



Three-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 three-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 created to invite children to explore, experiment, create, make connection, 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 as a foundation for our progress goals and learning targets.

DAILY PROGRAM

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 9-11:30am

Tuesday & Thursday: 9-11:30am

Monday/Tuesday/ Thursday: 12:30-3:00pm

- Group times involving music, calendar activities, stories, creative movement, language and math experiences, teacher directed themed lessons and projects, and a group snack time.
- Free play where children choose their own center-based activities: dramatic play, puzzles & books, blocks & trucks, painting, play dough, sensory table 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 church gymnasium.

OBJECTIVES

Three-year-old children are just beginning to realize that the feelings of other people differ from their own; they are learning empathy. They are leaving the 'me' oriented world of a two year old and entering the world of peer relationships and self-control. Our main objective for this age group is to provide a solid foundation of social skills for interacting in a group setting and one-on-one with a peer. Along with strong social skills, we encourage cognitive learning in the areas of early math skills, pre-literacy, science, and music; provide opportunities for small and large gross motor skills; and foster 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.
- Strengthen small motor skills using scissors, play-dough, and art.
- 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

TEACHING 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 with enrollment inquiries.

ADMISSION

Children entering the 3-Year-Old Program must be 3 years old by September 1st of the current school year. **Children need to be toilet trained.**

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 car line unloading/loading area, teachers help 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

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