



Welcome to Cherry Hill Nursery School!

We are so excited that you've decided to tour our school. This tour packet will help answer any questions you may have about our school and program.

About Us

Cherry Hill Nursery School is a play-based cooperative preschool located in Princeton, NJ that has been providing extraordinary learning experiences for young students and their parents since 1958.

- ❖ State accredited
- ❖ Experienced and professional educators
- ❖ Spacious and bright classrooms
- ❖ Large, shady, fenced playground
- ❖ After school program for eligible students
- ❖ Parent involvement

At Cherry Hill Nursery School, we encourage each child to make strides socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually in accordance with their unique personality and rate of growth. Enriching experiences and our teachers' understanding of the needs of young children foster the positive attitudes and perceptions necessary for a child's future success.

Each morning class is staffed by two teachers and is supplemented by a helping parent. Prior to the school year, the staff for each class maps out a detailed but flexible curriculum that addresses the interests and needs of that age group. Play is the center of our curriculum as this approach allows young children to acquire an understanding of their world. Our children gain the essential elements of learning through discovery and experimentation in a hands-on environment.

Our curriculum is enhanced with year-long enrichment programs such as music and Spanish. Our proximity to Mountain Lakes Preserve provides an opportunity to venture out on nature walks and explore local wildlife habitats.

In addition to the enrichment classes, all-school programs include field trips. Field trips scheduled periodically throughout the school year expand the children's knowledge through hands-on learning. Prior trips have included visits to local farms, The Princeton University Art Museum and the Princeton Public Library.



Typical Class Day

Because children find security in following a predictable routine, a pattern is established for the daily activities. This varies from class to class and is posted in each classroom. It is altered by teachers as necessary to meet the needs of the children, the weather, special projects or field trips. The following are included in each school day:

- ❖ **Arrival**
- ❖ **Free Play:** During this time, children are free to choose from a variety of activities. Activities include materials such as pegboards, puzzles and small toys; blocks and other building materials; toy kitchen, dolls, animals, dinosaurs, and vehicles; easel writing, ink and stamps, various types of paint, collage items, stencils; book corners; teacher-prepared activity involving art, cooking, science, etc.
- ❖ **Teacher-Directed Activity:** During a whole-group meeting time, many important activities are shared: talks, stories, music, and more. Discussion time or "show and tell" allows each child an opportunity for individual expression as well as an experience in listening. Group participation is encouraged, but not forced.
- ❖ **Playground:** Each class has at least one outdoor play period. The enclosed playground provides ample space for children to play.
- ❖ **Clean Up:** The children are given 5-10 minutes to finish their activities unhurriedly before they clean up. The emphasis is on cooperation and actively encourages the participation of every child. Even the reluctant child usually enjoys being enlisted to help teachers and friends.
- ❖ **Snack Time:** Parents provide a nut free snack for their child. Snack time provides an opportunity for conversation as well as good fellowship.

Afternoon Enrichment

We understand that work schedules of parents and energy levels of the children often require an after-school program to supplement the school day. Keeping this in mind, Cherry Hill Nursery School offers parents an option to enroll in Afternoon Enrichment programs in 4 sessions throughout the year with priority given to students in the 4s and 5s classes. Children can be enrolled for any of the Afternoon Enrichment days available, allowing parents to customize their schedule. At some point during the year, if space allows, fully potty trained 3s students may be invited to join.

Afternoon Enrichment is offered **Monday through Thursdays from noon to 2:30pm**. Parent co-oping is not required in the Afternoon Enrichment session. Students bring a nut-free



packed lunch and stay for an extended portion of the day with their friends. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to interact with children from the other classes and foster new friendships. A typical day includes outdoor playtime (weather permitting), indoor play or activity (themed activities will change per session), lunch and rest time.

Parent Responsibilities

As a cooperative school, Cherry Hill Nursery School is owned and operated by the Parents Association (all parents of current students). It cannot function smoothly without the full participation of each family. It is the responsibility of all parents to read and comply with the bylaws, school policies and procedures, class and school notices, as provided at the beginning of the school year. Each family is responsible for co-oping in their child's classroom on a rotating schedule, a few hours of their time as a part of Parents' Volunteer/Service Hours, and participating in the school's fundraising projects.

Co-oping

Co-oping is a wonderful way to be involved in your child's education. It gives parents the opportunity to get to know the teachers, as well as the other children in the class. Each family helps in the classroom approximately 10 times in the school year, based on the class size. On your co-oping day, you are responsible for cleaning up before and after snack time, and assisting the teachers as needed. Other duties may include reading stories or helping with the art project for the day.

PTO

The cooperative model encourages parent participation. Not only are parents who choose the co-op model expected to be in the classroom approximately one time per month as a helping parent, but there is a 4 hour per child volunteer commitment throughout the year as part of the PTO. This might look like serving as a committee chair, committee member, single event volunteer, or room parent. There is an additional fundraising commitment asked of all families that can be monetary or gift recruitment for the annual PTO auction.

Parent Teacher Executive Board

There are many opportunities to be involved in the running of the school. One such opportunity is to serve on the PTO Executive Board. This is a group of parents that works closely with the teachers and director to make operational and strategic decisions about the school. The Board comprises the Head Teacher representing the teaching faculty, the Director of the school, Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Publicity Chair, Fundraising Chair, School Community Chair and Facilities Improvement Chair. There is an Executive Board meeting once a month, and most members attend 6-7 meetings per year.



Current Classes

Little Cherries	Meets one hour per week with a caregiver. This is a great introduction for future “cherries” to have fun and become familiar with our wonderful, nurturing school.
2s	Meets 2 days per week. The 2s program introduces students to a more formal classroom environment and gets them excited about school while working on gross and fine motor skills, sensory activities, art and music.
3s	Meets 3 days per week. The 3s program encourages more independence within routines, such as hand washing, bathroom use, and putting coats on and off. Students continue to develop social skills and interact in more co-playing while learning to share and express their needs more verbally.
4s	Meets 4 or 5 days per week. The 4s class focuses on getting to know oneself and each other through making eye contact, expressing oneself verbally, sharing classroom toys, empathizing with others, embracing diversity and learning to follow directions. They also work on participating appropriately and respectfully during group activities, improving independence with snack, bathroom and cleaning up, and working on pre-literacy skills.
5s	Meets 5 days per week. The 5s class is a pre-kindergarten program. They focus on number and letter recognition in preparation for kindergarten. Students also learn essential geography skills such as their address and their relationship to the larger world.

Tuition for 2024-2025

Class	Co-Op Tuition	Non Co-Op Tuition
Little Cherries		N/A
2s	\$3,194	\$4,394
3s	\$5,503	\$6,703
4 Day 4s	\$7,309	\$8,509
5 Day 4s & 5s Class	\$7,922	\$9,122
Afternoon Enrichment	\$35 - \$45 per class	N/A