



Glacier Way West Side Cooperative Preschool
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Thank you for your interest in Glacier Way West Side Cooperative Preschool!

We realize you have many fine choices of preschool programs in the Ann Arbor area and offer the following information to help you evaluate whether our school would be a good choice for your family.

Glacier Way West Side Cooperative Preschool is an early education program that provides a high-quality, affordable learning experience for three- to five-year-old children. Our school is a state-licensed, non-profit member of the Huron Valley and Michigan Councils of Cooperative Nurseries. We admit students of any race, sex, color, religion, and national or ethnic origin.

Our school allows parents the opportunity to partner in their children's early educational growth, contribute to the administration of the school, and assist the teacher. Parental participation not only enables us to keep our costs reasonable, but also fosters a sense of community.

PHILOSOPHY

The preschool years are an important time in the development of a child's feelings of security and self-esteem. We feel that these needs can best be nourished through the joint efforts of a qualified, understanding teacher and caring parents contributing to a play-based program.

A well-designed daily routine provides security for the children in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere that fosters caring and respectful social relationships. The children are encouraged to develop creativity, self-discipline and thinking skills through a rich variety of activities such as art, music, dress-up, story time, block building and field

trips. Our hope is that children will grow physically, intellectually, and emotionally.

We welcome a diverse membership, and parents are encouraged to share their cultures and traditions with the children.

CLASSES

We normally have two options for your child depending on his/her age, a 3s class and a 4s class.

However, due to COVID, there will be one mixed 3s/4s class.

The mixed age class will meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:15 to 12:00 pm. (Tuition: \$615/semester)

We may enroll up to 14, with one teacher and two assisting parents in the classroom. An additional parent assists in preparing the children for outdoor play and monitoring on the playground. The children play on the fenced-in playground daily except in cases of extreme cold or rain.

Our classrooms have large windows which give it a light-filled, open feeling. The fenced-in playground near the school is used daily. We have ample parking near the entrance to the school.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Art: An art activity is available daily for the children in the A room. Art projects prompt children to express their thoughts and emotions in a non-verbal manner, to problem solve and try new things, and develop eye/hand coordination through the use of crayons, paints, clay, pasting and

cutting.

Block Building: Blocks have a natural appeal as well as an educational value for children. By building with blocks, children use their imagination, develop hand- eye coordination, motor skills, shape recognition, and balance. Building helps children begin to learn the relationship of size and parts.

Books and Language: Literature is an integral part of the preschool experience, and being read to is an essential step in developing a child's desire and ability to read and write. The teacher and parents read regularly to the whole class, small groups, and to individual children. There is a quiet area where the children have easy access to a variety of books, which they may check out weekly and share at home. They will also be given the opportunity to create short stories, write letters to other classmates, practice writing and reading their name, and practice writing and recognizing letters, numbers, and shapes. They will also develop language and vocabulary through story telling while using the magnetic board.

Dramatic Play: Children grow through self-expression, and dramatic play allows them to act out their thoughts and express their feelings. Children can come up with their own ideas for creative dramatic play activities, and through these experiences explore their curiosities and make sense of the world around them. Everything from play food to dress-up costumes to puppets in the theater are available.

Gross Motor Activities: Through gross motor activities, children develop large muscles, become more comfortable with their own bodies and develop a concept of space. They have an opportunity for this type of play indoors and outside.

Music: Music is an important part of our day. Not only do we have fun dancing and singing, but the children are developing many parts of their bodies. While dancing, children are learning to develop and control both listening skills and physical movements. Listening to music helps children develop pathways in their brains to improve math, language, and thinking skills.

We use bells, streamers, rhythm sticks, musical instruments, and various types of music to assist the children in this area.

Sand and Water Table: Playing in sand and water helps them develop their minds and bodies in a relaxing and enjoyable way. They learn concepts such as measurement, space, quantity and relative size. Some of the materials used include buckets, measuring cups, rakes, shovels, sifters, scales, bubbles and straws.

Table Activities: We have many activities and games that develop fine motor, reading and math skills. These include puzzles, size and shape sorters, pattern beads, counting frames, Legos, manipulative toys, play dough, Lincoln Logs, and board games.

DISCIPLINE

We at Glacier Way West Side Cooperative Preschool, strive to be a center where children develop a strong, positive self-image while experiencing the many challenges and opportunities of preschool. Discipline is provided with positive reinforcement. We try to channel energy into positive directions and encourage verbal communication. Children may be redirected to another area if harm to property or other persons is involved. This removal, if necessary, is done with sensitivity and encouragement.

EXPECTATIONS OF A CO-OP FAMILY

Cooperative preschools are able to keep the cost of tuition lower because of the high level of parent involvement. As a member of Glacier Way West Side Cooperative Preschool, you will be expected to:

Assist the teacher in class: The family of each child is required to assist approximately 9 times per semester. To maintain the integrity of our program, no siblings are allowed in the classroom while you are assisting. A sibling nursery is available for parents to use on their assist days (if there is interest). Participating parents take turns assisting in the sibling nursery in addition to their regular assist days.

Choose an additional job: The job requires time spent outside of school hours. Examples of jobs are board member, field trip coordinator, scholastic book club coordinator, and auction assistant.

member of Michigan Councils of Cooperative Nurseries. We have no religious affiliation.

Bring a snack for approximately 18-22 people: You will bring snack approximately three times on your parent A assist days.

Participate in housekeeping: One Saturday each month, a crew of parents will “deep clean” the school. You will be assigned one date each semester and can switch with another family if there’s a conflict.

Attend New Member and General Membership Meetings: We conduct a new member orientation at the beginning of the fall semester to ensure all new families are acquainted with how the school is operated and what is required from each family. At the beginning of each semester there is also a mandatory general membership meeting for all enrolled families. At least one parent must be present. Childcare is not provided at these meetings. (Non-mobile babies are okay.)

A co-op is a commitment, but co-op parents will tell you, it is well worth your time and energy!

Thank you again for your interest in Glacier Way West Side Cooperative Preschool. We would be delighted to give you a tour of the school, answer any questions you may have or enroll your child in our program!

Glacier Way West Side Cooperative Preschool does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of students and volunteers, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, students, and volunteers. We are licensed and are a