly marked.** Temporary parking in the church lot should be for no more than 15 minutes and should prioritize drivers with infants. **Parents scheduled to assist in the classroom should park on the street. Drivers should ensure their car does not block others behind while waiting in the lot for a parking space to open.**

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

Parent participation is an integral part of CCUMC Preschool's program. We believe that parent involvement is beneficial for both the child and the parent. Working under the guidance of the teacher and reading these guidelines for participation will help parents make the most of joining in the experiences and activities of their children.

### **Scheduling for Participating Parents**

Parent classroom participation and chaperoning on field trips is scheduled online via Sign-up Genius. Only those parents who have completed all required forms (medical report, release of information form, background check, and sexual misconduct questionnaire) may assist in the classroom and on field trips. Extended family members, friends and care givers may not substitute for parents on scheduled participation days.

### **Participation on Field Trips**

Parents will sign up to chaperone on field trips through Sign up Genius the link for which will be supplied by the



administration. We are asking that families chaperone on at least one field trip for each child. Only parents who have provided the necessary paperwork are eligible to chaperone. Parents who are ineligible or who do not wish to participate must pay an opt out fee. General tips for chaperoning on field trips:

1. Prepare yourself and your car for possible inclement weather. (Think about bringing trash bags to line the floor in case of muddy shoes.)
2. Keep your phone on and charged, but please don't place or take calls while driving. Make sure that the school's phone number (301) 652-7660 is programmed into your phone.
3. Check with your child's teacher to see whether any of the children in your care have allergies or other medical concerns.
4. Ensure that each child in your care has an appropriate car seat to utilize. No child may travel in a car without the proper car seat.
5. Always keep track of the children in your care. Count them constantly. No, really.
6. Upon conclusion of the field trip and return to the preschool, do not leave the preschool until your child's teacher or an administrator has taken receipt of the children in your care.
7. Be sure to return all field trip t-shirts to the preschool upon conclusion of the field trip.

### **Participation In Class**

On your participation day you should check in at the classroom--you are expected to arrive a few minutes prior to class starting. Make sure to sign-in on the appropriate place on the sign-in sheet. After arriving in the classroom, familiarize yourself with the room and review your teacher's instructions and plans for the day. Because you must come early, it is best not to drive a carpool that day or schedule appointments close to that time. It is essential both for the smooth running of the class and for the safety of the children in the class that the parent participate fully during the entire session. Your presence in the classroom is required at all times. For this reason, any absences (e.g. to make coffee, phone calls home or to the office) should be avoided or kept as brief as possible.

**We ask that you refrain from texting or checking emails as well.**

Parents of children in the mid-year two's class are not required to participate in their child's classroom.

### **Siblings**

As only children registered in the class may participate in the program, please leave other children at home. Our State accreditation license does not permit extra children in the classroom, nor are they covered by our insurance policy.

### **Caregivers**

Because we believe that parent involvement is valuable both for the parent and the child, caregivers' participation in the classroom is not permitted. Only parents who have completed the parent health report, sexual misconduct questionnaire, criminal background check, and release of information forms may assist in the classroom.

### **Attendance**

Parents are responsible for remembering their own participation days. If unable to attend, the parent is responsible for finding a substitute by exchanging the day with another class parent. When a schedule change is made, the teacher and the office should be notified. If unable to arrange a switch, the office should be notified and a new date should be scheduled.

### **Discipline**

A clearly explained and reiterated framework of behavior is set forth so that each child learns that the rights, works and individuality of others are to be respected and, if need be, protected. As a general rule, the teacher and

her assistant will take responsibility for maintaining discipline in the classroom. Let the teacher know about any conflict that you witness. She knows the children involved and may be able to judge whether one of them needs special "protection". Generate cooperation rather than competition. Instead of comparing whose picture is best, discuss how they are different. Wherever possible let children solve their own differences. When you must step in, try to turn the conflict into a positive learning experience, finding out causes and suggesting alternatives. Let the timid child defend himself when he is not outmatched.

Try to encourage the excluded child to interact with a group. If nothing seems to work, try to find him something else to do. Give the children enough room to work in. If too many want the same thing, get some interested in other equipment. Recognize and appreciate adult standards of politeness but don't expect them or demand them. While you set standards for your own children at home, the teacher must set standards that reflect the developmental level and individuality of the whole group.

When you are participating in your child's room, give your child as much attention and love as he needs while he is learning to share you with other children, but allow him to do things independently without interfering in his activities with others. Avoid disciplining your child in front of his peers. Help your child to understand that though you are there, school rules and classroom routines must be observed.

When a child exhibits unacceptable behavior (i.e. repeated aggressive acts such as biting, scratching or hitting), the teacher may decide it is necessary to remove the child from the classroom. If the unacceptable behavior continues over an extended period of time, a series of procedures for the probation of the child will be carried out by the Director. This may include temporary or, if necessary, permanent removal of the child from the program.

### **Playground Supervision**

Participating parents and assistants will be assigned a "station" on the playground at which they will help supervise the children. Stations include the swings, fire truck, sandbox, asphalt area and the slide. Teachers are responsible for assigning stations and will "roam" the playground. Children should be escorted to the bathroom by an assistant – the teacher should remain on the playground.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect**

Maryland law requires that all school employees, volunteers and parents participating in the classroom report suspected abuse and neglect to the proper authorities in order that children may be protected from harm and the family may be helped. If you suspect, through observing a child's appearance and behavior, that a child may be either abused or neglected, you must first notify the Director of your suspicion and second, report your suspicions directly to the Department of Social Services, Protective Services Division, at: 240-777-4417. In an emergency, you should contact the local police.

### **Confidentiality**

Classroom experiences must be kept confidential. If a child exhibits behavior that is troubling to you, talk to the teacher. Please do not discuss a child's behavior with another parent or in front of another child. At dismissal, be positive about the day and let the teacher discuss any concerns with the child's parent

### **Hygiene**

Participating parents should maintain a high standard of hygiene in the classroom, following the hand washing and diapering procedures posted in bathrooms and classrooms. Diapers will be changed at least once during each session.

## **Emergencies**

Evacuation drills are conducted once a month. Evacuation procedures are posted in each room - please familiarize yourself with them. Emergency telephone numbers (Police, Fire, Poison Control and Social Services) are posted next to the preschool office telephone. All staff are trained in Infant and Child CPR and First Aid.

## **General Suggestions**

Conversation between adults should be brief and pertinent to the situation in hand. Avoid talking about a child in his or her presence and don't make comparisons between children. Learn the children's names and make sure they know yours. Once you have the child's attention, speak to him at eye level in a quiet, natural manner. Be sure your facial expression and your tone is friendly and reassuring. Be positive. Avoid power struggles and ask the teacher for help if you are having trouble dealing with a situation.

Encourage respect for the rights and property of others and the materials and equipment in the classroom. Remember that you are the children's best example. Encourage independence and self-reliance. Do not carry children or have them sit on your lap at school. Give a child only as much help as he needs. Let children determine how much parent participation they'd like. Be careful not to dominate their play. Except in real emergencies, give brief explanations for your requests, such as "Please get off the ladder so that I can straighten it". Give a child a choice only when you are prepared to accept his or her decision. Otherwise offer no choice but simply make a statement of need, for example "It's clean up time now" rather than "Do you want to clean up?"

Remember you are the teacher's assistant. Be alert to her needs. Find a way to engage a child's attention if he or she is distracting others during story time. A trip to another part of the room for quiet play may help. Make sure the child has enough time to finish an activity. Encourage the dawdler to finish by mentioning what the next activity will be. When possible, give a slower child extra time.

## **Creativity**

In preschool, the finished product is not as important as the process of creating it. Painting is learning about colors, how it feels to apply color to paper or other objects, how colors mix, how paint drips, how teachers react to drips! When we ask the child what the finished product is, we set up an arbitrary standard. When the child cannot answer he may feel he has failed to live up that standard and be reluctant to return to that activity again. Mention instead the use of colors or ask the child to tell you about the activity – for example, "Tell me about your picture". The same types of things can be said about music and singing. We wish to create an atmosphere where music is spontaneous and enjoyable. We are not concerned with sitting perfectly still, learning words thoroughly or becoming expert performers.

## **Parent Participation Opt-Out**

Parents may choose to opt-out of the requirement to drive on their child's classroom field trip. In order to opt-out of the participation requirement parents will sign a form indicating their choice to forgo the requirement and their agreement to pay the following fee structure according to their child's age:

- \$300 for children enrolled in the two-year-old classes
- \$400 for children enrolled in the three-year-old classes
- \$500 for children enrolled in the Pre-K classes

## **Family Work Assignment**

Each family is required to sign up to work at one of the school's all-school events such as the Book Fair, monthly Scholastic Book Club, spring celebration, fundraising events, or in some other capacity. Sign-up is done via Sign-up Genius online. A \$100 fee will be charged if a family work assignment has not been completed or committed to

by April 30, 2024.

### Room Parents

Two room parents are assigned to each class. Room parents assist the teacher with class celebrations, arranging drivers for field trips, and other tasks. The role of room parent serves as a family work assignment.

### Birthdays

Whenever possible, parents are asked to sign up to participate in their child's class on or near their child's birthday. Children's birthdays are usually celebrated in the classroom with a special snack provided by the parent.

### Field Trips

All morning classes with the exception of the Hummingbirds class include field trips as part of their curriculum. Examples of field trips include visiting farms, nature centers, children's theater productions and other destinations. Transportation of children is by parents' cars. A schedule of proposed field trips is provided via Sign-up Genius and parents are required to sign up to drive and chaperone. Siblings may not accompany their parent on a field trip. A special permission form is required for each field trip.

## FEES

All fees are invoiced through the parent portal. Payments are made through the portal by credit card (3.5% fees) or ACH (.35 cents). You can also send in a personal check made payable to CCUMC Preschool to the preschool office.

Full payment of fees due for the current school year is required before a child can be registered for the following school year.

### Registration Fee

A **non-refundable** fee of \$50 is due at registration.

### Morning Preschool Tuition 2023-2024:

5-day class	\$ 9,171 per year
3-day class	\$ 5,432 per year
2-day class	\$ 4,100 per year
Mid-year 2s class	\$ 2,497 per year

Tuition payments will be invoiced monthly and due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (August – April).

**February 1, 2023—Tuition deposit is due for all families receiving priority registration.** This fee is **non-refundable**. Children will be removed from enrollment lists if this deposit is not paid on time. Deposits are as follows:

Children enrolled in the mid-year 2's program (2-day class)	\$600
Children enrolled in a 2's or 3's program (2,3 or 5-day class)	\$1,000
Children enrolled in the pre-K program (5-day class)	\$1,500

This amount is included in the yearly tuition fee total.

**March 1, 2023** – Tuition deposit is due for all new families. This fee is **non-refundable**. Children will be removed from enrollment lists if this deposit is not paid on time. Deposits are as follows:

Children enrolled in the mid-year 2's program (2-day class)	\$600
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Children enrolled in a 2's or 3's program (2,3 or 5-day class)	\$1,000
Children enrolled in the pre-K program (5-day class)	\$1,500

This amount is included in the yearly tuition fee total.

### **Early Bird**

The fee is \$10.00 per morning. Attendance is recorded daily, and parents are invoiced at the end of each month.

### **Extended Day**

Fees are \$44.40 per day for programs that run until 2:30pm and \$26.64 per day for programs that run until 1:30pm. Mini-sessions (e.g., soccer, basketball) that are offered as part of an Extended Day program may have an additional fee on top of the daily fee. Fees are billed along with morning tuition payments. Children may be registered only for the entire length of the particular Extended Day program. If a child goes home before that time, no adjustment in the fee will be made. There will be no adjustment in the fee for absences due to illness or vacation. However, a tuition credit will be placed on a child's account for any afternoons that are cancelled due to COVID-19 related quarantining.

### **Activity Fees**

Activity fees for field trips and for most special events throughout the year are covered by the tuition payment. A one-time fee of \$25 for the 2s and 3s and \$50 for the Pre-K is charged in August to cover class special events, parties and classroom supplies.

### **Parent Participation No-show Fee**

A \$100 fee will be charged for each day parents have not fulfilled by the last day of class, including their family work assignment.

### **Parent Participation Opt-out Fee**

Fees for opting out of parent participation requirements (includes field trips) are as follows:

- \$300 for children in the 2s classes
- \$400 for children in the 3s classes
- \$500 for children in the Pre-K classes

### **Late Pick-Up Fee**

There is a \$10 per child late fee for every 15 minutes the child is picked up late.

### **Late Payment**

A fee of \$25 will be added to payments received after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and an additional \$25 will be charged for every two weeks (1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the month) thereafter.

### **Returned Check Fee**

There is a \$25 fee for returned checks. After a second check is returned, payment will only be accepted by certified check, money order or cashier's check.

### **Refund Policy**

Parents enroll their child for the entire school year. **In all cases, the deposit paid in March is non-refundable.** Tuition fees are paid regardless of whether the child is absent, or school is closed because of inclement weather or other emergency conditions. Refunds for morning tuition, if granted, will be given for the period following 30 days written notice at the discretion of the Advisory Council (based on extenuating circumstances).

**After April 1, 2024, no refunds will be issued for any reason.**

Tuition for the morning program is not reduced in the instance that a class or the school must move to virtual learning because of directives from the Montgomery County Department of Health and/or the Maryland State Department of Education. There will be no virtual learning for the Extended Day Program therefore no tuition will be charged.

When the Director has asked that a child be withdrawn temporarily or for the remainder of the preschool year, fees paid for the period the child will not be attending will be returned on a pro-rated basis. If a child is withdrawn temporarily by the parents, full payment of fees during that period is required to maintain the child's place in the class.

If a family with multiple children enrolled in CCUMCP withdraws a child prior to the beginning of the school year, then they may request, in writing, to receive a tuition credit for the amount of the initial deposit if the space vacated by the child is able to be filled prior to the beginning of the school year. The tuition credit may only be used by an enrolled sibling for the same school calendar year.

**Financial Aid**

As a preschool with a Christian philosophy, CCUMCP seeks to open its doors to children who otherwise might not be able to participate in its curriculum. CCUMC Preschool's Scholarship Policy supports that mission, and families seeking assistance are encouraged to apply for funds.

Scholarships should be applied for at the time of registration but not later than February 10. After the February deadline, qualifying applications will be considered on a rolling basis subject to the availability of remaining funds.

We partner with [School and Student Services](#) (SSS) in our financial aid process. We recommend reviewing SSS resources before you begin the financial aid process. To begin your financial aid application, you will complete the SSS Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) then submit the required documents for our school indicated on the SSS website. SSS charges an application fee which the Preschool will reimburse to families regardless of the financial aid outcome.

The PFS is a comprehensive application that will take some time to complete. Give yourself the time you need by not waiting until our deadline approaches. You'll need your most recent tax return before beginning the PFS.

We will communicate our financial aid decision to you. To make our decision, we use the information from the PFS as a starting point and consider our school policies, practices, and available budget.

The application will be treated with discretion and only made available to the administrators and selected members of the preschool's Advisory Council. Applicants are notified before the deposit is due. Decisions on financial aid are made by the preschool's Advisory Council. The Scholarship Fund is perpetuated by donations, designated fundraisers, and a percentage of a net surplus from the school's operating budget, if a surplus exists.

*We look forward to your family's presence in our program.*