



United Friends School Preschool Curriculum At-a-Glance

Our preschool is an integral part of United Friends and is guided by the same testimonies that guide our K-8 program. The preschool provides a nurturing environment that encourages children to view themselves as competent independent learners. We offer a developmentally appropriate program focusing on the growth of the whole child: physically, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and spiritually. We understand each child is a unique person with an individual pattern of growth and development, as well as individual personality, learning style, and family background.

In all of our preschool programs, the arts are integrated throughout the children's daily activities. Spanish, Music, and library instruction is offered by specialists, depending on availability. All preschool programs participate in various school activities with the K-8 classes and interact with many of the students at recess and through class performances and assemblies. The objectives of the programs include:

- To foster exploration, self-discipline, creativity, a desire to learn, and to offer active learning experiences that will develop the child's abilities and interests at his or her own pace and in consideration of their strengths and weaknesses;
- To provide the child with a well-rounded experience in a loving atmosphere;
- To nurture the Inner Light in each child by fostering a community in which the spiritual aspect of daily activities is an integral part of the curriculum;
- To foster self-worth and respect for others, and to provide the child with models for non-violent conflict resolution;
- To help the child in developing an awareness and concern for the needs of others, a sense of community, and a spirit of sharing;
- To collaborate with parents in guiding the development of their child

Language Arts

Reading: Name recognition; connecting spoken and written language; introduction to the upper case alphabet and letter of the week; beginning consonant sounds; recognizing rhyming words; left to right progression; comprehension; many read-alouds with Big Books and other books; poetry; dramatizations and retelling of stories; puppet shows; author studies; developing proper book handling skills.

Writing: Print-rich environment in which children are encouraged to experiment with lines, shapes, and symbols to represent letters, words, and numbers; write name or approximation; know some letter names; write lists, stories through pictures, symbols, and invented spelling; copy environmental print.

Handwriting: *Get Set for School*, the preschool version of *Handwriting Without Tears*, addresses development of correct habits, provides a foundation for writing.

Library: To promote comfort in the library and to recognize it as a place where books are readily explored; recognize parts of a book; how to hold and care for a book; discuss illustrations; make predictions; recognize sequence; retell stories.

Math

Graphing; sorting; patterning, counting; using geoboards to make shapes; cooking and measuring; number recognition; understanding more than and less than; money recognition (nickel, dime, penny, quarter); completing puzzles; classifying; comparing; weighing; writing numbers.

Science

Exploring the scientific method to make hypotheses and solve simple questions; pumpkin science; apple science; sink and float; liquids and solids; five senses; volcanoes, ocean life; pet care; Arctic/Antarctic; light table exploration; seasons; plants.

Social Studies

Me and my family; my community; community service; seasonal and cultural celebrations; folk tales.

Physical Education

1 class per week. Movement experiences that include fun, positive, cooperative games; recognizing personal space; understanding rules and following instructions in games; basic stretches, warm-up, and aerobic activities.

Spirituality

Consistent with Quaker values, UFS seeks to emphasize the Light of God within each individual. We foster the practices and principles of Quakerism as an experiential part of school life, focusing on the testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Service, and Equality. We accomplish this by attending Meeting for Worship, studying the history of Quakerism, participating in service and outreach projects, practicing non-violent conflict resolution techniques, making decisions using Quaker process, and participating in Meeting for Worship for Business. Each year, we engage in a community focus on one testimony. We attempt to nourish spiritual growth within each child and inspire a greater sense of self-worth and respect for others.

Science at United Friends School

In the study of science, we provide opportunities for our students to learn that “people can figure out how the world works, that the universe is a unified system, that knowledge gained from studying one part of it can often be applied to other parts, and that knowledge is both stable and subject to change.”

We do this by providing a science program that enables students to be independent learners and thinkers who are engaged in the scientific process of discovery. Students learn to observe, question, organize, research, and connect information as they construct meaning. Science is taught in 3-year rotational cycles, as follows:

Yr 1: Earth and Space Science

Yr 2: Life Science

Yr 3: Physical Science

Social Studies at United Friends School

Our primary goals in teaching social studies include: to develop cultural awareness, to improve the ability of students to think critically and analytically about social issues, and to empower our students to think from multiple perspectives, especially while developing their own.

We do this by providing many opportunities to explore and understand topics drawing upon such disciplines as history, geography, economics, anthropology, archaeology, sociology, political science, and religion. We seek to integrate the study of the social sciences with the humanities so that students begin to see these topics as complex, interrelated ones. Social Studies is taught in 3-year rotational cycles, as follow:

Yr 1: one or more topics related to:

- Europe (e.g. mapping, culture, country-studies, etc.)
- Asia (e.g. country study including religion, culture, art, historical period, etc)
- United States (e.g. civil rights, judicial system, government, Quaker history)

Yr 2: one or more topics related to:

- North America (e.g. Canada, Mexico, Native Americans, etc.)
- South America (e.g. Incas, Patagonia, etc.)
- United States (e.g. polar expeditions, geography, slavery)

Yr 3: one or more topics related to:

- Africa (e.g. Egypt, culture studies, rites of passage, etc.)
- Oceania (e.g. native cultures, art, etc.)
- United States (e.g. the Gilded Age, mapping, states and capitals, the constitution, etc.)