**Spring quarter 2024 is the last chance to enroll at the previous tuition rate before the 2024-25 tuition increase.**

**Quarterly tuition** $790 due March 31, 2024

**Payment schedule** 3 monthly payments of $264 due by the last day of the month: March 31, April 30, and May 31

*Please note the following change beginning in spring 2024:*

**Parent responsibilities**

We are excited to announce a new change, beginning in spring 2024, that takes advantage of the benefits of cooperative program models without infringing unnecessarily on families’ valuable time. Unlike many cooperative preschools, we *don’t* expect parents to volunteer their time on administrative tasks, janitorial work, meetings, board membership, or making snacks for the entire class. You parents have busy lives, and we respect your time. We only require involvement in your child’s classroom that directly benefits both you and your child.

Quarterly requirements

**2.5-3-year-olds:** Parent/caregiver attends the first 3 weeks of school with their child and then at least 1x per month (2 additional sessions).

**3-year-olds:** Parent/caregiver attends at least 4 times.

**4-5-year-olds:** Parent/caregiver attends at least 3 times.

It’s hard to ignore the advantages of classroom time for parents during the earliest ages, especially in a dual-language program. For parents who are working on their own language skills, it’s a fantastic opportunity to practice the language. Being in the classroom helps parents of all proficiency levels to know what vocabulary to practice with your child at home. Parents are their children’s first teachers. By experiencing your child’s classroom with your child, you or one of your child’s caregivers will have the opportunity to develop your skills as your child’s educator. You’ll see first-hand how the language immersion process works and be empowered to enrich the home environment for language learning, which is often key to sufficient language exposure for bilingualism. Getting involved in your child’s education from the preschool years builds skills for advocacy, as you discover ways that you can collaborate with your child’s school to provide opportunities to help them achieve.

**FAQs:**

**Why are the parents of younger children required to attend more often?** Requirements are scaled to the age of the child so that the youngest children, who benefit the most from easing gently into time away from their parent, enjoy the most parental involvement. Parents can always attend more often than required if they desire.

**Who qualifies as a caregiver?** A parent, grandparent, relative, or nanny who cares for the child on a regular basis is considered a caregiver.

**Can the time requirement be shared among different caregivers?** Yes. Each caregiver will need a completed background check.

**What if I can’t make it to the day I signed up for?** You may swap your day with another parent who is willing to trade. If no other parent is available, please let us know as soon as possible. We will reschedule you for a later date.

**What do I need to be prepared to help in class?** A smile!Please come in clothing that will keep you comfortable and smiling throughout the class session.

Dear Families,

By necessity, we are increasing tuition for the 2024-25 school year. This is a long over-due change. We haven’t raised tuition since the Dollar Store still charged a dollar; over 90% of our administrative work has been a labor of love all the way up to this point. We want to make our quality programming sustainable. We have built an incredible program that we’re extremely proud of and our desire is to continue offering Chickadee Hollow Preschool for years to come.

We understand how hard it is for many families to afford quality early childhood education programs, and we’re actively exploring ways to reduce the financial burden for families who need assistance. One of the first things we’re implementing is sliding scale tuition. A sliding scale offers a way for families who can afford to spend more on tuition to assist families who can’t spend as much. In addition, we’re exploring all the avenues available to us for government and private funding to help families directly with the cost of tuition. If you hear of any grant or scholarship opportunities, please let our director know.

In the meantime, please know that we don’t take this step lightly. We’re not unaware of the challenges that families face in these times and want to do everything we possibly can to make our preschool accessible to all the families who want to enroll. Please, don’t hesitate to reach out to me personally with your questions, concerns, and ideas. If finances are an obstacle to your child’s enrollment, I want to know and I want to help as much as I possibly can.

Ultimately, this change represents an increased capacity to meet our students’ needs with improved opportunities for staff trainings, curriculum development, and new classroom materials. It is an exhilarating time for our preschool as we enhance and expand our program in ways that we’re so excited about. I can’t wait to enjoy and exhibit these improvements in the coming year, and I hope that you’ll be energized with me as we take this step forward.

In warmth and sincerity,

Janelle Sawyer

Janelle Sawyer

Director