



First United Methodist Co-op Nursery Young Fives Program 2011-2012

The Young Fives program is specially designed to teach skills that students need to start kindergarten. Your child will experience a fun, creative, encouraging environment while learning to work independently. Kindergarten skills and behavior are emphasized, while students are given the support they need to find success. The class size is limited to 12 students, which allows for individualized instruction and one-on-one attention from our excellent teachers. The class meets Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm.

Our **curriculum** is designed to “feel like” kindergarten and incorporates math, reading, writing, cooking, science, social studies, drama, music and movement. We also include library and gym, which mirror the “Specials” students experience in elementary school. Every week a new theme is explored and a **weekly field trip** is planned to enhance instruction. All themes are aligned with National Association of Educators for Young Children (NAEYC) guidelines, and supplemented with high quality children’s literature.



Our Teachers:



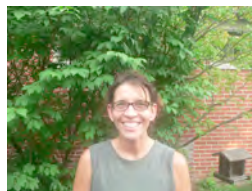
Susan Sowder, class teacher

Ms. Susan is the founding teacher of the Fives program and a long time FUMCN parent. She has a degree in education and over 10 years of teaching and coaching experience.



**Lisa Hirsch, assistant teacher
(2.5x week)**

Ms. Lisa is a long-time FUMCN parent and is trained as a Speech-Language Pathologist.



**Nancy Meyers, assistant teacher
(2.5x week)**

Ms. Nancy is a long-time FUMCN and Ann Arbor Public Schools-First Steps teacher.

“My son’s kindergarten teacher this year thanked me for sending him to school so well prepared. I really need to thank the Fives program and Ms. Susan for getting him ready last year.” - Fives Parent 2008-09



The Fives program gives your child the **gift of time and self esteem**. Research* shows that first grade curriculum has been “pushed down” into kindergarten programs. New and unrealistic expectations are particularly difficult for those children who may not be ready because of late summer or fall birthdays. When pressured to take on tasks before they are ready, children often suffer stress and loss of self-esteem. A child’s level of self-esteem correlates to success in school and kindergarten. The Fives program

provides students with the opportunity to transition into kindergarten by mimicking the structure of an elementary school day.

A Typical Day in the 5s:

9:00-9:30	Greetings Desk Time: journals and daily seat-work
9:30-9:50	Circle Time: includes story, calendar, daily schedule and jobs, weather
9:50-10:30	Monday and Tuesday: Centers, which include math and manipulatives, reading, writing, art, and life skills Wednesday: Dramatic Play, Library, or Social Studies Thursday: Science and Cooking Friday: Music and Movement
10:30-10:50	Choice Time
10:50-10:55	Clean-up and wash up for snack
10:55-11:10	Snack
11:10-11:30	Quiet Choice/Wrap Up
11:30-11:40	Get ready to go
11:40-12:00	Outside Time

FUMCN is a **co-op preschool**, with parents doing specific jobs to help the Fives class run smoothly (e.g: field trip planner, snack coordinator). Parent assisting is not a requirement for the Fives program, but classroom visits are always welcome.

Tuition is \$1,175 a semester (\$2,350 per year). A scholarship program is available for eligible families. Please feel free to contact us for more information, or to plan a classroom visit!

Susan Sowder, teacher 734-887-8006
Susan Atkins, class representative, 734-239-2151

* From Kindergarten – It Isn’t What It Used to Be by Susan K. Golant, M.A., and Michael Golant, Ph.D.