

Preschool Ministries

FCPC Preschool offers seven different programs for children ages 12 months to 5 years. Each is a ministry taught by qualified early childhood educators. Each program includes faith-based, age-appropriate learning activities in art, music and movement, dramatic play, science and group play. Here is a brief description of each program

Little Blessings Toddler & After-Preschool Program

Young children ages 12 months to 5 years receive loving Christian care and education by enjoying activities based on monthly themes. Children learn about God and relate Him with being loved and with loving people. Children also learn that God loves and cares for us and that His word teaches us about the goodness of Jesus. The program is available only by reservation from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. There are three developmental classrooms within this program: ages 12-23 months; 24-35 months and 36-60 months. We recommend children under 2 years of age attend no more than three hours per day.

Time For Twos

Children discover new ideas and concepts and experience group play with an emphasis in simple Biblical virtues. Children must be 2 years old before September 1st and must be registered for the full 9 month program. Class options are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. OR 11:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. **OR** Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. **OR** 11:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Preschool Threes

This program builds on the concepts introduced in Time for Twos and further develops a child's spiritual growth, social interaction and intellect. Children enjoy new activities in art, music, dramatic play, group play and science. All children must be 3 years old before September 1st and must be registered for the full 9 month program. Class options are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday **OR** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.

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Pre-Kindergarten

This program further expands a child's learning concepts and nurtures a greater and deeper understanding and curiosity of the wonder of God's world. All academic and social activities work together to further prepare the children for Kindergarten. All children must be 4 years old before September 1st and must be registered for the full 9 month program. Class options are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon on Monday and 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday **OR** Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon.

Pre-Kindergarten Lunch Bunch

This is an extended program for children currently enrolled in one of our pre-kindergarten classes. Children have fun eating lunch with friends and teachers as well as participating in special creative group projects. Class options are: Monday **OR** Wednesday **OR** Friday from 11:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Adventures in Art

This class will focus on each child's creativity. The class will allow the child to experience many different art mediums including mod podge, clay, printing ink, fabric and mosaics. The child will also be encouraged to express his/her artwork with words. We will begin the year reading a story each week and the child will then use different art techniques (such as collage, papier-mâché) to show or express his comprehension of the story. Later into the year, the class will combine creating with verbalizing in that each child's work of art becomes a story. This is an exciting way for a child to discover the world around him/her.

This class is offered on Tuesdays **OR** Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m. or 11:45 a.m. until 2:30 pm for children 3-6 years of age (must have turned 3 years old by September 1st). You must choose to either be enrolled in only **ONE** Tuesday **OR** Thursday class for the entire year (September-May).

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("Special Days" once a month)

Children and Worship/Chapel Service

On the first Wednesday of each month, the Preschool Threes and Pre-Kindergarten classes attend a special worship service in the Chapel. This worship experience, designed for children, is based on the books *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman and *Following Jesus* by Sonja Stewart. A worship context is used instead of an educational concept. Children learn that worship transforms ordinary time and space into sacred time and space. "Where education attempts to explain and interpret mystery, worship allows us to experience the presence of God as a way of knowing."

Joyful Noise

"Joyful Noise" is a faith based musical program offered once a month to all Preschool and Little Blessing classes. This class is offered in collaboration with the Preschool Ministries and FCPC Children's Ministries. During the thirty minute sessions the children learn a theme song of the month which support that month's "Fruit of the Spirit", old time religious favorites and new praise songs are introduced; designed to build character and faith. We use musical instruments and hand motions as a means to enhance the fine motor and rhythmic skills of our children. Music is the universal language and even the smallest of our children can express themselves and enjoy this wonderful time of "Joyful Noise".

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Science Time

Once a month, Little Blessings, Time for Twos, Preschool Threes and Pre-Kindergarten will receive 40 minutes of instruction in science. These special classes are designed to compliment the current preschool curriculum. All of the learning will be hands-on as children are broken into small groups to conduct experiments and explore their worlds. The classes are designed so that the lessons can be brought back to the regular classroom and expanded upon throughout the month. Some of the topics include: pill bugs, fish, thermometer, sink/float, shadows, rainbows, moons, stars, rockets, plants, flowers, seeds, earthworms, ants, magnets and pendulums.

Sign Language

During six months of our school year, each classroom of children attend a special sign language time. This experience is designed to enhance our current preschool curriculum by giving children the tools to communicate their desires, concerns and feelings through hand motions and finger plays. This will give the children a positive impact into their growing self-esteem so that they are comfortable communicating in other avenues as they learn how to talk, share, live and grow in their everyday lives. This special time will help the smallest of our children (12 months) gain the knowledge needed to communicate while learning how to talk to others and this will also help our other program children (especially those who have English as a second language) develop their communication skills to their fullest potentials.

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FCPC Preschool Summer Bible Program

The developmentally appropriate curriculum offers Bible verses, music, games, crafts, theater fun and snacks based on Bible stories.

This program gives children exciting adventures over eight weeks in June and July. It offers a unique reservation process for families to design their own schedule between the hours of 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information on how you can visit our preschool programs please contact Michele Bloch at 412-963-8243 ext. 30.