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 room. 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.

**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 teachers
- 4 year old classes - 18 children with two teachers

**School Hours**

- AM Session (3 & 4 year olds) - 8:45-11:45
  - 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. The 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.
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.

- 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, blocks, balls, etc.

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. An All-School picnic at a local park is held in June.

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.
Four Year Old Enrichment Program

The Enrichment program offers two different classes. "Science Explorers Class" & "Community Enrichment Class"

The Community Enrichment class begins the year with the Community Cooking class and ends with Great American Artists class.

All Enrichment Classes meet on Wednesdays.
Science Explorers - 10:45-11:45am
Community Enrichment 12-1:30pm

Class space is limited and is offered on a first come basis.
Enrollment is open to children eligible for the 4 year old Nursery School program.
Priority is given to students enrolled in the Nursery School program.

There is a discount on Enrichment classes when enrolled in both Science Explorers and Community Enrichment.

Community Nursery

Science Explorers Class

This Hands-on class offers children opportunities to explore the world of science and nature.
Current research shows that a connection with nature benefits children educationally, behaviorally and developmentally. The textures, shapes and warmth of nature ignite their senses as they discover the environment and develop life-long learning skills.

Science Explorer classes are designed to instill a sense of wonder in the world around us, develop an appreciation for the environment and explore science concepts and the world of nature.

Community Enrichment Classes

Community Cooking Class

Children prepare food from simple recipes. Math skills & literacy are addressed as they learn about measuring, pouring, mixing and cooking, as well as becoming familiar with various kitchen gadgets.
Emphasis is on nutritious & delicious food.
Each child receives their own chef’s apron.
Classes include a cooking activity, setting the table, clean-up (washing dishes, sweeping, putting away equipment, etc), a story and, of course, tasting and enjoying what was prepared during the class!

Great American Artists

Hands-on art experiences in the styles of Great American Masters

Children explore the styles and techniques of some of America’s great artists.
All young artists will create their own artwork using a technique or material that reflects the work of the great master.
The focus will be on exploration, discovery and individual creativity. Their artwork will be collected in their own portfolio.

Each week the class learns about a different artist, the artist’s life and inspirations. Each young artist decides exactly how to use the inspiration of a great master to create their own individual masterpiece.
The class is always an exciting, creative and fun experience.
**PlaySchool**

**A Program for 2 year olds**

PlaySchool is a program designed for 2 year olds to have a positive first “school” experience shared with a parent or caregiver. The program offers gradual and optional separation over time.

The children have fun exploring the classroom equipment, playing with other children and working with the teachers. Parents can meet and share experiences with other parents with same age children.

* PlaySchool meets on Wednesdays for 2 hours - 9-11am.

* PlaySchool is a 26 week program that begins in October and runs through May. Registration is for the entire year. Class size is limited to a maximum of 12 children per class.

* Registration for the upcoming year is in the spring of that year. Children must be 2 by December 1st of the school year.

* Attendance is limited to enrolled children with a parent or caregiver. No siblings are permitted to attend.

**PLAYSCHOOL PROGRAM**

* Mother, father or caregiver is expected to attend and participate with their child in all activities through December. Starting in January, parents may begin separation with drop-off & pick-up. Separation is optional, parents are welcome to attend for the entire year.

* Each session consists of 4 or 5 different activities.

* FREE PLAY: Toys and classroom equipment are available for use. Children can choose from blocks, dress up/dramatic play area, painting at the easel, puzzles, drawing/writing table, sand table or any of the many things available each day.

* PROJECT: Each week the teacher will have an age appropriate project planned. Each child has the opportunity to work on the project. Projects are planned to enhance 2 year olds’ abilities. Although the projects may seem simplistic, they are designed to accommodate a 2 year old’s attention span, developmental skills and to ensure a fun, successful experience.

* SNACKTIME: The school has a Healthy Snack Policy. Each family will be responsible for bringing in a snack and a drink from the Approved Snack list for the class periodically. Sign-ups are at the 1st session.

* STORY/MUSIC TIME: Each session includes a quiet story time. The teacher will also teach the class songs and fingerplays.

* OUTSIDE PLAY TIME: Each session ends with playtime on our beautiful playground, weather permitting. Children can climb, run, jump, slide & swing in our fenced-in play area. They can dig at the “sandy beach” and ride trikes and wagons on our bike path. The natural playscape offers unlimited opportunities for creative and imaginative play!
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.

Garden City Community Church Nursery School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, programs and other school-administered programs.

The Nursery School is an equal opportunity employer and faculty members are hired based on qualifications. 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

or visit our website
WWW.GCCCNURSERYSCHOOL.COM

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