

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHILD CARE CENTER

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Philosophy of Christian Early Education

Children between the ages of birth and age 6 years old experience their world through touch, taste, seeing, feeling, smelling, and sense of security. Children need to be allowed the ability to experience the same object or concept in a variety of different ways in order to assimilate the information appropriately. Our daily schedule includes activities that can be child directed, teachers assisting in the facilitation of learning, and constructing classrooms as a means for learning. Teachers of young children set up the classroom environment to allow children to explore, to question, to work independently, within a group or with an adult. Children are guided by consistency, redirection, and positive reinforcement.

Play is an important tool for learning. Learning through play helps formulate healthy experiences for children. Play is work to children. They discover rules of sharing, getting along with others, how to resolve conflicts, how to recognize emotions, how to handle those emotions, how to help others, and how to interact appropriately with others. They also learn to foster imagination and creativity through play. A large portion of the day is spent in free choice play and teacher guided play through Center learning.

First United Methodist Child Care Center provides an atmosphere that encourages your child's intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social and physical growth and development as a whole. We want these first experiences with others to be successful beginnings to the many years of formal education ahead. Through the programs at our center your child will develop self-discipline, cooperative work and play, creative self-expression, group communication, development of coordination and muscle control, as well as many other social and physical growth.

We believe in a responsive, developmental approach to early childhood learning which emphasizes that each child develops at their own rate and that progress is measured individually. First United Methodist Child Care Center is a Christ-centered program. Learning experiences are taught from the Christian perspective that each child is a child of God and that all people are deserving of respect as creatures of God. In accordance with this philosophy, we include prayer, chapel, Bible stories and teaching, and service to others as part of our curriculum.

Philosophy of Christian Education

First United Methodist Child Care adopts the historic Christian view of life as presented in the Bible. Since God created and sustains everything through His Son, Jesus Christ, the world and life are God-centered and should glorify Him. Man, being a sinner by nature and choice, cannot glorify or know God apart from being regenerated through personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by faith. The total process of education, therefore, should seek to restore the student to a position of true knowledge, righteousness, and holiness in Christ by relating the whole person to God spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically. God's truth must be integrated into every area of school life. Such education is primarily the parents' responsibility, and the school functions as an extension of the home in providing this education.

First United Methodist Child Care believes that all children are a gift from God (Matt. 19:14), and are created in the image of God (Ps. 119:73; Col. 1:16). Therefore, our stewardship response is to provide a wholesome and Christian environment by nurturing the children through the teaching of the Scripture, by providing Christian role models, and by assisting the students to develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually as Christians (Deut. 6:4-9).

Our church seeks to treat each student as a special child of God, encouraging mutual respect. The school has a traditional curriculum taught from a Christian perspective, which includes a daily Bible class at all age levels.

Early Childhood Goals

- Our curriculum offers children choices in learning centers, provides opportunities for children to think and solve problems, trains teachers in biblical guidance techniques and communicates effectively with parents and gives children daily opportunities to grow, develop and enjoy success.
- To provide experiences to help children develop skills in the following areas: spiritual, physical development, approaches to learning, social and emotional development, language and communication, cognitive development and general knowledge.
- To provide opportunities for the child to develop social skills that will enable him to interact with his peers in a positive way.
- To help each child grown emotionally by instilling in him a positive self-image; by helping him to express feelings of joy, sadness, frustration and anger in an acceptable manner.
- To provide opportunities for the children to develop physically through activities indoors and outdoors that promote both small and large muscle development and motor control.
- Most importantly, to instill in each child the love and compassion for others and themselves that God has instilled in us.

Early Childhood Educational Objectives

- Offer a curriculum that is activity based and center learning
- Provide the children choices
- Allow physical activity daily
- Encourage creative expression
- Provide balance
- Include beginning group experiences
- Provide a curriculum with biblical integration
- Provide a flexible schedule within a familiar routine
- Provide opportunities for the child to build a relationship with God.

Mission Statement

To instill within the student/child a sense of responsibility for continuous Christian and intellectual growth in a nurturing environment.