

Parent Connection

First United Methodist Church's
School for Little People
September 2010

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 25 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 33 years. He is a writer and columnist for the Times Record News.

When not at school, Mrs. Grace loves spending time with her family and walking the family dog, Tessie. She also enjoys dining out with her colleagues and visiting her Mom, brothers and sister.



Teacher Feature, Connie Bunton

This is Connie's fourth 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, 26 is married to Jon Felder and works as a nurse at Baylor medical center in Plano. Ben David, 24 recently moved to Wichita Falls from Manhattan, KS. Alise is married to Tyler and is "Mom" to Connie's beloved grandson, Hudson. Keyli is married to Dee and had Ella in June.

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. So far this year she has loved making aprons and shirts with the children and photographing all the wonderful things they do.

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!



Teacher Feature, Kimberly Allen

This is Mrs. Allen's 3rd year at SLP. She teaches a 5-day 4's class.

Mrs. Allen grew up in Perkins, Oklahoma and attended Oklahoma State University where she earned a degree in Early Childhood Education with minors in Child Development and Individual Family and Community Services. While at O.S.U. she taught 2's in the Child Development Lab School. After graduation she moved to Wichita Falls where she began teaching Kindergarten at Lamar IB World School. She taught there for 7 years before coming to work at SLP.

Mrs. Allen is married to Casey Allen and has 2 beautiful children, Parker and Paxson. Both attend SLP.

Kimberly says, when working with young children everyday many memories are created. She is constantly sharing precious, hilarious, and endearing stories with others and spreading the joy she receives from the children. The children affect so many lives and share so much love simply by being themselves. Kimberly says she will be forever grateful to know them and be a part of their daily lives.

Mrs. Allen's favorite colors are Kelly green and yellow. Desserts are her "weakness." And she collects unique earrings and coin purses.

Teacher Feature, Bethany Savage

Mrs. Savage is new to SLP. She will be working in Mrs. Allen's 4's as an aide in the morning and in the Extended Care 4's with Mrs. Janet in the afternoons.

She has her teaching certification in Early Childhood through fourth grade. With four years of classroom experience (2 years in 1st grade and 2 years in 3rd grade), she is really looking forward to working with preschool age children.

She is married to David and they will celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary this year. They have one son, Jake who is almost 2 and the joy of their lives. Jake is in our Explorer's classroom.

One of Bethany's favorite memories is to see the joy on the children's faces when they have those, "I get it!" moments.



September Calendar

- Sept. 1 *First full day of school* for M-W-F classes and all 5- day classes.
- Sept. 2 *First full day of school* for all T-Th pre-k students.
- Sept 6 **Labor Day Holiday** our entire program will be closed.
- Sept. 10 Book Orders Due
- Sept. 15 **LAST DAY TO ORDER A SLP 2010-2011 T-SHIRT**
- Sept. 21& 22 Johnny Appleseed comes to visit!!
- Sept. 25 **PARK WORK DAY!** starting at 8:30 expect a call to remind you of what you signed up to do!!
- Sept. 27-28 Sight, hearing, and speech screenings with certified speech pathologist Amy Miranda. **Look for forms to come home with your child.**
- Sept. 28 & 29 **Chapel begins for 3's and 4's**

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 2010-2011 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. 27-28. 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 \$26.00. 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 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 and May Tuition are due September 1 and will be late by September 10!!**



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

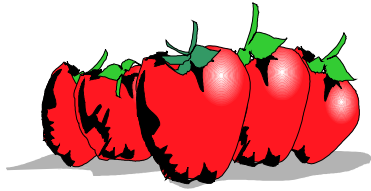
Tuition for Pre-school is billed monthly. Your monthly pre-k tuition will always be:

- Two day classes \$94.00 per month
- Three day classes \$121.00 per month
- Five day classes \$215.00 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.

On Parents Night, 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.



September Snacks

Milk or water, Cereal with milk, Pop Tarts, and Cereal Bars are always available for our Early Birds who drop off before 8:15. 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

Sept. 1 Pudding
 Sept. 2 Graham Crackers
 Sept. 3 Popcorn
 Sept. 6 **Holiday SLP closed**
 Sept. 7 Cereal Bars
 Sept. 8 Crackers & String Cheese
 Sept. 9 Granola Bars
 Sept. 10 Popcorn
 Sept. 13 Chex Mix
 Sept. 14 Cereal Bars
 Sept. 15 Gold Fish
 Sept. 16 Poptarts
 Sept. 17 Popcorn
 Sept. 20 Crackers & cheese sticks
 Sept. 21 Bananas
 Sept. 22 Granola bars
 Sept. 23 Animal Crackers
 Sept. 24 Popcorn
 Sept. 27 Pop-Tarts
 Sept. 28 Pretzels
 Sept. 29 Goldfish
 Sept. 30 Graham Crackers
 Oct. 1 Popcorn

Afternoon

Fruit Bars
 Poptarts
 Ice Cream Bars
 Pretzels
 Goldfish
 Graham Crackers
 Ice Cream Cups
 Cheese crackers
 Granola Bars
 Pudding
 Animal Crackers
 Ice Cream Sandwiches
 Pretzels
 Goldfish
 Chex Mix
 Fruit Snacks
 Ice Cream Cups
 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;

Since this is the beginning of the school I will share an “oldie but goodie” cute story :

When our friend Carter Sandoval was in the 3 year old classroom, several years ago, he and a friend were running and rolling big dump trucks in Mrs. Connel’s room one morning, Mrs. Joann stopped them and told them to use their walking feet because she was afraid they would fall and hurt themselves. Carter then asked Mrs. Joann how he would be hurt and she said, “If you fall you might hit your head or hit your mouth or maybe even a tooth could be knocked out.” Carter put his little hand on her shoulder in a comforting way and said “Mrs. Joann you don’t need to worry about my teeth. They are all stuck in good!” Later that same afternoon Carter was overheard saying to his friends as they were rolling the same trucks, “Remember, noooo running! Your teeth will fall out!”

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!

Important Information!!!!

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



This wonderful program for young children birth to 3 years of age is coming to Wichita Falls.

Classes will be taught at First United Methodist Church on Wednesday and Thursday mornings 10:00-10:30 and 11:00-11:30. You and your infant or toddler are welcome to enroll.



Book Club Orders!

“... experts tell us that children need to hear 1.000 stories read aloud before they begin to learn to read for themselves.” (Mem Fox, Reading Magic, Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever.)

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.)

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.

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



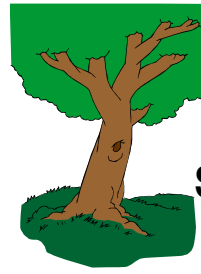
Recycle Trash to Treasures!!

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 saving...

- Paper grocery bags
- Crystal Light canisters
- Old printer paper or old labels
- Envelopes and any old greeting cards
- Clear pill bottles
- Glass baby food jars or the plastic ones with lids
- Clear plastic jars
- Pringles cans tall and short
- The plastic cartons that cake icing comes in
- Egg cartons, Styrofoam or paper
- Toilet paper rolls
- Paper towel rolls

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



Fall Workday in the Park!!

School for Little People needs your help!

Our annual Fall Workday in the Park Is Sat. Sept. 25

Because the church is so generous with its' support of School for Little People, helping us to keep our tuition low and our standards high by providing us a wonderful indoor facility to use free of charge. It is only fair that we reciprocate by donating a few hours of elbow grease to help maintain the park!

There are several projects we need to tackle: This year we will be:

- Painting the new wood on the gazebo,
- Removing and replacing a tire in the tire surround,
- Caring for the flower beds
- Cleaning the sidewalks,
- Painting the area around the water fountain with non-skid paint.
- Cleaning out the storage shed

The park and equipment it contains are a favorite part of each day at SLP.

It is important that the park be maintained and the equipment kept in good repair.

I know soccer has begun (I remember well how many Sat. I spent at the soccer fields when my boys were young.) but if you can spare time around your games and other activities SLP would appreciate it.

Child Care will be available and lunch for all who come will be served!

Sign up at school and come help!!



FUMC Church Happenings!

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. 8 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

[undercroft 17U]

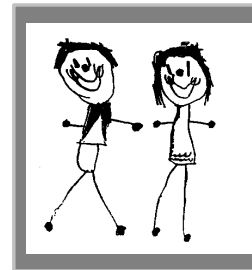
4:45 - 5:30 **Wesley Choir** (grades 4-6) [Choir Room]

While Wesley Choir is rehearsing **MORE**,

Bible Study Fun and Fellowship, will be held for age 4-grade 3. [undercroft 17U]

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 Lydia Pelikan (otherwise known by our children the "Chapel Lady".) Her office is right next door to the school's office.



**Welcome
to all new and
returning parents and
children!!**

*This is
School for Little People's
45th year!*

Let's make it a great one!