



# FORT HUNT PRESCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ("FAQS")

## **What hours is school in session?**

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

9:15am-11:45am for 2s (T,TH) (2s begin the year with a graduated dismissal, progressing to 11:45)

Fort Hunt Preschool ("FHP") does not have a full day or extended care option.

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

## **How much is tuition for the 2012-13 school year?**

2-year olds, 2 days/week (T/TH): \$185/month

3-year olds, 3 days/week (M/W/F): \$230/month

4-year olds, 5 days/week (M-F): \$330/month

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

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)

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.

## **How many children are enrolled in Fort Hunt Preschool?**

Our enrollment each year ranges from 44 to 48 children. Our community usually has around 40 families (not including professional staff), as some families may have more than one child enrolled.

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

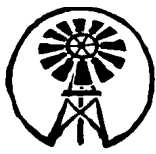
A child must be the appropriate age for his/her class *on or before September 30, 2012*. For example, a child is eligible for the 2 year old class if s/he will turn 2 by September 30. This age cut-off is applied even if a child may appear advanced in one area. At FHP, our focus is on the whole child, 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 sixty combined years of experience teaching and parent helping at Fort Hunt Preschool. Three of our teachers have taught at FHP for more than 9 years. All of our staff were parents in our cooperative. All staff members have college degrees and most have at least one graduate degree. Each staff member also completes a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education/training each school year.

## **Do you require background checks for teachers and teaching assistants?**

Teachers and teaching assistants undergo two background checks: the Virginia State Police Criminal History Record/Sex Offenders and Crimes Against Minors Registry Search, and the Virginia Department Of Social Services-Child Protective Services Central Registry Search. Newly hired teachers and teaching assistants also undergo personal reference checks.



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### **Do parents teach the classes?**

Our teachers are responsible for curriculum and class management. Parent helpers assist the teacher in supervising the children. The role of the parent helper is more fully described at a mandatory orientation session before school begins and in our Handbook. Our state license requires parent helpers to obtain a total of 4 hours of training during the school year, including the new member orientation session.

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

In addition to orientation, we offer at least two on-site training sessions during the school year. Our training coordinator also notifies members of other 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 members as 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 to begin to lay the foundation for the development of their relationship. 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. The summer playgroup, open to all FHP members, 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, Department of Social Services (“VDSS”). VDSS conducts announced and unannounced inspections to monitor compliance with regulations regarding business operations, curriculum, and safety and health and also offers guidance and advice to its licensees. At this time, as previously, FHP 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.