



Parents' Day Out

Community Preschool Program

Parent Handbook

2020-2021

Union Baptist Church
Parents' Day Out
6701 Washington Pike
Knoxville, TN 37918
687-4500 / discoverunion.org

Mission Purpose Statement :

To extend the Church's ministry by providing biblically-based age appropriate care, education, and growth opportunities for each child enrolled and to provide a program of outreach to the families of the children enrolled. The weekday program is an important ministry of the Church – it is an extension of the Church in the community.

Our Biblical teachings are based on the following:

- A.) We believe in the Biblical definition of the marriage as the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union for life (Genesis 2:18-25) and that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe marriage is between one man and one woman for life and that it uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Eph 5:21-33). We believe that marriage also serves as the foundational unit of a stable society (1 Cor 7:2). We believe that any form of sexual immorality, as Biblically defined, is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).
- B.) We believe that mankind is woven together by God in the womb and that they are fearfully and wonderfully made by Him (Psalms 139:13-14). We believe God creates each person as male (man) or female (woman). These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). We believe that since each person is made in the image of God, every person has value and must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity (Col. 3:12-14; Luke 6:31).
- C.) We believe all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, born and unborn. We are therefore called to defend, protect and value all human life (Psalms 139; Jer. 1:5).

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your child to the Union Baptist Church Parents' Day Out program and hope the learning experiences here will be happy, wholesome ones. Our program is a ministry of Union Baptist Church, where we provide preschoolers positive social and learning experiences within a

Christian environment. Children can learn best in an environment where they can actively participate.

At Parents' Day Out, our teachers and staff work as a team. We work together to provide a loving and trusting place where children are nurtured, socially and spiritually, through age-appropriate activities. Teachers create experiences for success in a family atmosphere filled with love and respect. We provide safe, quality care for children age 18 months – to pre-kindergarten. Our program includes daily curriculum, arts and crafts, games, dramatic play, storytelling, music, bible lessons and more.

We will begin each day for the older children in the sanctuary with pledges to the American and Christian flags, pledge to the Bible, memory verse, prayer and recognizing any children with birthdays.

We are honored that you have chosen Union Baptist Church's Parents' Day Out for you and your child. We believe that we serve as a very important link in the long chain of a child's education. We continually seek to improve and keep our link strong. Thank you for entrusting your child to us.

Love in Christ,

Caroline Tourville
Interim Director

Admission

Our PDO program has classes to accommodate children from 18 months old to pre-kindergarten. The following milestones must be reached for consideration in starting the program: walking (unless medically/physically unable) and can feed his/her self with finger foods and drink from a "sippie" cup. If these milestones have been met before the age of 18 mo., we will consider welcoming your child to be a part of PDO early. This will be on an individual basis.

We strive to maintain a student to teacher ratio less than 5:1 for our Young Toddler classes, 7:1 for our Older Toddlers and a student to teacher ratio of no more than 10:1 for our Pre-K classes.

In order to maintain that ratio, we may have a waiting list for those interested in joining our program. Vacancies that occur during the school year will be filled from the waiting list in the order the names are received as space becomes available in the appropriate class for the child.

Children will be grouped according to their chronological age. There may, however, be occasions when a child will be placed out of his/her age group. These decisions will be made by the director, teachers and child's parent(s). The decision is always in the best interest of the child.

Union Baptist Church Parents' Day Out is a non-profit organization. **We are not required to be licensed by the State of Tennessee as a child care agency.** § T.C.A. 71-3-503 (B)(7). However, we will follow State safety guidelines and TN Baptist Association Pre-school Division suggestions for making sure our program is of highest quality and professional in every way. We will strive to always meet the children's needs in a "safety-first" environment.

Enrollment/Registration Fee

Enrollment is confirmed upon receipt of the registration fee and completed application.

Registration fee is \$50.00 per child/per school year – regardless of the month entered into the program. ALL fees are non-refundable.

Tuition

Monthly **tuition** is \$160.00 for one child attending a two day/week program. Please make check out to "Union Weekday Ministries". **PDO now accepts credit/debit card payments. There will be a 2.9% transaction fee added to the tuition payment to cover the cost for this service. You may pay on-line through our church website: discoverunion.org.** Monthly **tuition** is \$85.00 for one child attending one day/week. A sibling discount of \$15 off each month's tuition for second child attending will apply. (This discount is only available for two day/week attendees.) If two siblings attend only one day/wk, the fee will be \$160.00 for both. The fees will be the same for each month. A supply fee is built into the monthly tuition fees. We are using as much funding as possible for building a great program so that your child will have wonderful opportunities for learning and growing Biblically.

Tuition is to be paid at the **beginning of each month**. Late fees will be enforced. If payment has not been received by the **7th day** of the month (except Jan. fee will be due the week after Winter Break), a \$5.00 late charge may be added to your account. For each additional week, another \$5.00 charge will be added. Parents will receive reminders if tuition is not paid. PDO reserves the right to drop a child from the program if tuition is not paid in a timely manner. If a child is absent due to sickness, vacation, etc. parents are still responsible for payment as it

covers your child's enrollment spot in the program. (Exception is during the Summer Session where optional payment fees apply) There will be a \$10.00 returned check fee for any NSF check. A second returned check will result in another \$10.00 fee and CASH ONLY payment for the remainder of the school year.

Withdrawal

A minimum of one calendar month notification of withdrawal is required and should be submitted to the director. This time period is necessary to invite new applicants into the program and adjust staffing if necessary.

Days And Hours Of Operation

Dates of Program: August – May (see attached school calendar/schedule)

The PDO school year will be a Tuesday/Thursday Program.

An optional Summer Session is available June-July. Details of the Summer Program will be provided to those enrolled.

Our PDO program follows the Knox County Schools schedule for all **breaks** and **holidays**. Children may enter their classrooms beginning at 9:00 a.m. and should be picked up by 2:00 p.m. Please make every effort to pick up your child promptly by this time. A late pick up charge of \$5.00 will added on a daily basis for pickups after 2:15pm.

Inclement Weather

If Knox County Schools are closed due to snow or other inclement weather, PDO will make their own discretionary decision on whether to be closed/late start for that day. Reimbursement for excessive snow days will be at the director's discretion.

Illness Policy

We clean and disinfect the work and play areas daily, but of course the spread of germs and diseases is inevitable. Please do not bring your child to PDO if he/she has fever, diarrhea, or vomiting within 24 hours of our school day. Children with any of these symptoms will be sent home for the day. If your child has allergies and symptoms that you know are not the result of a cold, please let the director know before bringing your child to PDO. Make sure that the emergency contact numbers are correct and current so that you may be reached if your child should become sick or injured while in our care. **CPR training is provided for PDO staff.**

Medication

If your child requires medication while at PDO, please ask the director for a medical form.

Lunch/Snacks

PDO provides a morning snack which normally consists of water, graham crackers, gold fish, vanilla wafers, etc. On occasion, we serve a special holiday treat, which may be sweet. Please inform us of any dietary concerns that you may have. We ask that your child not bring food or drinks into their classroom in the morning.

The parent is responsible for providing their child with a sack lunch. Clearly label lunch cups and containers with first and last names. Please remember that "less is best"! Finger foods are great. If sending fruits and vegetables, please have these cut and manageable for your child to eat. We ask that you not send **red drinks** or **glass** containers due to stain and breakage problems. We are unable to heat lunches due to time restrictions. Please heat your foods at home and send in a thermos.

Toddler Needs

No juice boxes for this age group. You will need to provide a sippie cup with beverage already poured for their lunch. Finger foods are best. Diapers may be brought daily or left in the child's cubby. Send one package of baby wipes every **three** months. Please label and bring anything else special your child may need.

Clothing

A change of clothes including underwear and socks should be brought to PDO. Simple clothing that is free from complicated fastenings is best. Remember that they are often in a hurry to get to the bathroom. For toddlers, please bring pull-ups with velcro. Your child should wear sneakers which allow for running and playing in the gym. **NO** flip flops! Also, please write your child's name on all items they bring to PDO. Cubby space, for our younger children, is provided for a change of clothes and diapers. Older children should bring a backpack each day with necessary items.

Personal Items

Please have your child leave all personal toys at home. Sharing a favorite toy is not an easy task. If your child has something special he/she would like to share with the teachers, we invite them to do so, but will then give it back to Mommy or Daddy to take home for safekeeping. We will designate certain days for Show and Tell and your child may bring one item to share on that day.

Birthdays

Please tell us ahead of time if you would like to celebrate a birthday at PDO. We encourage you to bring a special snack for the entire class to share.

Parent Involvement

We invite our parents to share any aspects of their occupation or hobbies that would be enjoyed by pre-school children.

Discipline

PDO uses “time out” for any inappropriate behavior and for repeatedly ignoring a teacher’s first request. You will be informed at the end of the day if your child has been in time-out so that parent and teacher can work together in correcting a negative behavior. Positive reinforcement is used frequently to build long term good behavior habits.

Other Misc. Information

Bathroom breaks are given throughout the day.

A sign in and out sheet is provided and **MUST** be used each day of attendance.

A monthly calendar is provided which includes: topics, activities, events, scripture verse, etc.

More information about our curriculum will be provided.

Parking and Entering

******As of August 25, 2020 drop off/pick up procedures will follow the new COVID-19 procedures until further notice*** Please see video on drive-thru drop off/pick up procedures.***

Enter at the east side of the church where the small covered entrance is. Please park in a designated vehicle space instead of near the covered area. This is for the safety of the children so that everyone can be seen as they are entering to and from the church. The door will be unlocked during drop-off (9:00 to 9:30) and pick-up (1:45 to 2:00) times. If you need to enter after/before these times, use the “call” button on the intercom first – if no one can come let you in, you will have to go the office door and use the intercom there. (The older children and teachers will be in the sanctuary with the director for morning assembly after 9:30 every morning.)

ARRIVAL SUGGESTIONS FOR SMOOTHER SEPARATIONS

Smoothing the transition:

Attending PDO is an exciting experience for a young child. Whatever the personality of the child, there will be a moment when the child suddenly realizes that you are not staying the entire day also. The apprehension that accompanies this realization is a normal reaction. We offer some suggestions to help ease the tension: Enter at the east side of the church where the small covered entrance is. Please park in a designated vehicle space instead of near the covered area. This is for the safety of the children so that everyone can be seen as they are entering to and from the church. The door will be unlocked during drop-off (9:00 to 9:30) and pick-up (1:45 to 2:00) times. If you need to enter after/before these times, use the “call” button on the intercom first – if no one can come let you in, you will have to go the office door and use the intercom there. (The older children and teachers will be in the sanctuary with the director for morning assembly after 9:30 every morning.)

The Journey -Encourage your child to walk with you to his/her room.

Don't Linger -Reassure your child that you will be back. Give a big hug, or “I love you and I'll be back.” Then EXIT. At this point, it does no good to stay until they settle down. They will not calm down as long as you remain. The child interprets your reluctance to leave as meaning that you are not sure about this place and perhaps do not trust these people. Your presence now only intensifies your child's reaction and that of the entire class.

Tears Will Pass -Realize that there may be tears at first, but they pass quickly. If your child remains upset, we WILL call you.

Checking Back -Parents are discouraged from coming back to PDO to check on the child because when the child sees a parent, the child thinks it is time to leave and is immediately ready to go. We are happy for you to call and check on your child at any time during the day.

Going Home -Pick your child up on time. It can be scary for a child when all other children have left the classroom. **Also, the teachers are busy making preparations for the next day in the classrooms after 2:00 and may have other family commitments to get to after they leave at 2:30.**

Please make sure you have completed the signature page of the registration form. This is your acknowledgement that you have received, read, and will follow the policies in this parent handbook.

Important Contact Information:

Union Baptist Church Office 687-4500/office@discoverunion.org

Kathy Stoutt - Union Weekday Children's Ministry Director
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Caroline Tourville – Interim PDO Director
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