

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

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Mission

"Every time we teach a child something, we keep him from inventing it himself. On the other hand, that which we allow him to discover by himself, will remain with him, visibly, for the rest of his life." - Jean Piaget

The Garden City Community Church Nursery School offers a child-centered program designed to guide children in their physical, intellectual and emotional growth in a warm, secure, nurturing environment. We provide support and guidance in an atmosphere of loving care and concern. The school fosters relationships that will help the child discover him/herself and his/her own potential. The child finds security with friends of his/her own age and new adult friendships.

One of the important goals of the program is to foster the child's feeling of self-confidence. Activities will be designed to provide interesting challenges and opportunities for growth. A wide range of experiences, particularly adapted to the pre-school child's development, will be made available so that the children can make choices according to their needs and interests. Careful attention is given to individual learning rate and style, and each child will be encouraged to develop in all areas at his/her own pace.

Young children should be allowed to experience growth and learning within a developmentally appropriate program. We provide an atmosphere that allows the child to explore and develop necessary skills for the future in a non-pressured, relaxed atmosphere.

Basic to the program is a religious tone, which recognizes the infinite worth of every child and his/her capacity to grow. There is no "indoctrination" of set beliefs. There is a recognition of the importance of all human relationships as a part of the Family of God; an awareness of the mysteries and greatness of God's love for every human being.

Our goal is for children to become confident, responsible, successful learners, eager to experience life's opportunities.

Physical Environment and Equipment

The school is located in a specially designed wing of the church, which provides space and equipment necessary for happy and safe learning experiences. Each classroom has bathroom facilities and sinks within the class.

We have a fenced-in outdoor natural playscape that meets NY State safety standards. The playscape is specially designed to provide children with a connection to the natural world. It provides wonderful opportunities for creative and imaginative outdoor play. Active, indoor play on inclement days is available in an all-purpose room.



The Program

The GC Community Church Nursery School provides children with a quality educational program which inspires them to create, discover and achieve; fosters self-awareness and self-esteem; teaches them to treat others with gentleness, respect, compassion and generosity; and prepares them for advancement to the next level of learning. Classrooms are set up to encourage free exploration, with a wide variety of materials and activities that are fun and interactive, and experiences that stimulate all of their senses.

The GCCC Nursery School recognizes that children learn by doing and learn best when what they are doing is meaningful. Our program is based on developmentally appropriate practices for three and four year olds. Play and learning go hand in hand. Children are provided with opportunities to develop specific concepts and skills. Free play, creativity and imaginative thinking are encouraged and celebrated.

Lessons are planned to enable children to acquire skills to promote emotional/social growth, cognitive, physical and language development.

Skills to be developed during the school year include but are not limited to:

- ♡ Social/Emotional Growth
- ♡ Language Development and Literacy
- ♡ Mathematical and Scientific Thinking
- ♡ Physical Development - Fine and Gross Motor Skills
- ♡ Appreciation of Art and Music

♡ **Social/Emotional Growth:** Develop learning, positive thinking and feelings of self-respect; increase attention span, concentration, self-discipline and self-control; learn to recognize and express feelings appropriately; respect feelings of others; work and play independently or in small group settings; make independent choices; acquire positive leadership skills; develop social skills (cooperation, helping, negotiating, planning, taking turns, sharing, etc); learn to take responsibility for actions and belongings; respect others' rights and property and learn to appreciate others' uniqueness and individuality. Acceptable ways of dealing with anger and standing up for one's own rights will be addressed.

Development of a sense of responsibility and cooperation will be fostered through participation in helper jobs and gradual independence in basic self-help skills (washing hands, hanging up coat) will be encouraged through positive actions. We encourage children to do simple tasks by themselves (put on smocks, pour juice). We also encourage them to choose equipment from the shelves by themselves and return it when finished, rather than having every activity be teacher-directed.

♡ **Language Development and Literacy:** Strengthen speaking ability (clarity, recall, descriptive vocabulary); learn to ask relevant questions, stay on topic, follow directions, listen and exchange ideas; develop rhythmic sense and phonemic awareness; appreciate and interpret stories and poems; recognize letter names and sounds; experiment with writing, illustrating, copying, and forming one's name; improve auditory and visual discrimination and memory; begin to recognize that letters form words, words form sentences, and sentences make up thoughts and ideas.

♡ **Mathematical and Scientific Thinking:** Begin to form concepts about self, others and the environment through observation, comparisons, predictions, interaction with people and real objects, and problem-solving; develop an understanding of quantity, size, shape, position in space; recognize numerals, basic shapes, attributes, basic sets; learn to match, sort and classify; identify and use one's senses; explore properties of different materials; experiment.

♡ **Fine and Gross Motor Development:** Improve eye/hand coordination, manipulation of small objects; become independent in self-help and hygiene skills; learn to trace, cut, pour, write name; have success with various building materials; build strength, flexibility, agility, endurance; improve balance, posture, rhythm, self-control; participate in group games; learn to try new and difficult tasks; enjoy a sense of achievement.

♡ **Art and Music:** Use and experiment with a wide variety of materials and techniques; explore his/her imagination, discover his/her creativity, create original work; participate in group singing, music, and moving creatively. Most of our academic learning contains an art and/or music component. In addition, the children have free access to abundant art materials, CDs, records and musical instruments throughout the day.

The School Day

The school day is divided into four periods:

FREE PLAY & PROJECTS - Teachers set out materials for exploration and discovery. Children may choose activities that interest them - blocks, puzzles, housekeeping, etc. Individual projects are done with the teacher during this period.

STORY AND MUSIC - children are read to as a group and are encouraged to choose books to "read" for themselves. Songs, finger plays and movement activities are a part of this period. Special music time is provided once a week.

SNACK - We are a Healthy Snack School! Children share snacks and are encouraged to pour their own drinks, juice and milk provided by the school. Families are asked to send in a snack from our Healthy Snack List for the entire class at the beginning of each month. Good manners and conversation are stressed.

OUTDOOR PLAY - We try to play outside every day. Children use climbing equipment, riding toys, play in the sand box and have the opportunity to run and jump. On inclement days we play in a large room in the church with a slide, riding and pushing toys,
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Admission

Children are eligible for admission if they will be three (3) years old *on or before* December 1st of the school year. It is expected that a child be toilet trained by the time he/she enters school. Children of Church families are given priority in admission. We welcome any child who qualifies for admission when there is room in the group to which he/she would be assigned.

Tuition

Tuition is due in two (2) payments - April 1st and October 1st, unless alternative arrangements are made with the director. A 10% discount is offered to church members and for one child when two in a family are enrolled. You are responsible for full tuition unless a withdrawal is agreed upon between the Advisory Board and the family. A non-refundable deposit is collected at registration. All refunds are according to the policy printed on the registration form.

Organization

Children will be placed in classes at the discretion of the Director.
3 year old classes - 14 children with two (2) teachers
4 year old classes - 18 children with two (2) teachers

School Hours

AM Session (3 & 4 year olds) - 9:00-11:30
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

4 day PM Session (3&4 year olds) - 12:15-2:45
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

3 day PM Session (3 year olds) - 12:15-2:45
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

The school generally follows the Garden City Public School's holidays and closings. A Nursery school calendar is published at the beginning of each year in the school Directory.

Health and Safety

A completed health form, with a record of all required immunizations, is required for each child prior to entering school each fall.

The name of the child's doctor with address and telephone number must be on record in the office. An emergency contact and telephone number of a nearby relative, friend or neighbor must also be on record.

Children will only be released to a parent or designated car-pool driver.

A note to the office must be made if someone else is to pick up.

The Nursery School is a GREEN school.

We exclusively use all natural, non-toxic cleansers & soaps.

Other Activities

Field trips are an important part of the curriculum. Trips may include the fire station, the pumpkin farm, trips to the theater,

the library, the Long Island Science Museum and any other interesting opportunities that may become available.

Teachers and parents accompany children on trips.

Special celebrations are planned for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The children prepare a musical program for

Christmas and for our school closing in June.

We have festive parades on Halloween and Memorial Day.

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Parent Participation

Parents are an important part of every successful Nursery school. Parent-Teacher conferences and informal Parent meetings

are scheduled throughout the year.

Teachers are always available to discuss your child's progress in school or any concerns that may arise.

Parents are asked to volunteer to support the school as Class Parents, Milk parents, helpers at the Thanksgiving Feast and the Student Art show, and to serve on the Directory Fund-raiser Committee.

Mothers and fathers are invited to school for special visiting days.

Fundraising

The Nursery School sponsors one major fundraising event each year. All families are asked to donate to the Directory Fundraiser and to solicit business ads for this booklet. Proceeds from this event go to enhance the school and its programs.

Advisory Board

The Nursery School Advisory Board is composed of church members who have a connection with or a concern for the Nursery School. The Director, the Treasurer, a member of the Board of Christian Education and other appointed members make up the Board.

The Board meets four times a year to determine policy, tuition and salaries, with guidance from the director. Other meetings are arranged as deemed necessary.

Parents, teachers and the director can bring any grievances, resignations or terminations before the board for consideration.

The Nursery School is an equal opportunity employer and teachers will be hired based on their qualifications for the position. It is preferred that the director be a member of the church.

*Please call the school office for more information
and to arrange a tour*

516-746-1756