

Parent Connection

First United Methodist Church's
School for Little People
September 2011

Saying Good-Bye Gets Easier With Time

“Honey, please let go. Mommy has to leave now,” urged Becky’s mom, wondering if she would have to drive to work with a thirty pound preschooler clamped to her leg. But even though it was getting late, the thought of walking out on her sobbing daughter troubled her. Other children were waving annoyingly cheerful goodbyes to their parents but not Becky. And Becky was what mattered right now.

Sometimes it’s difficult to know what to do when your child cries or clings when it’s time for you to leave. Such behavior is not unusual or unreasonable for young children. Even ones who have been to school before can fall apart at the last minute and it may continue for some time.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. **Arrive on time and greet the teacher like an old friend.** If you’re among the first to arrive, the room will be quieter. Your child will have a chance to see you talking in a friendly way to the adult who will care for him. It’s easier for a child to accept a new teacher as a caregiver (and human being!) if it’s clear that you like her, too.
2. **Bring along a comfort item to leave with your child.** It might be a picture of you, a special blanket or stuffed toy. A wise person once described such a security items as being like a “portable Mom.” They do help. In much the same way, a parent who leaves a scarf or other personnel item with a toddler is also leaving a concrete message: A piece of me is with you. I’ll be back.
3. **Don’t slip away while your child is busy playing.** Doing so may cause her to mistrust you and will only lead to more determined clinging next time. Always let your child know you are leaving. You’ll be helping her learn that separation can be faced and managed.
4. **Tell your child when you’ll return.** Although your child can’t tell time yet, he can understand ideas like, “I’ll be back when you are playing outside after naptime.” Be sure to return when you said you would.
5. **Say good-bye quickly.** Say it cheerfully and confidently. (Even if you don’t quite feel that way the first few times.) Ever since he was a baby, your child has checked the expression on your face to find out how to react. When you look worried, he feels worried. Looking cheerful and confident says, “You can handle this!”
6. **Call the school later if you are concerned.** Just as you might give a regretful sigh when seeing a loved one off at the airport, so might your child cry briefly when you say good-bye. Because she is sad when you leave doesn’t mean she’ll be sad all day, however. Give the school a call later on. Knowing that she’s settled in can help you feel better.

It’s okay to take a while to learn to say good-bye to someone you love. It helps to keep in mind that saying good-bye gets easier with time and experience. Eventually, your child will understand fully that you’ll always return, and will be able to let you go with trust and confidence.



 **Teacher Feature, Jackie Grace**

Imagine going to work each day and witnessing miracles.

Imagine that possibilities are discussed, believed and achieved.

Imagine going to work each day and not a day goes by without many a belly laugh.

Imagine friends who really know you and love you for who you are.

Imagine a director who is committed to the very highest standards of meeting children's needs. Standards that were set through her own experiences of teaching and loving children.

This workplace so magical and mystical does exist! It exists in every classroom of School for Little People.

I am truly blessed to be able to teach with all the wonder it entails!

I have been a teacher at School for Little people for 26 years. I am currently teaching 4 and 5 year old children 5 days a week.

My own 2 children were at one time "little people" at this school. Jenny, graduated from McMurry University and is currently on staff at SLP. Jonathan graduated from North Texas State University and attends seminary at SMU.

I have been married to my husband, Lee, for 34 years. He is a writer and columnist for the Times Record News.

When not at school, I love spending time with my family and walking the family dog, Tessie. I also enjoys dining out with my colleagues and visiting my Mom, brothers and sister.



 **Teacher Feature, Connie Bunton**

This is Connie's fifth year at School for Little People.

She is the classroom aid for Mrs. Grace's class of 4 (turning 5) year olds. Connie has a degree in Marketing from Baylor. She has worked in sales and owned and operated her own business doing silk screening, embroidered t-shirts, and specialty advertising. Most recently she has worked as an office manager for an oil company and as a teacher at various pre-k's and child care centers.

Her husband is Fred Bunton. They have 4 children. Claire, 27 is married to Jon Felder and works as a nurse at Baylor medical center in Plano. Ben David, 25 recently moved to Wichita Falls from Manhattan, KS. Alise is married to Tyler and is "Mom" to Connie's grandson, Hudson. Keyli is married to Dee and is "Mom" to Connie's granddaughter, Ella.

Connie says her favorite thing about teaching is the daily "entertainment" provided by the inquisitive and inventive children in her classroom. She is always "blown away" by the wonderful and amazing things the children say when in conversation with each other.

She loves Mexican and Italian food, (but will eat anything, except maybe a hotdog.) She loves bright colors, especially turquoise. She collects Madame Alexander Dolls and colored crystal, and according to Fred, she has too much of all of it!



September Calendar

Sept. 1	Newsletters and Book orders handed out
Sept. 2	Absolute last day to order SLP T-shirts
Sept 5	Labor Day Holiday our entire program will be closed.
Sept. 6	
Sept. 7	Yoga for 4's begins
Sept. 8	Fire Drill
Sept. 9	Deadline for Scholastic Book Orders
Sept.12	
Sept. 13	Chapel , Mrs. Maxwell, Mrs. Connel, Mrs. Grace, Mrs. Rumfelt, & Ms. Erica
Sept. 14	Chapel , Mrs. Maxwell, Mrs. Kajs, Mrs. Runfelt, & Mrs. Moran
Sept. 15	
Sept. 16	
Sept. 19	
Sept. 20 & 21	Johnny Appleseed comes to visit!!
Sept. 21	Yoga for 4's
Sept. 22	
Sept. 23	
Sept. 26	Music classes begin
Sept. 27	Chapel
Sept. 28	Chapel Sight, hearing, and speech screenings with certified speech pathologist Amy Miranda. Look for forms to come home with your child.
Sept. 29	Music Vision and Hearing screening, 2 nd day
Sept. 30	



A Note about Screening!

Hearing and Vision screenings are mandated by the state of Texas for all children who are 4 or who will be turning 4 during the 2011-2012 school year. Speech screening is optional.

School for Little People will offer professional screenings done by Amy Miranda a certified speech pathologist and vision and hearing specialist, Sept. 28-29. The cost is \$8.00 for hearing, \$8.00 for vision, and \$15.00 for speech-language. A screening package for all tests will be \$28.00. You may take advantage of the testing offered during school or you may, if you prefer, test at your pediatrician's office, the Health Department, or at another health facility. However it has been our experience that SLP will usually be the least expensive way to go.

If you have your child tested elsewhere or would prefer to wait for a time closer to their birth date, please remember that documentation of screening and screening results must be turned in to the SLP office on or before their 4th birthday.

Look for screening information to come home in your child's backpack after the 15th of Sept.



**Remember September
Tuition is due
September 1
and will be late by
September 10!!**

facebook

**SLP now has a facebook page,
"like" us and receive all kinds of
fun pictures, up-dates, and
reminders.**



Just a Brief Explanation of Billing for the 2010-2011 School Year

Tuition for Pre-school is billed monthly. Your monthly pre-k tuition will always be:

- Two day classes \$98.00 per month
- Three day classes \$127.00 per month
- Five day classes \$225.00 per month

Extended Care is billed weekly. Your Extended Care costs will vary according to the schedule you have set for your child. However, you will be billed the same amount each week unless you change the scheduled care times. Times may not be changed weekly or monthly. We do need a set schedule for the school year. To request a schedule change, complete the Extended Care blue form located in front of the office. As a reminder, all changes must be in writing and given 2 weeks in advance.

All Pre-k costs and extended care costs, with the exception of the week between Christmas and New Years, have been prorated to cover holidays so the amount you pay will be the same each week whether your child attends or not.

During "Meet the Teacher" and throughout the first 2 weeks of school, you should have had an opportunity to check your scheduled billing and make changes as needed. If you are unclear about billing leave a message for Vicki Lewis in the office. She will contact you about your concerns.

Important Information!!!!

Your Parent Connection will be available for access on the churches web site, www.fumcwf.org, and on the SLP facebook page, as well as the hard copy you will receive at school.



September Snacks

Milk or water, Cereal with milk, Pop Tarts, Oatmeal, and Cereal Bars are always available for our Early Birds who drop off before 8:00. You may also choose to allow your child to bring breakfast from home. Children go to active play at 8:20.

Breakfast will not be served after 8:15.

All morning and afternoon snacks are served with water.

Morning

Afternoon

Sept. 1 Granola Bars
Sept. 2 Popcorn

Cheese Crackers
Ice Cream Bars

Sept. 5 **Holiday SLP closed**

Sept. 6 Cereal Bars
Sept. 7 Crackers & String Cheese
Sept. 8 Graham Crackers
Sept. 9 Popcorn

Pretzels
Goldfish
Pudding
Ice Cream Cups

Sept. 12 Chex Mix
Sept. 13 Cereal Bars
Sept. 14 Gold Fish
Sept. 15 Poptarts
Sept. 16 Popcorn

Cheese crackers
Granola Bars
Pudding
Animal Crackers
Ice Cream Sandwiches

Sept. 19 Crackers & cheese sticks
Sept. 20 Bananas
Sept. 21 Granola bars
Sept. 22 Animal Crackers
Sept. 23 Popcorn

Pretzels
Goldfish
Chex Mix
Fruit Snacks
Ice Cream Cups

Sept. 26 Pop-Tarts
Sept. 27 Pretzels
Sept. 28 Goldfish
Sept. 29 Graham Crackers
Sept. 30 Popcorn

Apple Sauce
Cereal Bars
Animal Crackers
Muffins
Ice Cream Sandwiches



Kid's Say the Funniest Things!!

“Kids Say the Funniest Things” is a regular feature in our SLP Newsletter. The stories come from Teachers and parents, for instance;

Just a few things overheard that brought a smile to our faces...

Eileen Jackson, “I’m going to be a doctor when I grow up.”

Jackson Payne, “Well... When I grow up, I’m going to be a policeman and pull your car over.”

Mrs. Grace’s class were looking at and talking about their full names,

William Alejandro, “I am William Alejandro.com!”

Ms. Erica’s class was listening to “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.”

Ella Klyn, “Hey I have that movie!”

Ms. Janet, “What’s the name of that movie?”

Ella, “The Lizard of Alz!”

Isaiah Hernandez, “I like the “Spy Kids” movie.”

Ms. Janet, “Did you have that movie or did you see it on TV?”

Isaiah, “We saw it at the Movie-a-ter.”

Lillian Stoglin to *Ms. Connie*, “Why are you so old?”

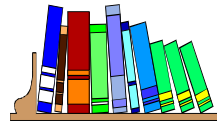
Cooper deMontel to *Breagan Blowers*, “That’s big bowl!”

Mrs. Grace to *Cooper*, “There’s another word for big. It’s enormous.”

Breagan to *Mrs. Grace*, “Yes, and also humongous!”

Does your child say adorable things? Please share them with us and we will share them with everyone who reads this newsletter.

Just leave a note (nothing fancy, any scrap of paper will do) in Mrs. C.’s green mailbox with a brief retelling of the cute thing your child did or said. We will do the rest!



Book Club Orders!

This is the first month Scholastic Book Orders will be coming home to you.

The deadline for returning an order is Friday, September 9th.

You are under no obligation to buy a certain number of books, or to buy any books at all.

This is not a fund raiser for the school. However, SLP will receive points with which we can order books for the children to use in their classrooms.

School for Little People participates in **Seesaw**, **Honeybee**, and **Fire Fly** book clubs sponsored by Scholastic Publishing. Order forms will come home to you each month with wonderful selections of books appropriate for **Pre-K** children.

The prices are below what you would find in any store (even Wal-Mart or Target.)

We offer these orders as a service to our parents, and because we believe in the power of reading!



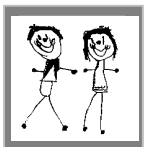
Recycle Trash to Treasures!!

Here at School for Little People we are always looking for supplies to make our wonderful art treasures out of or to use in tactile tables or to hold stray bugs and other critters that come our way...

You could help us by donating...

- Paper grocery bags
- Copy Paper
- Old printer paper or old labels
- Envelopes and any old greeting cards
- Washable Markers
- Glass baby food jars or the plastic ones with lids
- Bottles of Glue and Glue sticks
- The plastic cartons that cake icing comes in
- Egg cartons, Styrofoam or paper
- Toilet paper rolls
- Paper towel rolls
- Band-aids

Just drop them by the office or leave them with your teacher.



Director's Notes:

The school year is off to a wonderful start. I hope both you, and your children, are pleased with your first few weeks at SLP. The staff and I are enjoying getting to know all of you.

I always look at the start of school as the beginning of a great adventure, but as with most great adventures, there have been a few "bumps in the road" as we began our year, so if your security card has been late in coming to you, if we haven't totally gotten your schedule changes in place, or if we have dropped the ball in some other way, please be patient with us. There are many, many changes and last minute details that have to be dealt with and we are doing our very best to get everything squared away for everybody. Please know our first priority is always your child's day but your day is important to us as well.

I also wanted to share with you a quote or two from an interesting article which was called to my attention by one of our teachers, I thought it might be of interest to all of you.

"The Educational Value of Creative Disobedience," is a fascinating article in **Scientific American** (July 7, 2011) in which Andrea Kuszewski explores the difference between traditional educational methods and those based on arousing curiosity.

Kuszewski described a study which compared "a group of students taught by an inexperienced instructor, but one that utilized hands-on demonstrations and student involvement...and a similar

group taught using traditional methods (lecture) by a highly rated experienced professor." The result: "increased student attendance, higher engagement, and more than twice the learning in the section taught using research-based instruction."

"The quality of the instructor didn't have nearly the impact on student learning that getting the students actively involved in the learning process did. Just by moving the students from passive observer to active participant, you are lighting a fire in the brain—making more connections across association areas, increasing plasticity, and enhancing learning. Not only that, students that are more actively engaged are more intrinsically motivated to learn—no bribes or artificial rewards needed, just pure enjoyment of learning."



Classroom Computers

While School for Little People feels blessed

that we have at least one computer for each of our 3's and 4's classrooms, our computers are getting older, and we are not able to run all the new software on them that we would like.

If your family is getting a new computer and you are wondering what to do with your old one, consider donating it to SLP. Any PC with windows XP or newer operating system would be a welcome addition to our classrooms.



This is a wonderful program for young children birth to 3 years of age and their parents.

Classes will be taught at First United Methodist Church. Contact Sarah Fukasawa (known to us at SLP as Ava's Mom) at 224-1221 for more information.

grade3. [upstairs on 2nd floor]

See insert for more information about children's choir programs here at FUMC.

If you would like more information about Sunday School or the other ministries available for children here at FUMC, speak to Kim English (otherwise known by our children the "Chapel Lady".) Her office is right next door to the school's office.



SLP children and parents are always welcome at Any FUMC event!

Come Join us for worship 8:30 or 10:30 each Sunday morning.

Sunday School begins at 9:15 am

Or watch us live on TV at 10:30 on

UPN35 (Cable 7)



Graded Choirs begins Sept. 15

Music and More begins Sept. 15

Kick-off party at the Plex

Wednesday, Sept. 7 4:00-5:00!!

All children 4 years of age by October 1 through senior high are invited to bring a friend and come!!

Choir schedule:

3:45-4:00 Snack time!

4:00-4:45 **Cherub Choir** (4-5 year olds)

[Undercroft 14U]

Trinity Choir (grades 1-3)

[Choir Room]

While these choirs are rehearsing **MORE**, Bible Study Fun and Fellowship, will be held for grades 4-6.

4:45 - 5:30 **Wesley Choir** (grades 4-6) [Choir Room]

While Wesley Choir is rehearsing **MORE**, Bible Study Fun and Fellowship, will be held for age 4-