



Admissions Policy

Parents' Nursery School seeks a student body which represents a variety of racial, ethnic, cultural, religious and economic backgrounds. We value diversity within our school community and do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic and national origin, religion, political beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation, or family lifestyle in the administration of admissions and educational policies and financial assistance programs.

Our admissions goals at Parents' Nursery School are to maintain a balance of boys and girls and three and four year olds, and to increase the diversity of our school community. Whenever possible, priority is given to siblings of children currently enrolled, to siblings of alumni children and to children who will help diversify our student body.

- All applications received by February 15 will be considered together. Applications received after that date will be reviewed as space allows.
- Admission to the school for academic year 2012-2013 is open to children who will be at least three years old by December 30.
- Families interested in applying for admission to Parents' Nursery School must tour the school to complete their application.
- Please contact the Admissions team at admissions@parentsnurserieschool.net or call the school 617-864-3913 with any questions or to schedule a tour. Tours are given Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings at 9:00.
- Tuition assistance is available.

We will let families know of their admissions status beginning in March. All children we are unable to accept at that time will be placed on an active waiting list.

Quick Facts:

- PNS is a parent cooperative
- Mixed age classroom with a daily maximum of 20 children
- 4 and 5-day slots available
- 2 teachers and 2 parent helpers in the classroom
- The school day is from 8:30am-12:30pm
- Extended day offered M-W-F until 3:00 pm
- Children have lunch at school
- 2011 Tuition
4-day - \$7145
5-day - \$8788
- Financial Aid available



Parents' Nursery School Application

Parents' Nursery School is committed to a diverse student body and does not discriminate on the basis of race, disabilities, sex, color, creed, sexual orientation, or national origin. Prospective families must visit the school prior to submitting an application for admission consideration. Please contact the Admissions team at admissions@parentsnurserieschool.net or call the school 617-864-3913, to schedule a tour of the school.

We aim to maintain a balance of age and gender, and to preserve a diverse student population. Preference is given to siblings of current and former students. Tuition for the 2011-2012 school year is currently: \$7145 (4 days) and \$8788 (5 days). We expect an inflationary rise for the 2012-2013 school year. A non-refundable, non-deductible application fee of \$40 must accompany the application form. If this is a hardship, please make a note of this on the back of the application. Scholarship funds for tuition are available.

Application Form – 2012-2013

Please return this form by February 15 with your \$45 non-refundable application fee (payable to Parents' Nursery School) to:

Admissions Committee, Parents' Nursery School, 40A Reservoir St., Cambridge, MA 02138

Child's Name _____ **Date of Birth** _____ **Gender** _____

Parent's Name _____ **Parent's Name** _____

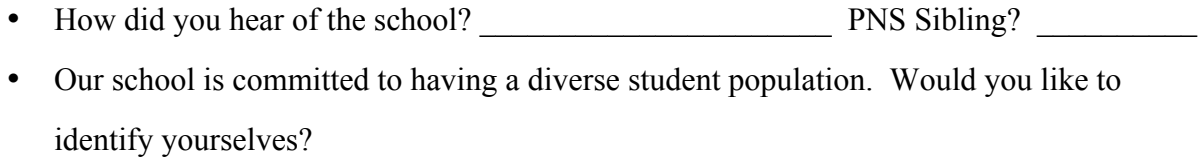
Address _____ **Address** _____

City _____ **City** _____

Zip _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Phone** _____

E-mail _____ **Email** _____



- As a parent cooperative we rely heavily on the skills of our community. Are there any skills your family might like to offer?



Curriculum and Philosophy

Some thoughts from PNS teachers

The program at Parents' Nursery School (PNS) takes a developmental approach to the education of young children, helping them master the basic learning and social skills that form the foundation for all future learning.

Children between the ages of three and five need a safe, stimulating environment where they can make their own choices, their own discoveries — and, sometimes, their own mistakes.

Studies have shown that children's language and intellectual skills develop best when they are playing games of their own invention, rather than participating in activities dictated by adults. Thus the curriculum at PNS is entirely child-centered — the day is spent in things the kids find interesting, rather than in things we might think they "should" be learning.

When you visit the school, look at it from a child's point of view. Children walk in and see a world of limitless possibility. They look around and begin to wonder, to imagine, and to question. The play dough is set out near the sand table. What happens if we mix sand into the play dough? What if we drape cloths over the indoor climbing structure, and turn it into a tent? What if we spend the whole day — or the whole week — outside digging a system of trenches and then filling them with water? (And what if there are five of us and only three shovels? Can we take turns in a way that's fair to everybody? Are there other things we could use to dig with?)

Sometimes prospective parents ask why the day here is not more structured. The fact is that a young child's life is already pretty structured, with mealtimes, bath time, bedtime, being told it's time to go to the store or time to leave the playground. We believe that the function of a preschool is to provide them with a place where, for a few hours a day, they can set the agenda.

Our job, as teachers, is to keep them safe; to encourage and stimulate but not to control; to help them learn by doing rather than simply telling them what we think they should know.

Children change and develop over the course of their two years at PNS. For younger children, the first challenges are generally social — learning to get along in a group, to speak up and assert one's own needs, to respect others' words and choices, to gain in independence while knowing that adult support is there if needed. Older children get to experience leadership — they know the ropes and are often very solicitous of younger kids — and they tend to explore projects and materials in greater depth.



For all PNS children, there is a strong sense of ownership and mastery. This is their place. They choose how to spend their time and what to do with the materials offered. They put away their own cups after snack time, and they tidy up the school at the end of the day. They are proud when their parent comes in to parent help, but also comfortable asking any adult in the school to tie their shoes, read a story, or help them get something down from a high shelf.

Overall, the children who go through PNS tend to develop independence, self-reliance, curiosity, and a joyful enthusiasm about school and learning. They learn to respect themselves and others, to make choices, and to solve disputes through negotiation. These, more than any others, are the skills that prepare them for kindergarten and for all the learning that follows.



Mission Statement

Parents' Nursery School (PNS) is a parent cooperative pre-school that helps children build the fundamental social and emotional skills necessary to become lifelong learners. At PNS learning is developmentally appropriate and meaningful to children's lives. We are committed to supporting families by providing a place where children can safely expand their boundaries from home to the outside world.

Children at Parents' Nursery School:

- engage in self-directed free-play, facilitated by teachers and parent helpers;
- have ready access to and can explore the natural outdoor environment; and
- extend their physical, emotional, and developmental boundaries while supported by a community that maintains a strong connection between home and school.

At PNS we trust a child's innate curiosity to be the springboard for learning. Within every activity there are opportunities for problem solving, critical thinking, joy, and humor. Through play and engagement with others, children learn to identify their feelings, advocate for themselves, view problems from multiple perspectives, and resolve conflict. Parents' Nursery School values the development of a diverse community of adults and children. Together, we emphasize learning rather than teaching, and process rather than product.



Cooperative Responsibilities and Benefits

Being a member of a cooperative is very rewarding, but it is also hard work. It demands time, effort and emotional and physical energy. While our education philosophy and curriculum are implemented and maintained by the director and the teachers, parents provide the labor and organization required to keep the school in a state of full enrollment, financial solvency, and physical repair. In order to help determine if our cooperative would work for you, please review the following summary of parent responsibilities.

Parent Help

Serve as the parent helper from 8:30am – 1:30pm, approximately twice per month. Take an active role in classroom activities, provide snack for 24 children and clean up the school at the end of the day. Nannies, babysitters or other family members cannot be substituted for parent helpers.

Parent Job

Every family has a Parent Job and works cooperatively within our job system to make sure our school functions optimally on a daily and long term basis. Expect a time commitment of approximately two hours per week during the year and a significant increase at specific times during the year — Fall Festival, Spring Fair, Admissions Open House, etc. Every attempt will be made to match parent skill sets and schedules to job descriptions. Some jobs will require schedule flexibility during the day. All jobs will require coordinating with other members of the cooperative and time will need to be set aside for planning meetings or other joint ventures.

Community Meetings

Attend mandatory evening community meetings once every six weeks. Typically meetings are from 7:30 – 9:30pm at school. One adult from each family is expected to attend. Children are not permitted. Expect to attend up to three additional orientation meetings in the first six weeks of school.

School Events

Active participation in special all-school events is required of all cooperative members. These events include the Fall Harvest Festival and the Spring Fair. Tasks could include baking for a bake sale, running a games booth, selling raffle tickets, soliciting local businesses for auction items, helping with set up and clean up of the event, putting up flyers etc. Attendance, while not mandatory, is encouraged at other school events such as bi-annual potluck dinners, Parents' Night Out and the Harvest Feast.



Saturday Clean-up

Each family is responsible for up to two weekend clean-ups throughout the year. This keeps the school clean and organized for your children. This will take approximately four hours. Children are not permitted at school during Saturday Clean-up. Tasks include an overall cleaning of the school, cleaning of specific areas of the school on a rotating basis, sorting art work, and yard work depending on the season.

Fall and Spring Work Days

Attend two mandatory work days and help keep our school safe and beautiful for the children. Each family works one three-hour shift, morning or afternoon. Children are not permitted at school on work days. Tasks might include: painting, gardening, cleaning or small carpentry projects.

Co-op Communication

Information is shared via email, notices in family mail boxes and signs posted at school. In order to ensure the smooth running of the school parents must keep themselves up to date with the flow of communication in the cooperative and read messages daily. (Note: it is not mandatory to have internet access to be a contributing member of the co-op although it is very helpful.)

Intermittent Community Support

Occasionally, co-op members will be asked to help out above and beyond these requirements. In the case of teacher illness, family emergencies or school-wide admissions or fundraising endeavors, parents will be asked to volunteer their time and energy to fill in as needed.

Benefits

While helping to maintain a cooperative is hard work, the benefits you reap are great:

- You are an active participant in your child's preschool experience.
- Your child's community also becomes yours. Wonderful friendships are formed among children, parents, and families.
- You have a built-in support network of parents who are committed to the same ideals in the education of young children.
- There is deep satisfaction in knowing that you are an integral part of forming and supporting your child's school and his or her first educative experience.