



FORT HUNT PRESCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (“FAQS”)

What hours is school in session?

9:15 am-12N for 3s (M, W, F) and 4s (M through F) classes

9:15 am-11:45 am for 2s (T,TH) (Note: 2s pick up time is graduated for the first 3 weeks of school to support the transition to school, progressing to 11:45 am)

Parent helpers assisting in the class for the day arrive at 9:00 am to help set up, and clean the classroom at the end of school.

Our 3s and 4s students are eligible to attend a 1 hour Lunch Bunch (usually offered one day a week) for an additional fee.

What are your class sizes and child-to-adult ratios?

Maintaining low child-to-adult ratios is one of our highest priorities. Our small classes allow our teachers to develop the relationship with each child that is the hallmark of our program.

2-year olds: 8 students 4:1 ratio in 2s

3-year olds: 8 students 4:1 ratio in 3s

4-year olds: 12-16 students 4-6:1 ratio in 4s (with Teaching Assistant)

Our school-wide enrollment each year ranges from 44 to 48 children and includes about the same number of families or slightly fewer because of sibling enrollment.

How much is tuition for the 2019-20 school year?

2-year olds, 2 days/week (T/TH): \$265/month

3-year olds, 3 days/week (M/W/F): \$355/month

4-year olds, 5 days/week (M-F): \$515/month

What age group is right for my child? What if my child is gifted?

A child must be the appropriate age for his/her class *on or before September 30, 2020*. For example, a child is eligible for the 3-year-old class if s/he will turn 3 by September 30. This age cut-off is applied even if a child may appear advanced in one area. At FHP, our focus is on the whole child, across all developmental domains. We recognize that a child’s development is not linear. Our play-based curriculum offers great flexibility to meet the needs of the children in a class over a wide spectrum of abilities.

How much experience do your teachers have?

Our professional staff members have over ninety-nine combined years of experience teaching and parent helping at Fort Hunt Preschool. Three of our teachers have taught at FHP for over 15 years. All of our staff were or are parents in our cooperative. Each staff member completes a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education/training each school year.

Do you require background checks?

Parents, Teachers, and Teaching Assistants must complete two background checks: a Fingerprint Background Search and the VA Dept. of Social Services-Child Protective Services Central Registry Search. All also undergo personal reference checks.

Do parents teach the classes?

Teachers are responsible for curriculum and class management. Parent helpers assist in supervising the children and are required to attend orientation, be certified in CPR/1st Aid, and to complete an online training in child abuse recognition prior to being in the classroom. Parent helpers must complete 4 hours of training during the school year under our state license.

How do parent volunteers obtain the required training hours each year?

FHP usually offers two on-site training sessions during the school year. Members also are notified of training opportunities in the greater community and online. We believe our mission to educate our members is much broader than the state's requirement. We strive to educate and inspire our member parents, as their child's first and most important teacher, and as members of the community.

How often will I work in the classroom?

Parents help in the classroom an average of once every 3 to 4 weeks, depending on the size of the class and the number of days class is held per week.

How do I parent help if I have an infant or if I am expecting a baby?

Siblings may not stay in the classroom while you are parent helping, as the presence of a sibling may take your attention away from the class and from your time with your child. Many members trade babysitting services with another family in the class or in the school. Families with new babies are given a six week maternity leave during which parent helping obligations are waived.

What is your potty-training policy?

We do not require a child to be potty trained to attend Fort Hunt Preschool. We recognize that potty training will happen on the child's timetable, not yours or ours.

How do I help my child make the transition from home to school?

Our teachers will guide and support your child's transition to school. Prior to the start of school, each teacher makes a "home visit" to each child in the class. The home visit gives your child the opportunity to meet the teacher in the comfortable, secure environment of his/her own home. Our summer playgroup also provides an excellent opportunity for children new to FHP to gain familiarity with the school surroundings and meet other FHP students, as well as for new families to meet other member families. Open to all FHP members, playgroup meets once a week during much of the summer.

Is your preschool licensed and accredited?

Fort Hunt Preschool is licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, which conducts unannounced inspections to monitor compliance with regulations regarding business operations, curriculum, and safety and health, and to offer guidance to its licensees. FHP at this time has chosen not to pursue accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC's accreditation process is very expensive (potentially thousands of dollars) and time-consuming. We believe that our resources (monetary and the time of both professional and volunteer personnel) are best used by continuing to better our school rather than in pursuit of accreditation.