



Atascocita United Methodist Church

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Humble, Texas 77346
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Weekday Learning Center Tour Information

Overview and Philosophy: The Weekday Learning Center, which began in 1989, is an outreach ministry of Atascocita United Methodist Church. Our mission is to serve God and share the gifts He has given to us by providing a loving, caring, and nurturing learning environment for all the children He sends our way. The Weekday Learning Center employs staff and teachers who have a deep love for children and our curriculum focus is the age appropriate learning activities that build a strong foundation for the whole child- academic, social, spiritual, gross and fine motor skill, and communication. The school is also licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and as required by the state, all staff must pass a FBI Fingerprint and State Background check.

The children learn, play and grow through daily activities such as:

- Chapel, Movin' & Groovin' - gross motor skills class in the gym
- Playground
- Rhythm & Rhyme- Music class that will focus on rhythm, cadence and sounds
- Library - 3, 4, and 5 yr old children check out books once a week from a cart brought to the classroom
- Circle Time - where the letter per week, color per month, shape, nursery rhyme, and monthly theme are expanded upon
- Centers - which includes manipulatives, games, prewriting activities, and fine motor skill activities, that help reinforce the child's learning, and much more

- Scholastic Bookfair - twice a year
- Halloween Parades and parties
- Thanksgiving Feasts with the entire school family
- Christmas Parties and Programs
- Valentine Parties
- Easter Parties
- Carnival Days
- Snow Day
- Water Days
- Rodeo Week

Our staff post daily pictures and videos to the Atascocita United Methodist Weekday Learning Center Facebook page of many of the activities the children participate in as they learn and grow. We also post on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube (YouTube channel is Atascocita United Methodist Weekday Learning Center). Facebook posts give updates and photos showing class activities. The children's names are not used on social media and parents are given the opportunity to opt out of their child's picture being posted. Monthly calendars of daily events are also sent home to each parent. YouTube has our daily Chapel playlist, and classroom Welcome videos.

During the regular school year, children must be 12 months by September of the current school year through PreK5 and Kindergarten. In the Summer, our program goes up to children entering the 4th grade. The WLC offers a PreK5 Bridge Class called the High Flyers for children who could have gone to Kindergarten but parents choose to give the children one extra year of growth. Our program also offers a 5 day Kindergarten class. We are a state licensed facility with teacher/child ratios from 2:8 (in the 1 yr. old class) up to 2:16 (in the 4/5 yr. old class).

Our current license allows for 200 children per day. Our school day is from 9:30am-2:30pm with an extended day from 7:00am to 4:30pm for all ages.

STAFF: The WLC Director, Beth Johnson, has led the school since 1999. Each week, Ms. Beth sends out an email about upcoming events and important reminders. Ms. Beth also leads the children in Chapel each day.

The WLC Assistant Director, Darla Janak, handles enrollment and most questions about the general policies, procedures, paperwork, and more! She also sends out regular reminder emails to all WLC parents.

April Carter is the WLC Bookkeeper who handles all financials for the school and student accounts. Tuition is based on a 9 month school year and prorated out to the same rate each month. Tuition is electronically drafted each month on the 5th of the month. The annual Registration rates cover all parties, special events and in house field trips.

The WLC has a Registered Nurse on staff at all times to care for the children and their physical/medical needs with injuries, sickness, allergies and all medical information and concerns. For serious peanut allergies, a physician's statement is required if a peanut free classroom is requested.

There are 2 equal teachers in each classroom and both are CPR & 1st Aid certified through the American Heart Association. In addition, WLC Staff must pass a FBI Fingerprint and Criminal Background Check. In addition, each staff member is required by the State of Texas to obtain 24 continuing education hours annually. Several of the WLC Staff have had children who graduated from the school and there is a very low turnover of personnel. There are staff members who assist the classroom teachers in purchasing supplies and prepping for class projects which allows the teachers more quality time with the children.

Curriculum and class information: The WLC uses a play-based curriculum designed by teachers to meet the current needs of each child's growth. There will be very few worksheets or crafts that will be sent home. Instead, children will learn through hands on activities that may be messy, but yet allow for the child's creativity to be stimulated.

The age level teachers meet once a month and plan activities and learning opportunities for the children of varying developmental stages to meet the needs of all the children in the class. Again, the WLC is focused on hands on learning through play, not sitting at a table for workbook instruction.

The MWF and TTH Curriculums have differing themes, so children who attend 5 days will not repeat learning activities. Our curriculums are designed to build children's fine and gross motor, hand eye coordination, left to right progression,

independence, communication, and more, while meeting each child where they are developmentally.

The 3, 4, and 5 yr. old classes have an in house field trip activity usually once a month. Children are required to wear their BLUE Weekday Learning Center school shirt that each child is given at the beginning of the school year. If your child does not wear their BLUE shirt, the child's account will be charged \$10 and another shirt will be issued for the child to wear.

Class schedules are set up on 20 minute increments for enrichment and playground times. Parents are provided with a schedule at the beginning of the school year. All classrooms are given the same resources.

All children need to bring a backpack large enough to hold a folder, change of clothes (label everything!), lunch box and a water bottle. All lunch food must be ready to eat. Staff are not allowed to warm up food or baby bottles. The Weekday Learning Center provides a snack each day, and children need to bring their own lunch. There a few occasions when lunch is provided on special days throughout the school year which is covered in your registration fees.

Children should dress in clothes that are comfortable and that can get dirty or messy. Also be sure to dress children in close toed shoes. There is pea gravel on the playground that gets stuck in children's sandals and makes maneuvering on the playground difficult. Each class has a 20 minute block of time on the playground, weather permitting.

In Chapel, the children learn a Bible story, Bible verse and lots of movement songs. Children's birthdays are celebrated in Chapel each day where we have everyone sing Happy Birthday!

The WLC follows the Humble ISD school calendar, with the exception of our start and ending dates which are usually a week later/earlier than Humble. The WLC only closes when the entire Humble ISD closes. We are also closed for two days for the Staff to attend the Early Childhood Methodist Conference for continuing education hours.

There is a school photographer that will take portraits for Fall, Spring, Rodeo, Graduation, and with Santa at Christmas.

1 & 2 year old classes work a lot on sharing, separating from parents, and learning the rules of a classroom environment, along with beginning academics. Children need a backpack, nap mat, change of clothes, lunch (the WLC provides snack), diapers, cups, water bottles, and any pacifiers or lovey needed for comfort. This age group lays down for a nap after lunch each day. Please remember to label everything. Children's diapers are changed at least twice a day, or as needed.

3 year old child and older will work on age appropriate skills and advancing academics. Children need a backpack with a change of clothes, a water bottle and a lunch. Please remember to label everything.

Security: The Weekday Learning Center considers safety and security a **priority** and a vital part of our program. Doors are always locked and visitors, while always welcome, will only be allowed in by showing identification first. During school hours, everyone is required to carry their child's identification sign when entering the buildings for any reason. The sign is an easy identifying mark that the person is supposed to be on the campus. Approved pick up persons are given a pin number (through the Brightwheel child management system) that must be used when dropping off and picking up children. All children are dropped off through a carline drop off and pick up.

The WLC uses Brightwheel for billing and child record management. Be sure to fill out all forms on Brightwheel while completing the online enrollment portion of Registration for the Weekday Learning Center. It is important to not share codes which identify who is picking your child up and is an extra layer of protection for your child's safety.

Please review our COVID-19 Procedures online at www.aumc.org.

Thank you for your interest in the Weekday Learning Center! We thank you for touring our program and pray God will guide you through the school selection process to find just the right fit for you and your family. Please let us know if you have any other questions or need more information. Email Ms. Beth or Ms. Darla at beth@aumc.org, or darla@gmail.com. More detailed information for Registration can be found online at Atascocita United Methodist Church at www.aumc.org.

