



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 arrive at 9:00am to help set up, and clean the classroom at the end of school.

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. Our school-wide enrollment each year ranges from 28-40 children.

2-year olds: 8 students 4:1 ratio in 2s
3-year olds: 10 students 5:1 ratio in 3s
4-year olds: 10 students 5:1 ratio in 4s

How much is tuition for the 2022-2023 school year?

2-year olds, 2 days/week (T/TH): \$290/month
3-year olds, 3 days/week (M/W/F): \$385/month
4-year olds, 5 days/week (M-F): \$565/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, 2022. 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 a lot of experience teaching and parent helping at Fort Hunt Preschool and other Parent cooperatives. Each staff member completes a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education/training each school year. When hiring, we ensure that staff truly understand our educational philosophy.

Do you require background checks?

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

Do parents teach the classes?

Our teachers are responsible for curriculum and class management. Parent helpers assist the teacher in supervising the children. As classroom assistants, parent helpers are required to attend orientation before assisting in the classroom and to obtain 4 hours of training during the school year pursuant to our state license.

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

In addition to orientation, we usually offer on-site training sessions during the school year. Our



FORT HUNT PRESCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ("FAQS")

training coordinator also notifies members 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 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 one to two times a month, 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 family 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 one on one. 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 during much of the summer.

Is your preschool licensed and accredited?

Fort Hunt Preschool is licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Education ("VDOE"). VDOE 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, FHP has chosen not to pursue accreditation by NAEYC. The process is expensive (potentially thousands of dollars) and time consuming. We believe that our resources (monetary and time) are best used by continuing to better our school rather than in pursuit of accreditation.

Who governs the school?

Fort Hunt Preschool is a parent run cooperative. Therefore, a Board of Directors, made up primarily of member families, is responsible for policy and direction of the school. Our paid Director is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and supervision of staff.

Why should I volunteer my time when I have to pay?

Families gain knowledge and experience they can use at home. Children also benefit from seeing their family at school where they see that learning is active and important to your family.