

**Colbert Presbyterian Church
Christian Cooperative Preschool
Informational Meeting**

April 19, 2017

Why Co-Op?

- * You connect with other parents who are sharing the joys and struggles of raising children
- * You are an integral part of your child's education
- * You enrich and find support for your parenting style
- * You pay less than a regular preschool
- * Excellent adult to child ratio

Why Co-Op at CPC?

- * Christian community for you and your child
- * Emphasis on the arts (and science & nature)
- * Emphasis on Christian values and core beliefs
- * The opportunity to be a part of this exciting endeavor
- * Commitment to inclusion
- * Many provisions...

Church Provisions

- prayerful, encouraging oversight/ support
- facilities for preschool, steering team meetings, and parent education seminars as well as for informal gatherings/ play dates
- necessary insurance
- internet access and copying machine (preschool provides its own paper)
- access to children's reusable materials, including toys, books, Godly Play books and props, etc.
- Thursday morning childcare provider
- accounting support
- basic structure (see below)--to be adjusted based on the needs and desires of families

Basic Information

- play-based, Christian cooperative preschool with an emphasis on the arts
- meets on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:30-noon
- Sept. 12 - May 31 (will follow [Mead School District Calendar](#))
- ages: 3 (or possibly 2.5) to 5 years (potty-trained)
- registration: \$50/child (to be used for supplies)
- tuition: \$85/month
- minimum enrollment: 16 children
- teacher:student ratio: 1:4
- all families are welcome!
- financial assistance is available
- registration opens tomorrow (4/20), 9 AM

Steering Team

- made up of at least 8 parents
- meets approximately 2 hours/ month
- determines goals, objectives & structure of the preschool (subject to approval from children's ministry committee)
- responsible for hiring director (with input from CPC children's ministry elder and personnel elder and approval from Session)
- approves supply and material costs
- supports and prays for director, children, and other parents

Parents

- participate 3 to 4 times per month (based on 4 parents participating each day)
- 2 parents provide snack approximately twice a month
- attend parent education 1x/month
- support and pray for director, children, and other parents
- childcare for younger children available on days when parents help
- grandparents or other caregivers can help in the classroom in the place of parents

Director/ Lead Teacher

- hired by steering team (with input from CPC children's ministry and personnel elders and approval from CPC Session)
- along with parents, determines goals and objectives for the preschool program
- along with parents, selects curriculum and plans themes and activities to meet goals and objectives
- along with steering team, manages budget
- plans and facilitates steering team meetings
- plans and facilitates parent education seminars 1x/month
- models for parents appropriate child intervention, discipline and teaching techniques, etc.

Note: Much of the above structure is flexible depending upon the needs & desires of the families involved.

Scroll down for a sample schedule...

Example of a Daily Schedule

Theme: Obeying God

Week 1: Noah and the Arc, Week 2: Jonah and the Whale, Week 3: Peter the fisherman, etc.

- 9:15 AM** Parents who are working that day arrive and help set-up and learn their responsibilities for the day
- 9:30** Children arrive and parent signs them in
- 9:30 - 9:55** Intentional Free play (various activities are set up for children to experience on their own - i.e. big blocks, dress-up corner, goop, sand table, stringing cut-up straws on yarn, easel painting)
- 10:00 - 10:15** Circle Time (calendar, finger plays, story, songs, prayer before snack)
- 10:20 - 10:30** Snack (at tables) one adult at each table, encourage children to share a way they obeyed someone today.
- 10:35-10:50** Outdoor Recess or some kind of large motor activity
- 10:55 - 11:10** Participate in Group Activity
Tuesdays - Music & Movement
Wednesdays - Children's Worship (Bible story shared using Godly Play curriculum)
Thursdays - Cooking or Science/ Nature
- 11:15 - 11:35** - Centers (children experience the arts and a variety of developmentally appropriate activities in number sense, science, and the world)
- Example:
- Center 1 (led by parent) sorting plastic animals by color, how many feet, where they live, their "skin" scales or fur or feathers. Make foot prints in clay and see if they can match the animal to the print. Count animals in a bag. Feel various type of "Skin" and see if they can figure out what kind of animal it might belong to. (feathers, wool, deer hide, horns, rabbit fur etc.) Order animals from biggest to smallest.
- Center 2 (led by a parent) Finger paint a water mural and then use water droppers to drop water on mural and observe what happens.
- Center 3 (led by a parent) Use watercolors to paint fish
- Center 4 (led by a parent) Make animals out of clay with beads for eyes etc.
- *Children rotate through these centers through the week*
- 11:35 - 11:50** gather for closing sharing and "Sweet" (something nice someone else did for you today or a "Service" (something you did for someone else.)
- 12** - Parents pick up and sign children out!
- 12-12:15** Helping parents clean up and debrief with Director/Teacher