



## Preschool FAQ

1. When does school start and end? When is school closed?
  - a. Portland Parks and Recreation Preschool starts after Labor Day and runs through the end of May. Preschool follows the Portland Public School calendar for holiday closures, winter and spring breaks. There are three teacher development days during the school year as well. Your site will provide you with a list of closures in the fall.
2. How do I get in touch with my child's teacher?
  - a. You can call or email your teacher using their center phone number or email address. Each teacher has preferred times and contact information that will be passed out at orientation.
3. What is your behavior management policy?
  - a. The basis of our behavior management policy is to encourage positive behavior and to facilitate social learning. Strategies such as redirecting children and setting clear limits are the basis for facilitating self-management when difficulties arise, as well as developing self-control and problem solving in children. All children are encouraged to "use words" to express what they want, need, and how they feel. Appropriate and positive behaviors are continually reinforced. If a child is struggling their Teacher may have your child take a break to re-center themselves and be ready to enter back into play.
4. Does my child have to be potty-trained before starting preschool?
  - a. Yes, all preschool students must be potty-trained. We understand that anyone can have an accident and if this happens we have the child change themselves in the bathroom, with help from a teacher. If this is not possible, we will call the parent and have the parent come to the center with clean clothes to change their child. If you are unavailable, your emergency backup person, which you provided during original enrollment, will be called.
5. My child has food allergies. What is your food allergy protocol?
  - a. We work with families to support children with allergies, providing alternatives when possible. When a child has a life-threatening allergy, we will make every effort to eliminate that substance from the child's classroom and playground to eliminate risk. All families in the child's classroom are notified when these precautions are requested and asked to eliminate the allergen from their child's food from home. If your child has severe allergies requiring the use of an epi-pen or medication, please inform your child's Teacher and the Program Coordinator.
6. Can we bring in food from home to share with the class?
  - a. All food that is meant to be shared must be store bought. Please talk to your child's teacher about classroom allergies and guidelines before bringing in shared food.



# PORTLAND PARKS PRESCHOOL



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION™  
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

7. Will my student participate in safety drills during the school year?
  - a. Your child's Teacher will be working with the children year-round on safety drills and evacuation procedures. Teachers follow the PP&R 'Evacuation Planning and Drill Manual for Preschools', which include age appropriate activities for emergency preparedness, including the following five components: fire, earthquake, lockdown, lockout, and environmental hazards.
8. Is parent volunteering required? Can we volunteer if we want to?
  - a. Parent volunteering is not a requirement of enrollment. Your child's teacher will let you know if they would like you to volunteer in their classroom or if they have additional ways they would like you to help. All volunteers must fill out a volunteer form and background check.
9. What is your inclement weather policy?
  - a. Preschool may be canceled due to inclement weather, such as ice, snow, or extreme heat. Check with your PP&R facility for the most current information via phone or online at [portlandoregon.gov/parks/weather](http://portlandoregon.gov/parks/weather). PP&R facility's voicemail, social media outlets and PP&R website will all feature operating information including opening and closing times.
10. What are the fees and how do I pay them?
  - a. You can talk to the Program Coordinator at your site to get full information about these topics.
11. Does Portland Parks Preschool offer scholarships?
  - a. We believe all preschool age children should have access to educational opportunities in their community. If the cost of Portland Parks Preschool is out of your reach, we encourage you to speak to our staff about scholarship opportunities that may align the price to your family's budget.
12. Portland Parks Preschools are play based. What does that mean?
  - a. To grow, children must "play" by exploring and manipulating their environment. Teachers provide activities and learning areas that allow children to play and have learning embedded in them. Children's play is connected to the learning goals and curriculum of each site.

