

Piedmont Recreation Department

Hillside Playschool 2022/2023 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Hillside Playschool Program?

We love teaching children at Hillside Playschool and treasure their curiosity, imagination, hugs, and laughter.

Hillside Playschool is a play-based, outdoor program that emphasizes learning through active engagement with the environment. With an emergent curriculum, children follow their interests and learn at their own pace with short and long term activities.

Our outdoor classroom has areas to explore using all five senses. We have areas to paint, work on process art, use sand, water and mud, make music, build with various loose parts, tend our garden boxes, work on cooking projects, read books, dance, run, climb and balance, discover bugs and birds visiting our garden, talk with friends, build tents, learn simple kid friendly yoga, laugh, and sing! All these various areas give children the opportunity to flex their early math/problem solving, literacy and critical thinking skills through play! Being outside in the fresh air helps promote healthy bodies and minds. We strive to support self-confidence and independence while encouraging empathy and positive social skills. We emphasize kindness and respect of each other and the world around us.

We take lots of neighborhood walks, including weekly creek exploring in Piedmont Park.

We meet outside in our garden classroom rain or shine. We have the option of moving the program to our inside, second floor classroom if the weather is too extreme (ie. unhealthy air quality, heavy rain, thunder storms, etc.)

How old must my child be to attend Hillside Playschool?

Children eligible for Hillside Playschool are between 3–5 years of age. They must be 3 years old BY or turn 5 years old AFTER December 1, 2022.

Where is Hillside Playschool located? UPDATE

Due to the acceleration of the Piedmont Community Pool construction schedule, Hillside Playschool will be meeting at 801 Magnolia East Wing, located at 801 Magnolia Avenue (the East Wing Entrance is mid-block on Bonita Avenue across the street from the Corey Reich Tennis Courts). The program is an indoor/outdoor program and will also utilize the outdoor spaces at the Piedmont Recreation Department until construction commences.

What are the dates and times of Hillside Playschool during the 2022/2023 School Year?

Hillside Playschool meets four days a week, Monday–Thursday, from 9:00 am–1:00 pm.

What is the duration of the Hillside Playschool program?

Hillside Playschool is a two-year program that runs from August to May of the following calendar year. Children currently enrolled in their first year of Hillside Playschool, and who are age appropriate, are guaranteed their class spot the following school year. Parents, however, must register prior to the registration deadline. Please note that the second-year enrollment is only guaranteed for the same child; it cannot be transferred to siblings, family members, etc.

What is the class ratio?

There is an approximate 5:1 student to teacher ratio. During the lottery phase of registration, within each class, we prefer to balance the number of boys and girls in attendance.

How much is tuition at Hillside Playschool? UPDATE

Tuition is paid on a monthly basis, typically on the 5th of each month. There is a marginal difference between resident and non-resident rates. A typical monthly payment is \$1058.00 for residents and \$1088.00 for non-residents. Your first payment will be due at the time of enrollment, subsequent payments are made October–May of the following year.

I heard PRD registers via Lottery. What is it and how does it work?

To provide equitable opportunities for enrollment, PRD has designed a lottery system to select participants for each program.

The preschool lotteries consist of two registration date ranges: Piedmont residents will first have access to the online registration and following the first resident deadline (see dates below), online registration will then open to all families. A second deadline and lottery will take place for non-residents, one-week later. While Piedmont residents do receive priority registration, historically spaces are available for non-residents following the resident lottery.

As children are selected from the lottery, program rosters will be created. Once a program is full, remaining children in the lottery will continue to be randomly selected and the school year waitlist will be formed.

Following the lottery, families can continue to add to the waitlist. As no additional lotteries will take place, entries will be called from the waitlist in timestamp order.

When can I begin and what is the deadline to register for Hillside Playschool for the 2022/2023 school year?

To participate in the registration lottery, Piedmont residents can add their child(ren) to the preschool list beginning January 24th via [Community Pass](#). Non-residents will be able to add their child(ren) to preschool list February 10th via [Community Pass](#).

The Piedmont Resident registration deadline is Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 4:00 pm. Proof of residency may be required at the time of registration. Use of grandparents or other Piedmont residences is not permitted.

Non-Resident registration deadline is Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 4:00 pm.

Following these deadlines, families will continue to have opportunities to add to the program waitlist, and vacancies will be filled using this list throughout the school year.

How do I register for Hillside Playschool for the 2022/2023 school year?

Registration will be processed through Community Pass. Click [HERE](#) to learn how to set up a Community Pass Account.

Preschool Registration Process

In Community Pass, applicants are automatically placed on a "waitlist" during this transaction. This step is required in order to be entered into the program lottery.

- Select your child from your family account and choose your desired preschool program(s).
- Children can "waitlist" for up to three programs. You will not be charged for these transactions.
- To expedite the lottery process, families are also required to store a credit card to their Community Pass account prior to the registration deadline. Failure to do so may delay or prevent enrollment into a preschool program.
- Following lottery deadlines, families will be notified, via email, regarding your enrollment status, typically 3 to 5 business days following the deadline. Your child will only be enrolled and charged for ONE program.
- If your child is enrolled in a preschool program, a first month's tuition is due and will be processed. First month's tuition is refundable (less \$50 processing fee) for 14 days following registration transaction date. Requests must be made, in writing, to prdpreschools@piedmont.ca.gov. *After 14 days, all payments are NON-REFUNDABLE.*
- Families that remain on the waitlist following the lottery will also be notified, via email.

I'm already on a PRD waitlist. Do I need to re-register this year?

To provide new opportunities for families to register each new school year, PRD renews their waitlists during each open preschool registration period. If your child is on a waitlist for a previous school year, you will need to re-register/waitlist for the next school year.

Should my child be toilet-trained?

Children who attend Hillside Playschool **MUST BE toilet-trained**. Pull-Ups are not acceptable.

What steps is Hillside Playschool taking to ensure safety during the COVID-19 pandemic?

In order to prioritize the health and safety of our families, Hillside Playschool follows the state and county COVID-19 guidelines. Further, we have developed safety protocols, including: daily temperature checks and health screenings, small cohorts of students and teachers, maximizing the use of our outdoor classroom space, staggered arrival and dismissal, and continual cleaning and sanitizing of toys and surfaces.

How do I contact PRD if I have additional questions?

Staff can be reached anytime via email or phone at prdpreschools@piedmont.ca.gov or (510) 420-3070 during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am–5:00 pm (excluding City holidays).