

Lincoln Learning Center Preschool FAQ'S

What is the Downers Grove Park District's basic philosophy for Preschool?

The Downers Grove Park District believes that children learn best in a curriculum which provides developmentally appropriate experiences designed to develop the whole child. Guided by the Illinois Early Learning Standards and NAEYC curriculum guidelines, all classroom activities are intended to enhance children creatively, intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. The program offers a nurturing environment with stimulating activities in creative art, language and literacy, math, science, dramatic play, movement and songs and outdoor play.

What are the qualifications of your teachers?

All teachers are qualified, experienced professionals. Lead teachers each have an education degree, education related degree, or equivalent experience. Each Teachers Aide has previous teaching experience in the area of early childhood education, many within other park district early childhood programs. Each teacher is required to complete 15 hours of continuing education to maintain their teaching certifications and to keep current on early childhood education trends.

What are the classroom capacities and teacher/child ratios?

There are four preschool classrooms located at the Lincoln Center. Two classrooms have a maximum of 17 children; two classrooms have a maximum of 15 children; each classroom has 2 teachers. The number of children is based on the square footage of the classroom, allowing for maximum space.

What are the daily drop off and pick up procedures?

The daily procedures are planned to offer your child the maximum safety and security. Parents are required to escort their child to the preschool classroom. At the end of the day, children are individually released to their parent or designated carpool person. Departure sign-out sheets are used daily.

Describe a typical day in the classroom.

A consistent daily schedule helps create a sense of security and promotes independence as children transition from the three-year old to the four/five-year old program. A typical day in class includes:

- Welcome and large-group teacher-directed activity (such as Show & Tell)
- Free play at the activity centers and creative project time with the teachers
- Clean up time
- Large group teacher-directed activity (such as story time)
- Juice and table time
- Carpet time (puzzles, books)
- Dismissal time (ending songs & review of the day)
- Gym or outdoor time (once a week)

Does Preschool take field trips?

Both family field trips and walking field trips are included each year. Family trips are planned in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Local walking field trips for the children are planned in the Fall (four/five-year olds) and in the Spring (three and four/five-year olds).

Are there activities that include parents and family?

A Parent Orientation Night takes place the week prior to the first day of class. Here you meet your teachers and learn details of the program.

Parents attend the first day of Preschool to help children get acquainted with their teachers, new friends and surroundings. The first day of preschool is thirty minutes.

A Parent Welcome Reception takes place your first full-day of preschool. Meet and greet your fellow parents!

A holiday program in December invites family members to a performance of songs by the children.

A Family Night event takes during the Winter/Spring session.

What other special activities are offered during the year?

The preschool curriculum includes a number of programs presented in cooperation with the Downers Grove Police and Fire Department. These include Stop, Drop & Roll; Stranger Danger and Railroad Safety. Additionally, children learn safety procedures through practicing fire and tornado drills.

Additional activities include Fall and Spring environmental programs done in conjunction with the Downers Grove Park District Lyman Woods Interpretive Center staff, music with Mrs. Owens and Mrs. Benjamin, Gym Time with Mrs. Benjamin, a visit to the clay room for "Clay Play" with Mrs. Norton, a special dance class with Mrs. Modine, and sports day with Coach Toni.

What schedule does preschool follow?

Preschool begins after Labor Day and ends before Memorial Day. The Preschool program follows District 58 holidays (not teacher institute days). The preschool schedule allows an extra week of vacation time during winter break. The Dates to Remember Calendar is distributed at Parent Orientation and is also available for download on this website.

How and when do I register?

Registration applications are available at Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue beginning in January. A computer lottery system is used for placement. You are assigned your first, second or third class time choice, based on your lottery placement. If your class time choices are filled, you will be placed on a wait list for your first class choice.

Currently enrolled students in the ThreeSchool program and three-year old Preschool receive priority registration. A \$50 deposit accompanies the registration application.

Registration for **new resident students** takes place shortly after returning student registration. New resident registrations must supply proof of residency in the form of a tax bill; proof of age in the form of a baptismal or birth certificate and a \$50 deposit.

Non-resident registration is processed following the resident registration process. Non-residents must supply proof of age in the form of a baptismal or birth certificate and a \$50 deposit.

Detailed information is available in the Downers Grove Park District Winter/Spring Recreation and Parks Guide or on the website.

My child is not yet potty trained. Can I still enroll?

Many parents experience late training with their three-year old children. We encourage you to wait until August to make the determination if your child will be ready for Preschool. We are willing to work with parents regarding this issue.

If I don't receive my first choice, can I be placed on the wait list and in another class choice?

You must choose between a class placement and the wait list.

How quickly does the wait list progress?

Typically, most children are eventually placed into a class; however this will depend on the size of each wait list. Each year varies and class placement cannot be guaranteed.

How are individual Preschool classes formed?

Classes are balanced with an equal amount of boys and girls (based on registration numbers); children with younger birthdates and children with older birthdates. Twins are kept together in the same classroom or can be separated, based on parental choice. Carpooling requests can be accommodated in most instances. Parents are notified in August as to their child's classroom placement and teachers.