

Open House Nursery School

Frequently Asked Questions



What ages does Open House Nursery School serve?

Open House serves children aged 2.5 to 5 years. Children must have turned 2 by June 1 prior to the entering school year.

How many teachers are in each classroom?

All classrooms at Open House are lead by a certified early childhood educator and an experienced assistant teacher. In addition, Open House has several assistant teachers who provide additional support and usually hosts student teachers. While a minimum of two teachers are in each classroom, typically there are three. In the 2s classrooms, three adults is standard. Our 2s classrooms are capped at 12; 3s classrooms are capped at 15; and 4s classrooms are capped at 18.

Does my child have to be toilet-trained to attend Open House?

No. At Open House, our goal is to support a child's individual developmental progress, and we are committed to respecting individual timeframes for achieving skills.

What is the enrollment procedure at Open House?

In keeping with our progressive educational philosophy, Open House is an open door to young children and their families. No screening, interview, or formal application determines enrollment. All that is required is interest, as established by taking a tour, filling out a brief application form, and paying an application fee (\$100). The application and application fee is due January 10, 2020, and the school sends out contracts (enrollment offers) in January 28. If we have more applications than openings, we conduct a lottery. Please see our Enrollment Timetable for more information.

How many spaces are available?

Even though siblings and children of alumni are given first preference, Open House usually has openings in every program, including the twos programs. We restrict the number of tours we give to the number of openings we expect, allowing for an estimated number of families who don't apply or decline enrollment offers. If Open House is your first choice school and you have taken a tour, you have a strong chance of enrolling your child here.

How much is tuition?

Tuition at Open House is comparable to other BECDA nursery schools in the area and is driven by the costs of running the school. Open House Nursery School is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit institution, and our 990 can be found online. Tuition for 2020-2021 is in this package and on our website (openhousekids.org). Tuition for 2021-2022 will be posted in late December 2020 and will be emailed to all who have toured the school. Open House offers some financial aid on a sliding scale basis.

How is discipline handled?

At Open House, discipline goes back to the root of the word *discipulus*: a student. Here, discipline is designed to help each child assume increasing amounts of emotional and social control with the support of caring adults. At Open House, discipline is guidance. Children imitate adults and do their best to live up to our expectations. Therefore, we model effective communications and create the expectation that all children are happy, safe, and successful in their endeavors, whatever they may be.

What activities will my child be doing at Open House?

Open House is a play-based program with thoughtful adult structure and guidance. Teachers plan activities that promote social, emotional, and cognitive development, as appropriate to each age group. In our safe, nonjudgmental, and joyful environment, children have ample time to choose activities that creatively express themselves.

Each day is divided among:

- Choice Time – 4-6 different age-appropriate activities, such as puzzles, reading, play-dough, drawing, water/sand table, Legos, and blocks.
- Meeting Time – more teacher-directed and often contains academic content such as exposure to letters and mathematical concepts.
- Unstructured Outdoor Time – on our enclosed rooftop playground, weather permitting.
- Class Jobs – to build individual responsibility and class community.
- Special visitors – specialists like yoga, movement, music, arts and Improv teachers come once a week or every so often augment children's experiences at school.

Music, art, and read-a-louds are always part of the day as is a much needed and enjoyed snack, provided by the school. Children who stay until or after 1:00 will need to bring a lunch.

From 1 pm to 2:30 pm is naptime for 2s and 3s. Children in the 4s program have a 25 minute rest at 1 pm followed by enrichment activities, choice time and outdoor play until 3.

Are there afternoon, vacation, or summer programs?

Open House offers highly flexible scheduling so that families can create programs that suit their needs.

- [Early Dropoff \(8-9am\)](#) – Available as part of an 8-6 program or with voucher hours.
- [After3Play](#) – An exciting afternoon program consisting of choice time, playground play, and fun programming such as CityStomp music, Stories & Singing with Tom, and GymStars gymnastics .
- [Vacation Camps](#) – During winter, February, and spring breaks, Open House will be open to currently enrolled children and other children, 3-6 years old. Pre-registration is required.
- [Summer Camp](#) – Water play and sun on the outside and air conditioning on the inside make Open House Summer Camp a popular option. We usually offer four two-week sessions and three or five-day options. Older children go on weekly field trips.