

University Congregational Children Center Preschool

Mission Statement

Nurturing the gift and the promise of young children is the mission of the University Congregational Children's Center Preschool. We honor the value and dignity of each individual, while educating the whole child through developmentally appropriate practice. We encourage children to become contributing members of their classroom community, strengthening values of cooperation, responsibility and creativity. As a parent-cooperative, the preschool offers an environment where ideas about learning and positive parenting can be shared by all. Reflective of University Congregational Church's statement of "Open and Affirming", we celebrate present-day family diversity and welcome children of all races, abilities and backgrounds. As one of the church's 'outward' faces, we seek to be not only a home for discovery and learning, but also a place of hospitality and love.

Our Hopes for 2011-2012

We will continue to:

- Support, socio-economic diversity by offering need-based scholarships, increasing those scholarships if financially possible.
- Promote clear communication and peaceful conflict resolution by teaching and modeling those skills within the classroom. Offer, and expand, curriculum materials which reflect the diversity of humanity.
- Encourage and support emergent literacy with special emphasis on class-made books specific to individual children or individual classes of children.
- Encourage and support children's growing understanding and use of writing through developmentally appropriate handwriting curriculum (using Handwriting without Tears as a guide). Support parents' understanding of developmentally appropriate handwriting expectations.
- Guide children, as developmentally appropriate, into an understanding of community, and of our responsibility to all of creation, especially through hands-on learning and service projects.
- Strengthen the relationship between the church community and the preschool, through encouragement of registration by church members, through presentations at the Women's Fellowship meeting and in joint projects with groups within the church or that support some of the church's efforts in social justice.

Additionally, we aspire to promote, as developmentally appropriate, an understanding of the food chain, issues of sustainability and our responsibility to all of creation, through concrete experiences of growing and harvesting our own food, careful use of resources, and recycling.