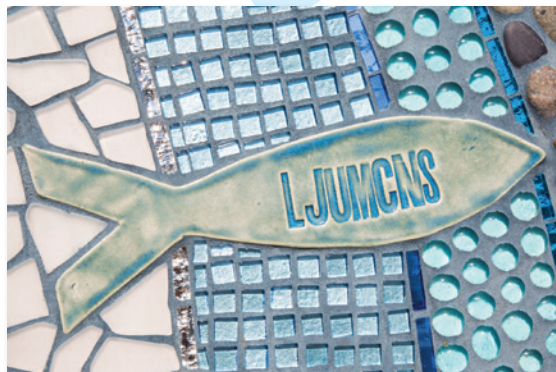


Mission

La Jolla United Methodist Church Nursery School, an outreach of the education program of the church, is a community of children, families, and staff where a life-long love of learning and play are valued and supported for the optimum emotional, social, spiritual, cognitive, and physical growth of each individual.



Philosophy

Since 1972, La Jolla United Methodist Church Nursery School has provided an early childhood educational program that is developmentally appropriate for the physical, social, emotional, intellectual, creative, and spiritual needs of young children. We believe that children learn best in a play-based and child centered setting where they have the ability to construct knowledge and meaning from their peers, caring adults, and the environment. Children learn by doing and play is their medium for learning.

Our philosophy is also inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education. The approach views the child as a protagonist, collaborator, and communicator. The teacher is viewed as a partner, nurturer, guide, and researcher. And the environment is viewed as the third teacher.



Staff

Our teachers' role is complex. As educators, they carefully listen, observe, and document children's work and the growth of community in their classrooms. They provoke, co-construct, and stimulate thinking and peer collaboration. Our teachers are committed to reflection about their own teaching and learning. Each of our staff members have met licensing requirements set by the state of California; including education, CPR, and First Aid certification.

Contact

Bridget Musante
Executive Director
(858) 454-1418
or (619) 890-7765
bmusante@ljumcns.com

Tina Wynn
Program Director
(858) 454-1418
twynn@ljumcns.com



La Jolla United Methodist Church
NURSERY SCHOOL

6063 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, California 92037
www.ljumcns.com

Founded in 1972
Facility #372000312 and #376600959

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."

– Fred Rogers



La Jolla United
Methodist Church
NURSERY
SCHOOL



The Nursery School of La Jolla United Methodist Church

LJUMCNS, founded in 1972, is sponsored by and reflects the Church's mission to serve families, especially during early childhood when the basic patterns for coping with life are formed. Our program considers the developmental needs of children in physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and spiritual growth as an interrelated and continuous process.

The school offers play-based experiences and materials for children to co-construct knowledge about themselves, others and the world in which we live. Children are encouraged to express their ideas and understandings through art, dramatic play, stories, music, block building, sand and water play, gardening, running, climbing, and a variety of fine and gross motor activities. Extending projects over time and watching curriculum emerge from the children makes early childhood learning real, relevant, fun, and exciting! Above all, we are dedicated to the nurturing, growth, and happiness of children. We welcome over 140 children, ages two to five, and their families.

Family Involvement

We believe that family involvement is valuable and critical to the work in our school community. Our families bring their unique identities based on their history, culture, values, thoughts, ideas, and opinions to the school that we value and respect. Parents, grandparents, siblings, and other family members are welcome to share family traditions at school and there are many ways to volunteer at the school through the Parent Association Committees.

2-Year-old Program

The two-year-old program encourages growth of independence and social awareness, sensory exploration, the development of physical skills and language development. Children play indoors and outdoors with a variety of materials to explore. The teachers work with each child on becoming comfortable in the group environment and in developing increased peer social skills. The two-year-old sessions are two half days per week.

3 to 5-Year-old Program

The three to five-year-old program emphasizes learning through play in an indoor and outdoor environment planned to encourage discovery, independence and social interaction. Children are encouraged to take initiative, help themselves and become increasingly independent. We offer a flexible schedule of sessions that are half day morning, half day afternoon or full day two to five days per week.

Pre-Kindergarten Program

The pre-kindergarten program advances children's learning to new levels by giving them greater age-appropriate responsibilities, challenges, and play experiences. The curriculum helps stimulate children's skills in core pre-academic areas such as literacy, math, science, and handwriting. Most children in the pre-kindergarten class will be moving on to kindergarten, therefore, teachers ensure that the children are exposed to a diverse array of learning activities and that they thrive in all areas of child development including creative thinking, complex problem solving, empathetic collaboration, curious investigation, and insightful decision making. Children in the pre-kindergarten classes meet five days per week utilizing both indoor and outdoor classroom spaces.

The Outdoor Environment

The Outdoor Studio Classroom, the Community Garden Classroom, and the playgrounds are rich learning environments at Nursery School. They are extensions of the indoor classrooms. All children need and benefit from more time outdoors and the full development and integration of outdoor and indoor programs create the optimal learning and growing environment for young children.

Home Visits

Bridging the connection between home and school is a priority of our program. Each year before school begins, teachers conduct home visits to help children and teachers get to know each other and feel comfortable. This has been a long standing tradition at LJUMCNS.

School Calendar

Our school calendar closely follows the San Diego Unified School District calendar.