

## Preschool Mission Statement

The Preschool is an integral part of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica. The school is an expression of the church's concern for children and families, and operates within the context of Christian faith and values. We affirm that it is important for children to come to know and love God, and to recognize themselves and others as children of God.

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESCHOOL

1008 Eleventh Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90403  
[www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)  
(310) 395-7292

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
7:00 am - 5:30 pm

### Charleen Smith

Preschool Director  
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## TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN



### We are a Safe Sanctuary Church.

We take the care and safety of your children very seriously. All of the people who work with children and youth have passed background checks and follow the Safe Sanctuary policies that have been established by FUMC, SM. For a copy of our policy, please call the office.

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## What is Transitional Kindergarten & Is it right for my child?

Transitional kindergarten, also known as TK, is designed for children born in the latter part of the year and who need an extra year before moving on to kindergarten. Our program is set up to be more challenging than Pre-K and more flexible than a traditional kindergarten classroom.

Our school strives to keep a low teacher-student ratio to help ensure the children get the attention they need. The class is taught by a fully qualified teacher and teacher's aid. Our school day is from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm which will help prepare the children for a full day of school. The children are provided a healthy snack and well balanced lunch. Each afternoon we focus on a different subject such as: language games and activities, simple math concepts, drama, science and cooking. This gives the children time to complete the activities and do their best work.



### Goals for TK

Because our school has a developmental philosophy, first and foremost we would like the children to develop a love for learning in an environment where they feel safe and comfortable. We prepare the students for kindergarten by introducing them to letter sounds which will lead them to "sounding" out words and putting letters to the sounds they hear in words; teaching the children to count and recognize numbers 1-30 and patterns; teaching the children their address and phone number; and introducing the children to sight words. We do all this with hands-on activities and concrete examples.

## Examples of Weekly Activities

**Featured Artist** – Each week we will feature one student and their artwork. We will include things that they like and a few fun dictations to help decorate their own bulletin board for the week.

**Family Curriculum** – Every week we will be sending home a binder with an activity for you and your child to do together either during the week or on the weekend.

**Weekly Dictations** – We ask the children a simple question during the week and write down their answers to see how their thought process has developed over the course of the year.

**Guest Readers** – One or two Fridays a month a parent can sign up to read one or two stories to the class.

**Mystery Bag** – The children bring in mystery bags with three clues that will help the others guess their secret item.

**Weekend Journals** – The children work in their journals on Mondays which begin by having them draw pictures of something they did over the weekend and the teachers write their narrative on the page. Beginning in January, the children will learn to write their own words about what they did and what they saw over the weekend.