



Growing Tree Preschool

AT GURNEE PARK DISTRICT

Growing Tree Preschool Frequently Asked Questions

2026/2027

Admission Age Requirement:

Children must be 2 ½, 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1 of that school year. Example: 3 years old by September 1, 2026, to attend a 3 year old preschool class

Documentation Requirements:

In late July all enrolled participants receive a link to an online form's portal, ePACT. Parents complete a preschool information form and upload a physician completed DHS Certificate of Child Health and birth certificate copy.

Medication Dispensing:

If administering medication is necessary while at school, a Permission to Dispense Medication Form is required. Please contact the Preschool Manager at 847-599-3767 to discuss medications that can be administered. [Click here for form](#)

Toilet Training:

3 and 4 Year Old Classes: Children must be able to independently manage all toileting needs, including pulling down and up clothing, sitting or standing as needed, wiping, flushing, and washing and drying their hands. Teachers will provide regular reminders and opportunities to use the bathroom; however, they do not wipe or change children.

We understand that accidents can happen. Staff will supervise and assist verbally while a child changes into clean clothing. If a bowel movement occurs and the child is unable to clean themselves, parents will be contacted to come and assist.

At the start of the school year, we recognize that this transition can take time. Families may choose to send their child in a pull-up while they adjust. Pull-ups will be permitted through October 1; after that date, children must attend in underwear.

2 ½-3 ½ Year Old Class: Pull Ups/diapers are allowed, but teachers do not change children during class and will call parents if needed.

Supplies Needed:

Children bring a backpack and reusable water bottle filled with water each day. All school supplies such as crayons, markers, glue etc. are provided along with a two-pocket home/school folder.

3 and 4 Year Old Classes: Children need to bring a warm jacket, snow pants, pull on boots, hat and mittens for winter outdoor play and gym shoes for the classroom and indoor play.

Students in the Extended Day 4 year old classes or students attending Adventure Club and Enrichment Classes bring a lunch from home daily. We also ask to please send proper utensils, plates, bowls, etc., with your child for lunch. We do not have refrigeration space for lunches.

Curriculum - State of Illinois Early Learning Standards for Preschool:

Our curriculum includes eight learning areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Physical Development and Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Social/Emotional Development. Within these learning areas there are more than 100 benchmarks that are incorporated throughout the three and four year old preschool years. The extent to which the benchmarks are covered depends on how often the class meets and the length of the class. Our curriculum is filled with kindergarten readiness components, most importantly including: learning to be flexible, self-sufficient with clothing and belongings (i.e. zipping, switching from shoes to boots, stowing belongings in the cubby, bringing a water bottle, remembering home/school folder), returning a greeting given by teachers/staff and treating all children and adults with kindness and respect.

Parent Communication:

We use Class Dojo, a free online and app-based program, to share daily communication, photos of classroom activities, and important reminders. Families also receive a monthly calendar to help stay informed. Parent-teacher conferences are held in late fall, and teachers are available for private conversations before or after class, or by phone as needed. In addition, an email with key information is sent to all families in July, prior to the start of the school year.

Preschool Calendar:

Growing Tree follows the Woodland School District 50 school calendar for no class dates. Preschool is not affected by Woodland early release days.

Payment Policy and Procedure:

A \$75 non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of registration. On July 15, the first tuition payment (for September) will be automatically withdrawn from the bank account or credit card provided. For families registering after July 15, both the \$75 registration fee and the first tuition payment are due at the time of registration. All tuition payments are non-refundable. Subsequent tuition payments are automatically withdrawn on the 15th of the month prior (e.g., October tuition is withdrawn on September 15).

Tuition is calculated by taking the total number of school days in the year and dividing the cost into nine equal installments; it is not based on the number of school days in each month. You will receive an email statement on the 15th once your automatic payment has been processed. Tuition is not prorated for partial-month attendance.