

PLAY-BASED KINDERGARTEN

member of the North Seattle
Cooperative Preschools

in the heart of Fremont



The WPC Kindergarten Program is led by Teacher Rachel Troutman, who joined the school in 2006 as a preschool parent. She realized there was a need for a play-based kindergarten co-op in Seattle so she helped start one! The experience of Teacher Rachel's kindergarten students is filled with wonder due to her construction of weekly themes that are woven into activities such as cooking, art projects, science experiments, social and emotional exercises, and outdoor play. Kindergarten class takes frequent field trips to see new places and make discoveries. Teacher Rachel's graduates leave ready for the first grade.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Schedule: Monday-Friday from 9am - 2pm
(early release Wed. at 1pm)

Small class size: 10 - 12

Parent commitment: 1 day per week in class,
1 day per week esub + classroom job

DAILY SCHEDULE

9:00 to 9:30 Outdoor play

9:30 to 10:00 Circle time

10:00 to 11:40 Small group & inside choice

11:50 to 12:15 Lunch (bag lunch)

12:15 to 1:15 Outdoor play & stations

1:20 to 1:50 Fitness, art or science

1:50 to 2:00 Story & pick-up

IS WOODLAND PARK CO-OP THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU?



WE GET MESSY.

Are you okay with your child coming home covered in mud and paint? Do you let them pull out pumpkin guts with their hands? Make decorations with every kind of glitter and glue? They'll get to do it at Woodland Park. We say a lot of "yes!" so kids can explore their world to the fullest.

WE ALLOW RISK.

Do you let your kid climb trees? Cut vegetables with a knife? Use a hot glue gun and saw wood? We encourage kids to take supervised, age-appropriate risks. These are key to hands-on learning and preparing kids to think critically and have confidence when encountering new risks in life.



WE USE POSITIVE DISCIPLINE.

Do you try to "catch" your child being good? We focus on reinforcing good behavior! We find that if kids help make classroom rules together there is greater motivation in following them, and when their rules are broken we kindly but firmly help them find a fair solution. For example, we redirect kids who want to throw things at other kids to throw things into buckets instead. There are no bad kids, just bad behavior.

THEME OF THE WEEK EMAIL TO PARENTS:

Hello, everyone. Thanks to you for making class so awesome and smooth when there are so many scheduling issues. You guys are great!

Last week we had a lot of exciting things happening. The orange table (literacy area) is getting a lot of great use this year and the kids are busy scaring me with Halloween words. We had some cool science experiments that the kids seemed super into. There was some great problem solving and passion about puppets and movies. Very exciting!

This week will be farm oriented for our upcoming pumpkin farm trip. There are a couple of farm games in the table toys area, farm puzzle; farm stand in drama; the science table is dedicated to the life cycle of a pumpkin with chart and scale and rulers and different sized pumpkins. Also, we have some more science experiments with things you might find on some farms: eggs and milk; as well as doing our first "scientific drawing".

We have the seniors on Thursday (we visit one time a month, but they set the date and it is not the same Thursday every month) and our farm visit on Friday.

See y'all tomorrow.

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WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH CO-OPS?

A cooperative school is very hands-on: it's organized and run by a group of dedicated families who hire a teacher, work in the classroom, clean, manage paperwork, fundraise, and more.

THE GIVE

Community: Co-op provides a parenting tribe. Interacting in the classroom creates strong personal connections rarely achieved through drop-off schools. Co-ops are high parent-involvement and that involvement builds deeper bonds between parents as well as kids. Who doesn't need extra help sometimes?

Engagement in learning: We are learning right along with our kids. The ways that Teacher Rachel interacts with the class provides modeling for parenting. As new challenges at home arise there's always a parent educator, teacher and a community of parents to tap into for tips and advice. We see our children's friendships and new skills grow right before our eyes. The parent's reward is just witnessing those magic moments.

Lower Cost: For those considering kindergarten at private preschools, co-op provides a much lower cost alternative. There are need-based scholarships available through North Seattle College and Woodland Park Co-op that cover up to 50% of the tuition.

THE TAKE

Work in class: Parents work in the classroom every week. On our workday we come to class ready to roll up our sleeves and paint or build alongside the kids! Under Teacher Rachel's guidance, workers help lead small group games and during free play they provide guidance and interaction throughout the classroom as needed.

Class job: Co-ops are run by the parents. In addition to our workday, we each pick a school job that sustains the kindergarten class. These can fit with your outside skills and passions. For example, this very packet is written, laid-out, and printed by dedicated parents. Other class roles include social coordinator for the socialites, facilities manager if you are handy with a hammer and more.

Requires time and energy: We all have days where we would prefer to *not* be engaged with our kids. Being hands on requires time, energy and some flexibility in our schedules. What you put in you tend to get out tenfold though!

ENROLLMENT CHECKLIST

STEP ONE: SEE IF WE'RE THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU AND APPLY.

- Schedule a tour with our Kindergarten Parent Coordinator at kindergarten.wpcp@gmail.com. A tour is required for enrollment, unless you are an alumni family. If you have any questions, please contact our Kindergarten Parent Coordinator at kindergarten.wpcp@gmail.com.
- Complete the online application found on our enrollment page. Open registration begins mid-February. Applications are then accepted on a rolling basis depending on availability. We also maintain a wait list.
- Pay the one time \$45 non-refundable application fee. You will be emailed a link for payment after your application is received.

STEP TWO: YOU'RE IN! TIME TO SEAL THE DEAL.

- Once your application is accepted, please confirm your spot by signing and submitting your Enrollment Agreement.
- Make your first non-refundable deposit by March 1st and second non-refundable deposit by April 1st via Jovial. Deposits will be applied to your tuition.

STEP THREE: PREPARING FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

- Attend the mandatory Spring Orientation to meet your fellow parents and pick your class job.
- Attend the mandatory Fall Orientation to work out schedules, meet your Parent Educator, and turn in forms.
- Register for class at North Seattle College (NSC) and pay NSC Fall Quarter tuition.
- Families can apply for scholarships by contacting our Kindergarten Parent Coordinator at kindergarten.wpcp@gmail.com. Scholarships are available through North Seattle College, Woodland Park Co-Op, and alumni scholarship funds. These scholarships cover up to 50% of tuition and are awarded quarterly.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact the Kindergarten Parent Coordinator at kindergarten.wpcp@gmail.com.