



REPORT TO CHURCH CONFERENCE
November 2018 through 2019

*“There is a threshold between an educational environment and crowd control.”
Joanne Welch, FUMC Preschool Teacher for 26 years*

Our teachers have always valued low teacher-child ratios, here. It is one of the leading indicators of a quality program, and our Licensing Analyst commended us for it on her last visit. Our children receive the attention they need – whether it’s comfort for an “owie” or for hurt feelings, whether it’s special quiet time to sit in a teacher’s lap for a book, or for the extra time it takes for changing diapers and for potty training. And our teachers have enough time to prepare the rich curriculum activities and events for the children, so they can keep the children engaged and challenged, all day long.

We serve over 50 families each year, here at FUMC Preschool. The children only remember us vaguely after they leave us for elementary school. However, their parents remember us and they remember their experiences here very vividly. They are grateful for the loving care and all the preparation for life that their children receive here. They remember our church as a special place, too, as a loving community who opened our church doors for their families when they needed us.

While, with your support, we are able to provide this educational environment for the young children in our community, it is still a challenge to make it work, financially. As a “business,” it has a lot of ups and downs. Last fall, for instance, we had a drop in enrollment and we had to cut staff hours for several months. In the early Spring and Summer, our enrollment was full. And yet, we are again facing an enrollment slump this fall. No matter whether we’re light or full, however, our children receive a rich, educational program where they can learn how to use their language and negotiating skills, strengthen their bodies, have space for rich, imaginative play, develop their problem-solving skills, and prepare for school, too.

We receive about \$3,000 in Scholarship Donations from the FUMC Foundation, the UMW, and church members. We are able to offer scholarships to three families at a time.

This next year, we will work on our marketing and we hope to develop a plan for the back yard area.

It is always a privilege to be a part of a young child’s life. I am grateful to serve the young children of our community and their families on your behalf.

Diane Wikse, Director
FUMC Preschool and Child Care Center