

Interfaith offers scholarships to fill open preschool seats

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Laurie Huffman

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Photos By Kevin Graff/The Review

By LAURIE HUFFMAN

The Review

Partial scholarships are currently available to help fill 17 open spots for kids age 3 to 6 years at Stuckey Family Interfaith Child Development Center in Alliance. Scholarships are based on need and applications can be picked up at the facility, located at 470 E. Broadway St.

Preschool is provided at Interfaith to accommodate either part-time or full-time hours. There are four classrooms divided into age groups to include ages 2 to 3 together in one class, ages 3 to 4 in another, and since there are more in the age group of 4 to 6, they are placed in the other two classrooms.

Interfaith Child Development Center recently received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and according to center director Laurie Porter, there this is no easy feat.

Porter reported in a recent interview the criteria to be met for accreditation includes 10 categories: physical, environmental, teacher qualifications, curriculum, relationships, teaching assessments, health, family and community relationships, leadership, and management.

"We achieved an 80 percent score on each of the 10 items, and out of the 10 we scored 100 percent on seven of them," said Porter. "On the other three categories we received an 86 percent and an 89 and 91 percent. We were really pleased. Needless to say, we covered it!"

Porter also explained a 70 percent score is required for the teaching assessments that are achieved through observations in the classrooms, which are randomly chosen. Of the two observations conducted, Interfaith received a score of 85 percent in one and 88 percent in the other.

"We want the best for these children," Porter added. "Aside from all of the criteria met, my teachers are very loving and caring, and that's what is equally important. You can get all the accreditation you want, but without a caring attitude, it will be incomplete."

Porter said she and the teachers at Interfaith try to treat each child as if they only have one day with them.

"I think that should be our motto," Porter said. "We all, as a staff, care about each other, but we also care about our children and our families. We build these relationships, and as the families grow, we grow with the families."

Interfaith Child Development Center is United Way funded.