



## **HISTORY AND GOALS**

The Granville Parent Cooperative Preschool began in 1943 as a wartime community service project for the benefit of working mothers. In 1951, GPCP moved to its present location in the Education Building of the First Baptist Church of Granville (now the United Church of Granville), employing professional teachers since 1955. GPCP was officially incorporated in 1956. Throughout the years, cooperative management of the organization has remained a hallmark, with member families setting goals, managing the organization, and working alongside the teachers in the classroom.

This cooperative effort to provide children with a nurturing preschool environment has continued to the present day. GPCP is governed and managed by the parents whose children are enrolled in the school. Each year, members elect an unpaid board of parents to oversee the administration of the school and approve all major policy changes. As a member of the Granville Parent Cooperative Preschool, your involvement is another crucial component to the success of our program. *Member families carry out GPCP's educational mission by working with the professional teachers in the classroom approximately twelve to fifteen times per year per enrolled child, or more often as needed. Each member family also contributes their talents by assuming responsibility for two service projects (one for the 2's class) necessary to maintain the operation of the GPCP community. GPCP offers a preschool experience in which professional teachers work with parents to create a nurturing educational environment that is sensitive to the specific needs of the children in the school community.*

GPCP provides children with the opportunity to adjust to new learning experiences, routines, and social interactions. Its principle educational goal is to expose children to learning experiences that will develop their curiosity, love of learning, security, self-concept, and sense of belonging to a world that is interesting to them and interested in them.

Our well-organized classroom is divided into several learning centers that include a sand/sensory table, science center, blocks, library corner, housekeeping area, painting, and writing center. Children are greeted by their teacher each day and then have an opportunity to enjoy table games as the rest of their classmates arrive. The class begins with a circle time that includes stories, songs, finger-plays, and teacher led discussion. Children then have the opportunity to select from the many centers and activities in the classroom, developing individual interests and abilities at their own pace. During this time, small groups of children also take part in teacher-initiated projects, crafts, and educational tasks. These activities reinforce the skills and themes introduced during circle time. The day ends with an additional group session, a parent-provided nutritious snack, and large-motor play in either our fully enclosed outdoor play area or the spacious gym.

Unlike other preschool programs, GPCP has the added advantage of taking place in an educational environment that actively involves both families and teachers. Through this classroom structure, GPCP provides families with greater insight into child behavior and development as parents assist the teachers in implementing the curriculum. The learning, however, does not stop at the classroom door. Children and parents also have the opportunity to build relationships with people from all classes across the school because they work together through member projects and governance activities to care for the well-being of the broader GPCP community. This is the magic of the Granville Parent Cooperative Preschool—children, parents, and teachers working together so that all may grow through shared personal and educational experiences.