



Family Handbook

Dear Families:

Welcome to Simpsonwood Preschool. Thank you for allowing us the meaningful task of caring for your child. We appreciate the faith you have in us and will try our best to provide a wonderful foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Please read this handbook very carefully. Hopefully, knowledge of our procedures will allow things to run smoothly throughout the year.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Laura Cole
Director, Simpsonwood Preschool
(770) 441-9444

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Simpsonwood United Methodist Church is pleased to offer our preschool ministry to the families of our community. **Our mission is to provide a quality education in a safe, loving and nurturing Christian environment in which each child can develop socially, physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally to his/her fullest potential.** As each child is a unique creation of God, our emphasis is on the Christian values of loving, caring and sharing through meaningful relationships.

The following pages will outline the policies and procedures that we will follow throughout the year.

Simpsonwood UMC Preschool does not discriminate in its enrollment based on race, color, sex, ethnic or religious background in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies or scholarship programs. Children with mild physical handicaps and/or developmental delays are enrolled at the discretion of the Director and the staff.

The first years of a child's life are the most important. Never again will he or she learn as many things as rapidly as in the first six years of life. As such, the staff of the preschool takes their job as educators very seriously, understanding that much personal development will occur during a child's time at the preschool. Children learn by modeling, observing, and doing. The curriculum for the early years must be based on the understanding, by both the parents and teachers, of how children grow and develop and how they learn. Parents and teachers who know and recognize these developmental patterns can effectively meet the needs of children.

Simpsonwood UMC Preschool is proud to be certified by the North Georgia United Methodist Preschool Association as a "Preschool of Excellence for Young Children". We follow standards set by this association.

Please be aware that Simpsonwood UMC preschool is not licensed and is not required to be licensed by the state.

GOALS OF PRESCHOOL

Based on our philosophy, the following are broad goals of our program.

- Provide experiences that will foster physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual growth
- Model Christian values of loving, caring and respect through meaningful relationships
- Foster a positive introduction to an educational environment
- Develop a child's positive self-concept and a feeling of self-worth
- Practice visual, motor and tactile skills, which foster the development of perception
- Provide many opportunities for creativity and original thinking
- Build familiarity and success with school routines and social settings with peers
- Develop reasoning, thinking and problem solving skills
- Provide language experiences that develop readiness for reading
- Include interactive, hands on experiences which will lead to success in mathematics
- Initiate discussions and activities that build the child's knowledge of himself and the world around him
- Expand each child's self-control and friendship skills through character education
- Reinforce attributes of responsibility, initiative and independence

ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATION

Simpsonwood UMC Preschool accepts applications for enrollment on the following basis:

1. First consideration is given to members of SUMC who have students currently attending the preschool.
2. Second consideration is given to students already enrolled in the school.
3. Third consideration is given to church members whose children are not currently attending the preschool.
4. Fourth consideration is given to siblings of current students.
5. Applications are then accepted for the remaining places in the classrooms on a first-come basis.
6. Any additions, if necessary, will be selected from the wait list pool based on the needs of that class (not necessarily the next person on the wait list).
7. Simpsonwood United Methodist Preschool strives to accommodate children with varying abilities, but whose potential achievement is not incapacitated by special learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, hyper-activity, behavior problems or severe orthopedic, visual or hearing disabilities. Simpsonwood Preschool is limited in its capacity to give assistance to children with the above-described conditions. Any difficulties of which the preschool board should be cognizant must appear on the registration form. Presence of conditions does not mean that admission will not be granted; rather, the preschool board must determine if staffing is available to meet the child's needs.
8. In the event that our program does not meet the needs of your child, the Preschool Board has the right to ask that your child be removed from our program.
9. SUMC Preschool is committed to a policy of non-discrimination involving equal access to education and employment to all regardless of race, sex, age, national and ethnic origin, religion or handicap. It is the desire to meet the development levels of all students, and to maintain appropriate student-teacher ratios.
10. **A Registration fee is collected at time of registration.** Prior to the start of school, tuition for September and May will also be collected. During open house, the school will collect

an activity fee to cover costs of special programming. **All prepaid monies are non-refundable.**

FACULTY AND STAFF

We have an outstanding faculty and staff. Our teachers and caregivers are hired based on their education, experience, love of children and their Christian commitment. Each strives to be a Christian example, knowing that the children reflect joy, enthusiasm, faith and courtesy. Teachers complete 10 hours of continuing education each year, as well as obtain current first aid and CPR certification.

Simpsonwood Preschool holds membership in the North Georgia United Methodist Association of Preschools, and National Association for the Education of Young Children.

PARENT/FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Teachers will provide contact information should you need to reach them for any reason. Please be aware that they will not be available by phone during the preschool day, so any last minute communication should be given by calling the preschool office at 770-441-9444.

Parents receive information about classroom activities through a Friday folder containing crafts, classwork, and important announcements from the Director. Please check the folder thoroughly each week and return the following week.

Each class also has a Homeroom Page. We request that parents download the Homeroom App and check the page regularly. There you will access a weekly summary from the teacher, as well as pictures of hands on learning activities.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Children feel safe and learn best when discipline and structure is a part of their classroom. The goal of our discipline policy is to provide a safe, well-ordered and loving learning environment.

Teachers are trained in the use of Positive Discipline, and we adhere to its guidelines to provide consistent, loving and firm limits in each class, in an age-appropriate manner. The tenets of Positive Discipline include the following:

- All children have a primary goal to belong. Teachers can help children to find a sense of belonging in the classroom setting through positive behavior towards others.
- Clear and predictable class routines lead to consistently good behavior.
- Children feel belonging through class jobs and other activities where they know they can make a meaningful contribution to the class.
- Teachers model mutual respect by showing kindness and firmness at the same time.
- Positive time out and cool-down time allows children to regulate their emotions and behavior without shaming.
- Children are not expected to be perfect at school. Mistakes are wonderful opportunities to learn. Teachers focus on solutions and teachable moments when mistakes are made.

Read more about Positive Discipline, and find out how you can implement a complimentary approach at home, at positivediscipline.org.

Bullying is a set of actions that happen when a child who is, or who wants to

feel, more powerful targets a weaker and/or smaller person by hurting or frightening that person, and does so repeatedly. Bullying can be expressed through physical aggression, but can also be verbal. A hurtful preschool behavior becomes bullying when it is repeated, intense, and targeted. Teachers will communicate with parents of both the victim and aggressor if bullying takes place. Bullying will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the program.

It is the policy of Simpsonwood Preschool to remove a child from a situation if he is disturbing the group or individual activities, is hurtful to himself or others (physically or emotionally), is damaging or destroying property, or is not in control of his emotions. Redirection is our first approach when correcting unacceptable behavior. Under no circumstances will any form of corporal punishment be administered to a child in the school. If a problem occurs that cannot be handled by the teacher, assistant and/or Director, the parent will be called to take care of the situation. Consistent, inappropriate, unmanageable behavior will be grounds for dismissal.

BITING: Policy for two's: While we do not condone biting, we recognize that it is within the scope of normal child development at age 2. If a child bites, we notify the parents of both victim and biter in writing. We do not divulge the name of the child victimized, or the name of the biter. After a child bites three times (separate incidences), he/she must stay out of preschool for 1 week and tuition must still be paid. After that, any future biting incidents may result in dismissal for the remainder of the year.

Policy for 3's and 4's: If a child bites, he/she will be sent home for the day. If a child bites the second time, he/she will be sent home for a week. Any future biting incidents may result in dismissal for the remainder of the year.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION: Information on any child is to be given only to the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) listed on the child's information form. Legal documentation is required for the information release to additional individuals.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Your child will be placed in the appropriate class according to his age on September 1st.

HOURS OF PRESCHOOL

Regular school hours are Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Morning carpool begins at 9:25 and ends promptly at 9:40. Please plan to walk your child to his or her classroom if you arrive later than 9:40.

Afternoon carpool begins at 12:55 and ends at 1:10. Please arrive promptly to pick up your child. They become worried if you are late. A late fee of \$5.00 per five minutes will be incurred after 1:15 PM. This will be strictly enforced unless you have an emergency situation.

Any time Gwinnett County schools are closed for holidays or bad weather, we will be closed also. We also reserve the right to close even if Gwinnett County does not.

Please do not drop off your child in the mornings before 9:25 AM. We often have morning meetings before school begins.

If your child is to be picked up from preschool by a person other than his parents, a note must be given to the teacher by a parent. Please indicate the name of the person who has your

permission to take your child. The preschool teacher will ask for the person's driver's license as a source of identification and verification.

*Please note that currently due to Covid, parents walk the child to the front of the preschool building for check in. We will revisit that policy and return to a carpool dropoff format when we are permitted to do so.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

For families looking to add enrichment to their child's day as an extension of preschool, we offer before and after school classes. These programs, run by preschool teachers, are overseen by the director. However, tuition is collected separately by the person running the program.

Before school "early birds" meets at 8:30 each morning.

After school offerings currently include Fun and Fitness, StoryCraft, Yoga, and Tennis. These programs extend the preschool day to 1:45. Information about days and sign ups are available at open house.

TUITION AND REIMBURSEMENT

Tuition is due on the first day of each month and is considered late after the 10th. There will be a late fee of \$5 for tuition received after the 10th day of the month. A \$25 fee will be charged to your next month's tuition for any returned check.

Refunds are not given for holidays, absent days by the child, snow days or emergency closings. Please refer to the Simpsonwood Preschool Covid Guidelines for information about tuition in the case of an extended closure due to Covid.

One month's written notice in advance must be given before a child is withdrawn, or that month's tuition is due.

Tuition is based on the school year and is divided into nine (9) monthly payments for your convenience. It is not prorated according to days attended. This includes holidays, snow days and emergency closings.

Please make checks payable to *Simpsonwood Preschool*. You may also pay via Venmo. Our user name is @simpsonwoodpreschool4500.

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

Our primary goal is to help our children become enthusiastic, independent, self-confident and inquisitive learners. We are a play based school, and we recognize that preschoolers learn best through play. However, as children reach older age levels within the school, we also provide crucial direct instruction so that children acquire skills needed to be successful once they reach kindergarten. Our curriculum is customized to the needs of the children. We draw from Learning Without Tears, Math Their Way, and Creative Curriculum. Our classrooms introduce topics by theme. Using developmentally appropriate activities and materials at each age level, we monitor growth over the course of the school year, and provide feedback in the form of student evaluations. Language and literacy activities, math/manipulatives, science, and social studies are the daily focus. Weekly, children experience enrichment opportunities of music and movement,

art, outdoor and gymnasium play, Children aged three and above also attend Chapel once each week.

Each classroom is enhanced by planned learning centers which allow for a mixture of child choice, self-directed play, teacher-led activities, and/or small group interaction.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS CURRICULUM

Children enroll in Kindergarten Readiness after completion of our 4's program. Age wise, they are eligible for kindergarten, but parents may choose the class for various reasons. As such, our curricular goals for each child are highly individualized. Some children are in need of remediation on literacy and math skills, while others are ahead in those areas and are beginning to read. Some children may be working on self-control and social skills, while other families simply want their child to experience an extra year with plenty of play, before entering the world of grade school. Because of these variations, teachers tailor the work based on the individual student's need, and group children accordingly when appropriate.

Kindergarten Readiness teachers are experienced, certified educators. They provide frequent and detailed feedback on your child's progress throughout the year. Some facets of our curriculum are similar to a 4's program, with some important distinctions, including:

- Frequent journaling
- Increased independence in centers
- Continued work on handwriting
- Off-campus field trips
- Lunch in a "lunch room" outside of the classroom
- Project based learning for science and math
- Direct phonics instruction, using Zoo Phonics, early readers, etc.

While Kindergarten Readiness is a different type of experience than a 4's class, our goals remain the same: to build a child's confidence, independence and love of learning in a caring, Christian environment.

CONFERENCES

The children in our twos' classes will undergo an end of year skills' assessment, but we do not routinely schedule conferences at this age. If you are interested in how your child is adjusting to preschool, we will be happy to meet with you at any time.

The children in our three's, four's and Kindergarten Readiness classes will have a skills assessment in the fall and in the spring. Formal spring conferences are held for the fours, so that the parents may see how the children have progressed during the year. Formal conferences may also be done in the fall, if requested by either teacher or parent.

PERSONAL SAFETY- MEDICATIONS

If a child is taking medication prescribed by a physician, including Epi-Pen and Benadryl, please notify the school in writing. All medication will be kept in the Director's office. The child's name must be clearly marked on the bottle. In the event of a serious accident or illness, the Director will call the parents and/or 911. The child will NOT be transported by staff to a nearby medical facility or to a pediatrician. An accident report will be completed by the child's teacher and submitted to the Director any time an accident occurs.

Simpsonwood Preschool is prohibited from giving any shots or blood pricks, as this is considered an invasive procedure. However, we can use an Epi-pen since it is considered a first aid device.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Each child must have a Child Health Form on file with the Preschool. This certifies that a physician has examined your child within the past year and that all immunizations are current.

Please communicate any food or medicinal allergies your child may have, both on their information sheet, and verbally to the teacher. Parents must send their own child's lunch in a separate lunch box. Parents are asked to routinely send snack for the class, and snack brought must not include any allergens of children in the class. If a child has been prescribed an Epi-pen, parents must complete a release form allowing the director and/or preschool staff to administer the Epi-pen, if necessary. All Staff have had first aid training which covers the proper administration. Epi-pens will be stored in the preschool office in the upper two drawers of the file cabinet which will allow for easy accessibility.

A request may be made to a class to remain peanut free if the allergy is severe. Parents will be notified of any peanut/tree nut allergies that exist within a class and will be instructed as to the precautions necessary. The severity of the allergy will determine the extent of the restrictions. Parents are free to send their child with his/her own snack if so desired.

All children are required to wash hands thoroughly upon entering the classroom, and before lunch time. Children are discouraged from sharing food items. Tables are sanitized with EPA approved sanitizer before serving snack or lunch, and then again upon completion. Chairs are sanitized at the end of each day, and rooms are vacuumed daily. Furniture and toys are cleaned and sanitized on a rotational basis. Housekeeping items are washed and sanitized as needed. **Please see our school's Covid procedures for our added sanitation measures during this time.**

In order to protect the health of all the children involved with our program, we ask that your child be kept at home for the following reasons:

A fever of 100 degrees or more	Any unexplained rash
Severe cold – Sore throat	Persistent cough – Swollen Glands
Ear Ache – Ear Infection	Red or sore eyes
Discharge from nose, eyes or ears	Upset stomach
Nausea or vomiting	Diarrhea

All parents are expected to follow health guidelines outlined in our Covid handbook. Temperature checks are given to all children before entering the building.

Excessive coughing, running noses with discharge and/or itchy eyes are to be watched carefully with thoughtful consideration given before sending the child to Preschool. It is difficult for a preschooler to manage a runny nose properly. In order that we may attempt to minimize contagious diseases within the Preschool, we reserve the right to send your child home if these symptoms persist during the day.

***PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME UNTIL HE HAS BEEN FEVER,VOMIT AND/OR DIARRHEA-FREE FOR TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS.**

BATHROOM POLICY

The staff of Simpsonwood UMC Preschool has established guidelines for our role in assisting children with the bathroom. We realize that not all children need or want help. However, some children need some or total assistance.

Age appropriate guidelines are as follows:

12-18 MONTH CHILDREN:

Children in this class only are diapered within the classroom at the changing station. Teachers are responsible for cleaning and sanitizing the area. The diaper pail is emptied and sprayed with disinfectant daily.

TWOS:

Children who are not yet trained will be changed as necessary. ALL children must have a change of clothes-including socks- as well as 2 extra diapers in their school bag at all times. Diapering of children in the two year old classes takes place in the girls' bathroom where the changing facility is located. No child is ever left unattended on the diapering surface. The diapering surface consists of a covered diapering pad which is covered with table exam paper for each child. The diaper pail is emptied and sprayed with disinfectant daily.

Parents need to speak with their child's teacher at the beginning of toilet training to assess the child's readiness to begin training in the school environment. Teachers will provide a toilet training letter to establish guidelines for potty training in the school environment. It is the responsibility of parents to toilet train the child, and the responsibility of school staff to support what is being done at home. If you feel that your child needs to use pull-ups initially, please send them in pull-ups that have the Velcro sides, to help the teachers when changing. The teachers will cooperate as much as possible with a family's at home routines, within reasonable and safe bounds of the preschool class. Try to teach your child to verbally indicate his/her need to use the bathroom. Please include more than one change of clothes while your child is toilet training. As you train your child at home, please keep in mind that "training" a child also includes wiping, flushing, hand washing, and cleanliness of the bathroom.

Once a child is completely potty trained, we will verbally encourage children to assist themselves with the process (wiping, flushing, redressing and hand washing). All trained children must continue to have a change of clothes, including underpants and socks, in their school bag at all times. It is unsanitary for our teachers to wash out soiled underpants. Our policy is to dispose of all soiled underpants.

THREES & FOURS:

All children enrolled in the three and four year classes should be independent in all areas of bathroom use: clothing, wiping, flushing, hand washing and cleanliness of the bathroom. The doors to both boys' and girls' bathrooms remain open at all times. Children using the bathroom independently are supervised from the hallway by an accompanying teacher. Bathrooms are located by the Director's office and the Director can lend assistance as needed.

Remember, at this stage the teacher can only offer verbal assistance to the child in regard to bathroom habits. If physical assistance is necessary, the parent will be called. With verbal permission, we will assist the child.

While we recognize that accidents occasionally happen, please note: If a child in the 3's or 4's is not toilet trained, it may result in him/her not being able to enter the class. Registration fee and first month's tuition will not be refunded.

LUNCHES

Each child will need to bring a lunch and water bottle to school each day. We request that lunches are nutritional, with limited "treats". We ask that microwaveable foods be avoided. If you have special needs or concerns regarding what your child will eat, please communicate that to the teacher and Director. The staff will use lunchtime as part of our social curriculum, teaching life skills including manners, saying a blessing, being able to unpack his/her own lunch, cleaning up after oneself, eating nutritiously, etc. Please pack items that your child can open himself with minimal help. By four, the goal is for the child to be able to handle his lunch completely with no help. This gets him ready for Kindergarten.

All children are required to wash hands thoroughly before snack time and lunch time. Children are discouraged from sharing food items. Tables are sanitized before serving snack or lunch and the again upon completion.

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please dress your child in play clothes, as the day will be filled with a lot of fun and sometimes messy activities. The preschool is not responsible for soiled, torn or otherwise damaged clothes.

We ask that you mark all belongings, such as cups, bottles, clothing, pacifiers, and lunch boxes, etc. Always keep a change of clothes (weather appropriate) in the school bag.

Only closed-toe shoes are permitted at school, with the exception of sandals that are good for running around. It is very difficult and dangerous to run and play in the sand or mulch without closed-toe shoes.

SNACK POLICY

In an effort to provide a variety of snacks and to foster an opportunity for a sharing experience for the children, we are asking you to help us by providing a snack for the class on a rotating basis.

We serve water at school. Please do not send juices in for snack or parties. Fancy cookies and sweets should be reserved for birthdays so that it will be special for the birthday child.

Your child's teacher will provide a snack schedule. Each family typically brings the weekly snack 3-4 times per year. You will be notified of any food allergies in the class so that you can plan accordingly. We sincerely appreciate your help and cooperation.

Suggested Snack Foods:

Graham crackers

Pretzels

Raw Veggies and/or dip

Yogurt

Vanilla wafers

Low sugar cereals

Cheese slices/chunks

Crackers, such as goldfish or Ritz

The preschool will furnish napkins. **Remember, parents will be alerted if severe allergy precautions are necessary for their classroom.**

**** IMPORTANT: Please do not send any kind of nuts or popcorn because of the potential choking hazard. If you send grapes, they should be cut into at least two pieces.**

BIRTHDAYS

Please feel free to send in a special treat for your child's birthday. Check with his teacher to be sure that no one else is sending a treat on the same day.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

In addition to a general liability policy held by Simpsonwood United Methodist Church, Simpsonwood Preschool has provided a supplemental accident insurance policy for each child. The cost of the premium is covered in the registration fee.

PICTURE USE APPROVAL

We take many photographs of the children during the school year. We would like your permission to use these photos (no names will be used) periodically on our website, bulletin boards, picture albums and/or publication and brochures needed for advertising. A media release will be provided at registration to give permission to use photos.

CARPOOL

Children in the 2's, 3's, 4's and KR classes will participate in carpool drop off and pick up. This usually begins after the first week of school. Children in Young 2's typically begin carpool after Thanksgiving, when all children are used to the school routines and handling transitions well. Mom's Morning Out class does not participate in carpool. Please drop off and pick up your child in the classroom.

If you do not wish to participate in carpool, you may walk your child to the carpool area (before 9:40) or to their classroom (after 9:40). Please park and walk into the building through the handicap walkway. If you plan to share carpool driving with a friend, you will need to notify the preschool office by the first school day. Each child is given a carpool tag to be displayed from the rear view mirror. Please use the carpool tag given to you at the beginning of the school year.

General carpool guidelines:

- *Turn your cell phone off before loading your child.
- *Have your car pool number displayed visibly from your rearview mirror.
- *Remember we need to unload and load safely, as quickly as possible.
- *Do not get out of your car while in line.
- *Do not block the driveway for any reason.
- *Do not pull around the car in front of you, unless directed to do so by a teacher. Please wait your turn.
- *Position car seats for easy accessibility.

If your child is going home with someone or has a friend coming home with him/her, it is the parent's responsibility to remove or place a car seat in the vehicle. This is not to be done in the carpool line. Please park to remove or install the car seat before going through the line.

Please note that by law we are not allowed to buckle your child into his safety seat at afternoon carpool. Pull slowly around to the breezeway in front of building C, and then exit the car to buckle your child. Please do not exit the car to buckle while in the carpool line. This poses a danger to your child and to you, as well as slows the carpool line.

Also, if you are taking another child home in addition to your own, you are responsible to see that all the children are secured. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

NOTE: If your child is going home with a friend, you MUST send a note giving us permission to send your child with someone else

TEACHERS WILL NOT PUT A CHILD IN A CAR THAT DOES NOT HAVE AN APPROPRIATE CARSEAT.

Georgia Child Safety Seat and Seat Belt Law states:

"Children under 8 years of age must be in an approved car seat or booster seat."

Be courteous to other drivers by following the established traffic procedures:

1. Please use the entrance by the Youth Trailer and immediately turn to the right towards the trailer
2. **Do not use the drive immediately in front of the church**
3. Proceed across the upper parking lot and follow the traffic to the drop off point
4. As you leave the drop off point, please turn to the right and exit by the tennis courts

PRESCHOOL SECURITY PLAN

The following security plan will be in effect during preschool hours:

Once children have arrived and are in their classrooms, the doors (front and back) will be locked. If you need access to the Preschool between 9:45 a.m. and 12:50 p.m., please use the front door by the Preschool office. (To the right of the door is a doorbell). We ask that you show either your driver's license or carpool tag for entry. In the event that no one is available to let you in, please go to the main office upstairs and ask them to contact the Preschool office.

We apologize for any inconvenience. The welfare and safety of the children and teachers is our main concern.

CLASS PICTURES

We have a photographer who will come during the fall for individual pictures and will return in the spring for individual and class pictures. The photographer sets the fee.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, parents should listen to local broadcasts concerning local school closings. Simpsonwood Preschool will close, if Gwinnett County Schools close. If the county delays opening, you will be notified by email or phone the preschool's start time.

The Preschool will not make up snow days, even if the county schools do make them up. Until all students attend 5 days per week, there is no fair way to make-up these days.

MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that the Church- -

- is called to the congregation and the community
- is committed to assist persons to live life in the fullness Jesus proclaimed.

We believe that each child - -

- is a child of God.
- has a right to develop his/her fullest potential.

We believe that weekday preschool programs –

- should provide examples of the highest qualities of the Christian faith
- assist parents in these crucial years of child rearing
- provide children the best of early education so that they may develop to their fullest potential physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

We commit ourselves to providing weekday programs which bring together the best we know about the education of young children and our highest understanding of the Christian Faith.

(In accordance with the United Methodist Weekday Pre-School Programs in the North Georgia Conference.)

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Preschool Security Plan Intruder

To insure the safety of all children, the following plan will be followed:

Once children have arrived and are in their classrooms, the doors (front and back) will be locked. If you need access to the Preschool between 9:45 a.m. and 12:50 p.m., please use the front door by the Preschool office. (To the right of the door is a doorbell). Classroom A107 will, also, lock both doors into classroom while occupied. We ask that you show either your driver's license or carpool tag for entry. In the event that no one is available to let you in, please go to the main office upstairs and ask them to contact the Preschool office. All visitors must sign in and out when visiting the preschool.

Each situation is unique and will require quick thinking. If an immediate concern occurs on the church campus, children must be in the classroom with the doors locked. Teachers will cover the windows, including the window on door, and keep the children calm. If there is a concern in the area but not directly on our campus, all outside doors will remain locked and children are to be in the building (no playground/gym time) until all is clear.

All staff will follow the steps to lock down until the “all clear” communication is made. Parents will be notified by email or phone call.

If an emergency situation occurs during “drop-off” or “pick-up”, teachers and children will immediately enter the lower level of the church building. Children will be directed to room A105

and/or the choir room. The outside door will be locked until the emergency situation has expired or resolved.

If it is necessary to dismiss the children, we will ask parents to gather in the multi-purpose room of the education building. Children will be brought to their parent. Teachers and staff will not discuss the emergency with the children. No parent will be allowed in the preschool hallway.

PRESCHOOL DISMISSAL FOR A CATASTROPHIC EVENT

In the event of a national disaster or catastrophic event, this is the preschool's security procedure for dismissing your child from school in an orderly manner:

1. The children will stay in their rooms with the teachers.
2. We will lock the exterior doors to the preschool and only the director will be allowed in the hallway.
3. We will use the Multi Purpose room (upstairs, building B) as a gathering place for parents. Staff members will bring the children upstairs to you.
4. We will not talk to the children about the emergency. We will try to conduct the class in the usual way.
5. We ask that you try to remain calm so that your children won't be confused. Greet them in a normal manner.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Simpsonwood UMC Preschool will follow the stated procedure if either a life threatening or minor emergency occurs while your child is in our care:

Life Threatening Emergencies:

1. 911 will be contacted immediately (address to be given: 4500 Jones Bridge Circle, 30092)
2. First Aid or CPR will be administered, as appropriate
3. Parent or guardian will be notified
4. Child will be transported to designated hospital by Gwinnett County Fire Emergency team
5. Ensure supervision of other children in the group
6. Emergency will be documented and kept in the child's file

Simpsonwood United Methodist Church has a defibrillator (with child pads) in all three buildings.

Loss of Water, Electricity, or Gas, Water or Gas Leak

In the event of loss of water, electricity or gas in the education building, children will be moved to another building to finish out the day. Prolonged outage will require assessment to determine whether or not to close school.

In the event that there is a water or gas leak or that all three buildings are affected by the loss or leak, school will close and parents will be notified by email or phone.

Regular pick-up procedure will be in place as long as the route used is not affected.

Alternate pick-up can be at the Family Life Center. Parents will be notified of this change in the email or phone call.

In the event that any emergency situation requires us to evacuate the site, we (teachers, church staff and children) will walk to cul-de-sac of Walden Trace until the emergency situation is resolved.

Parents will be notified by phone or email. Be sure to update your email address and contact cell number with the office if they should change.

Fire Drill Procedure

Simpsonwood UMC Preschool will comply with recommendation from the Fire Marshall and conduct monthly fire drills

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ARE LOCATED AT EITHER END OF PRESCHOOL HALLWAY

Teachers are trained to:

- Close all windows and doors (upon leaving classroom)
- Count children - Take class listing with phone numbers
- Leave the classroom and follow directions assigned to your classroom (see below)
- Leave the building quickly and quietly

Rooms B100, B102, B103, B104:

Leave by the FRONT preschool door and go to back of concrete pad to gate on the right. Go through the gate and move to lower area behind playground wall.

Rooms B105, B106, B107

Leave by the BACK preschool door and go to back of the concrete pad on the right side and go through the gate and move to lower area behind playground wall behind the playground.

- If in the **music room**, gather children and leave through front door on upper level. Proceed to parking lot and walk to upper church parking lot. (Teacher not in class will be responsible for getting class list and meeting class in parking lot.
- If in the **gym**, leave through gym door by bathrooms. Exit exterior door and proceed to upper Church parking lot.

Tornado Warning Procedure

When a tornado warning is issued for our area, teachers will:

- Move children away from windows and glass doorways, into the designated area for each classroom
- Bring the class to the innermost part of the building on the lowest possible floor
- Children will assume a “duck and cover” position for the duration of the warning