

# THE GOSPEL TRAIN PRESCHOOL

## CURRICULUM

We have a well-rounded curriculum. Social skills are stressed, including sharing, listening skills, following directions and using manners. Hands on experience includes:

Bible stories  
Art  
Music  
Dramatic Play  
Language  
Topic based experiences

Books  
Poem/Finger play  
Mathematics  
Science  
Movement education  
Field trips (Pre-K Only)

### It looks like play, but we are learning to ...

work and play together  
respect the rights of others  
listen as well as speak  
grow in self-control  
participate in group activities  
share toys, equipment and experiences  
listen to directions and follow them  
develop good work habits  
grow from dependence to independence  
finish what we start

clean up after work time  
enjoy using a variety of materials  
dramatize stories and experiences  
develop an interest in books  
stay with plans for increasingly longer times  
improve muscular coordination  
understand new words and be able to use them  
develop new interests and extend old ones  
develop an interest in the world around us  
experience God's love through caring teachers,  
parents and church members.

### HISTORY:

The Gospel Train Preschool was established in August 1984 as a weekday ministry of the First United Methodist Church of Tarpon Springs to provide educational needs of the early childhood years with a Christian orientation.

The Gospel Train is licensed by Pinellas County, Gold Seal Accredited and a certified VPK provider. In addition, Lead teachers and Assistant Teachers are required to obtain certification in Early Childhood Education from the Pinellas County License Board. The Director, Lead teachers and Assistant Teachers must also continue their early childhood education annually.

### AGE REQUIREMENTS:

All students must be two, three, or four on or before September 1. This policy follows the Pinellas County School Board policy.

### SCHEDULE AND FEES:

Classes begin following the Pinellas County school schedule. Holidays and vacations follow the Pinellas County Public School calendar. Prior notice will be given when school will not be in session.

All classes are offered from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Gospel Train offers the following class choices for our Two, Three and Four year old classes:

#### TWO/THREE/FOUR YEAR OLDS

Monday, Wednesday and Friday ..... \$225.00  
Tuesday and Thursday ..... \$160.00  
Monday through Friday ..... \$275.00

#### PRE-K OR VPK

Private Pay (Monday-Friday Only) ..... \$275.00  
VPK ..... Tuition is paid by The State of Florida

The above charges are per month. Tuition payment is due on the first day of each month. There are 10 equal tuition payments per school year. The first payment is due in July before classes begin and the last will be paid in May. No refund or credit is given for absence, illness, holiday or vacation. Checks are to be made to the Gospel Train Preschool and brought to the preschool office. A 10% tuition discount will be given for the second child enrolled, does not include VPK students.



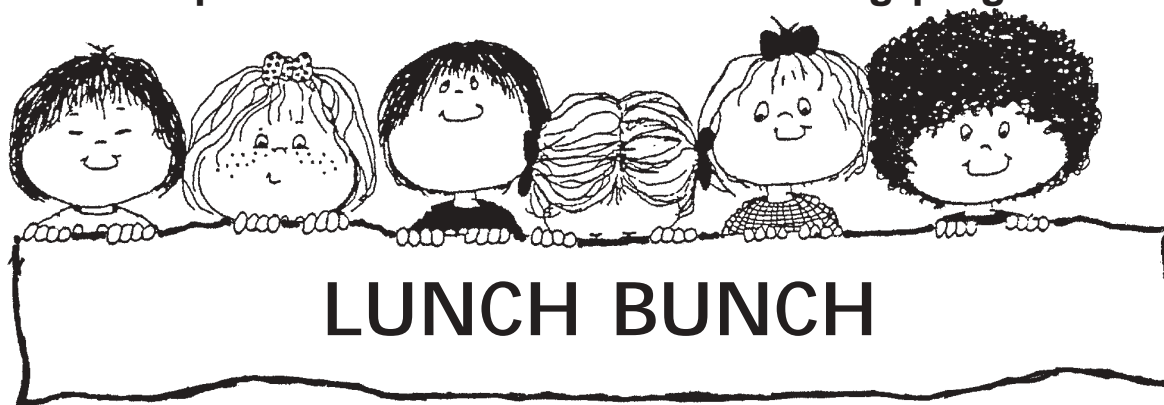
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**501 E. Tarpon Avenue**

**Tarpon Springs, FL 34689**

**Phone 934-2223**

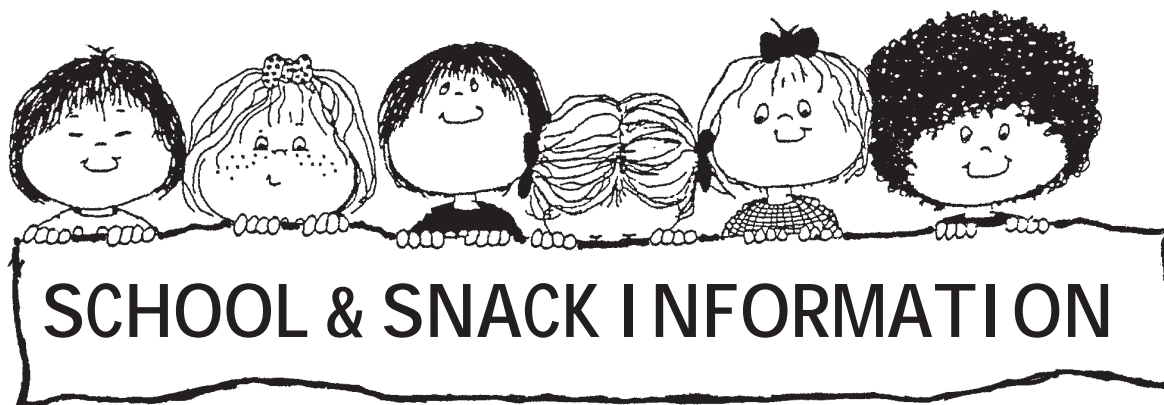
The Gospel Train also offers the following programs:



Lunch Bunch is offered from Monday through Friday each week from 12:00 until 2:00 p.m.

The cost is \$8.00 per day.

- \* Each child must have a back pack with name attached for lunch box and school materials.
- \* Each child must have a towel or rest mat with his or her name on it.
- \* Each child must have a nutritious lunch and drink with his or her name on the lunch box.
- \* Lunch Bunch is offered daily in each classroom.  
**You do not need a reservation to attend!**



Gospel Train Preschool now offers Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) for eligible four year olds. Tuition is paid by the State of Florida and no registration fee will be collected for the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please note that all additional programs will be billed separately.

In an effort to hold down tuition cost the snacks for your child's classroom are provided by parents on a voluntary rotating basis. The teacher will tell you when it is your turn and provide you with a list of "Approved Snacks". Please provide snacks from "the list" ONLY and be sure to inform the teacher if you will be unable to bring snack on your assigned day.

## REGISTRATION:

A \$150.00 registration fee must accompany the completed application form. This fee covers supplies, insurance and administrative costs for the school and includes a school tee shirt. This annual fee is non-refundable. Registration fees must be paid and the following enrollment paperwork completed for your child to be placed on a class list:

- a) Release for Emergency Care (must be notarized)
- b) Child Identification Record
- c) Child Health and Development Form
- d) Child Care Facility Brochure Statement
- e) Signed "Children and Discipline" Statement

In addition, all children must have a health certificate issued by a physician certifying that the child is free from any communicable disease. This certificate is available at your physician's office and must be returned to the preschool office before the child's first day of school. It must include:

- a) Physical Exam Record
- b) Certificate of Immunization

## STUDENT WITHDRAWALS AND LATE FEES:

- a) No fees or tuition will be refunded
- b) A \$10.00 late fee will be assessed on any account when tuition is received after the 10th of the month, or for any non-negotiable check
- c) No refunds will be made for children who miss school due to illness, vacation, etc. We have fixed costs which must be paid whether your child is in attendance or not.
- d) A \$5.00 late pick-up fee is charged for children picked up after 12:15. This fee is paid in cash directly to the teacher.

## CLASS POLICIES:

1) The following items are not allowed to be brought to the school:

- a) real or toy weapons- guns, knives, etc
- b) candy or gum
- c) expensive jewelry
- d) money
- e) toys (2 year old-consult with the teacher) Individual teachers will designate a specific day when items may be brought for "show and tell."

2) Children are not permitted to wear:

- a) sandals or open-toed shoes
- b) cowboy boots
- c) party shoes

These are unsafe on the playground. We recommend sneakers or canvas shoes with rubber soles.

3) **Diapers:** Diapers are allowed in two year old classes only. All other classes require the child to be toilet trained.

4) **Birthdays:** Birthdays and other invitations are not to be distributed in class unless every person in the class receives one. Names and addresses of children will be made available to the parents when classes begin in the fall, so that invitations for private parties may be mailed. If you would not like your address released, please notify the Director in writing.

You are welcome to have your child's birthday recognized during the school day. Parents may send birthday treats to share. We would like to encourage parents to donate a classroom library book in recognition of their child's birthday. A book plate will be placed in the book with the name of the donating birthday child.

5) **Field trips:** Four year old classes will occasionally leave the school for planned field trips. Permission slips will be sent home in advance for each trip. For our planning purposes, it is important for parents to return permission slips promptly. Any child with no signed permission slip must remain at school and may not accompany his or her class on the field trip. In addition, for the safety of your child, a Gospel Train tee shirt must be worn on all trips away from the school. Any child not wearing the proper school shirt on the day of the field trip will be given one, the cost of which will be charged to the parent.

6) **Illness:** Your child should remain at home if he or she has a runny nose, sore throat, rash or fever.

CHILDREN WHO ARE ILL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED INTO CLASS, OR PERMITTED TO ATTEND FIELD TRIPS.

7) **Advertising:** No individual or organization is permitted to distribute leaflets, flyers, or any other printed material that advertises or promotes products, programs, or other commercial ventures without approval of the First United Methodist Church. Following approval by the Director, parents may use the bulletin board outside the preschool office for display of information to be shared among parents and notice of upcoming events.

8) **Holidays:** Building traditions is one way of providing happy memories for our children. Long before a child can comprehend the full meaning of a holiday, he or she can sense that it is a joyful occasion. Children will reflect the attitudes and actions of those adults around them who set a Christian example. During celebration times it is important to explain to children the reasons for celebrating.

During the preschool year we will celebrate Harvest Festival, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter. We will be presenting them on a child's level with a positive Christian basis. Prior to each holiday, your child's teacher will send home information on what the class will be doing to celebrate. If you wish your child to not participate in any of these celebrations, please let the teacher know in advance.