

♡ little sprouts ♡

Early Childhood Center

We are pleased to offer Three- and Four-Year-Old Preschool programming, and Family Play Groups for families with infants and toddlers for the 2021-22 school year.

All programs are designed to nurture the unique cognitive, physical and social-emotional development of little learners by:

- Growing an inclusive school family with shared goals of recognizing and honoring the beauty in one another, and in the world around us
- Supporting the development of traditional school-readiness skills in a non-traditional setting, with the added benefit of a weekly story-time with church clergy
- Providing a balance of daily indoor and outdoor learning opportunities to build resilience and to discover the curiosities of the natural world by being immersed in them
- Utilizing a child-centered, play-based curriculum, guided by the needs, interests and abilities of the children
- Offering ALL children the opportunity to be leaders, problem-solvers, risk-takers, and care-takers



2021-22 Program Offerings

○ **Preschool Threes** – Tuesdays / Thursdays – 9:00-11:30

Tuition: \$1050.00/year – Deposit of \$150.00 required with registration, along with a photocopy of your child's Birth Certificate and Immunization Record.

Nine monthly payments of \$100.00 will be due at the beginning of each month, August 2021-April 2022.

Children must be 3 years old by September 1, 2021, and must be potty trained.

○ **Preschool Fours** – Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays – 9:00-Noon

Tuition: \$1890.00/year – Deposit of \$225.00 required with registration, along with a photocopy of your child's Birth Certificate and Immunization Record.

Nine monthly payments of \$185.00 will be due at the beginning of each month, August 2021-April 2022.

Children must be 4 years old by September 1, 2021, and must be potty trained.

○ **First FAMILIES Play Groups** – Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri options 9:30-11

Tuition: \$130 per FAMILY, paid in full upon registration, along with a photocopy of your child's Birth Certificate and Immunization Record.

Play Group participants meet **once each week** for 10 weeks, and are also invited to attend additional optional monthly community play-dates.

Children must be between the ages of birth-3, and accompanied by a grown-up.

○ **First FRIENDS Play Group** – Wednesdays 9:30-11

Tuition: \$130 per CHILD, paid in full upon registration, along with a photocopy of your child's Birth Certificate and Immunization Record.

Not quite old enough for preschool? 2½ - 3-year old Play Group (formerly known as Hand in Hand) participants meet once each week for 10 weeks, and are invited to attend additional optional monthly community play-dates.

Children must be between the ages of 2½-3, and accompanied by a grown-up. (First FRIENDS is especially for 2½-year-old 'Big Kids', without their siblings—Families who would like to bring their toddlers babies together are encouraged to join a First FAMILIES play-group! ;)

Preschool Daily Routine - Having a consistent daily routine gives us the sense of security that we ALL♥ need in order to feel safe taking risks, making choices, and feeling open to new Learning opportunities! Although the learning content will vary, the order of the experiences, once established, will remain a comforting constant.

♥ **Arrival/Table Time** - We will transition from those who love us at home, and settle in with those who can't wait to see us at school! We will check in, and get to 'work', (aka PLAY!), exploring a variety of both familiar and new materials chosen to enhance our understanding of math, science, literacy, language, and creative representation.

♥ **Greeting/Circle** - We will gather together to say hello to one another, sing together, recall our previous experiences, and share our plans for the day!

♥ **Small Group Time** - We will come together in small groups to explore materials selected to further develop our cognitive and social growth, try out new skills, solve problems, promote peer cooperation, and expand on our interests and abilities with the support of our teachers.

♥ **Work Time** - We will carry out our plans for the day, exploring materials of our choosing from throughout the classroom, and interacting with the children and adults in our school family! This is our time to practice problem solving, to build relationships, to engage in complex play, and to participate in activities of our own choosing!

♥ **Outdoor Exploration** - We will explore the play-ground and the variety of lovely outdoor spaces on the CUMC grounds, in ALL kinds of weather...This is our time for child-initiated, body-moving, curiosity-driven, hands-on, exciting, messy, problem-solving FUN! (Rain or shine, we're bound to make discoveries outdoors that will inspire and direct our future learning and explorations!)

♥ **Snack Time** - We will sit together to share a snack, to visit with one another, and to recall the day's events!

♥ **Large Group Time** - We will gather together for music, for moving, for stories, and for the opportunity to share our thoughts, our ideas, and our space with one another!

♥ **Closing Circle** - We will end right back where we started--Together with our whole school family, for a story, a song, and good-byes!

👉 Play Group Daily Routine

- Having a consistent daily routine gives us the sense of security that we ALL ♥ need in order to feel safe taking risks, making choices, and feeling open to new learning opportunities! Weekly playful experiences are designed to nurture the cognitive, physical and social-emotional growth of infants and toddlers, and to build supportive connections with other local families with young children.

♥ **Floor Time** - We will play and talk together on the carpeted side of the classroom while everyone has a minute to unload and to settle in!

♥ **Greeting/Circle Time** - We will greet each other, sing together, and discover what's inside of the "Happy Can"!

♥ **Work/Table Time** - We will explore the classroom, PLAY together, and choose to create something at the tables! (Sometimes it will be something worthy of taking home and mounting on the refrigerator, and sometimes its worth will be purely in the experience! ;)

♥ **Clean-Up Time** - We will clean up the classroom together, so we know right where to find the things that we love the next time that we return!

♥ **Large Group Time** - We will gather together for a little music, dancing and a story!

♥ **Snack Time** - We will wash hands, share a snack, and visit with one another!

♥ **Large Motor Time** - We will visit the outdoor or the indoor play-ground for some crawling, climbing, and moving our bodies before we say goodbye!

Frequently Asked Questions -

This is funny—After more than 40 years of combined Early Childhood teaching experience, THIS is a brand new adventure for the two of us! We are imagining questions that families might have, and welcome the addition of any inquiries that we might have overlooked!

- **How many children will be in a class?** Our 4-year-olds will have a maximum of 18 children, our 3-year-olds a maximum of 15, and our play groups a maximum of 12.
- **How many teachers will be in the Preschool classroom?** There will be one teacher and one assistant-teacher.
- **Will parent participation be welcomed?** It is our hope that Covid-related restrictions on inviting parent participation have been lifted when fall arrives, and that we can offer each Preschool family the opportunity to participate in Snack & Stay—3 times per school year for Threes, and 4 times for Fours!
- **When will the school year begin and end?** Our school year will begin with Parent Orientation meetings the week of September 6. Classes will begin the week of September 13, and will run through mid-May.
- **What about breaks and holidays?** Our school year calendar will be aligned with Waterford School District breaks and holidays, and will follow Waterford's lead in the event of inclement weather and/or pandemic-related closures. Days missed due to snow days will be added to the end of the session.
- **Will you go outdoors in 'bad' weather?** We have an amazing variety of beautiful outdoor spaces to explore here, and we strongly believe that there is no such thing as 'bad' weather...only 'bad' clothing (choices)! We will dress in layers when the days are cold, in rain gear when the days are wet, and in snow gear when the days are wintry, so that we can learn about the world around us by being immersed in it. (We know that little bodies need to move in big spaces EVERY day, so we will be sure to visit our indoor Large Motor space when severe weather prohibits us from doing so outdoors!)
- **Will my child need any school supplies?** Although there will be times that the children will be asked to share 'found materials' from home (leaves, stones, and other lovely little nature treasures), or to complete an occasional task to connect our classroom learning to our at-home experiences, the only daily supplies they'll need are weather-appropriate clothing, and a backpack with an extra change of clothing! We will further address snack protocols when the school year draws near, as snack will be served in both Preschool and Play Group programs. There may be times that classroom donations and snacks are welcomed, but they will never be required.

- **What if I am looking for an ‘academic’, rather than a ‘play-based’ program for my preschooler?** *“ACADEMICS are the subject...PLAY is the method...LEARNING is the outcome.”* – Amanda Morgan ...Here’s the amazing thing...A high-quality program is not one-or-the-other—It is carefully curated experiences, authentic relationships, and real-world explorations that lead to asking questions, making discoveries and expanding on a foundation of prior knowledge every day. Your child will be presented with limitless learning opportunities within the context of play every day.
- **What if after all of this time that we have been at home together, my child has difficulty separating from me?** While it is our goal that the children attend independent of their caregivers, we realize that it may take ‘baby steps’ to make that happen for everyone! We will work with every family to create a plan that best supports their little ones while at the same time, being compliant with all Covid-19 safety regulations.
- **HOW DO I REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM?** A LINK TO ALL REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE POSTED ON THE LITTLE SPROUTS LINK ON waterfordcumc.org MONDAY, MAY 17 @ 9:00 AM, AND CAN THEN BE PRINTED AND MAILED, OR DROPPED OFF AT CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BETWEEN 1:00-2:00 PM ON MONDAY MAY 17TH OR BETWEEN 1:00-2:00 PM ON TUESDAY MAY 18TH.
Classes will be filled in the order that applications are received, and confirmations will be sent via e-mail .♥
- **Wait! What if I have more questions?** Please feel free to contact us—We look forward to hearing from you!

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Preschool Programming

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Family Play Groups