

PHILOSOPHY

Children are uniquely designed by God and are valuable and capable of learning and contributing. In every child's life there is an enormous amount of creativity and potential. Every child has the right to develop fully this creativity and potential within a loving and caring environment which assures a child his/her uniqueness, importance, and worth.

Children are great learners given developmentally appropriate programs and the time, patience, and respect needed to grow and succeed. The attitudes they develop about themselves, about others, and about the world in which they live are rapidly and firmly being established. These attitudes will affect a child for the rest of his/her life. Therefore, it is an absolute necessity that they be nurtured properly.

Children need to know they are loved and that they can love others. They need to reflect, discover their God given talent, use it, share it, and know that they can make a worthwhile and meaningful contribution to their world.

GOAL

Weirton Christian Center Preschool is a preschool of a different kind, a catalyst for change. It's a change from conformity to diversity; from sequential step-by-step approaches to self-paced and developmentally paced approaches. It is a move from the notion that the child should fit the school to the notion that the school should fit the child, from competition to co-operation, from failure-oriented to success-oriented, from pressure to pleasure, from God being separate to God being central.

PURPOSE

Weirton Christian Center Preschool is an educational institution serving children three, four and five years of age. It exists as a ministry of the Weirton Christian Center in Weirton, West Virginia. The following are the intended purposes of this preschool:

1. Extend the gospel of Jesus Christ into wider community and neighboring areas.
2. Expand the ministry of the Weirton Christian Center to families and children.
3. Provide a serving institution for parents who want early training and education for their children prior to public education and who want their children to learn and socialize in a Christian atmosphere.
4. Provide an institution for parents who want their children in a developmentally appropriate program.
5. Create awareness in children of who God is and how He has revealed Himself and His work.
6. Cultivate a desire within children for a personal relationship and friendship with Jesus Christ.
7. Provide children with an educational institution assisting in their development spiritually, socially, intellectually, emotionally, and physically.

THE CHILD'S APPEAL

I am the Child.
All the world waits for my coming.
All the earth watches with interest to see what I shall become.
Civilization hangs in the balance,
For what I am, the world of tomorrow will be.

I am the Child.
I have come into your world, about which I know nothing.
Why I came I know not;
How I came I know not;
I am curious, I am interested.

I am the Child.
You hold in your hand . . . my destiny.
You determine, largely, whether I shall succeed or fail.
Give me, I pray you, those things that make for happiness.
Train me, I beg you, that I may be a blessing to the world.

Maime Gene Cole

STAFF

We serve as positive Christian role models and provide care that is supportive and responsive to each child's individual needs. We will be committed to providing experiences that teach and train the whole child. We respect parents as the primary and most important provider of care and we seek only to supplement your efforts.

Executive Director: Kim Weaver

Curriculum Director: Tina Zago, M.A.

Teacher: Pam Ott

Teacher Assistants: Freda Dulaney
Evie Dulaney

DEVELOPMENTAL CURRICULUM

A DEFINITION

A developmental curriculum is carefully framed on what is known about the physical, social and intellectual growth of children; on an understanding of what children need to learn; and on what is known about how children learn.

- ❖ It is teacher as architect builder and nurturer, and it is child as explorer, problem solver and playful experimenter.
- ❖ It is one in which the teacher maps a route for the child – a route which takes into account the child's pace and needs and multitude of ways to approach learning.
- ❖ It is a route which juxtaposes concepts with skills, readiness with challenge, and home with school. Along that route a dialogue begins between teacher and child in whom each is swayed by the other until a balance emerges.
- ❖ It is the sum total of each encounter a child has with the classroom environment: with other children, with the teacher, with the materials, with self.
- ❖ It is a combination of not only math and writing skill, wood-working and cooking skills, problem solving and concepts, but also the feelings, dreams and conflicts of the children.
- ❖ It is filled with what children know – their ideas, their creations, their plans, and their discoveries.

Such a curriculum is founded upon a respect for the child and is richly furnished by the teacher with time to try and discover, with time to observe and to plan, with time to play and to grow.

CURRICULUM

Weirton Christian Center Preschool is designed in such a way that each child has an opportunity to explore, discover, create, learn problem solving, critical and creative thinking, and personal and social interaction skills – all within a caring Christian environment. Our curriculum will actively engage children in the learning process through research based activities and teaching strategies. It will incorporate the following concepts while meeting the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives for preschool age children:

- ❖ Child Centered
- ❖ Developmental Learning Approaches
- ❖ Christian Thematic Units
- ❖ Whole Language
- ❖ Math Manipulatives
- ❖ Exploratory and Discovery Approaches
- ❖ Self-directed Activities
- ❖ Multi-Sensory Approaches
- ❖ Social/Emotional Centers/Stations
- ❖ Intellectual Centers/Stations
- ❖ Individual Instruction
- ❖ Small Group Instruction
- ❖ Large Group Instruction

The above approaches provide appropriate activities for the children that require challenges as well as those who need to acquire skills in a risk-free setting. They provide children with successful experiences, enhancing a positive self-concept. This atmosphere will help children feel good about who they are and confident about what they can accomplish.

"The source of curriculum is the child. The knowledge of children informs curriculum and we first seek that knowledge in the direct testimony of the child." – Ruth Charney

CENTERS

Social/Emotional Centers/Stations:

These centers are designed for children to engage in meaningful and purposeful activities of their choice. The stations are challenging and risk free. They are designed to encourage exploration and discovery, allowing the children to construct their own understanding of things based upon personal experience.

Art, Reading, Housekeeping, Dramatic Play, Sand & Water Play, Blocks, Music, Games and Puzzles.

Intellectual Centers/Stations:

These centers are specifically designed for children to engage in thematic activities that are intended to create awareness and provide learning opportunities for acquiring specific skills and/or concepts. These stations may be more teacher directed. Some examples of the activities that will be performed are, co-operative games and activities, specific theme related art projects, listening and following direction skills, creation of class and/or individual books, and science experiments. Language arts, Mathematics, Science & Health, Social Studies, Cooking, Listening, and Art.

Example of THEMATIC UNITS

GOD MADE OUR WONDERFUL WORLD

- A. God's Lights in the Sky
- B. Things That Grow
- C. The Birds and the Bees
- D. Under the Sea
- E. God's Helpful Creatures
- F. God's Special People

GOD MADE ME SPECIAL

- A. All About Me
- B. My Body
- C. My Feelings
- D. My Talents

GOD CARES FOR HIS PEOPLE

- A. God Cares for Me
- B. My Family
- C. My Friends
- D. My Community

JESUS IS BORN

- A. A Special Gift

JESUS LOVES ME

- A. Just a Prayer Away
- B. His Holy Word
- C. Fruits of the Spirit

JESUS DIED AND ROSE FOR ME

- A. Forgiveness
- B. Salvation

THE CHURCH GROWS

- A. Sharing the Good News About Jesus
- B. Praise and Worship
- C. A Thankful Heart

DISCIPLINE

Our goal is to glorify God in all things, it is with the intent of being faithful to what the Bible teaches that: "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Our desire is that the children will learn to apply Biblical principles to daily living.

In a developmental classroom, behavioral problems tend to be minimal. When the environment is child-centered, the curriculum non-threatening, non-competitive, non-sexist...when the setting allows the child to safely explore and fosters curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, children behave appropriately. We will provide positive discipline such as positive reinforcement, engaging co-operation strategies, and natural consequences of behavior, ie. . . throwing crayons around . . . the child will be expected to pick them up. If inappropriate behavior should occur, the teacher will remind the child of the rules and then re-direct him to another activity. If a child should display aggressive behaviors such as hitting, biting, kicking, etc., he/she will gently be lead to the "thinking chair" for a four to five minute period of "Time-Out."

We will use discipline as a programmed guidance to help your child develop internal self-control, self-direction and efficiency.



*Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn . . .

If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight . . .

If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy . . .

If a child lives with jealousy, He learns to feel
guilty . . .

If a child lives with tolerance He learns to be patient . .

If a child lives with encouragement, He learns
confidence . . .

If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate . . .

If a child lives with security, He learns to have
faith . . .

If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself .

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, He
learns to find love in the world.

Unknown Author

TIMES OF OPERATION

Weirton Christian Center Preschool will be in operation from Tuesday, September 7, 2010 through May 27, 2011. The school will follow the Hancock County School Calendar for scheduled closings and will be closed on the following holidays:

- Election Day (when applicable)
- President's Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas & New Year
- Martin Luther King Day
- Easter and Spring Break

For school closings due to weather conditions, listen to local radio and television stations. When Hancock County Schools have a two hour delay, 4-year old preschool is canceled, but we will still hold 3-year old class unless we notify you. Please make sure your contact information is updated at all times.

REGISTRATION

Registration applications will be taken on a first-come-first serve basis until enrollment capacity is reached. There is a \$25.00 registration fee. Any remaining applications will be placed on a waiting list. These applicants will be notified as soon as a vacancy is available. If a permanent withdrawal is ever necessary, please notify us at least one week in advance. Please complete all required forms upon registration. We will also need a copy of your child's immunization records and birth certificate.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation can be provided to and from the center, within city limits, if needed, by Weirton Transit for \$1.00 per day. Scholarships are available. We must have a permission slip on file. You will receive an invoice the last day of school each month and the fare is to be paid to the Weirton Christian Center by the 5th of the following month. The Weirton Christian Center will provide a responsible adult to ride with your child on the bus. Your approximate pick up and drop off times will be provided prior to the start of transportation – on Tuesday September 7, 2010. If your child is NOT able to ride- either direction - you need to call Weirton Transit by 8:15 AM for morning classes and by noon for afternoon classes that day. You can leave message 24 hours a day. 304-797-8597.

Starting and Ending Times

4 Year-Old Classes: 2-1/2 hours in length :Monday through Friday – 9AM – 11:30AM.

3 Year-Old Classes: 2 hours in length: Monday through Friday -1 to 3 PM.

In order to help us be properly prepared children will not be allowed in the room until 5 minutes before the start of the class – 8:55AM and 12:55 PM.

It is the responsibility of you as parents to see that the children get into the room. After your child is used to coming to school, you may be able to just stand-up at the fence and watch to see that the child goes in the room. For the first few days you may want to go all the way down the steps with your child.

Due to the high cost of liability insurance, it should be understood that the Weirton Christian Center is only responsible for the children from the time they enter the room until the time they leave the room with a parent or responsible adult. For this reason we ask that you not allow your child to play on the steps or in the yard. Keep your child with you until he/she is in the room.

When school is dismissed for the day, you must come to the room to get your child. This will prevent children from running out in the street, leaving with the wrong person or running unsupervised. In the event the child is not picked up at dismissal time, he/she will be left with another adult inside the lobby on the main floor. This adult will only be responsible for the child for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, the worker will refer to the information you gave us concerning what to do if no one shows up to get your child.

SHOW AND TELL

“Show and Tell” is a sharing experience, important for the development of language and listening skills as well as self-esteem development. The ideas for “Show and Tell” can be varied. Your child will be encouraged to bring a favorite book, toy, vacation souvenirs, pictures, or anything that has significant meaning to the child is appropriate. You may bring your child’s pet to school if it is not a risk to the children. We will have “Show and Tell” every Friday.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are excellent ways to learn about many things and enrich learning experiences. The teacher will send a permission slip home with your child that you will be requested to complete and sign before your child can go on the field trip. You or other designated adult will be requested to chaperon your child on field trips, and in most cases you will be asked to take your child to the site.

First Aid and What We Will Do In Case Your Child Gets Sick or Injured

All employees can administer minor first aid – such as putting ice on a bump or bandage a minor cut. If your child is injured and we feel the injury needs more attention that we can give, we will contact you immediately and you can decide what to do next.

If your child does not feel well or you feel he/she might be sick, it is probably best that you keep him/her home until you see what happens. In case of illness where a child develops a fever, throws up or develops diarrhea, we will call you immediately and you must come and get your child.

PLEASE BE SURE TO COMPLETE THE MEDICAL EMERGENCY CARD AND BE SURE TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES WITH YOUR CHILD. *Make sure we have a local contact able to pick up your child.*

Contagious Diseases, Head Lice or Other Health Problems.

The children in preschool are at the right age to contact illnesses from each other or from other children in their families. When a child gets a illness, we would ask that you call and let us know. We do ask that you keep your child home until all signs of the illness are gone or until you give us a written statement from a doctor stating the illness could not be passed on to other children.

Shortly after school begins we will be sending home information about head lice as this can be a problem in any school. In the event your child develops lice, we will ask that you keep him/her home until all signs of the lice are gone.

Days Preschool Will Not Be Held

The preschool will be closed whenever the Hancock County Public Schools are closed. We will follow the schedule for Hancock County Public Schools since the Weirton Christian Center is located in Hancock County and the majority of the children live in Hancock County. If there is a 2-hour delay, due to weather conditions, morning Pre-School will be canceled and afternoon pre-school will be held, unless you are notified.

We will try to keep you informed of days we will not be in session. There may be days when we will have to close preschool due to a problem with the building such as no heat, no electric, no water, etc. In the event these

problems occur we will inform you immediately. In the event a problem occurs when the preschool is in session, we will send the children home as soon as we can contact the parents.

SNACKS , PARTIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

As you know, we only charge you the \$25.00 registration fee for the entire year of preschool. We also furnish all the supplies the children use. The only item we ask you to send is a snack at least once a month. These snacks can be fresh fruits or vegetables, crackers, chips, pretzels, popcorn, cookies or anything the children might eat. Please send enough for each child in the class. In the event you choose to send anything that has to be prepared, please do so as the teachers won't have time to prepare food. The Center will provide milk to the children daily.

Several times during the year especially at holidays, you will be asked to contribute special items for the parties. A note will be sent home prior to the events asking for volunteers to provide what we need.

On his/her birthday, each child will be recognized and will be given a gift from the Center. You are welcome to send cupcakes or special cookies if you wish. You can also send one other small treat to give the children to take home.

CLASS PICTURES, BOOK ORDERS AND OTHER PROJECTS

Although the \$25.00 registration fee is the only fee we ask for during the year, there are times when you can spend some money for the good of your child. Every month your child will bring home an order form from Troll Books. These are nice books and we make no money from the sale of these books. Actually, we prefer you make your checks payable to the book company, rather than the Center.

In the spring, the children have their pictures taken and you can purchase these if you wish. Again, you are under no obligation.

If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to come in, or call the Weirton Christian Center at 304-748-2353.

Thank you for sharing your children with us!