



Growing Tree Preschool Frequently Asked Questions

Admission Age Requirement

Children must be 2 ½, 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1 of that school year.

Come Grow With Us

The Gurnee Park District mission is Promoting Fun, and Preserving Nature, and our preschool philosophy carries forward that theme. In preschool our philosophy is to educate children through guided and free exploration in a play-based, creative and nurturing atmosphere. We believe that honoring and nurturing the individuality of each child will encourage respect for oneself and for others. We strive to develop a united common goal between families and preschool staff to build academic, social and self-help skills. Our ultimate goal is for children to love coming to school and to provide the best possible preschool experience. We value the diversity of each family, each child's individuality, and strive to build self-esteem and respect for others.

Documentation Requirements

In mid-July all enrolled participants receive a link to an online forms portal, ePACT. Parents complete a preschool information form and upload a physician completed DHS Certificate of Child Health and birth certificate copy.

[DHS Health Exam Form](#)

Medication Dispensing

If administering medication is necessary while at school, a Permission to Dispense Medication Form is required. Please contact the Preschool Manager at 847-599-3767 to discuss medications that can be administered.

[Permission to Dispense Medication Form](#)

Toilet Training

3 and 4 Year Old Classes: Children must be able to independently pull down necessary clothing, sit/stand, wipe, flush, pull up necessary clothing, wash/dry hands. Teachers make regular announcements to use the bathroom, but do not wipe or change. It is understood that infrequently children may have an accident. We will monitor while the child changes clothes but will call parents to change the child should a bowel movement occur and the child is unable to clean themselves. The beginning of the school year is a time of adjustment and some parents may wish to send their child in a pull up as they acclimate. This will be allowed through October 1, after which children must attend in underwear.

2 ½-3 ½ Year Old Class: Pull Ups/diapers are allowed, but teachers do not change children during class and will call parents if needed.



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Supplies

Children bring a backpack and reusable water bottle filled with water each day. All school supplies such as crayons, markers, glue etc. are provided along with a two pocket home/school folder.

Students in 3 and 4 year old classes bring a warm jacket, snow pants, pull on boots, hat and mittens for winter outdoor play and gym shoes for the classroom and indoor play.

Students in Full and Extended Day 4 year old classes bring a lunch from home daily with warm foods in a thermal container.

Curriculum - State of Illinois Early Learning Standards for Preschool

Our curriculum includes eight learning areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Physical Development and Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Social/Emotional Development. Within these learning areas are more than 100 benchmarks that are incorporated throughout the three and four year old preschool years. The extent to which the benchmarks are covered depends on how often the class meets and the length of the class. Our curriculum is filled with kindergarten readiness components, most importantly including: learning to be flexible, self-sufficient with clothing and belongings (i.e. zipping, switching from shoes to boots, stowing belongings in the cubby, bringing a water bottle, remembering home/school folder), returning a greeting given by teachers/staff and treating all children and adults with kindness and respect.

Parent Communication

A free online and app based program, Class Dojo, is utilized by teachers for daily communication, pictures of class activities and reminders. In addition, parents receive a monthly calendar and newsletter. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled late fall. Teachers are available to speak privately before/after class, or by phone. Parents receive and email with important information in July prior to the beginning of the school year.

Prechool Calendar

Growing Tree follows the Woodland School District 50 school calendar for no class dates. Preschool is not affected by Woodland early release days.



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Payment Policy and Procedure

A \$75 non-refundable registration fee at the time of registration. On July 15 the first tuition payment (September) is automatically withdrawn from a bank account or credit card provided at the time of registration. If registering after July 15, the \$75 registration fee and one tuition payment (September) is due at the time of registration. Once paid tuition is non-refundable. Subsequent payments are automatically withdrawn on the 15th of the month prior (i.e. October tuition is withdrawn on September 15th). Tuition is based on the total number of days in the school year divided into nine equal installments and not on the number of school days in the month. You will receive an email statement on the 15th when the automatic payment has processed. Tuition is not pro-rated for partial month attendance.

Code of Conduct

Children are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior while participating in programs and activities. A positive approach to discipline for children, specifically 1-2-3 Magic will be used in the preschool classes. Children who have behaviors that impact their own safety or that of others, who have behaviors that negatively affect the experience of others, use inappropriate language or actions, or who are physically violent or threatening may be dismissed from the program. The Gurnee Park District reserves the right to dismiss a participant whose behavior, or that of their parent, is inappropriate or endangers the safety of self or others, and/or negatively impacts the experience of others.