

# United Methodist Association of Preschools

## Accreditation Standards

### Part D: Curriculum and Classroom Criteria

United Methodist Accredited Programs have the freedom to choose a curriculum that best meets the needs of the children the program serves. When choosing a curriculum programs should refer to the UMAP age level criteria to ensure all areas are being met.

UMAP does not approve of the abuse of worksheets. Children should not be made to complete worksheets, dittos or coloring sheets. Worksheets, if used, should be offered as an option and only to older age groups.

The UMAP Accredited program curriculum should be based on developmentally appropriate practices emphasizing center-based, emergent literacy and hands-on learning experiences. The curriculum should be age appropriate. Children should be encouraged to make choices while learning in a safe, nurturing environment. Opportunities should be provided to encourage curiosity, exploration, critical thinking, and problem solving.

The UMAP Accredited program provides an environment that encourages children to experience, express, and enjoy their own creativity. Let children use their imagination. Let children express their own creative interpretation, as a response to any stimulus they perceive through their senses, and at their own pace. Worksheets, coloring books, and dittos are not appropriate to use in an Art Center. Children should not be expected to produce a result that is like another child's, nor duplicate a teacher's model. Remember that the process, not the product, is important for children.

The program provides a stimulating environment rich in materials for learning. The teacher provides time, space, and opportunity for children to learn through play. The teacher functions as the supportive adult, who mediates to maximize the learning opportunities for the young child.

A child-centered infant and toddler curriculum is not a set of adult-directed learning activities, nor is it a revised version of a curriculum for preschoolers. A child-centered infant and toddler curriculum is a dynamic, interactive experience that builds on respect for and responsiveness to the child's interests, curiosity, and motives. Infants and toddlers need to feel secure and loved by the adults in their lives. Teachers/caregivers need to be attentive, as well as responsive, to the needs of infants and toddlers. The interactions between adult and child should be personal, warm, and loving.