

General Registration Letter for the 2024-2025 School Year

Creative Play is a cooperative pre-school. Parent participation is imperative to the continuation of our program. The cooperative aspect of our program allows us to keep the tuition at a competitive rate and allows you to be fully engaged in your child's school experience. Each registered family serves on one committee and participates as a teacher's helper in their child's classroom on a scheduled rotating basis.

We understand that your child's curiosity and desire to learn is encouraged and nurtured through classroom play and activities. We know social interaction is a critical component of preschool. At Creative Play we give all children the opportunity to learn through play. Children learn important skills like critical thinking; problem solving; imaginary play and continued language development along with their small and large motor skills. It is our hope that your child will develop a love of learning and school as they become increasingly independent.

For the school year 2024-2025 we are again making available to all families an "opt out" choice. By selecting this "opt out" choice, you will pay a predetermined amount to cover some or all your scheduled participation days in the classroom. The office will arrange to have your workdays covered after speaking with you and determining your needs. We understand many families would love to attend Creative Play, but due to their own work schedule and other obligations cannot participate in the cooperative workdays.

The cooperative days you are assigned are based on the number of days your child's class meets each week and the number of children in each classroom.

Creative Play offers you choices when deciding on the direction you would like your child to follow. Please read on the following pages all the information regarding the different classes we will be offering for the 2024-2025 school year. We are here to support you, so please see us in the office or give us a call (845) 735-2737 with any questions you may have on the following material.

We will do our best, but *please be aware that we may not be able to accommodate your first choice due to classroom size and / or availability at the time of your application remittance.* Creative Play alumni, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church members along with our current Toddler families were given priority in the application process.

The following classes will be available to your family providing we have the minimum enrollment required to proceed with each of the following classes:

Good Shepherd Creative Play 3-year-old classes

- **2-day 3-year-old morning classes** meet for 2.5 hours a day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday & Thursday and may consist of up to 14 children. This class is led by one teacher and two helping parents. You may be scheduled for up to 13 cooperative workdays in this class. *The cost for this class is \$2,500.00 a year or 10 monthly payments of \$250.00.*
- **3-day 3-year-old morning classes** meet for 3.0 hours a day from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday & Friday and may consist of up to 16 children. This class is led by one teacher, one aide and one helping parent. You may be scheduled for up to 10 cooperative workdays in this class. *The cost for this class is \$3,500 a year or 10 monthly payments of \$350.00.*
- **5-day 3-year-old morning classes** meet for 2.5 hours a day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday and may consist of up to 16 children. This class is led by one teacher, one aide and one helping parent. You may be scheduled for up to 15 cooperative workdays in this class. *The cost for this class is \$4,200 a year or 10 monthly payments of \$420.00.*
- **3-year-old afternoon classes** Afternoon 3-year-old classes will develop based on the needs of our families.

Good Shepherd Creative Play 4-year-old classes

- Our **5-day 4-year-old morning classes** meet for 3 hours a day from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and may consist of up to 16 children. In addition to following a four-year-old curriculum, one goal of these classes is to enhance the knowledge of the 4 Cs of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math): **C**ritical thinking, **C**ommunication, **C**ollaboration and **C**reativity. Time spent in these classes allows the teacher to direct more project-based learning. These classes are led by a teacher, an aide and one helping parent. You may be scheduled for up to 12 cooperative workdays in this class. *The cost for this class is \$4,200 a year or 10 monthly payments of \$420.00.*
- We will offer a **5-day 4-year-old afternoon class** based on enrollment. Please see the office if you are **only** able to participate in an afternoon class. Hopefully, we will be able to accommodate you.

- We are *hoping to offer morning and afternoon UPK* (Universal Pre-Kindergarten) classes. Our participation is based on **your individual school district's budget allocation for us as a provider**. Our ability to remain a UPK provider is dependent on how the school districts facilitate this process and if they can provide the support and finances needed to run our program. We understand that UPK applications will be available through your individual school district– Creative Play does not have any influence on your application. Any information we receive from your school districts and or BOCES regarding UPK will be passed on to you.
 - ◆ UPK is a voluntary program for both districts and children. Parents and/or guardians may choose but are not required to enroll their children in a UPK program. However, upon enrollment, the school district's attendance policy must be applied. In New York State UPK is lottery based.

All application choices will be reviewed and final classroom placement for your 4-year-old students will be made after your individual school district has mailed out the placements for the state funded Universal Pre-Kindergarten program. Funding for this program is based on the passage of the NYS budget in April, a lottery for this program is not done typically until May. We finalize our UPK classes by June. If you choose not to apply for a UPK placement, your 4-year-old placement is secured upon registration.

All applications must be **completed** fully and handed to the director **along with:**

- A non-refundable registration fee of \$100.00
- A completed and signed 2024-2025 enrollment agreement.
- A completed and signed allergy form
- A copy of your child's birth certificate

We will *not* accept an application without the above items.

Additional requirements

Committee participation: As a registered family of Creative Play, you are required to serve on one committee which will be selected over the summer. Committee participation is essential to running our school efficiently.

Medical records: All children entering school in September must have the most updated Required Health Examination Form (physical) and immunization record on file by September 1st, for your child to start school.

Registration Fee: a \$100.00 non-refundable fee is collected upon registration. This fee helps offset the administrative cost of setting up your student in our system and helps keep your annual tuition at a competitive rate.

Bond: One bond will be collected per family in mid-June along with your first month's tuition payment and will be returned to the family at the end of their stay with us providing that the cooperative obligation (workdays & committee duty) is met by the family. If you choose to withdraw from our program before you have met your obligations this bond will **not be refunded**.

Additional requirements cont'd

Plan of Action: If your child has allergies, there must be a plan of action completed by your child's physician on file with the school by September 1st. If your child has any other medical condition, please share that information with the Director.

The school policy is not to allow any products with peanuts or tree nuts to be served by our school. We understand there may be cross contamination throughout the building since we share the facilities with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Although we cannot provide an allergen-free environment due to the risk of accidental exposure (allergens may be present whether in food other students bring from home or food packaged in factories) we are considered **Allergy Aware** and will remain as diligent as possible when keeping our students with allergies safe.

Good Shepherd Creative Play is a non-profit organization. We are guided by an Executive Board and overseen by a Governance Board. The Executive Board is made up of the Director, two Officers and Committee Chairpersons. Every year we look for individuals to replace the members that are leaving our Executive Board. Board members chair our committees and meet four times a year to discuss school issues. Our board members are vital to the operation of our school. If you are interested in being involved, please see the director about any openings we may have.

We look forward to having your family as a part of our program. We are excited to make your child's school experience a successful and happy one. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school anytime (845) 735-2737, and we will be happy to assist you.

Thank you,
Renee Bucci
Renee Bucci
Director