



Come
Play to
Learn

First United Methodist
Preschool

4's Program Virtual Tour

Welcome!

Thank you for visiting our virtual classroom. We'd like to show you some of the things we do in a typical day at school. We are play-based and theme-based, so our activities change out each week with the theme.



Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.

Circle Time

We start our day at circle

- We work on our number and letter of the week pages
- We talk about our theme of the week
- We sing songs, say rhymes, play instruments, and move to music
- We read a story
- We explore math and science concepts
- We talk about our project of the day

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.



Science Table

We explore the scientific world with fossils, feathers, water, instruments, animal and plant life cycles, seeds, and even volcanoes!



Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.

Tool Table

Great for developing fine motor skills and learning cooperation

We build marble runs, make aliens and sea creatures, hammer pegs, saw wood, use a drill to insert screws, build bird nests, put together race cars, repair a flashlight, and build robots.

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.



Math Table

Activities at the math table help develop skills including counting, number recognition, patterning, odd/even, one to one correspondence, sorting, shapes, money, estimation, and fine motor.



Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.

Home Living

Imaginative Play

Our Home Living area changes on a regular basis. It has a kitchen and office area, with accompanying toys, but it is so much more. It becomes a vet clinic, the moon surface and mission control, a campsite in the woods, Santa's Workshop, a pet adoption center, a garden, a farmer's market, and a bird habitat. We also use our imagination in the classroom with the fairy tale castle, the bear's cave, an undersea adventure, and a space rocket!

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.



Easels

We use many tools to paint at the easels. We have sponges, scrapers, brushes, stamps, our fingers, and even celery!

We use tempera paint, watercolors, oil pastels, crayons, chalk, markers, and colored pencils.



Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.

Creative Arts

Bringing out the artist in each child

We provide examples of projects students can do, along with the materials to make them. But we always have paper, glue, markers, crayons, scissors, tape, hole punches, and glue sticks for students to use to create whatever they want. There is a lot of freedom of expression at this center. Last year, the popular thing to make in the afternoon class was masks, with large hole punches used for the eyes!

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.



Sensory Table

The sensory table may have rice, beans, corn, water, ice, coffee grounds, or dried leaves in it. Toys are placed in with the materials and students have a great time exploring the different textures and playing cooperatively.



Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.

Game Table

Learning to take turns

We have a variety of games at this table, but they all require more than one player. We play memory games, board games, matching games, and building games. We use dice and spinners. Students work on counting and one-to-one correspondence moving their markers around a board. They learn to work cooperatively with each other.

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.



Toy Table

Each week we have new toys out at this table. The wooden tree house, the Fisher Price school and house, Playmobil farm, and frog pond are just some of the fun items available.



Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.

Play Dough!

Fine Motor Fun

Students love playing and creating with playdough. We use cookie cutters, textured rollers, rolling pins, cutting tools, and more. Play dough can be a very soothing activity for students' emotional health. Our scented homemade play dough is also a sensory experience, as well as a great social experience as students share tools and discuss what they are making.

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.



Blocks

Blocks provide a great opportunity for students to work together and use their imaginations. We use both large and small blocks, which provide hours of creative fun. Engineering and geometry skills are learned along the way.



Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.

Puppet Theater

Telling stories to others

Children develop language and literature skills as they use puppets to tell stories. Their imaginations grow and they develop empathy as they take on roles of the characters. Puppets allow children to explore new ideas and concepts in a safe and comfortable environment.

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.



Projects

During project time, teachers work with a small group of students, observing and evaluating their developing skills and engaging in meaningful conversation that builds relationships.



Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.

Reading Nook

Fostering a love of books

Children sit in the comfortable reading area, where there is a wide variety of books available related to our theme of the week. Pre-reading skills such as turning the pages, engaging with the pictures, pointing to the text, and telling familiar stories are important milestones on the path to becoming a successful reader.

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.



Cooking

We cook a lot in preschool! From stone soup and applesauce, to gingerbread men and pretzels shaped into our first initial, the projects develop a variety of skills from the fine motor cutting of vegetables to the math skills of sorting apples by color. And we have fun doing it!

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.



Special Events

Field Trips and More

- Gilbert Park fall field trip
- Fire Station visit
- Police Station visit
- Post Office walk
- Road Rally
- Three Sisters Harvest Program
- Nativity Play at Christmas
- Halloween Parade and program
- Worm Day

Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.





Thank You!

For more information, email
nancy@dgfumc.org



First United Methodist Preschool

1032 Maple Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

630-968-7120 x215

nancy @dgfumc.org

www.downersgrovepreschoolfumps.com



Play. Learn. Grow. Repeat.