



## **Four-Year-Old Program**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

First Pres Preschool provides an enriched Christian learning environment that encourages cognitive, social, and emotional development as children discover and explore the world around them. Our goal is to nurture a foundation that promotes independence and confidence as an introduction to lifelong learning.

### **CURRICULUM**

The four-year-old curriculum offers a wide variety of age-appropriate activities and learning opportunities. It provides a balance of self-selected and teacher-directed activities, individual and large group activities, as well as indoor and outdoor experiences. Learning centers are provided that invite children to explore, experiment, create, and ask questions. Our program is committed to providing an innovative and developmentally appropriate curriculum to help prepare each child for his/her next school experience. We use the Illinois Early Education Learning Standards and NAEYC guidelines to validate our goals and targets for the students.

### **DAILY PROGRAM**

There are two four-year-old classes, morning and afternoon, which meet four days a week, Monday through Thursday. The AM class meets 9:00-11:30am and the PM class meets 12:30-3:00pm.

- Group times involving calendar & weather activities, reading & memory recall & sequencing, music & creative movement, language and math experiences, print and phonemic awareness, graphing, and teacher themed lessons and projects.
- Daily activity or project to reinforce small motor skills, listening skills, cognitive skills, and independence.
- Center play where children choose their own activities: dramatic play, puzzles & books, blocks & Legos & math play, trucks & cars & trains, painting & free art projects, sensory table & science activities, writing & letter activities, and small manipulative play.
- Outdoor play on approved playground equipment in a park-like enclosed setting or indoor play on approved equipment in our gymnasium.
- Group snack time.

### **OBJECTIVES**

At age four to five, social cognition is becoming evident in the ability to make social judgments on the basis of prior experience. Children at this age are able to use their observations of others, their own viewpoints, and their expectations of others to help shape their decision-making process. Social cognition allows four and five year olds to

learn by sharing their own experiences and relating them to the subject at hand. Our preschool experience for this age group is still very 'hands on' allowing students to learn by involving themselves in exploring, discovering, and repeating lessons, ideas, and new concepts. We encourage cognitive learning in the areas of early math & patterning, phonics & pre-literacy, writing, science, and music along with opportunities for small and large group interaction, classroom responsibility, independence and self-confidence.

- Promote social skills such as respect, kindness, and empathy.
- Enhance self-esteem through individual accomplishment.
- Learn how to value another person's rights by teaching respect for others.
- Encourage cognitive development and reasoning skills.
- Encourage pre-literacy and early math skills.
- Strengthen small motor skills using scissors and independent projects.
- Develop an appropriate pattern of dependence and independence.
- Foster a sense of continuity between school and the outside world.
- Create a place of community, teamwork, and friendship.
- Explore creativity and self-expression.

## **GOALS**

We strive to nurture growth in the following areas:

- Self-awareness
- Self-regulation
- Large motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination
- Social cooperation
- Personal independence
- Verbalizing thoughts into sentences
- Curiosity and awareness of the world
- Listening to and following directions
- Completing tasks
- Maintaining a positive self-image
- Accepting and managing responsibility
- Taking part in vocalization and rhythmical activities
- Experiencing original and creative self-expression
- Achieving self-discipline

## **STAFF**

All teachers are college graduates; trained and experienced in Early Childhood Education. Our teachers have specialized instruction in various areas including Child Development, Reading, Special Education, and Elementary Education. The staff participates yearly in continuing education by attending early education workshops and seminars, observing in other early education programs and Kindergarten classrooms, and CPR/First Aid Certification.

## **ENROLLMENT**

Enrollment for the next school year opens to current families/alumni and church families in January. Open enrollment for the public begins in late January. Please email: [preschool@firstpreswheaton.org](mailto:preschool@firstpreswheaton.org) with enrollment inquiries.

## **ADMISSION**

Children entering the 4-Year-Old Program must be 4 years old by September 1st of the current school year.

## **ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

Orientation for all preschool classes is held during the week of Labor Day. The preschool school year ends the week before Memorial Day. The preschool follows the Wheaton District 200 Academic calendar for holidays, in-service days, and snow days. We also observe Easter Monday each year and there is no preschool on this day.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from school. In a designated loading area, teachers guide children as they enter and exit cars.

## **POLICY**

The preschool is licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services of Illinois (DCFS). It is in compliance with health and safety standards established by DCFS and the Board of Health. Further policies are set by the Preschool Staff with the approval of the Session of First Presbyterian Church.

## **RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS**

First Pres Preschool observes Christian holidays, sings a prayer before snack time, and fosters the kindness and community of Christian living. Please reach out to Melissa Coyne if you would like more information on becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton.

*Melissa Coyne, director*

Email: [preschool@firstpreswheaton.org](mailto:preschool@firstpreswheaton.org)

715 North Carlton Avenue

Wheaton, Illinois 60187

630-668-5147 x33

[www.firstpreswheaton.org](http://www.firstpreswheaton.org)