

## **The History of Linglestown Christian Nursery School**

Linglestown Christian Nursery School is a ministry of Linglestown Life United Methodist Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The nursery school consists of 7 classrooms that are located on two floors of the education wing. Linglestown Christian Nursery School was started in 1981 as an outreach to the community to provide a strong preschool Christian education opportunity.

Our mission is to “encourage the spiritual, emotional, physical, social and intellectual growth of each child in a loving Christian environment.” We share the love of Jesus Christ daily, teach Godly values, develop the whole child and provide a developmentally appropriate and stimulating environment.

The school has an Advisory Team that is responsible for setting tuition, salaries and policies. The Advisory Team meets six times each year. Members serve 3 year terms with the possibility of an additional term. Most members are from Linglestown Life. They are a diverse group that includes current and former parents and grandparents, members with Financial expertise, a retired public school teacher and a member of the church Trustees. The Director runs the day-to-day operations of the school. The Lead Pastor is the Director's supervisor.

The school began with two classes and rapidly grew. The number of teaching staff has kept pace with the number of students. In the early years of the school, the Director worked part time from her home. In 1996 the Director became full-time. Most years, the school has employed a music teacher and/or gym teacher. Since 1997 the office staff has grown from one part-time person who did bookkeeping at home to two part-time persons, one five mornings per week and one three afternoons per week. We currently have one director, two office assistants, nine aides and eight teachers. The church subsidizes the nursery school with rent-free facilities, janitorial services and facility maintenance.

Half day classes are offered in the morning and the afternoon. Morning classes run from 9:30 to 12:00 and afternoon classes run from 12:45 to 3:15. The daily schedule includes free play, circle time, snack, Bible and seasonal stories and crafts, music, movement, and pre-reading and writing activities. The two year old classes use two classrooms on the main level, the three, four and five year old classes use 5 classrooms on the upper level.

Extra-curricular programs include Stay & Play on selected Thursday's and Friday's from noon to 2:00 for 3, 4 and 5 year olds in morning nursery school.

Each summer we have four weeks of Life Camp that has classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 – 12.00.

Linglestown Life UMC is located on 16 acres in a growing suburban area outside of Harrisburg, PA. We are close to main highways, residential and commercial areas. The classrooms are well-maintained with both tile and colorful carpets. The school was painted in the summer of 2008. The office was relocated from the basement to the main level, near the entrance door in 2005. The two year old classrooms were renovated in 2000. The upper level classrooms were renovated in 2017 with new paint and ceiling tiles. Both hallways were carpeted. Each classroom has storage plus we have a craft closet on the upper level and storage cabinets in the office. Child-size furniture and appropriate lighting is found in all rooms. The main door has an automatic locking system with a camera and doorbell maintained by the church office.

The school serves both stay-at-home mothers and fathers and working families. We have parents, grandparents and nannies that transport the children to school. Incomes range from \$25,000 to over \$150,000 per year. We offer tuition assistance from ACSI, Bridge Foundation and our own Angel Scholarship Fund. Our families come from several area school districts. Our graduates attend public schools, Catholic schools, local Christian schools, and sometimes are home schooled.

LCNS receives most of its income from tuition. About 10% of our income comes from fees (registration, late, etc.) and fundraisers.

Linglestown Christian Nursery School has been a member of the Association of Christian School International (ACSI) since 2001. The director has twice presented at the mid-Atlantic Early Education conferences. The staff have attended ACSI Early Education conferences and the Director has attended the ACSI Mid-Atlantic Board/Administrator conferences and three ACSI International Early Education conferences.