

WELCOME

FUS PRESCHOOL

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, Fall 2011



PRESCHOOL

Celebrating ourselves, our values, our community, and our environment through books, music and play.

Info Exchange

Family Information

What is your family structure?

It is important to me that I teach about all types of families represented in my classroom. Please let me know your family structure, so that I can make each lesson all inclusive.

Practices & Traditions

What do you celebrate?

Please let me know what religion or traditions you practice at home, so that I can include those in my lessons. It will help me greatly in planning my December lessons to have this info before Thanksgiving.

Allergies/Food Issues

Info needed ASAP!

Please let me know right away (and repeatedly) if your child has an allergy or food aversion that needs accommodation. I anticipate serving crackers, apples, and other treats. Some of these treats may include dairy, wheat, gluten, or possibly nuts.

Special Needs

Just let me know

We are an all-welcoming classroom. Please let me know if your child needs to be accommodated in any way.

Email Me

tracyreid@gmail.com

INTRODUCING TRACY REID

Hello! I am honored to be teaching the preschool room this year. Amanda Harrington did a fantastic job educating my son, and I am grateful to follow in her footsteps.



I am a full-time attorney and small business owner. My undergraduate major was special education at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where I was inspired to study disability law. I went on to law school and now own a law firm practicing in disability and family law.



My son, Max, is now in the First Unitarian Society's (FUS) Kindergarten

Religious Education (RE) classroom. Max started FUS as a baby in Seth's room and is excited to be in Kindergarten. Max has high-functioning Autism, and we have been endlessly grateful for the FUS RE program's efforts to integrate him into the program successfully.

Upcoming Lessons & Programs: Please provide input and suggestions. All ideas are welcome!

The focus of our program this fall is getting to know the FUS church and celebrating ourselves and nature. We are unbelievably lucky to offer a special music program the third and fifth Sundays each month. Maureen Hunt is a skilled music teacher who is kind enough to donate her time to our classroom.



Teaching Through Literature.

Some of the books we will be reading this year include “Zen Ties” and “Zen Shorts” by Jon Muth. These books use eastern lessons to teach the values of sharing, giving, poverty, love, and connectedness to our community. “Zen Shorts” received a Caldecott Award and is a truly amazing story that teaches important values through Zen Buddhist meditations starring Stillwater, a giant panda bear, and his neighbor children.



Teaching with Hip Hop. I will use “Hip Hop Speaks to Children” and its accompanying CD to discuss the concepts of love, equality, poverty, perseverance, being “cool,” and materialism. Can you believe that your preschooler will learn about perseverance from a Tupac Shakur lyric? “Hip Hop Speaks to Children” is “A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat” edited by Nikki Giovanni.



Being different is very important in our classroom. There are many children of different religious, educational, social, and physiologic backgrounds. Many of our lessons will focus on people with differences being equal and important. These lessons will be taught using “I Like Myself” by

Karen Beaumont, “Owen & Mzee” by Isabella and Craig Hatkoff and Dr. Paula Kahumbu, *People Equal*, a poem by James Berry, and “It’s Okay to Be Different” by Todd Parr.



Loving the environment is a key Unitarian value. We will read “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein and explore the trees in our FUS environment. Children will be encouraged to bring an apple that day.



Dr. Seuss has many great lessons to teach through his books. We will use “The Lorax” and “Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?” to teach about the environment, privilege, and gratitude.



Celebrations are an important part of any religious tradition, including those of the FUS Preschool classroom. All parents are invited to attend our celebrations. Many of our lessons this fall include apples, so we will use that recurring theme many times throughout the year. You are always welcome to join us. We will celebrate **Halloween** this October and will have latkes for our **Christmas/Hanukah** celebration after we read “The Latke who Couldn’t Stop Screaming: A Christmas Story,” by Lemony Snicket. The Preschool class would like to incorporate all religions and traditions celebrated by its students into the curriculum. Please let me know what values and traditions you or your children would like to see reflected in the classroom.



Where can I get these great books?

The FUS bookstore has many great books for sale that address the important values central to being a good member of the community, including some of the books we use in the classroom. I will do my best to let parents know what books can be purchased. If you have any questions about what books your children are reading in class, please feel free to ask. I welcome any suggestions you may have.