



Early Childhood Application Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten

2020-2021

Play is the royal road to childhood happiness and adult brilliance.

Joseph Chilton Pearce

Dear parents,

This application is the beginning of an extraordinary journey. It is a journey of discovery not only for you, but for us as well. The process of completing an application for school may be new to you. Not to worry - I've included answers below to the most frequently asked questions. Please know that I am your partner in this process and am available to assist you if you have any questions that are not answered here. Please don't hesitate to ask me.

What is the Application Deadline?

Monday, January 6, 2020

What is a Family Conversation?

The two class teachers invite you to meet with them in their classroom as an opportunity for you to get to know one another while your child has the chance to play nearby. The meeting lasts approximately 30-45 minutes and is very warm and welcoming.

When are we notified of the decision for a welcome?

For those families who complete an application in advance of the deadline, you will receive notification in writing by mid-February. For those who apply late, notification will be sent as soon as class capacities are determined.

When do we register?

For those who applied before the application deadline, registration occurs **March 16-20, 2020**. Once welcomed, you are required to register at this time in order to guarantee your place in the class. Should you choose not to register, your space will be released to a student in the wait pool.

What if I am applying after the deadline?

If you have missed this deadline, never fear! We accept applications year-round, but are limited by space availability. We will do our best to welcome you as soon as we are able.

What are the expectations for my child?

A complete list of expectations follows here.

Have fun! This is just the beginning.

Sincerely,
Linda Timmons
Admissions Director, WSOC
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Pre-Kindergarten Expectations

CHILDREN

Following are some of the basic behaviors that are necessary for successful participation in our Pre-Kindergarten program.

Children may be at the beginning of mastering some of these behaviors - but most should be well established. These behaviors indicate that your child can safely enjoy his or her time in school.

Separate from parents without prolonged emotional distress.

Follow a teacher's directive instruction.

Self-Regulation

- Able to stop when asked to stop
- Able to stop talking
- Not disruptive during circle, story, meals, etc.
- Able to listen to one another
- Have spatial awareness of others
- Refrain from hitting, biting and kicking others (even when frustrated)

Able to handle own hygiene

- Use the toilet independently
- Hand washing

Able to put on and take off own shoes and socks and jacket.

Able to sit still and be quiet for story time.

Able to sit still at meal times until excused.

- Feed themselves
- Set up and clean up lunch

Able to participate fully (not disrupt) in group activities such as circle time, painting, selected crafts, story, meals, rest time, walks, tidy up etc.

PARENTS

Bring well-rested child to school on time.

Provide child with nutritious lunch.

Attend Parent Evenings.

Support School Activities: Lantern Walk, Advent Spiral, Winter Festival and May Faire.

Follow school policy on lines of communication.

Home Life:

Minimize exposure to media, screens and the adult world.

Provide a home life that supports work done at school.

Provide consistent rhythm including bedtime.

Provide nutritious meals.

Insure child receives 11-12 hours of sleep each night.

A successful classroom environment for all is created when we are working together (Teacher, Parent & Child) toward a child's gaining independence. Along with this new-found independence comes a need for a child to integrate successfully as a member of the whole class. If a child is struggling with meeting these basic expectations, we will lovingly guide her/him and will offer some strategies for support at home. If, together, we are not successful, we will invite you to come and meet with us to discuss your child's experience. We want to be certain that s/he is getting what s/he needs. We see this as the beginning of a journey together and are excited to partner with you.

Kindergarten Expectations

CHILDREN

Self-Regulation

- Able to stop when asked to stop
- Able to stop talking
- Not disruptive during circle, story, meals, etc.
- Able to listen to one another
- Have spatial awareness of others
- Refrain from hitting, biting and kicking others

Able to handle own hygiene

- Bathroom
- Hand washing

Able to sit 10 minutes for story at the beginning of the year.

Able to sit 20 minutes at the end of the year.

Able to sit still at meal times

- Feed themselves
- Set up lunch
- Clean up lunch

Able to participate in group activities such as circle, painting, selected crafts and tidy up.

Able to follow one direction instruction at the beginning of the year.

Able to follow a series of 3+ directive instructions before first grade.

Able to play interactively.

PARENTS

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Provide child with nutritious lunch.

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Home Life:

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Application Checklist

for Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten

TO APPLY - [Http://mytads.com/a/waldorfschooloforangecounty](http://mytads.com/a/waldorfschooloforangecounty)

- _____ Complete **Parent Questionnaire** online through the TADS system
Please include as much information here as possible. Remember this is your opportunity to introduce your child to us. The teachers will appreciate your providing thoughtful, thorough answers.

- _____ Submit a **Family Photo**. This does not have to be a professional photo, but is ideal to include your entire family.

- _____ If your child has undergone any **testing or special assessments**, please include copies of the results or progress from such testing.

- _____ If your child is coming from another school setting, please include any **reports** provided to you from the school.

- _____ Submit a non-refundable **payment of \$100**. This is not a guarantee of entry.

With all of the above completed, TADS will alert us to your application being complete.

What next?

If there is space available in the class, your application will be forwarded to the class teachers for their review.

If the class is full, your application will be placed on file for you to be contacted when a space becomes available. A new application must be completed for each academic year - applications will not be automatically carried forward to the next year. Only one application fee is required.

If agreed, both parents and their child are invited for a Family Conversation with the class teachers. **Both parents and child are required to attend.** These meetings take place in the classroom and are scheduled by the Admissions Director.

If it is agreed to be beneficial, the student may be invited to visit the class for one to five days.

Notification of status will be sent in writing to the applicant.

If an invitation has been extended, a student must complete registration before entering the classroom. Registration confirms your child's space in the class. If you do not register by the deadline, the space will be released to another in the wait pool.