



PROMISE PRESCHOOL

Grace United Methodist Church
501 Pennsylvania Ave. E.
Warren, PA 16365
814-723-9440

Our Approach

Grace Promise Preschool is focused on the whole child, meeting each where they are and providing ample opportunities for exploration, self-discovery, and growth. With a focus on outdoor and child-led activities, we give each child authentic experiences, encourage them to learn, and foster a sense of wonder and belonging in the community and the natural world.

Open-ended activities that allow children to choose and self-regulate are central to what we offer. To master essential 'school skills', children must first master their own bodies and minds. We will spend as much time outdoors as possible, on unstructured activities with loose parts, and modeling creative ways to learn.

For young children, learning happens through play. We will work and play with your children to support their growth through enriching materials and activities, both indoors and out. Physical, emotional and social development are as important as academic development for kindergarten readiness. Being able to balance confidently, run without falling, manipulate objects, manage their emotions, and communicate with and listen to other children and adults gives children confidence in themselves.

Once children feel confident and comfortable in their own bodies, they naturally want to learn skills such as counting, colors, sequencing, following directions, and writing. Whether learning sizes by sorting pinecones or drawing letters in the dirt, we hope to balance the body work and the mind work in a safe and caring space to help your children discover their best selves.

Our Goals

- Encourage individualism and creativity by offering indoor and outdoor experiences supplemented by books, art materials, musical instruments, sports equipment, etc. to instill a love of learning.
- Develop pre-reading and pre-math skills through play, both structured and child-led.
- Encourage growth and enrichment in perceptual and motor skills through various activities.
- Cultivate human relationships by interacting with other children and teachers, taking responsibility, and communicating clearly.
- Stimulate social and emotional growth and help children learn self-regulation and how to resolve conflicts on their own.
- Stimulate language development through conversation and reading.



What to Expect

The school day instruction starts at 8:45 a.m. and pick-up is at 11:30 a.m. Classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. We provide a block of play time, a snack, and a structured activity time that matches the season. This may be cooking, making leaf prints, testing winter insulation materials, or planting seeds.

Whenever possible, we go outside to the Sky and Tree Classroom, an outdoor space owned by the Grace United Methodist Church, kitty corner from the church on Prospect Street. For outdoor time, the students may be all together rather than split into age groups. This promotes empathy in the older students for the younger students and gives the younger students role models.

Please dress your child in proper outdoor attire for the weather. We will provide links for recommended outerwear in each season, where to acquire it, and items that we can provide.

When the weather is such that we opt to stay inside (thunderstorms, pouring rain, high winds, low temperatures, etc.), we will provide active time in the gym, classroom, or one of the other spaces in the church. Movement and activity are essential for preschoolers, with a recommended minimum of three hours of activity per day.

Ensuring that they get at least one of those hours with us while they are at school makes for happy and healthy children. Additionally, using different spaces exposes them to new spaces and familiarizes them with the idea of moving from one space to another and the behaviors that go with it, such as being in a line, inside voices, and sharing space with others.

How to Prepare

Wear: Wear play clothes! We enjoy spending as much time outside as possible; this is important. Closed-toed shoes are strongly recommended.

Send:

- A spare set of play clothes with your child, including socks and underwear, in Ziploc bags labeled with their name. We will bag dirty or wet clothes and send them home.
- A backpack for them to carry their communication folders and any other items home.

Share:

- Any changes to a child's health information, living situation, or emergency contacts.
- Any changes in your child's behavior (reverting to baby talk, reverting to Pull-Ups, etc.)
- Methods for addressing behaviors so we may reinforce what you're teaching.

Sample Schedule

Arrival: between 8:45 – 9:00 a.m. children arrive, place their items in their designated space and engage in a self-selected activity (blocks, books, dramatic play, etc.)

Gathering/Morning meeting: at 9:00 a.m. children and teachers gather to greet each other, go over the plan for the day (inside or outside), share any news, and introduce any topics.

Lesson and Themed Activity/Learning Centers: at 9:15, after gathering, teachers present a short lesson and new

materials with which children are then permitted to interact and explore. (Example: lesson that different trees have different shaped and colored leaves; read a book about trees, small group time to work on kindergarten prep, fine motor skills, etc.)

Cleanup/bathroom break: 10:00 am. Transition to snack time. The students will have bathroom availability all day, but this is an organized time for everyone to get a chance and for everyone to wash hands.

Snack: 10:15 – Snack time. Throughout the year we might ask for donations of snacks and juice (No nuts or red dye please!) We will also be “cooking” monthly with our Make and Taste activities.

Outdoor or Active Time: After snack, children will prepare to go outdoors to the Sky and Tree Classroom if the weather permits. We build in time for clean-up and transition as needed. If the weather is inclement, we will do active play in the gym or one of the classrooms.

Arrival and Departure

Morning arrival is 8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Pick-up is 11:30 a.m.

The elevator door at the parking lot is unlocked from 8:45 - 9:00 and 11:15 – 11:30. Please notify the teacher if you are going to be late for either arrival or departure.

All the outside doors in the church are locked during the day apart from arrival and departure times. The only door that remains open is the elevator door at the parking lot. Access to the offices, classrooms, and any other gathering is through the elevator, through which you can reach the office on the first floor, and they can call the school or let you in depending on circumstances.

Tuition, Fees, and Cancellations

Tuition and Fees

Annual tuition is \$900, with a monthly rate of \$105. There is a one-time, non-refundable registration fee of \$20 due with application. See registration page for details.

Annual tuition payment is due by the first Thursday of the school year. Monthly payments are due on the first day of class each month. A one time \$20 materials fee is due with the first payment. You may pay via cash, credit, or check (made to Grace Promise Preschool) or online payments made through the Vanco App.

Cancellations

We follow Warren County Public Schools for closures due to weather. If there is a **2-hour delay**, we will still operate and attendance is at your discretion.

If a teacher is ill or out unexpectedly and we can't find a substitute, we will notify families as soon as possible of the cancellation.

Registration and Requirements

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration applications are due by September 1. A non-refundable \$20 is required with your application.

Grace Promise Preschool is designed for children ages three through five. Children must be 3 on or before July 1.

We require proof of immunization for all children attending. This may be a printed copy of the records, a photo of the baby

book, have the doctor's office fax the record to 814-723-6137 or email it to promisepreschool@myyahoo.com. Please include this with your application or, at the latest, one week prior to the first day of class.

All children must be toilet trained.

You can find the registration form at graceumcwarrenpa.com. There is a printable version, which you can also pick up in the church office, and an online version, which you can fill out and return via email to promisepreschool@myyahoo.com.

Communication and Sharing

We want your child to thrive at preschool. You are an essential part of making that happen. If you want to visit your child at school, or shadow a day, we can make arrangements for that after your child has transitioned and understands the routine of the school, usually a month after the start of school.

If you or we have a concern or suggestion, a parent/teacher conference might be necessary. This will allow a private setting away from other students to talk about concerns or needs and solutions or options. We appreciate compliments and knowing what works well for your child and you, too!

We will regularly share updates about class activities on social media, and touch base with parents about their child's growth and learning. We encourage parents to share with us, as well.

Facebook page: Grace Promise Preschool

Website: <https://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com/preschool>

Instagram, Blue Sky, and more: Stay tuned!

Contact Us: We want you to contact us anytime you feel the need to do so, for good, ugly, big, and little things! During the school day we minimize cell phone use, but in an emergency, please contact the office, send an email, or message online if it is not an emergency.

Church office: 814-723-9440,
promisepreschool@myyahoo.com