

**Decatur First United Methodist
Preschool and Kindergarten
“A Methodist School of Excellence”**

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QUESTIONS THAT WE ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED

What age does a child have to be to attend? Your child must turn three years of age by December 31, 2018 to be in the 2 ½ year old class. To be in the three year old class, your child must turn 3 before September 1, 2018. To be in the four year old class, your child must turn 4 before September 1, 2018. To be in the kindergarten class, your child must turn 5 before September 1, 2018.

How many children are in each classroom? Class size is limited to 10 two ½ year olds, 14 three year olds in the 5 day class, 12 three year olds in the 3 day class, 16 four year olds, and 18 in the kindergarten class. There are two teachers in each classroom and additional floating assistant in the younger classes.

How often can my child attend? 2 ½ year olds attend class two (T/Th) days a week. (If you would like more days for your 2 ½ year child then he/she may also attend two or three days at Children’s Morning Out), 3 year olds attend either three (MWF) or five days a week. 4 year olds and the kindergarten class attend five days a week.

What are the months and hours of operation? Our program starts in mid August and runs until mid May. All classes except the kindergarten class are from 9am until 12noon. The kindergarten class meets from 9am-1pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesday the kindergarten class meets 9am-12noon.

What about extended day? Beginning in September and continuing through May our extended day program called Kid’s Club is offered. Kid’s Club allows you to extend your child’s day from 12n to 1pm. You will be sent a reservation form two weeks before the end of the month. You then

select the days that you would like your child to attend. There is an additional fee of \$6 per day for this program.

Is there a language program? Spanish is taught on Monday from 12noon-1pm. Your child must be in the 3 or 4 year class to attend. Spanish is taught at our school for an additional fee of \$8 per day.

Are art classes offered? Art classes are offered Monday and Friday from 12noon-1pm. Your child must be in the 3or 4 year old class to attend. There is an additional fee of \$8 a day for these classes.

Are any other special classes offered? Letter Bugs classes are offered on Tuesday for the 4 year old class and on Thursday for the 3 year old class. Junior Scientist is offered on Tuesday for 3 year old classes and on Thursday for 4 year old classes. Yoga is offered on Thursday for the four year class and on Fridays for the three year old class. There is an additional fee of \$8 per day for each class. There is also an Angel Choir offered at the main church on Wednesday for the 4 year old class and kindergarten.

Are special classes offered to the kindergarten class? Spanish and Art are offered as part of the kindergarten curriculum. Spanish class is taught on Tuesday and Art class is taught on Wednesday. There is a Storytelling Theater workshop once a month on the day that the storyteller comes to our school.

Do you have a music program? Each child in our school has music class every day with our music teachers. Each music class for every class is fifteen minutes long.

Do children have to be potty trained to attend? No. Although most children are trained, this is not a requirement.

How are children disciplined? Usually children are so busy and are having such a good time that discipline is not a problem. However, if a child is not behaving in an appropriate manner, the child is put in time out. If there are continuous problems, the teacher will confer with the parents and a plan for behavior modification will be set up.

What is the curriculum? Each age group is taught using units that are developmentally appropriate. Our program allows time for creative play but

also develops readiness for learning academic skills. Each age level has a written curriculum that the teachers will be happy to share with you.

How much time is spent outdoors? The 2 ½ and 3 year old classes go outside for 45 minutes. The 4 year old classes and the kindergarten class play outside for 30 minutes, weather permitting. On rainy days, all classes rotate through our indoor playground or “Rainy Day Room”.

What is the philosophy of the program? Our goal is to help your child develop a wholesome self concept, an eagerness for learning, an appropriate value system for social growth, and the ability to think and work independently in a loving Christian environment.

How are your teachers trained? The staff at Decatur First Methodist Weekday Children’s Ministries is trained to provide a nurturing environment that encourages the development of each child. All of our staff attends in-service workshops and other training each year. All staff members have CPR and First Aid training. All staff members have a nationwide background check before they are hired.

Can parents volunteer? Yes! Parents can always help either in the classroom or in the school (examples: Handwriting Without Tears volunteers, Scholastic Book Club, landscape, computer, Happy Hearts committees). We always need extra hands for field trips and enriching activities. We have an active Parents Group that sponsors four parent workdays each school year.

Are there field trips? Each age group has different field trips during the year. Some of the field trips offered are a fall walk; a trip to the fire station; Stone Mountain; the Chattahoochee Nature Center; Oakhurst Community Garden; Puppetry Arts Theater; and a trip to the Georgia Aquarium and Zoo Atlanta. In addition, we have storytellers and performers that come to our school or to the Decatur Recreation Center. Fun Fitness on Fridays is also part of the 4 year and kindergarten classes during the year.

Is there an activity fee? The 2 ½ and 3 day 3 year old classes have a one time activity fee of \$25. The 5 day 3 year old classes have a one time \$50 activity fee. The four year old classes have a one time \$100 activity fee which includes all field trips as well as Fun Fitness on Fridays classes in January and February. The kindergarten class has a one time \$250 activity

fee which covers field trips to Puppetry Art, Georgia Aquarium, and Oakhurst Community Garden. The kindergarten class fee also pays for Fun Fitness on Fridays and the Art, Spanish and Storytelling Theater classes.

What emphasis is placed on religion? The Preschool and Kindergarten is an educational program of Decatur First United Methodist Church. The staff provides a loving Christian environment for your child by teaching them to love and respect their friends. Simple blessings are said before snack time. Once a month, the children are told a Bible story by the Director. Children in the 4 year old class and the kindergarten class attend a weekly chapel program for 15 minutes every Wednesday. The chapel program is taught by our church's ministerial staff. Parents are always welcome to attend.

Are parent teacher conferences held? Our staff will immediately inform you if they have a concern about your child. A Parent Teacher Conference is held in October. Another Parent Teacher Conference is held at the school in late winter or early spring. The 4 year old classes have a skills checklist that is sent home three times a year. The kindergarten class uses a report card.

Is there a summer program? Yes. Our Summer Smiles program is in session from 9-1 for four weeks during the summer. For the summer of 2018, the program starts June 4 and ends June 29. Children must be the same age as the children already in our preschool to attend.

Is your school accredited? Our school is accredited by the North Georgia United Methodist Preschool Association and is recognized as a Methodist School of Excellence. Our school has a license exempt status from Bright from the Start and accepts no funding from the State of Georgia.

How can I find answers to other questions that I might have? Look in the brochure provided or ask a teacher or the Director. We are always happy to answer your questions. We want you and your child to have a happy experience at Decatur First United Methodist Preschool and Kindergarten.