

Frequently Asked Questions about RRUMNS

Do you have an Open House?

Yes. Prior to registration, we invite interested parents to come to our evening Open House on **Thursday, November 19th at 7:00pm**. Children are welcome to attend! You can meet and chat with the teachers and tour the facility. It is preferred that families visit on this night so that the teachers can fully attend to your questions.

If you cannot attend our Open House, call our Registrar, Jane Murphy at (440) 331-7676, (440) 331-6476 or email her at janehmurph@yahoo.com to arrange for an observation. Please remember, however, that the teachers are attending to the students so try to save your questions for the Registrar or Director.

What is the registration process?

Siblings of RRUMNS students, former families and RRUMC church members have one week's advance registration.

In-House Registration is on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 8:30am.

Open registration will begin Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

Registration is first come, first served. Each applicant must fill out a registration form, and submit a nonrefundable registration fee to hold a place for their child.

Is it really difficult to get into RRUMNS?

No. We are not sure how this myth started! We really do our best to accommodate all of our current and incoming families. If you can be flexible about AM or PM classes, registration usually works out very nicely!

How is the monthly tuition calculated?

Tuition is established as an annual fee divided into six equal payments for the convenience of the parents. The six payments are due on the first day of the following months: August, October, November, February, March and April. Families may also pay the full tuition in August or pay two semester installments: one in August and one in February.

How old does my child have to be?

The children at RRUMNS need to be three years old by September 30th of the current school year and fully potty trained to begin school (Of course, we understand that accidents do happen.).

What is the staff/child ratio in the classrooms?

Our staff/child ratio is much lower than required by the State of Ohio. Our 3 yr old room ratio is 2:12. Our Fours/Pre K is 1:11. We also have an aide for the Fours/Pre K class.

Is RRUMNS licensed?

Yes! RRUMNS is licensed by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. The state makes yearly visits to verify we are in compliance. All licensing records are available for review. We are also part of the voluntary *Step Up to Quality* program in Ohio.

What are the staff qualifications of the RRUMNS teachers?

Most of our teachers have Bachelor's or Master's degrees in education. In addition, teachers are required to have teaching experience in the early childhood field. Finally, all teachers meet the state requirements according to the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services including: reference checks, fingerprinting and background checks, and test negative for T.B.. All full time staff receives training in CPR, First Aid, Communicable Diseases, and Child Abuse Recognition and Prevention.

Teachers and assistants are constantly learning. We attend many workshops and read current research in the field of education. We believe that we must continue our own education to provide the best environment for your child.

How do you deal with misbehaving children?

Our philosophy is that children respond in a positive manner when they are affirmed and loved by adults and other children. We strive to create an atmosphere that is one of acceptance and affirmation and encourage children to think about their actions rather than wait for an adult to remind them. Positive statements are used when dealing with the children. Our expectations will be kept within the child's capabilities and the child will be made aware of these expectations.

Positive reinforcement (commenting on children doing the "right" thing) and positive redirection (removing the child and giving them an appropriate activity) will be used. A child may be asked to sit for a short period of time to give the child a chance to regain control if they are having a difficult time.

We cannot allow a child to hurt himself/herself, another child, or a piece of equipment. If undesirable behavior occurs, a child is redirected to another activity. If the behavior continues, then an adult speaks to the child. In more severe cases, the child is removed from the group for a few minutes and then returned. A parent-teacher conference may be requested and if the situation continues to be unsafe or detrimental to others, the child will be dismissed from school. *Specifications of Rule 5101:all employees will adhere to 2-12-22 OAC of the State's Guidance and Management policy.*

Is there religious instruction at RRUMNS?

Although RRUMNS is part of the RR United Methodist Church we do not provide religious instruction during nursery school. RRUMC has a wonderful Sunday School if you are in search of religious instruction. We do teach children to respect each other and all God's creatures. We say a simple blessing at snack time each day.

Who provides snacks each day?

The school provides a simple snack each day. If your child has allergies, please discuss food options with the Director.

Does RRUMNS have a curriculum?

Yes. We have a teacher created curriculum that has been developed over many years of teaching our young learners. It was created with developmentally appropriate practices at its' core.

Do you teach academics or is it just 'play'?

The answer is both! Remember, play is the work of childhood! We build our activity times around the concepts we are teaching. There is intentional planning behind the 'play'! Read below for more information:

Philosophy and Goals

RRUMNS was established over 40 years ago to provide quality, loving care for children ages 3 to 5 years old. We are passionate about Early Childhood Education and we are pleased that you have chosen to include us in the growth and development of your child!

Purpose

The purpose of the Rocky River United Methodist Nursery School is to provide an atmosphere of love and understanding in which children can grow physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally under the guidance of experienced teachers.

Program Objectives

- oTo provide an environment in which each child's self concept can be enhanced.
- oTo provide an environment where children can explore, discover, and develop naturally.
- oTo build a good relationship with each family and to expand on the foundation provided at home.
- oTo provide an atmosphere that fosters good social interaction and development.
- oTo provide experiences for children in literature, science, art, music, and physical activities.
- oTo provide an atmosphere that is comfortable, safe, challenging, and enjoyable.

Do you have gross motor time each day?

Yes! Research has shown that children stay healthier when they have daily outdoor play. We take a brief, outdoor recess when weather permits. On days that outdoor play is not provided due to cold or rainy conditions, we will include a time for indoor gross motor activities. Please send your children with the proper clothing so they may be comfortable and safe whenever we exercise. Because of our active program, play clothes and rubber-soled shoes are recommended.

Do you go on field trips?

The three year old classes do not go on any field trips.

The PreK classes often bring in outside instructors. The Library Lady, Mrs.Kneubel (Science teacher), Mr. Hatbox, the Metroparks Traveling Zoo and other specialists are invited to supplement the curriculum we are teaching at that time. The Funky Friday class also brings in special outside instructors.

Our Friday Enrichment group takes a few walking field trips during the year.

What does a 'typical day' look like?

The children's daily schedule is flexible enough to provide adaptability when necessary but structured enough to provide predictability for the children. We want them to view their school as a safe and comforting place, where they know what to expect and when to expect it.

THREE-YEAR OLD CLASSES - A Typical Day

9:00 - 10:10 a.m.	or	12:30 - 1:40 p.m.	Introduction, Free Choice: craft, easel, creative play, individual and small group activities
10:10 - 10:15 a.m.	or	1:40 - 1:45 p.m.	Clean up
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	or	1:45 - 2:00 p.m.	Group time: songs, stories, finger plays, discussion, show and tell
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	or	2:00 - 2:15 p.m.	Snack
10:45 - 11:05 a.m.	or	2:15 - 2:35 p.m.	Outdoor play, large muscle room
11:05 - 11:15 a.m.	or	2:35 - 2:45 p.m.	Prepare for departure

PRE-K CLASSES - A Typical Day

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	or	12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Morning meeting, free Choice: outdoor play, large muscle room, craft, painting, individual and small group activities
10:00 - 10:10 a.m.	or	1:30 - 1:40 p.m.	Clean up
10:10 - 10:30 a.m.	or	1:40 - 2:00 p.m.	Group time: songs, finger plays, games
10:30 - 10:40 a.m.	or	2:00 - 2:10 p.m.	Snack
10:40 - 11:05 a.m.	or	2:10 - 2:35 p.m.	Small groups: story, music, games, show and tell, library, concept development, discussions, and miscellaneous activities
11:05 - 11:15 a.m.	or	2:35 - 2:45 p.m.	Prepare for departure

What can we do to help prepare our child for NS?

This is a common question that is asked of us. Remember, you know your child best. You probably already spend lots of quality time together. We can't emphasize how important that is for young children! Everyday activities become more meaningful when the kids are engaged. So many great conversations arise during trips to the grocery store, the park, the playground and the library. Read to your child daily and enjoy each other's company. Quality time is so important.

Our Let's Get Ready program is a nice way to begin to experience the preschool setting in advance. You can also come to the RRUMNS outdoor playground in the summer to play and become familiar with the school grounds. Talk to your child about preschool and emphasize the fun and the friendships. We want this to be a positive experience for you and your child.

How can parents get involved at RRUMNS?

RRUMNS has many opportunities to be involved. We have many special events in which parents and family members are invited to attend: Special Person's Day, PJs and Popcorn (whole family), Father's Sunday, Mother's Visits, Spring Family Picnic and the Pre K Circus featuring our talented students.

We also have a small committee of volunteer board members. The Mission of this Board is to uphold the purposes and program objectives of RRUMNS, support the efforts of the staff and to work with the Church to continue to develop and improve the program and facilities used by the Nursery School. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and help board members prepare for our events. We especially love our teacher support volunteers who come in to school and help prepare classroom materials. We really look forward to getting to know all of you!

For more information about RRUMNS, please read our Brochure and Parent Handbook. They can be found at RRUMC.org, and then click on the 'Nursery School' link.

Be sure to ask your neighbors and friends about RRUMNS! It's really helpful to talk to families that have sent their children here.