

CHECK YOUR HEALTH with the UMAP CHECKLIST

CHURCH/PRESCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS – KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN

(*Please Note that the word Preschool will be used throughout this document as an inclusive term for any weekday program in the church, i.e. morning preschool, full day child care, parents days out, after school care, etc.)

PHILOSOPHY

___ The Church and Preschool see the Preschool as a Christian ministry for Jesus Christ, and as part of the Christian Education of the Church.

___ The Church and Preschool have agreed to a Mission Statement or Written Agreement that defines child care as ministry. It includes purpose, philosophy, and whom the program serves, as well as the congregational role. This document has been approved by the Church's Administrative Council.

___ There should be regular meetings between preschool and program staff of the church to discuss the ways in which ministry can be shared. These gatherings should be a time of spiritual sharing, planning, and celebrating.

STRUCTURE

___ The Florida Conference Child Care Protection Policy is accepted, implemented, and publicized to both the congregation and parents. All church and preschool staff have been instructed and have signed the policy concerning Child Protection.

___ Church counseling services (when available) and pastoral ministry are available to Preschool parents.

___ The Pastor uplifts the ministry of the Preschool to the congregation.

___ The Director uplifts the ministry of the Church to the parents and Preschool staff.

___ The Director and staff are recognized and treated as members of the church staff.

___ The Director is an active reporting member of the Administrative Council.

___ The Director and Pastor have a mutually supportive relationship.

___ The Preschool has an Advisory Committee, the majority of whom are Church members, and who are nominated and elected by the annual church charge conference. They include:

___ Representatives from Education, Finance, Staff-Parish, Trustees

___ Church member(s) representing the congregation

___ Preschool parents from each age group, including church members, and non-members

___ The Committee meets regularly with the Director and Pastor. Designated church staff members are invited as ex-officio members.

___ Board members are a real link between the committees they represent and the Advisory Committee, so they are able to share information, as well as to advocate for the ministry.

GROWING HEALTHFULLY

___ When things are going good, you are thinking of ways to make things better.

___ When difficulties are encountered, the director, pastor, staff and church committees work together constructively and respectfully to resolve problems.

___ The Preschool Director is proactive in giving reports to appropriate church committees.

___ Preschool staff and church education department work together respectfully, recognizing that space and materials need to be shared and mutually cared for.

___ Preschool and other ministries of the church work together cooperatively, to insure that all programs and ministries receive needed consideration of resources and space.

___ Children are taught respect for God's house and other people's property.