

Creating a vibrant community of play, literacy and arts for young learners and their families.

[theplayschoolbbc.org](http://theplayschoolbbc.org)



# PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy is based on the research and wisdom of generations that children flourish best when they learn through PLAY. We believe in creating this opportunity for play in a values-based environment that allows the young child to grow.

## Our Guiding Principles

- We believe that a child's formative years should be shaped within a Christian values-based environment where young children can learn and play in a nurturing, happy and safe atmosphere. This creates opportunities for the children to gain new skills, form good habits and learn to be responsible as well as respectful.
- We provide a well-rounded program that will address the whole child and emphasize community involvement.
- We are committed to working with each student at their individual level of development and giving them the opportunity to participate, improve communication skills and share in decision-making.
- We believe in a small classroom environment that lets teachers really get to know each child on an individual basis. Therefore, we have one of the lowest classroom ratios in Palm Beach County.
- We, at all times, provide opportunities to stimulate growth in each developmental stage through cooperative play with a wide range of indoor and outdoor materials.

*We strive to make your child's first educational experience one that will be a fun, exciting, loving beginning of a bright future.*



PLAY \* LEARN \* GROW

# CURRICULUM

Our predecessor, First United Methodist Preschool opened in the 1970s as a mission of the church. As one of the first preschools in Boynton Beach, the school offered an affordable part-time program for 3-5 year olds focused on developing friendships and social skills through games, crafts, storytelling, song and experiential learning. Over the years, our learn-through-play curriculum evolved from these core play-based activities as the early childhood education field grew. Today, our time-tested learn-through-play curriculum at The P.L.A.Y. School still emphasizes Christian values, whole-child development and hands-on experiences. We include a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities daily. Children develop oral language, math, and literacy skills through the use of music, art, dramatic play, journaling, and collaborative discussion of stories and ideas.

We integrate S.T.E.A.M activities, the Scholastic "Let's Find out" Science series, the Mat Man /Handwriting Without Tears curriculum and "Hands On Standards for Math." Our social-emotional curriculum blends Positive Discipline and *Conscious Discipline™* tools, used to guide choice-making and a supportive class-room environment.



## OUR MISSION **Through play, literacy and the arts, we:**

- Give children a love of learning and confidence in themselves and their abilities.
- Prepare children for the rigors of today's elementary school programs by including lessons that are in-line with Early Childhood standards and Florida state kindergarten standards.
- Provide a flexible schedule that supports family values and promotes family involvement in our community. Along with their child, we provide opportunities for parents to learn, build friendships, prepare for the next step, and find support.
- Ensure that each individual child's strengths and challenges are recognized and supported through services provided both in-house and through collaboration with community agencies.

## OUR FOUNDERS:

Anastasia Chandler, Executive Director  
Megan Baraldi, Development Director

# UNIQUE PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Throughout the year, we add dozens of enrichment activities to our program to bring our curriculum to life. This special programming presents opportunities for family involvement, hands-on enrichment, and whole-child experiences.

Most of these are included in our program fees, with no added cost to parents.

These include:

- A preschool learning garden
- End-of-Unit celebrations/  
Holiday celebrations
- Parent workshops
- Hands-on science experiments  
and demonstrations
- Family Fun events
- Show-and-Tell days
- Dress-up days
- Holiday singing programs
- In-house field trips and guest  
speakers
- Chapel
- Music class
- Lending library
- Community outreach drives
- Regular coffee morning for parents
- Parent volunteer opportunities
- "Read for the Record"
- Parent-teacher conferences



- Coordination with community agencies to  
address special developmental needs
- Scholastic reading program
- "Drop Everything and Read" Friday guest  
readers and literacy celebration
- Home and community-based hands-on  
enrichment activities to support our lessons

## PLAY AT SCHOOL DEVELOPS CHILDREN 4 WAYS

### 1 Physical Development

- Strong, healthy bodies
- Coordination
- Stress management
- Physical Confidence
- Fine & large motor skills
- Agility

### 2 Cognitive Development

- Scientific & mathematical  
thinking
- Language skills
- Literacy skills
- Research and inquiry skills
- Independent thinking

### 3 Social Development

- Cooperation
- Negotiation
- Collaboration
- Socialization
- Rules formation
- Conflict resolution

### 4 Emotional Development

- Joy & Empathy
- Impulse control
- Self - regulation
- Persistence
- Resilience
- Self - confidence



# THREES PRESCHOOL PROGRAM<sub>4</sub> (3-YEAR OLDS)

**Two Days - Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$290/mo**

**Three Days - Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$390/mo**

For many children, our threes program is their first introduction to a school environment. It is critical, therefore, that we focus much of the time in our threes program on socio-emotional development. At this age children are learning to express themselves through play, language, and behavior. They are full of curiosity and ready to explore the world around them.

We facilitate this exploration through plenty of student-led group play, hands on lessons, activities like Show & Tell and our classroom jobs. We facilitate whole-child development through stories, puzzles, science activities and free play both indoors and outdoors. We emphasize literacy through shared stories, one-on-one interactions with staff, and lessons on the world around us, as well as familiar vocabulary used in learning the alphabet, numbers, shapes and colors.

*Our goal is to make sure that each child leaves us confident, excited about learning and kindergarten-ready!*

## FOURS/VPK PROGRAM

**Three Days - VPK Mon/Wed/Fri. - 8:30 a.m. - 1:40 p.m., FREE**

**Two Day Enrichment - Tue & Thur 8:30 a.m.-1:40 p.m., \$295/mo**

Children must be 4 or 5 years old on or before September 1st of the new school year to qualify for this class. Classes begin in August. VPK students will need an enrollment voucher from Florida Early Learning. You can apply for a voucher on-line at <https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com>

Our Fours students hit the ground running and our teachers are right there, ready to catch their individual fires and help them burn bright. Children in this age group are mastering language skills at very different rates and looking for more complex ways to express themselves through storytelling, writing, play and art. In order to meet their individual needs we use a wide range of learning tools including hands-on experiences in math, science and language arts. Others activities include journaling, outdoor education, building activities, crafts that incorporate large-concept learning and lots of one-on-one engagement with teachers. Our supplemental materials allow the VPK students to delve deeper into cognitive learning concepts they need for Kindergarten.

## VIRTUAL SCHOOL/HOME PROGRAM

**Includes Weekly Monday outdoor meetups, \$180/mo, classes for both Threes and Fours available.**

Children must be three years old on or before September 1st of the new school year to qualify for this class. They must also be potty trained. Classes begin in September. Registration Fee- \$100.00-NON-REFUNDABLE

Our virtual school/home program was created to offer a safe-at-home alternative in response to Coronavirus restrictions. For those not ready to return to a school building, we offer the same curriculum and lessons through Google classroom. Each Monday, we meet to hand out supplies and do an optional outdoor group activity, followed by a week of crafts and at-home activities explained and guided by our teachers at Google Meet circle times, with parent support and follow-through at home.



# LICENSING AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

We are licensed by the Palm Beach County Health Department to provide day care and are a licensed VPK Provider through the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County. Licensing requires that the school meet certain requirements and standards for facility, staff and student records. All preschool staff are highly qualified, experienced educators and parents. They participate in annual staff development courses and have been thoroughly screened and approved through the FBI. We also require regular First Aid and CPR certification training for all staff.

At FUMC we pride ourselves on our collaborative work environment. Teaching teams plan curriculum together and share the responsibilities to teach each and every child that walks through our doors. This creates a strong community of love and support. VPK teachers have advanced training in early childhood education and maintain state issued staff credentials.

## FAMILY FOCUS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT

As stated earlier, a key component of The P.L.A.Y. School mission is to give families a place to call a second home, where, along with their child, they can learn, build friendships, prepare for the next step, and find support. We truly believe that it takes a village to raise a child and we put that philosophy to work through partnerships with parents, community members and preschool alumni. This is why we ask all parents to make a material or time donation to support the school mission.

We encourage family members to volunteer throughout the year as “school assistants”, event coordinators and helpers, guest readers, and in any other area where their talents can be shared. We are proud of the fact that many of our teacher’s children ask to spend their free days here at our school, helping out. It gives testament to our atmosphere of family inclusion and life-long relationships.

In addition to student education, we also offer educational opportunities for parents through workshops, take-home literature, and social media. We hold special family fun events throughout the year and monthly coffee & community for parents to just hang out and get to know each other here at school. We have alumni that regularly help with special events and choose our school for community service projects in order to gain volunteer hours for their middle and high-school requirements. We hope you will join this amazing community!



**The P.L.A.Y. School, Inc**

A Florida non-profit in the process of applying for 501 (c)(3) status  
[anastasia@theplayschoolpbc.org](mailto:anastasia@theplayschoolpbc.org)





## ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

**This school is awesome!** I absolutely love the teachers and staff. They truly love what they do and it shows. My son loved going to school and I know it's because of the people. I feel blessed that they were my children's first real experience with being away from me and in school. Such a loving and warm environment! A family feel was what I was looking for in a preschool, and it's exactly what I got and more!

*Lucy Purdy — 5 stars*

**This school is amazing!** My 5y/o attends here and will graduate this May 2017. It has been a joy and blessing since day one of attendance. My 5 y/o has grown so much in such a short time frame and I am forever grateful for that. The teachers here are so awesome and caring, including to the parents. It really feels like family. Mrs Chandler the school director has a huge heart, and Mrs Muir (my 5 y/o teacher is so gracious. I highly recommend the school! Thank you so much for all the wonderful blessings.

*Gladys Grace — 5 stars*

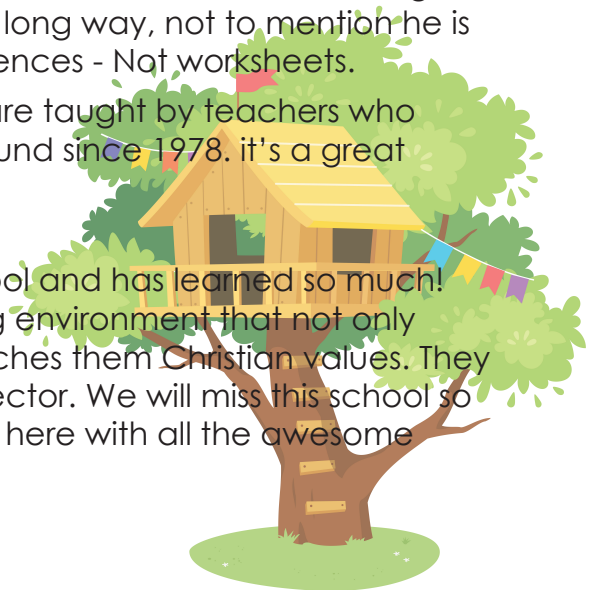
**This preschool was everything I was looking for,** wrapped in a warm, kind, caring and well educated bow. The appeal goes beyond the 3 longer days they offer, rather than 5 short. It is the individual care they provide to not only my son but my family. Providing endless chances for us to get involved in my sons education and the school family, to continual support regarding the questions that arise with the Choice Programs and school decisions for kindergarten. My son is happy. I believe as a mother seeing his individual happiness in school and his education goes a long way, not to mention he is excited to go to school and learn from his school experiences - Not worksheets.

I believe the lessons are retained so well because they are taught by teachers who have seen this curriculum succeed. FUMC has been around since 1978. it's a great school I'm sure it will see many, many more years.

*Amanda DeHaai — 5 stars*

**We LOVE this preschool!** My son has thrived in this school and has learned so much! This school is a gem. I feel it's a safe, loving and nurturing environment that not only prepares your preschooler for kindergarten but also teaches them Christian values. They have amazing teachers and Ms. Chandler is a great director. We will miss this school so much at the end of the year! The kids have so much fun here with all the awesome events and activities.

*Natalie Snelling — 5 stars*





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