



## A Ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church

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### OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of The Apple Tree Preschool is to provide a safe, stimulating, and educational atmosphere, which will promote the social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual and physical development of the children.

The Apple Tree Preschool places emphasis on the development of the whole child. Social, emotional and spiritual development, as well as academic readiness in areas of language development, listening skills, building basic quantitative concepts, and physical development are skills that will be stressed in the daily structure of the classroom.

### OUR PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy behind our curriculum is that young children learn best by hands on activities. Learning is not repeating what someone else says: it requires active thinking and experimenting to find out how things work and how things in their world relate to them. The activities introduced to the children have been created to promote self-awareness, language development, auditory and visual discrimination and sensory-motor skills. At The Apple Tree Preschool, children are free to explore and learn at their own pace. The children are encouraged to make their own choices, explore, create, use manipulative materials, and to express their own interest and opinions in both structured and unstructured formats. Apple Tree will provide a sensitive and warm environment in which the child feels secure enough to open their mind to new and exciting things. The Apple Tree Preschool recognizes that every child is unique. Each child has his/her own individual pattern of growth and development. The curriculum, materials, and teachers will be responsive to each child's abilities and interests.

### OUR GOALS

The most important goal of our curriculum is to help children become enthusiastic learners. This means encouraging children to be active and creative explorers who are not afraid to try new things and to think their own thoughts. Our goal is to help children become independent, self confident, inquisitive learners. We are teaching them HOW TO LEARN.

Our curriculum identifies goals in the following areas:

- SOCIAL:** to help children feel comfortable in school, trust their new environment, make friends, and feel they are part of the group.
- EMOTIONAL:** to help children experience pride and self-confidence, develop independence and self-control, and have a positive attitude.
- COGNITIVE:** to help children become confident learners by letting them test their own ideas and experience success, and by helping them acquire learning skills such as the ability to solve problems, ask questions, and use words to describe their thoughts and feelings.
- PHYSICAL:** to help children increase their large and small muscle skills and feel confident about what their bodies can do.
- SPIRITUAL:** to help children feel confident and open in their spiritual formation. Children have a profound sense of God and growth in their love for God is very important. The Apple Tree Preschool does not offer a complete spiritual program. **It is designed to enhance that which is taught at home and in their church.**

The activities we plan for the children, the way we organize the environment, select toys and materials, plan the daily schedule, interact and talk with children, are all designed to accomplish the goals of our curriculum and give your child a successful start.

### TWO & THREE YEAR OLD PROGRAM

In most cases, this will be a child's first experience with being away from home in a school setting. It is important the experience be positive and growth producing for children and parents alike. Our supportive environment will encourage social growth in the two & three-year-olds. A high adult to child ratio will help to develop trusting relationships with other adults and enables positive social experiences with children of the same age.

Separation from parents is made easier by the presence of additional adults and by the individual attention given each child. Our new children will be receiving special attention in helping to smooth out the transition from home to school.

### FOUR YEAR OLD PROGRAM

A four-year-old child's natural desire to learn and increasing need to develop friendships will bloom and grow. They will begin to function more independently in a group setting and will expand social and learning skills in anticipation for success in school.

Fun and appropriate pre-kindergarten activities provide individual preparation for school by offering choices in degree of creativity and amount of time spent on each activity. Goals for pre-kindergarten classes are oriented towards enhancing developmental skills that will build on readiness for kindergarten.

### GENERAL SCHEDULE

Choice time/Clean up	Children explore areas of the room, participating in activities of their choice. At signal, children clean up and prepare for next activity.
Together time	Greeting, attendance, calendar, stories, songs, fingerplays and discussion of theme.
Snack time	Children sit together for a nutritious snack and are encouraged to help themselves.
Project	Generally, an art project relating to the weekly theme.
Activity Room / Outside Activity	Children participate in gross motor activities and use equipment to foster large muscle development.
Closing Circle	

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### The Staff

The teachers are the strength of our program. They are selected by the director and approved by the preschool board of director's. Each staff member hired is selected on the basis of their education, previous experience, training in early childhood development and their patience, warmth and sensitivity in dealing with children.

### The Building

The Apple Tree Preschool is located in the education wing of the Trinity United Methodist Church. The entire wing is designed with all children in mind. Our classrooms have been created to meet the developmental needs of preschool children. The entire building is equipped with a fire alarm system. The children and staff will periodically practice fire drills using various exits. For the safety of our children, the doors to the building will be locked during school hours. An intercom system is in place. Our wing can also be locked if necessary.

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The mission statement of Trinity United Methodist Church is:

To know God

To show the love of Jesus

To share the gifts of the spirit