
Early Learning Center (ELC) Pre-School Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the preschool's hours of operation?

Our preschool is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. For families who need extended care, *Before Care is available from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM, and After-Care is available from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. for a fee. (Program for Parents accepted)*

2. Is the preschool licensed and accredited?

Yes, we are fully licensed by the New Jersey Office of Licensing and follow all state regulations for early childhood education. We are also NAEYC accredited and participate in the Grow NJ Kids quality rating and improvement system.

3. What ages do you accept?

We accept children ages 3 and 4 years old.

4. What curriculum do you use?

We use The Creative Curriculum for Preschool. Our approach supports learning through exploration, social interaction, and hands-on activities in literacy, math, science, and the arts.

5. Do you provide meals?

Yes. We provide nutritious meals and snacks, including breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. We follow USDA guidelines to ensure balanced and healthy meals.

6. What is the teacher-to-child ratio?

Our teacher-to-child ratio is 2:15.

7. How do you ensure the safety of the children?

We take several measures to ensure children's safety, including secure building access, monthly fire drills and lockdown drills, comprehensive staff background checks, and CPR/First Aid trained staff.

8. Do you support dual language learners?

Yes. We support dual language learners by creating a welcoming classroom environment where children's home languages and cultures are respected and valued. Our staff uses developmentally appropriate strategies to help children build English language skills while honoring the language they speak at home. We celebrate the rich diversity of our community and work closely with families to support each child's learning and development.

9. How can I apply or enroll my child?

You can apply at our center located at 1 New York Avenue. Please bring the following documents:

- Three proofs of address
- Proof of income — one month of pay stubs
- Birth certificate

10. What are the tuition fees, and is financial assistance available?

Our preschool is offered at no cost to families.

11. What is your approach to discipline?

We manage behavior using positive guidance and redirection techniques. Our staff focuses on teaching children conflict resolution and emotional regulation skills in a nurturing environment. We do not use punitive methods.

12. How do you communicate with parents?

We maintain open communication through an open-door policy, parent-teacher conferences, and a parent communication app.

13. What steps do you take for health and hygiene?

We follow recommended health and safety protocols, including frequent handwashing, sanitizing toys and surfaces, and clear illness procedures. Children must be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

14. Do you have a nap/rest time?

Yes, children have a scheduled rest time each day. We provide a quiet, comfortable space where children can nap or relax after lunch.

15. How do you handle children with allergies or special dietary needs?

We take food allergies and dietary restrictions seriously. Please inform us of any special needs during enrollment, and we will work with you to create a safe meal plan for your child.