



Parent Handbook 2009-2010

9 am-11:30 am
Monday-Thursday
September 8, 2009 -
May 27, 2010

Welcome to **GOOD SHEPHERD NURSERY SCHOOL!**
We extend an open invitation to drop in often for informal visits. This is an opportunity for us to become better acquainted.

Informality is our keynote. We place great value on freedom to be oneself - for adults and children alike. We offer a relaxed and casual setting geared to the needs and interests of each child and parent who is a part of our school. We want to provide the best learning opportunities for your child. We take into consideration individual differences and special abilities as well as family cultural patterns.

Visit us often. Assure yourself that Good Shepherd Nursery School is the right place because you have been here and have experienced it first-hand. We thank you for allowing us to join you in providing the care, love and nurturing so important to your developing child. We look forward with eagerness to the upcoming school year.

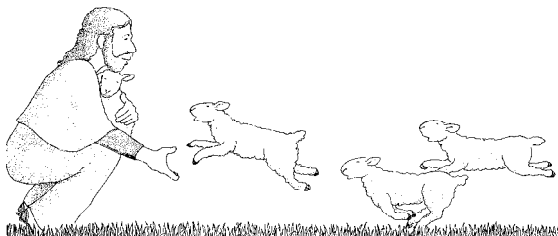


ADMISSION POLICY

Children ages 3 thru 5 years old will be admitted without regard to race, color or creed.

FUNDRAISING

We depend on the profits from these fundraisers to help keep the cost of nursery school low. Once again we will offer See's chocolates and candles. Participation is voluntary and encouraged. Your enthusiastic support of the fundraisers benefits *everyone*.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

At the beginning of the month, order forms from Scholastic Books will appear in your child's cubbie. You are encouraged to look through and see if there are any books that you would like to order. Scholastic offers quality children's literature at a very reasonable price. You are under no pressure to order, however, the school does earn bonus points that we use to "buy" books for our own library, as well as some special items for the classrooms.



STAFF

All staff members meet the requirements set down by the State of California licensing agency. All participate in a program of continuing education in order to remain alert to the ever-changing needs of today's families and to the findings of current research. Each staff member has signed a Statement of Faith and is a committed Christian.



A CHURCH-RELATED NURSERY SCHOOL

You may be wondering what the difference is in sending your child to a school operated as a program of the church compared to one that is not.

We have the liberty to teach Bible principles stressing moral issues such as honesty, fairness, loving one another and sharing. We teach the children to pray before snack as well as praying when specific needs arise. We do not teach creed or doctrine **nor do we discredit a child's training at home.** (Please see notes on how we celebrate holidays.) God has made each of us a unique person and it is our goal to treat your child with respect for his/her uniqueness.



 **First United Methodist Church**
Ministry Staff
Reaching the seeking and growing the convinced

Pastor: Lois Black

Director of Children's Ministries: Florence Pond

We are here to serve.

(530) 673-5858

www.fumcyubacity.com florencep@fumcyubacity.com

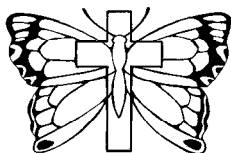
VALENTINES DAY



What else? LOVE - Love for God, love for parents, love of friends, love of self as well as God's love for us -and that while we were yet sinners.

EASTER

This is a hard concept to convey to children. Let's face it, it is a hard concept for adults to deal with. It's pretty awesome to realize that the Son of God died to save you and me from eternal separation from God! It was an agonizing death-pretty heavy stuff! We do tell the children the true meaning of Easter as well as NEW LIFE AND REBIRTH! You'll see bunnies, caterpillars and eggs-all symbols of new life and Spring.

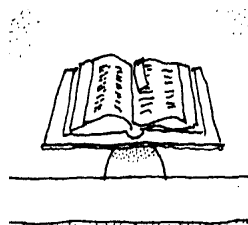


MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY

In the scriptures we are told to "honor thy mother and thy father". We are here to reinforce that teaching to the children.

MONTHLY BIBLE STORY

In addition to our usual lesson plans we also incorporate a monthly Bible lesson focusing on a concept and person from the Bible in craft, story and music. This helps the children remember and retain these wonderful Bible stories.



AUTHORIZATION TO PICK UP A CHILD

NO CHILD WILL BE RELEASED TO A PERSON NOT AUTHORIZED BY A PARENT TO PICK UP THAT CHILD

All changes must be in writing.. Please keep current the list that you filled out with us upon enrollment. *If there is a non-custodial parent who cannot take your child **UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**, we **MUST** have a copy of that restraining order on file at the school.



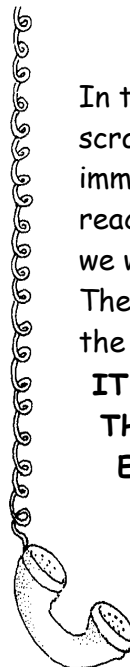
MEDICATIONS

NO medication may be dispensed without a prescription. Please see the Director for the proper forms.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

In the case of accidental injury, (other than the usual scraped knees and bumps) or illness we will make an immediate attempt to contact a parent. If we cannot reach you, we will call the child's physician. If necessary, we will also call the proper emergency medical personnel. The school maintains a signed consent form permitting the school to obtain medical attention for your child.

IT IS TO YOUR CHILD'S BENEFIT THAT YOU KEEP THE SCHOOL UP-TO-DATE ON PHONE NUMBERS, EMERGENCY NUMBERS AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION.



SAFETY

It is always our intention to keep your child safe by practicing fire drills. You will be notified you should the school have to close for any reason that is not on our school



THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD

Your child's health is a matter of utmost importance to us all. Upon enrollment you must file with us a health form signed by your physician. The State of California also requires that your child have certain standard immunizations and a TB clearance.

Your child may be sent home if he/she appears to have symptoms of illness during the day. In such cases, he/she is immediately isolated from the others and someone listed on your Emergency Information form is contacted. **Please inform the school immediately if any of the Emergency Information changes!** Please inform the school staff if your child contracts a communicable disease.

KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF...

1. He/she has a fever or has had one during the night
2. He/she is taking medication that make him drowsy or cranky
3. He/she has a heavy nasal discharge
4. He/she has a constant cough
5. He/she seems not to be "himself"-even if just tired from being up late the night before
6. It's just "allergies" but she/he's feeling lousy

YOUR CHILD MAY COME TO SCHOOL IF...

the cold is over and a minor runny nose is all that is left.

HOLIDAYS

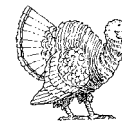
There are various holidays, which occur during the school year, and we would like you to know HOW we celebrate and WHY we handle it the way we do.

HALLOWEEN

Our main emphasis with this time of year is harvest and the change of seasons. Some families allow their children to go trick-or-treating and others want nothing to do with it. We don't tell a child that Halloween is good or bad-we simply direct the discussion back to the topic at hand. You may see projects come home, which include pumpkins or black cats, for example. God created all cats good (however you may feel about the neighbor's feline at 1:00 am!) Consider the message of prejudice that would be conveyed to the children if we tell them yellow cats are okay but black cats are bad.



THANKSGIVING



The emphasis is on SHARING and being thankful to God for all that He has given us-especially His son Jesus.

CHRISTMAS

As you would expect, the focus is on Jesus. Christmas is the celebration of His birth. Santa Claus gets enough of the "spotlight" in the secular realm-this is the Lord's place to shine. He sent Jesus to redeem us.



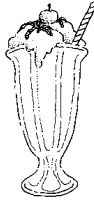


NUTRITION

Snack is provided with nutrition in mind. Our choices include a wide variety of fruits, veggies, crackers or other foods for nutritional value as well as learning about color, shape, texture, and various cultures. Children at times, are involved with preparation, serving, sharing, tasting and clean up, too. Fruit juice, milk or water is served with snack. We invite your suggestions and easy recipes!

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special for young school children and we promise a few special surprises on the school day nearest your child's birthday. We encourage you to bring a treat on that day along with juice or milk. While cupcakes and cookies are a big favorite with the children we would also encourage less traditional birthday snacks- fruit, ethnic treats- tell us what you have in mind or ask for suggestions! "UN-BIRTHDAYS" will be celebrated in late spring. This is a special time for children with summer birthdays. Watch the newsletter for details!



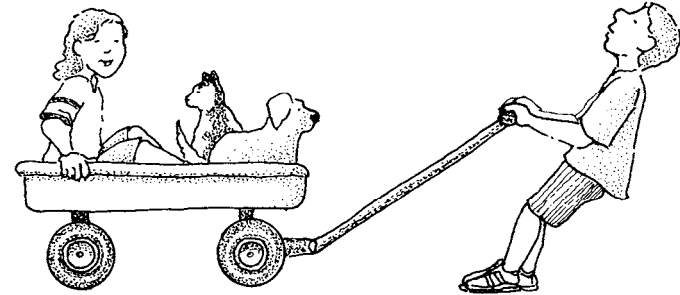
CRITTERS

Please check with your child's teacher before bringing **anything** to class. Someone may have allergies or reactions to what you view as harmless! **All animals MUST** be in a cage and scheduled before entering the classroom. Should your pet object to this, please send a picture instead. Even the most calm, sweet, little pet may react when faced with the prospect of so many little hands and faces. Please do remember that the fear of dogs is very common among young children.



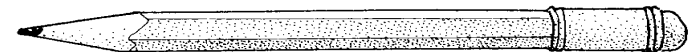
TO OUR PARENTS

We want you to know, understand, and discuss our goals. We want you to experience our busy, happy, creative, and sometimes noisy classrooms to see your child at play. We want you to realize the validity of that play and the importance of what your child is learning. Parents and teachers can work together, with God's help and direction, to develop each child to his or her full human potential—to become the unique human the Lord intended!



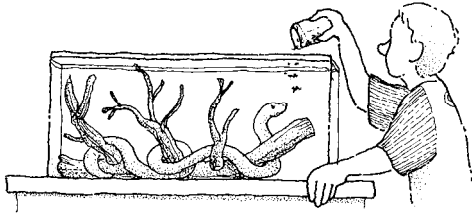
COMMUNICATION

Arrival /dismissal time are one of the busiest times of a teacher's day; please leave important messages about your child on the sign-in sheet, even if you have told us in person. Teachers or the Director will leave messages in your child's "cubbie", when necessary. Feel free to call about any concerns. Our monthly newsletter will also inform you about upcoming events as well as parenting ideas and resources.



DISCIPLINE POLICY

When a child requires correction the following steps are taken in this order: The child is stopped from doing the offensive behavior. It is explained to the child WHY the behavior is not allowed at school. If the behavior persists, the child will be removed from the group for a short time out. At the end of the "time out" it is once again explained why the behavior must stop. If the behavior still persists or if others are at risk the parents will be notified and asked to reinforce the rules. In the worst situation, if dangerous behavior persists, the parents may be asked to remove the child from the program. **AT NO TIME IS A TEACHER, AIDE OR SUBSTITUTE ALLOWED TO SPANK, HIT OR OTHERWISE USE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ON A CHILD.**



OUR EXPECTATIONS

We expect your child to come to school and be the unique human being that God calls him/her to be! We expect parents to read our handbook and "updates" provided in notes and newsletters sent home from time to time. We want you to be a part of the school, offering suggestions, comments and prayers as well as financial and moral support.

WHAT TO WEAR

Play is your child's work. Paint, play dough, sand and vigorous outdoor play in the grass, climbing dome or sand are a part of your child's everyday nursery school experience. PLEASE! Do us, yourself and most of all, your child a favor and **send him/her in play clothes.** When we have a special event, where children are dressing in nice clothes, we will notify you and promise not to paint that day. **Expect your child to play outside each and every day** and send a jacket or sweater as needed. Shoes suitable for running, jumping and climbing are necessary. **NO COWBOY BOOTS, DRESSY SHOES or FLIP FLOPS: they contribute to tumbles and falls.** We would like to avoid these accidents. Please **NO BELTS or SUSPENDERS:** they only make potty time that much harder!



FIELD TRIPS

With the new seat belt and weight regulations, Good Shepherd is now "importing" our Field Trips. When teachers can schedule it, they will have different people visit our school. This is much easier on children and staff! Should you know of someone interesting: Milkman, Mailman, Muffinman etc, please let us know!

