



Frequently Asked Questions

What does it mean to be a play-based program?

Our preschool classes are inspired by [Reggio Emilia practices](#) and encourage child-center, play based learning. Our teachers educate the whole child through integrated curricula where children's emerging ideas and interests play a vital part in our planning. Children will experience learning in an inclusive environment – where they can feel safe making mistakes as well as experiencing the joy in success.

What is the difference between preschool class locations?

Each of our preschool classes follow the same structure, program flow, and play-based philosophy. Each site has its own unique indoor and outdoor space. We encourage families to tour each of our preschool classes when making a decision as to which program will be a good fit for you and your child.

Is your preschool licensed?

Community Arts Preschool is a preschool enrichment program of Center for Community Arts. This program is provided through the City of Walnut Creek's Arts and Recreation Department. Community Arts Preschool is a part-time, recreational preschool enrichment program, which is not required to be licensed by the State. The Department of Social Services, Child Care Licensing exempts any preschool program, offered by a city recreation department, providing that it is not childcare. Licensed exempt preschool programs are common amongst city-managed recreational programs, typically part of a city's Parks and Recreation department.

We refer to Community Care Licensing as a guideline for our program standards. Our preschool classes exceed the student to teacher class ratio that is required of licensed preschools.

What is your student to teacher ratio for preschool classes?

Our classes maintain a teacher to student ratio of 1:7 for students ages 3 years and up (Threes, Fours, and Mixed Age classes). We maintain a teacher to student ratio of 1:6 for students ages 2 -3 years (Twos classes).

My child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). How do you support children with an IEP or other developmental needs?

We work very closely with children and families when a child has an IEP or may have an unidentified development disability. Our teachers often attend IEP meetings with parents, districts, and other student support staff.

If our teachers notice that a child may need additional support, they will reach out to parents to share what they observe and discuss support options with parents. Our preschool works closely with [Coco Kids](#) and [WeCare](#) in Contra Costa County to provide additional supports and resources to children, families, and staff members. We are required to receive consent from a child's parents before We Care or Coco Kids is invited to assist a child and / or staff member for that child.

If our teachers and staff have questions about how we can adequately support the needs of your child, we will discuss options with parents.

My child has an aide. Is that okay?

Yes, we welcome aides in class to support children. We require aides to be fingerprinted by their parent organization or the City of Walnut Creek before they begin working in our classrooms. Aides support only the child in which they are assigned and are not included in our teacher to student ratios. An aide will not be left alone in class with children other than the child they are assigned.

Is immunization required for enrollment in to preschool?

All children entering our program must provide proof of their up-to-date immunization records as per California State Law SB 277. More information on immunization requirements can be found in our Parent Handbook.

How do I enroll in preschool for the current school year?

Enrollment is accepted on a rolling basis for the current year through April 1 of each year pending space available. If space is not available for the class of your choice, you may choose to be added to the waitlist. We contact students on our waitlist as space becomes available. Learn more [here](#).

How do I enroll in preschool for the upcoming school year?

Preschool enrollment for the upcoming summer and school year opens in February of each year. Enrollment is completed in person at Shadelands Art Center. Please visit www.communityarts.org/preschool for information on enrollment.

How can I learn more about Community Arts Preschool?

Schedule a tour with us to visit any of our preschool sites to learn more about our program. Tours can be booked online [here](#). Additionally, our Parent Handbook can be found online at www.communityarts.org/preschools. Please refer to our Parent Handbook for further details about our preschool program.