

Class Descriptions

updated 6/13/09

Nursery 6 weeks – 3(4) years old

Our well-designed nursery will have a variety of toys for all children in this age range. Leaders will sprinkle in optional activities including story time and music time throughout the day. Children ages 2-3(4) will have classes to attend outside of the nursery (see Nursery School below). Children who nap easily when they are tired will be welcome to take naps in the nursery as needed. See the handbook for suggestions regarding the nursery and your child.

Nursery School 2-3(4) year olds

Children in this age range need lots of free play time, so their day will be based on this principle. Their base will be our well-designed nursery where they will have lots of unstructured (but supervised) time to explore, use their imaginations, and interact with other children. During this in-the-room nursery time, there will also be brief optional structured times offered where leaders will invite children to gather for story time and music fun. For children who would do best staying in the nursery, this can fulfill their nursery school experience.

For children ages 2-3(4) who would enjoy additional activities outside the nursery, you can build these into your nursery school child's schedule. See class descriptions below for Tot Art and Tot PE. You can schedule your child for one or both.

Tot Art 2-3(4) year olds

In this class it's all about the process. Young children learn by doing! Activities will provide them with opportunities to explore art materials and discover what they can do with them. Children will be encouraged to dictate their thoughts and stories about their art pieces to develop language skills.

Tot PE: 2-3(4) year olds

This lively class will provide lots of gross motor activities. Each class will include a circle time to introduce the activities of the day. This might include parachute play, singing, playing circle games or participating in an obstacle course.

Class size limit (total for all children in nursery & nursery school programs): 12

Quarks Group Explore Classes & Free Play 4-5(6) year olds

Children in the Quarks group will participate in each Explore class listed below as a group. Their base will be a well stocked classroom which is filled with toys which encourage imaginative play. Some classes below will be held in the Quark room while others will take place elsewhere in the building.

Class size limit: 8

Explore Art 4-5(6) year olds

While still emphasizing process, this class will introduce children to new projects and experiences with art materials as they continue to discover what they can do with them. Children will be encouraged to dictate their thoughts and stories about their art pieces to continue developing language skills.

Explore PE 4-5(6) year olds

Each class will include a circle time to introduce and practice fun, age appropriate skills. Short games involving physical movement and introductory sports skills will be included. This will be a time for lots of gross motor fun.

Explore Writers' Workshop 4-5(6) year olds

This lighthearted class will afford children opportunities to "write" in many different genres as children do their own writing or dictate to an adult. Inviting projects, often tied to literature, will be introduced. Some projects will be created as a group, some done as individuals. Children will celebrate their writing by having the opportunity to share their pieces with the group, having them acted out by their classmates, and/or displaying them.

Explore Unit Studies 4-5(6) year olds

We will choose a topic which we will explore from many different angles. We will read fiction and non-fiction, experiment, learn songs or poems, play games, and more- all different activities that have to do with the topic. Through this approach, we will explore subjects such as science, culture, history, music, art, and writing together as it applies to our topic.

Explore Free Play 4-5(6) year olds

Children in this age group need lots of time to play and will enjoy several periods of free play in the classroom. Children in this group will also have additional free play time in the gym.

Young Neutrons Free Play

Neutrons who are 6 or 7 years old before Sept. 1 may have a 45 minute gym free play in the afternoon during the second half of art studio.

Writers' Workshop 6-12(13) year olds

Writers' Workshop is a class where children can express themselves as authors through writing short stories, poems, recipes, scripts, non-fiction, etc. Children are encouraged to write much and to occasionally choose pieces to take through the writing process to "publishing."

Picture this: some children are writing furiously while others are telling their stories to adults who are writing them down. There are kids looking through folders, the picture file, and rubber stamps for writing inspiration while others are working on the suggested project of the day. Two children are conferencing where one child has asked another to peer edit her piece. Everywhere you look there is a relaxed atmosphere as children work at their own pace on projects that interest them.

Soon children will gather in groups where they can share their works in progress for positive feedback.

While there will be no homework assigned per se, children may want to work at home with a parent when they are ready to edit and proofread a piece. A "magazine" will be created in the winter and spring sessions. Children who choose to participate will need their parents to proofread their pieces for submission.

Class size limit: 24

Hands-on Science 6-8(9) year olds and (8)9-12(13) year olds

In both of our science classes, we'll be pulling out the lab coats and goggles and exploring the wonderful world of hands-on science! From biology to chemistry, each session will allow students to explore a branch of science, learn more about the scientific method, and do a ton of hands on activities. Students will create a project notebook with pictures, lab reports, and other information to document what they've learned.

Class size limit: 12 (each age range group)

Art Studio 6-12(13) year olds

Put on your smocks and step up to your easel for this hands-on studio arts class. Throughout the session, students will explore various media, all while learning art concepts and a bit of art history for context and greater understanding. This will be a welcoming, relaxed environment ensuring a positive experience for all.

A long class period (90 minutes) allows for really getting into a project, while multiple "stations" with various activities will give those who wish to do different things for shorter times that option. Plenty of volunteers will be on hand to assist this delightful mix of ages.

Class size limit: 24

PE 6-8(9) year olds and (8)9-12(13) year olds

Children will explore a variety of fitness skills and sports. They will work on skills in the context of games in a fun and supportive atmosphere.

Class size limit: 12 (each age range group)

Teen Program 2009-2010

Because we are a co-operative, our programs depend on the participation of parents. We are excited about this team model and believe it creates a wonderful, supportive atmosphere.

We believe there are families with teens who would benefit from and enjoy a once a week program to offer additional opportunities for social connections as well as activities to pull together their interests and skills. This vision is very general and would develop with input from the teens themselves.

We see two options for a teen program forming.

Option 1 **Teen Workshop**, full membership

Needed: 3 or more teens, two adult advisors

Program: With the help of the advisors, the group of teens would create their own program which might involve a combination of the following:

- a class taught on a certain subject
- volunteer time with younger children in the co-op
- a teen workshop: A large block of time to work on a project together such as a newspaper, zine, small business, photography, or whatever the teens and advisors can develop
- other ideas

Option 2 **Teen Build a Day**, individualized membership

If we do not have either enough teens or enough advisors to develop option 1 at this time, we will offer option 2.

This option is offered primarily so that a family with younger children participating in the co-op who also have a teen would have worthwhile activities for their teen during co-op time.

Base individualized membership: \$85.00

Additional fees: materials fees for classes attended, if any

Your teen's day would be built from the following menu:

- Volunteer one or two periods, maybe three
- Take classes with the next oldest age group (9-12)
 - Art Studio-This is a fairly self-directed class and would be a great time for a teen to pursue his or her interests with the materials we have available

- Writers' Workshop-This is a self-directed class where a teen could write in areas of interest.
- PE- The sports and activities which are the most multi-age and "doable" in our setting might work for your teen.
- Science- some units might work for your teen
- A subject which interests your teen might work as an area in which for him or her to volunteer as partly participant, partly mentor.
- Bring his or her own work to co-op and spend much of the day studying. You would be scheduled in such a way that you could check in with your teen regularly. If you anticipate wanting instructional time with your teen, you could volunteer as a monitor in the study room for that time. If your teen is using any DVD curriculum, you could bring a portable DVD player and headset, or we have one we will be able to loan you during co-op time.
- Read
- Be allowed to bring his or her own video game and play it for the amount of time which you determine.
- Have time in the board game room if there are other older children or teens who have chosen the board game room as an option for a time period.

We would work directly with you to talk about what might work best for your teen's schedule. If your teen takes any classes, materials fees below would be added onto your teen's base membership of \$85.00. The base membership would be required for all teens attending the co-op.

	Materials Fee Per Session
Art Studio	\$50
Writers' Workshop	\$10
PE	\$0
Science	\$50