

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is your philosophy of education?**

Your child comes first in the warm, caring atmosphere of CPI. The primary goals of our program are for your child to feel good about himself/herself and to enjoy school. CPI's teachers enthusiastically support your child's curiosity and creativity while teaching skills such as listening, following directions, getting along with others, handling success and failure, and making choices. Each day your child will explore and create a variety of hands on activities such as the rice table, play dough, art projects, and music.

- **Are you state licensed?**

Yes and CPI is a member of the Virginia Cooperative Preschool Council (VCPC).

- **What are your teachers' credentials?**

All teachers hold one of the following:

1. A degree in Elementary Education or related field;
2. Equivalent experience in early childhood education; or
3. Two years experience at CPI

- **What are your class sizes? What is the adult to child ratio?**

Our class sizes range from 10 – 12 students. Each class has 2 adults present – either 1 paid teacher and 1 parent helper or 1 paid teacher and 1 paid assistant. That makes our ratios 1 adult to 5 children at minimum and 1 to 6 at maximum.

- **How many days are your programs?**

We offer a two day a week Beginners program, our 3 year old programs are two or three days a week and our 4 year old program is 3 days a week. In addition, we are offering a one day a week Explorer's Class for our 4's. This can be added to the three day a week program to make it a four day program.

- **What is the Explorer's Class?**

The Friday Explorer's Class will have one teacher and one aide. Lunch Bunch is available for children enrolled in Friday morning classes that are staying for the entire day, or for those who would like an extra afternoon class for their child. Activities will be theme-based on "the story of the day". The children will explore adventures in literature through activities that include imaginative dramatic play, math and manipulatives, music and movement, sensory, art, science and cooking. Children will also be introduced to simple sign language and "Zoo-phonics" (a fun way to learn about letters and sounds).

- **What is Lunch Bunch?**

Lunch bunch is a program offered for the threes who are enrolled in the Wednesday afternoon Mom's Afternoon Out or fours who are enrolled in the Friday afternoon Explorer's Class. The lunch bunch will be supervised by rotating teachers, parents will provide their child lunch. Information on lunches as related to food allergies will be provided to those enrolled in the Lunch Bunch.

- **What is the difference between full coop and non coop?**

Full Coop responsibilities include:

- Helping as the teacher's assistant in your child's class on a regular basis. (In the 3s, it comes out to be approximately once every six weeks and in the 4s, it's about once a month.)
- Providing snack on a rotating basis.
- Participating on a school committee.
- Once during the year, participating in cleaning the school.

Non Coop responsibilities include:

- Providing snack on a rotating basis.

- **What months is your school in session?**

School starts in September and concludes at the end of May. CPI does offer a couple of weeks of summer camp, usually at the beginning of June.

- **How long is a "class period"?**

Our classes are 2 hours and 45 minutes long.

- **How do you handle discipline?**

With positive reinforcement and continued repetition of routine.

- **Does my child have to be potty trained?**

No. It is our preference that they are trained, but it is not required. We do ask that parents are actively trying to potty train their child.

- **How do you deal with children with food allergies?**

Food allergies are taken very seriously at CPI. Due the life-threatening nature of peanut allergies, we are a peanut free school. We have opted for a snack program that designates the allowable snack for each

month/week. Our aim in choosing this list is to avoid exposure to the most common of dangerous childhood allergies. That being said, if there is anything on the list that your child may still be allergic to or that you wish for them to not eat, you may provide fresh fruit/fruit cups/applesauce cups instead. For our kids who do have life threatening allergies, our teachers are all trained in the use of epi-pens and we have space to keep required medications at school in the event of an emergency. Any further discussion needed regarding your child's specific allergy can be directed to our Health and Safety Director.

- **What are your arrival and departure procedures?**

Children are dropped off and picked up from the porch of the school. A teacher or parent helper will get your child out of the car at drop off. Your child's teacher will put your child in the car when you pick them up. You then buckle your child in.

- **Do you go on field trips?**

The Beginners and 3 year olds only have "in-house" field trips. They do not leave the property. The 4 year olds have a few off-site field trips. Parents of 4 year olds are required to drop off and pick up their child from any field trip or arrange their own carpool with other parents in the class.

- **How does tuition work?**

Tuition is determined on an annual basis. The annual tuition is broken down into 9 installments. The first installment is due July 1st, along with a one time supply fee, and the second installment is due October 1st. Installments continue monthly through May. If you prefer, you can pay the full tuition upfront in July.

- **What does the registration fee cover?**

The registration fee covers administrative fees such as supplies, copying, etc.

- **What does the supply fee cover?**

The supply fee goes toward all school supplies purchased throughout the year.

- **When is your Open House?**

Traditionally, it is the 3rd Saturday in January. Check out our website www.centrevillepreschool.com for exact date and time.

- **When does registration begin? What is your procedure?**

Registration for new students begins after our Open House in January. All paperwork must be mailed through the US Postal Service during the stated dates in your enrollment packet. Once our initial enrollment period is complete, a rolling admission policy is in effect.

- **Can my child enroll in your Beginners program mid-year?**

In order to participate in our Beginners program, all students must be 2 ½ years old by September 30th of that school year. If your child meets that age criteria and we have a spot become available mid-year, he/she can be enrolled. However, if your child turns 2 ½ years old after September 30th of that school year, he/she is too young to be enrolled in our Beginners program.