MOUNTAIN SPROUTS
CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY

Supporting families by utilizing our natural world and community to cultivate learning

[ENROLLMENT PACKET]

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WELCOME TO MOUNTAIN SPROUTS!

Mountain Sprouts Children's Community is located in the red Art Barn at **Tierra Learning Center**, five miles outside of Leavenworth, Washington at 12000 Sunitsch Canyon Road.

Set on 320 pristine acres, the barn classroom offers a comfortable, rustic setting for kids to experience arts and the natural world.

What is the Tierra Learning Center?

The Tierra Learning Center is a community based organization comprised of four individual enterprises and a broader network of support. The Tierra Learning Center is made up of the Tierra Retreat Center, Tierra Village, Tierra Garden Organics and Mountain Sprouts Children's Community. The Tierra Learning Center is about sharing with others and providing an inclusive and progressive environment. Its mission is:

1. **Tradition**- Sunitsch Canyon has long been a productive agricultural site and continues to reflect this heritage with the hard work and sensible, healthy stewardship of 40 acres of certified organic farm and garden land.
2. **Stewardship** - Tierra Garden Organic Produce regenerates the health of the valley bottom soil in Sunitsch Canyon, hosts bluebirds and swallow colonies and provides the local community beautiful fresh produce and staple food supplies.
3. **Community** - Tierra Garden Organic Produce is an original member of the Tierra Learning Center community, helping to anchor a solid, land based orientation in Sunitsch Canyon. They are happy to work to supply farm fresh produce for events and continue to invigorate our local foods movement.

- **Tierra Retreat Center** sleeps up to 100 people, has a stylish main lodge with full kitchen and a host of other amenities; Tierra Retreat welcomes general inquires and hosts conferences, weddings and retreats through the calendar year.
- **Tierra Village** is an independent 501(c) 3 that provides homes and services for people with developmental disabilities in a collaborative, integrated and diverse community located in a beautiful natural setting.
- **Tierra Garden Organics** is an independent, family run farm holding a long-term lease in Sunitsch Canyon and offering the local community fresh produce through a weekly CSA and at farmer's markets.
- **Tierra Forestry & Biochar** promotes Forest Stewardship. To date Tierra Forestry has completed a forest management plan and conducts FSC ® Certified commercial timber harvest. Tierra Forestry began working to convert some portion of this material to biochar to utilize our natural resource.
- **Tierra Ceramics** is Mijanou Fortney who manages the Tierra Ceramics Studio currently housed in a cozy corner of the old red barn.
- **Mountain Sprouts Children's Community** is an independent 501 (c) 3 and a fully licensed day-care and preschool offering experiential based curriculum to children in the community. MSCC creatively engages preschool aged children to develop social and intellectual skills through hands-on exploration of art, science, music, and community through nature.

Our Purpose

We are dedicated to providing a nurturing, home-away-from-home environment for preschool aged children to play, grow, and learn social and life skills. We provide a reliable childcare solution to the working parents of our community; while creatively engaging children in learning through art, music, and the natural world.

Children enrolled in our program shall be encouraged to play and imagine; inspired to understand, love, and respect nature and the sustainability of the natural world; and engaged in the creation and enjoyment of music, arts, and crafts. Parents shall volunteer time or resources to improve and/or maintain the quality of the cooperative; be involved with fundraising and projects; and maintain communication with Teachers, Board of Directors, and other Parents. Our community shall serve as a source of inspiration, participation, and education.

Our Structure

Mountain Sprouts Children's Community (MSCC) is a non-profit organization registered with the Secretary of the State of Washington. We are also recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

Our Program was created, and is operated, by a Board of Directors comprised of members of our cooperative and vested individuals within the greater community. MSCC's Board's mission is to govern a safe and nurturing childhood educational program and community through leadership, organization, and fiscal responsibility. Parents are encouraged to attend monthly board meetings in addition to the annual meeting held every September to find out ways to participate.

Our Philosophy

Mountain Sprouts Children's Community provides a child-centered, play-oriented program for children from 30 months to 5 years old. We believe that children learn best when they are engaged in their environment through play, and that young children are instinctively motivated to do so when the appropriate environment is presented to them.

MSCC provides children with opportunities to explore the world they live in (be it through music, art, science, or just everyday interaction) and to make choices to create an experience. Exploring the choices, thoughts, and feelings surrounding the experience is the foundation of our curriculum:

- **Emergent Curriculum:** Learning is child-directed; guided by their curiosity and interest. Teachers work as researchers alongside the children. They carefully listen to the interests of the children, assisting the children in defining their questions as a place to begin investigations and express their knowledge.
- **Project Approach/Inquiry Based Learning:** Teachers guide children as they explore their interests and ideas more in depth. Teachers provide materials, help children identify their hypotheses and then work in collaboration with the children to pursue a course of study.

Teachers provide continuous support through the process by asking children questions to encourage them to take their learning to deeper levels.

- **Hands-On, Active Learning:** Research shows that children learn best through play, using their whole bodies in active learning. We honor this in our program, providing an abundance of learning opportunities through meaningful play.
- **Environment as Teacher:** The environment is seen as instrumental to a child's educational experience. The classroom environment is composed thoughtfully and intentionally. Teachers work to create opportunities for learning both in nature and in our classroom while providing a safe, comfortable place for children to carry out their investigations.
- **Teacher as Researcher:** Teachers are committed to listening, observing, and documenting children's work carefully throughout their investigative process. In this capacity, teachers are able to provoke, co-construct, stimulate new thinking, and foster children's collaboration with each other.

Our Methodologies

At Mountain Sprouts we work hard to set kids up for success in life by encouraging them to become responsible and productive contributors to their community; being kind, compassionate friends and family members, and caring stewards of our earth.

We work to achieve these principals by setting expectations and routines within the school day, and guiding our children along the path of making good choices with their words, bodies, and actions. We use emotions to teach our children how their actions have a reaction on the environment and people around them. We put a strong emphasis on using our words to solve our problems and to express how we are feeling.

Expectations tell our children that we know they can do it! When a child follows through with an expectation, they are given positive praise, which leads to a deeper intrinsic reward: feeling proud of themselves. These intrinsic rewards cultivate positive self-esteem and confidence in our little people and lead to more responsible decision making.

Routine is especially important during the preschool years because it enables our children to become more independent. When they know what's coming up next, what to expect, anxiety is reduced, allowing them to take ownership in the events of the day.

Patience breeds the ability to work toward goals, and reach rewards in life. We practice patience every day to help stretch our Children's threshold. Research states that children who can be patient, work hard, and finish a task, are more successful in every avenue of their lives (education, recreation, relationships, and careers). We believe patience is a fundamental key to the success of our children!

Teacher language is vocabulary specifically selected to help children navigate throughout the day. At Mountain Sprouts we use the following phrases consistently to keep our children focused in a positive and productive manner:

- Be purposeful

- Do our best work
- Have a cooperative spirit
- Make the good choice
- Practice patience
- Problem solve
- Take care of our responsibilities
- Use our words to express our feelings

Our children come to know the meaning of these statements through every day encounters at school. They are thoughtfully designed to help our children experience success on a daily basis, and to foster the kind and loving community that Mountain Sprouts is.

CURRICULUM

Daily Encounters

Art: Discover the fundamentals of art: color, line, shape, form and texture through drawing, collages, painting, and 3D sculptures. Art projects motivate ideas and inspiration for writing stories, connects science and math concepts, and allows for self-expression and ingenuity.

Circle Time: Children sing songs, read books, and explore concepts as they learn about days, weeks, months, and seasons. This is a focused time where we are learning new vocabulary words, counting, reasoning, and making connections to our world.

Dramatic Play: Dress up and role play to enhance learning concepts, promote social interactions and encourage imagination.

Literacy Projects: Projects based on books, used to promote early reading and writing and drive art and science exploration.

Math: Numbers, counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are integrated into the curriculum and taught throughout each day in a practical and relevant manner.

Music & Movement: Awareness of our bodies, choreography, rhythm, drumming, song and dance.

Quiet Time: Independent time for reflection, recharging our minds and bodies, and gathering energy for the rest of the day.

Science: Ask questions, make hypothesis, conduct experiments, investigate and explore.

Writing: Practice our fine motor skills by writing and tracing letters, numbers, shapes, names, and theme related words and objects.

YEARLY CURRICULUM

SEPTEMBER	School Routines Fire Safety	Getting to know our friends	Healthy bodies and minds Kindness	Apples Trees Leaves	Crayons Markers Pastels
OCTOBER	Harvest Time Pumpkins Fall nature	Getting to know nature Hiking Outside	Mushrooms Frost & Dew Change	Spiders-Webs Bats Bones	Color Wheel Mixing Tones
NOVEMBER	Thankfulness Tradition Nutrition	Getting to know about Family	Migration Hibernation Native Amer.	Geese Turkeys Owls	Patterns Recycled Art Cooking
DECEMBER	Holidays Solstice Winter	Getting to know your community	Gift of Giving Singing & Rhythm	Eskimos Polar Regions & Animals	Textures Fabrics Homemade
JANUARY	New Year Peace Snowmen	Getting to know about diversity	Responsibility Poetry Rhyming	Foxes Wolves Snow Tracking	Illustration Dark/ Light Silhouette
FEBRUARY	Valentines Love Human Body	Getting to understand our feelings	Fairytales Storytelling 1st, next, last	Melting Freezing Snowpack	Symmetry Inkblots Symbolism
MARCH	Shamrocks Leprechauns St. Patrick's	Getting to know music Styles/Instrum.	Clues Mysteries Spring signs	Rainbows Maps Topography	3Dimensional Molding Sculpting
APRIL	Earth Day Recycling Gardens	Getting to know about geology	Farms Growing Baby animals	Boats Water Forms Water Cycle	Earth Art Murals Dyes
MAY	Kites & Wind Flying things Clouds	Getting to know about Habitats	Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes	Bird Language Ocean Life Pirates	Folding Paper Airplanes
JUNE	Summer Fun Landforms Wilderness	Getting to know about Space	Dinosaurs Amphibians Reptiles	Gravity Cause/Effect Balance	Still Life Matching Sorting
JULY	4th of July The Beach Fireworks	Getting to know about Bugs & Insects	Trains Zoo Animals The Circus	Sinking Floating Balloons	Stars Stripes Polka dots
AUGUST	Aviation Camping Directions	Getting wise in the wilderness	Transportation Castles & Dragons	Building Shelters Wheels/Pulleys	Chalk Art Collaging Sun Fading

DAILY SCHEDULE

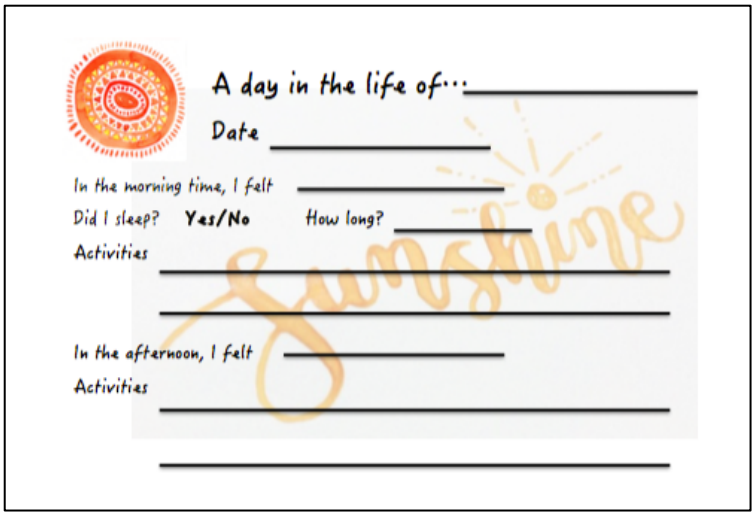
Please remember to sign your child in and out each day! Thanks!

Daily Operating Hours: 7:30am- 5:30pm

Please be here by 9 am for circle time!

How Was My Day?

Sunshine reports can give a little extra information about how your child's day was. If you would like to request Sunshine Reports for your child, please ask your teacher to provide one for you!



7:30	Free Choice
8:45	Snack
9:00	Circle
9:30	Learning
10:00	Nature
11:00	Lunch
11:45	Quiet
1:15	Art
1:45	Snack
2:00	Nature
3:45	Snack
4:00	Music
4:30	Learning
5:30	Farewell

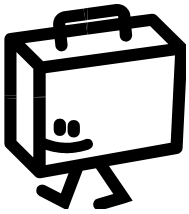
*Quiet time is a delicate time; if you wish to pick up your child during this time of day, please let the teachers know in advance so they may quietly have your child ready to go when you arrive.

CALLING THE SCHOOL:

Direct to classroom: 548-6880 x259

Director's Office: 548-6880 x229

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD BRING TO SCHOOL EACH DAY?



- Healthy Lunch
- Water Bottle
- Blanket or special item for quiet time (favorite stuffed animal)
- Weather-appropriate change of clothes
- *Show and Share*: it is wonderful practice for children to stand in front of their peers to present an idea or object. If you bring an object to share please make sure it is Art or Nature (no toys).

WE LIKE TO GET OUTSIDE!
We need all our kids to come to school prepared for the weather so that we can get out and enjoy our time in nature!

Please dress your child in suitable clothing for the weather:

- **WINTER**: 5 ALIVE! Hat, Warm Coat, Snow Pants, Boots, Mittens!
- **SPRING**: Layered clothing, including a jacket, because weather can be unpredictable!
- **SUMMER**: sun hat, sun block, good hiking shoes & layered clothing, including a jacket - often it can be quite cold in the canyon until late morning!
- **FALL**: 5 ALIVE! Hat, Warm Coat/Rain Jacket, pants, boots/rain boots!

REMEMBER: good shoes for walking outside all year long!

CLASSROOM CUBBIES

Each child will have a cubby to keep their personal items. Sometimes cubbies are shared.

Each day look for art work and notes home in your child's cubby. Help keep our cubbies from overflowing!

QUIET TIME SHEETS
Each child will be given a sheet for their quiet time cot. This sheet is to remain in their cubby at school for their use. Please remember to take your child's sheet home to wash each week and to return it back to Sprouts the following week! THANKS!

PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

We love our Sprouts Parents! It is with parent involvement that we build our children's community and have a high quality school for as low a price as possible.

Families can choose to either volunteer for **two hours each month** (per student) or contribute financially to help support our small program. Sign up for your method of involvement at the Annual Parent Meeting, held in September, otherwise contact the Administrative Coordinator.

SERVE ON A TEAM

Parents may either sign-up with our *Fundraising and Events Team* or *Facilities Team*.

Fundraising and Events

Parents can sign up for one event to help organize for the year.

Activities include: running the farmer's market booth (in the summer and fall), local fundraisers (e.g., South and Munchen Haus), holiday parties, or other special events.

Participating on this committee or at one event will fulfill your involvement time for the year.

Facilities

Parents who would like to help with facilities can contact the teachers to organize your work each month. The current needs are listed in our monthly newsletter.

Activities include deep cleaning, planting, weeding, watering, painting, replacing or repairing things, and participating in our Fall and Spring Work parties.

Parents are encouraged to offer their special services and skills like: photography, woodworking, painting, sewing, music, graphic design, grant writing, teach a lesson in the classroom, etc!

Participating on the Facilities Team, you must record your time spent each month on your child's sign in sheet in the classroom.

Contribute Financially

Parents have full lives, so we offer financial contribution in lieu of volunteering time. There are three options for financial contribution:

Option A:	Option B:	Option C:
Pay $40/month or $20/per hour (per student), billed with your tuition.	Contribute a $40 value donation (per student) to the classroom from our Class Wish List. *The remainder from partial value donations (e.g., $20 instead of $40) will be added to your tuition invoice.* ***Write the value of your donation each month.***	Pay a one-time amount for the whole year of $300, a savings of $180!

SERVE ON THE BOARD

The Sprouts Board of Directors is always recruiting. Participation as a board member will fulfill your involvement time for the year and does not require reporting your hours monthly.

Please contact mia@mtnsprouts.org if you are interested in more information about becoming a board member.

TRACKING AND REPORTING

Parents are responsible for tracking their involvement and reporting each month's activity and time at the bottom of their student sign-in sheet in the classroom, **unless otherwise noted**. If the line is blank at the end of the month, the involvement fee will be added to your next invoice in lieu of your hours.

There is flexibility to put your time and/or financial value together in creative ways throughout the year. Volunteer hours can be applied to multiple months – for example, if you volunteer at the Fall Work Party for 4 hours, you can write your hours down for 2 months.

Please contact us at info@mtnsprouts.org for questions on the program and options for completing your involvement. We have amazing families and LOVE the contributions to our school!

CONTACT INFORMAION

MSCC Staff

Classroom		(509) 548-6880 x 259
Educational Director	chelsey@mtnsprouts.org	Mon – Thur 7:30a – 2p, Fri 7:30a – 11a
Lead Teacher	taylor@mtnsprouts.org	Mon – Thur 2 – 5:30p, Fri 11a – 5:30p
Admin/Office		(509) 548-6880 x 229
Director	mia@mtnsprouts.org	Tuesdays & Thursdays 9a – 2p
Educational Director	chelsey@mtnsprouts.org	Mon – Thur 2 – 3:30p by apt
Admin Coordinator	info@mtnsprouts.org	Mon – Thur 11:30a – 1:30p

All issues and communication regarding the classroom, your student(s) or the program go to chelsey@mtnsprouts.org. All issues, changes or questions regarding schedule, attendance, enrollment or finance go to info@mtnsprouts.org or the office phone. For your information, we use a contracted bookkeeper to manage our financial records.

MSCC Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday evening of each month. All Sprout families are welcome to come to meetings. There are nine board member positions, 4 titled and 5 at large. To inquire about meetings or joining the board, please contact mia@mtnsprouts.org.

Visit mtnsprouts.org

Our website has Staff and Board profiles; all enrollment, financial and policy forms; and location and hours. www.mtnsprouts.org

MSCC Keepin' it Real

Follow us on social media for the latest and greatest on what's going on in the program. Search facebook.com/mtnsprouts or instagram.com/mountain_sprouts/

MSCC STAFF

MSCC President: Mia Bretz

Email: mia@mtnsprouts.org
Phone: 509.548.6880, ext. 229

Mia has her degrees in Environmental Issues, Land Use and Natural Resources Economics. She is a mother of three kids, two are alumni of Sprouts and one is a future Sprout. Mia is passionate about her family and their education as well as climbing, surfing, snowboarding, and laughing as much as possible!

Educational Director: Chelsey Diamond

Email: Chelsey@mtnsprouts.org
Phone: 509.548.6880, ext. 259

As an educator devoted to hands-on, creative learning, Chelsey is thrilled to teach in the inspiring, purposeful school that Mountain Sprouts has proven to be! She obtained her Elementary Education Training and K-8 Teaching Certificate from the University of Washington at Bothell in 2009, and that was after graduating from the University of Washington with a BA in Interdisciplinary Arts with a focus on society, ethics and human behavior. Her teaching style and philosophy is to work in symphony with the child's own inner guide and to sustain a calm, prepared, environment for students to expand their own unique personalities, develop their own abilities and be free to follow their own interests. She proudly supports each child's individual growth and potential as lifelong learners.

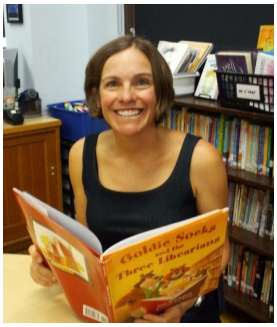
Lead Teacher and Administrative Assistant: Taylor Sweigard

Email: taylor@mtnsprouts.org
Phone: 509.548.6880, ext. 229

Taylor has her Associates of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Wenatchee Valley College and many years experience teaching in early childhood. She taught pre-k through third grade with an emphasis on working with children who have special needs. As a teacher, Taylor works to build a nurturing environment where every student can gain self worth and accomplishment, solve problems, accept others for their differences and express themselves. She strives to encourage independence, exploration, and creativity that promotes life long learning. In her free time she enjoy reading, baking, running, and yoga.

MSCC STAFF

Substitute Teacher: Anne Manning



Anne has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Montana and a Master's degree in Reading from the University of LaVerne in CA. After several years working as a Reading Specialist in the Seattle area, Anne and her husband moved to Leavenworth where she became a part of our school community. A few of her hobbies are climbing, backcountry skiing, and trail running. Always positive, Anne finds the best in others and loves to share her spirit and happiness with everyone around her.

Substitute Teacher: Denice Scott

Denice is a newer resident to our local community, and was looking for more ways to be involved. Her time spent at Mountain Sprouts with her Grandson, Conrad, reminded her of how fun learning should be, so that learning is possible. She was inspired to be a part of our teaching team! She has a warm heart, a kind soul that loves her family, her horse, and being active in the outdoors!

Substitute Teacher: Jenny Badewitz

After graduating with a degree in International Affairs and French, Jenny took some time to travel and pursue her outdoor passions of rock climbing, skiing and rafting. While Jenny has worked with children of all ages in multiple environments (and languages!), she mostly enjoys those aged three to six. Their boundless energy and individualistic creativity shine unabashed and true, their curiosity in life is genuine and they have ways of helping her laugh and see the silly sides of life that we forget exist.

Substitute Teacher: Janelle Deane

Janelle graduated with a double degree in Biology and Interdisciplinary Visual Arts from The University of Washington. Throughout college, education was a large focus; she took many education classes and volunteered in special needs classrooms. Since then she has worked as a guide taking children into wilderness settings for multiple days. In her free time she enjoys sea and whitewater kayaking, hiking, rock climbing and volunteering as a member of Search and Rescue.

ENROLLMENT POLICIES

Eligibility

Parents or guardians with a child who is between 30 months old and 5 years by date of enrollment AND potty-trained, unless a disability prevents them from being so, are eligible. MSCC may enroll kindergarten age students for care on non-school days. Any exception to this rule shall be by the approval of the Board and the teachers.

Policy: Parents must provide a certified copy of their child's birth certificate as proof of age for enrollment.

Application

Before enrolling, the applicant may be interviewed by the Board of Trustees, President, and/or the teachers. Those who are admitted are parents or guardians who:

- Has an eligible child.
- Is fiscally responsible.
- Volunteers.
- Abides by the Parent-Cooperative Policy Manual.
- Reads and understands the conditions and terms of Enrollment.

Policy: Upon acceptance, the applicant agrees to sign Acknowledgment Agreements in the Enrollment Form and abide by the MSCC Parent Cooperative Handbook.

Denial of Enrollment

At the discretion of the Board of Trustees, a review of the parent's/guardian's past record at the preschool may be conducted to determine if the parent/guardian will be considered **not in good standing** going forward. This determination may result from a parent's/guardian's: 1) failure to accomplish duties and fulfill obligations; or 2) violation of the Parent-Cooperative Policy Manual and Bylaws.

A child may be denied enrollment based on the Board's review of the parent's past record at the Cooperative, or a past finding that the parent was determined **not in good standing**.

Prioritized Enrollment

Enrollment is first come first served with priorities given in this order:

1. Currently enrolled or alumni families of MSCC, priority deadline for alumni families is December 31st for enrollment for the following academic year.
2. Prospective applicants from the waitlist
3. The general public

Mountain Sprouts Children's Community admits students of any race, color, gender, religion, national and ethnic origin, age, handicap, or sexual orientation and does not discriminate in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, or other school administered programs.

30-Day Trial Period & Right to Dismiss

Mountain Sprout admits new students on a 30-Day Trial Period.

Mountain Sprouts strives to work closely with parents and their children on adjustment, and any emotional, physical, or behavioral issues that may present themselves during the 30-Day Trial Period and beyond. However, at any point during the trial period, or in the course of regular enrollment, the Program Supervisor and Board of Directors reserve the right to dismiss a child from the program.

See also: *Extended Absences/Vacations*, *Tuition and Fee Schedule* *and Grievance Policy in the MSCC Policy Manual.*

Enrollment Forms and Records

Parents are required to provide all records necessary for enrollment prior to the start of attendance. Failure to do so will result in the parent and child being barred from attendance and may result in permanent expulsion from the program.

Financial Requirements

Policy: Entry into MSCC requires Enrollment Fee, prorated Annual Supply Fee and first month's tuition. Any exceptions to this policy will be made at the discretion of the Board.

See the Parent Handbook for financial policies and the full list of fees. See the Tuition and Fee Schedule for current rates. All fees remain the same during the months with school holidays, vacations, absences, and emergency closings. All fees may change at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Tuition

Tuition is non-refundable during the 30-day trial period. However, tuition will be pro-rated per day for those beginning after the 1st of the month.

Fees for Enrollment

1. **Enrollment Fee**

   The Enrollment Fee may be refundable if the child is dismissed or if the parent's elect not to enroll their child permanently at the end of the 30-day trial period. The Enrollment Fee is non-refundable after the 30-day trial period.

2. **Annual Supply Fee**

   Annual Supply Fee will be prorated for new students after completion of the 30-day trial period, unless child enrolls in September in which the full amount will be charged. Annual Fees are used for supplies, personalization and other classroom needs, and are separate from the Enrollment Fee. The Annual Supply Fee is non-refundable.

3. **Waitlist Fee**

   A non-refundable Waitlist Fee is required to place your child on our waiting list. This fee will be applied to the Enrollment Fee upon your child entering the program.