



## A Brief history of Our School

Many times during my term here as Director, parents have asked me about the school, how it became a co-op and if we are affiliated with either of the churches that we rent from. So, I thought you might find this history interesting. We sure have changed! But much like the parents who began this school because they wanted a safe place for their children to socialize and have fun with other children, we still ascribe to this same philosophy. Read on and remember every day we make history. Treasure this time with your children because some day you may look back and see that these are the good old days. – Lynda Merchant

### 1950's Moms Made It Happen

In 1959, a group of mothers from the Mamaroneck United Methodist Church, at 546 East Boston Post Road in Mamaroneck, organized an informal playgroup call the Mamaroneck Methodist Cooperative Nursery School. It was a cooperative playgroup, designed to provide both play experiences and a little bit of religious education for children of church members. After a year, a teacher/director was hired to oversee the program.

### 1960's The Nursery School Grows Up

The general population became more interested in the nursery school experience for the preschool child. And, at that time, preschool education was often an important part of church programming. The school, though non-sectarian and open to all, was underwritten by the church. A six week camp was organized for the summer months.

### 1970's Separation and Independence

In 1974, due to increased enrollment from outside the church, it was decided that the nursery school would incorporate as a completely separate unit from the church. In 1976, the school received its Absolute Charter from the State Education Department of New York Board of Regents. Its name was changed to Mamaroneck Community Nursery School. Classes were added and more age groups were accommodated. Accordingly, the staff increased and, where possible, head teachers were expected to have degrees in early childhood education and/or certification by the State of New York Education Department.

### 1990's Safety, Accreditation and a Second Site

In 1994, the nursery school received accreditation from the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. The Academy recognizes early childhood programs that provide developmentally appropriate programs for preschoolers. Around this time, the school started offering parenting education workshops and its address was formally changed to 501 Tompkins Avenue. In 1995, the Westchester Board of Health licensed the six week summer camp.

In the 1990's, it became clear that the facilities at MUMC could not accommodate the number of families interested in our programs. So, in 1998, we offered a 2-year-old program at a second site, St. Thomas' Church, at 168 West Boston Post Road in Mamaroneck. And in September of 1999, our entire 2's program moved to this site, allowing us to accommodate more 3-year-olds at the MUMC site. Also, at this time, we instituted our Community Playgroup and Kids' Club at St. Thomas.

### 2000's More Opportunities Than Ever

We now enjoy more space, more staff, more programs – and the company of almost 250 children in the course of a week.

In 2006, we moved from St. Thomas church to St John's Lutheran Church at 122 Fenimore Road also in Mamaroneck. This new location allows for a separate site for our Playgroup and Kids' Club programs both in the morning and afternoon. In order to accomplish this goal the two year old nursery school program was moved to the 501 Tompkins Avenue Site.

We offer a tuition reimbursement program for staff attending educational classes/workshops. We also offer a tuition assistance program for parents of four-year-old children. But primarily what we offer is this: a quality educational experience for the preschool children in our community.