

2022-2023 HMUMC Preschool Evaluation Results
 Hamilton Mill United Methodist Church Preschool
 Parent Evaluation

Dear Parents,

To maintain and improve the quality of our preschool, we annually ask parents to complete an evaluation. This survey will remain anonymous, and the input will be used as a guide in planning future programs and policies.

On a scale of one to five, with one being poor and five being excellent. Here are the results from the 2022-2023 parent evaluations.

	1	2	3	4	5
The overall quality of care your child has received				1%	99%
The effectiveness of communication between you and your child's teacher.				4%	96%
The effectiveness of communication between you and the director.				1%	99%
The physical appearance of your child's classroom.				1%	99%
The overall cleanliness and appearance of the facility.					100%
The overall quality of programming offered to your child				2%	98%

	Yes	No
Overall, would you say your child has enjoyed preschool this year?	100%	
Do you feel comfortable and welcome when you come through carpool?	100%	
Would you recommend our program to a friend?	100%	
Do you feel the tuition rates are reasonable?	100%	
Do you think the activities brought into the school (pedal power, movement mania, farm animals) were appropriate?	100%	

RESULTS: We received 84 evaluations, from about half of our families for the 2022-23 school year. We accumulated many positive comments, and our extremely high percentages (96% or higher marked 5 in each area), show positive feedback overall. Our families are satisfied and confident with HMUMC Preschool's staff, curriculum, and the activities offered. They are also pleased with the amount of communication among the teachers and office staff. Parents were also complimentary of our classroom and building cleanliness.

Here are just some of the glowing responses we received:

"I was very pleased with my child's academic growth."

"I appreciate the Bible stories being so thoroughly taught."

"The teachers and staff are amazing!"

"My daughter loves school thanks to all of you."

"I feel like my son is prepared for kindergarten in the fall. "

"We were impressed with the level of rigor."

"Thank you for loving my kids so much over the past few years!"

"I love being able to come up and spend time with my kid for parties."

"I can't thank you all enough for the care and attention everyone has given to our food allergies."

"Thank you for making preschool so fun."

"I liked the themes, show n tell, alphabet activities and the fact that we could do more (like read Bob books)."

"I feel safe leaving my child here."

"The music teacher did an amazing job on the Christmas and graduation programs."

"We love Ms. Jennifer!"

"Love the picnic in the park at the end of the year!"

"Especially loved Dr. Seuss week and night."

"We treasure the scrapbooks."

"We love it here! Don't change a thing!"

"I can recommend HMUMC preschool without hesitation."

"Wonderful curriculum, music and movement were fantastic, great chapel and super in-house activities."

"Everything goes beyond expectations."

"I have no other recommendations for this program other than we wish we could do K-12 here. This program has been so wonderful for my child. I knew how much he was loved and cared for here. All the teachers and staff are so wonderful and kind, and we will truly miss them as we move onto kindergarten."

"We absolutely love Hamilton Mill United Methodist Preschool. All three of our kids went there so I don't have anything else to compare it to. However, I can't imagine a better preschool. We love the teachers, the staff, the academics, chapel lessons, the programs, the parties, and all the fun activities throughout the year. Thank you for loving on my child!"

Communication- Each of our teachers communicates with parents differently. Various forms of communication might include newsletters, emails, texts, a private class Facebook page, Shutterfly and Remind 101. The preschool handbook you received at Open House is a wonderful resource for you as it contains a great deal of information. Additionally, the office sends a monthly calendar with the preschool events and activities. Several people have requested that we send out dates for the whole year at a time. The dates for the school year are included in the handbook. The handbook is on our website all year long and a paper copy may be requested and sent home. Remind 101 is often used as a quick and easy way to remind families when to bring in an item or when to send your child in a particular color. We know that often parents want to hear more about their child's daily activities, however, it is difficult for teachers to spend time writing daily notes or emails as they are busy planning and spending time teaching your children. We encourage you to ask your child specific questions that generate more than a yes/no response such as ..." did you paint or play with blocks today?" "What was the story about that your teacher read?" Asking more than yes/no questions will hopefully help your child talk about their day and give you a better insight into what his/her day was like. Each week the teachers will send you a recap of the week. This might be a recap in the form of a few pictures, completed artwork, a brief class email, etc. If you would like to know more, you are always encouraged to reach out and talk to your child's teacher.

Curriculum- Based on our 22-23 evaluation results, most of our parents feel as though our curriculum is age appropriate. Some would like us to do more academically, but our primary focus is teaching a love of learning and Jesus, as well as giving your children the necessary tools for success down the road. While independent reading is an excellent goal, your child is not expected to be doing this before kindergarten. We are preparing them for reading success in the future by working on recognizing letters and sounds, as well as teaching beginning phonics skills. Some students will pick up on these skills quicker than others, but it is not something that they should master in preschool. Those students who are ready to read may receive beginning readers to read at school or at home. We do start sending readers home in January for our four-year-olds. We confer with teachers from surrounding counties to make sure that we are appropriately preparing the children for kindergarten. We are also incorporating more science into your child's curriculum as well.

Music/Movement- The children love going to music and movement classes! All our students attend a weekly movement class as well as a weekly music class. They will come home singing songs, doing dances, showing yoga poses and telling you all about their awesome teachers! We are blessed to have Ms. Haley again for music and Ms. Shelley for movement (for the 2s and older). It was suggested that we add instruments, and we break out rhythm sticks, egg shakers, and bells whenever we can. Our "yoga" is comprised only of fun and simple stretches that increase your child's flexibility and help develop those large gross motor skills and balance. Your child might be asked to stand like a tree or pose like a frog. This year Ms. Shelley will not be doing yoga, but she will be taking the last week of each month and going outside for movement class and doing gross motor activities in the parking lot. Ms Morgan teaches the ones on MW and Ms Kelly on TTH for movement and music this year.

Chapel- Our classes learn a Bible Verse each month, and the fours and fives expand on the lessons in the classroom. Our classes love chapel stories and songs. Ms. Jennifer teaches our 3s, 4s, and 5s chapel lessons and Ms. Stephanie (our new associate director) will teach our 2s chapel classes. Ask your child about the Bible stories they hear this year. Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stephanie will pour into your child for 20-25 minutes each week. With weekly music, movement, and chapel lessons and then daily recess- your child stays very busy. Please check out the monthly newsletter for topics that were covered in chapel.

Time- We have been asked about changing our school dismissal time to 1:00pm or 2:00pm. We have considered this before, and as much as we adore your children, it is just too long of a day for two-year old's and even some of the older children. Our certification under the UMC North Georgia conference allows us only to be open for four hours per day.

More parent suggestions to think about and answers to commonly asked questions:

***Digital version of the newsletter-** we put the newsletter on our website each month. Check it out at hmumc.org/preschool

***Why are there so many holidays?** -we must follow GCPS for holidays because most of our families and staff have children who attend GCPS. Most of the other schools such as Buford, Hebron and surrounding counties now also follow similar schedules.

***Why don't we start until after Labor Day?** - we want to allow our teachers ample time to get their classrooms ready, attend continuing education classes and prepare for a stellar year.

***Can parents attend chapel?** -while we would absolutely love to figure out the logistics of this, there are simply too many parents and schedules to coordinate. Our chapel time is short and sweet, and we encourage you to ask your children about it each week. We'd also love to see you at our 9:15 or 11:00 church services on Sundays!

***Can families attend more events?.....**we invite parents in the building to enjoy parties, birthdays, muffins with mom, donuts with dad, mystery reading and other special preschool events throughout the year. Your teachers will keep you informed about events you can attend. Imagination City is a fun week in which you can volunteer and help turn our preschool into an

engaging and interactive city. We also have other ways to volunteer, such as in our library, our hospitality each month and watching staff kids when we have monthly meetings.

***Can the same teachers unload/load my child during carpool?** While that is an excellent idea, our goal is to get your child/children in the building as quickly and as safely as possible to allow their learning and fun day to begin. The same is true in the afternoon. We simply don't have an efficient way to make this happen but be assured that each member of our staff is friendly and loving.

***Why is carpool slow?** We are blessed to serve many students (around 270), which means many cars! No, we can't add more teachers outside to load in the afternoon and/or unload cars in the morning. There must be as many teachers inside the classrooms and hallways as there are outside. Again, our goal is to get your child/children safely to their class and start with his/her day in the morning and the same is true for the need for teacher supervision and guidance in the building during the afternoon dismissal process.

***We had complaints about a classmates' behavior, and nothing was done.** Your child's safety and well-being are of the utmost importance to us. We listen to all comments and address them to benefit the child or children involved. You will not always know what is being done in the classroom to help remedy an issue, we can promise that we are working tirelessly toward ensuring all students' needs are being met with the resources we have here at our school.

In summary, we received many positive scores and comments. Parents are pleased with the jobs our teachers are doing and the age-appropriate curriculum that is being provided. Also, parents and families are confident in the activities that we are providing our preschoolers. Our teachers and staff enjoy watching our preschool children grow spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally each year, and we continue to strive for excellence in all areas. We appreciate your time and support when filling out the end of the year parent evaluations and look forward to a fantastic 2023-24 school year.