

Piedmont Recreation Department

Tiddlywinks: Caterpillars 2022/2023 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Tiddlywinks: Caterpillars Program (formerly First Step)?

At Tiddlywinks, the magical year of two is celebrated as children learn through play and are provided with the tools and confidence needed for a life-long love of learning! Each day, children experience meaningful opportunities in our indoor/outdoor classroom that foster creativity and imagination through science, dramatic and sensory play, manipulatives, outdoor exploration, and art. Through play, children are naturally exposed to concepts like colors, shapes, letters, numbers, rhythm, and movement. More structured activities and routines like learning centers and circle time are introduced and our low student-teacher ratio provides children with valuable learning interactions with a focus on fostering independence and social skills by modeling, scaffolding, and teaching self-help skills.

Two year olds learn at a rapid pace and span many developmental stages, therefore, our class is split into two groups, the Caterpillars and the Butterflies so that we may better meet your child's needs and interests as they grow and develop. The Caterpillars consist of our younger two's in a 3 day program with a 4:1 ratio and a smaller class size as they transition into care for the first time without their primary caregivers. The Butterflies class consists of our older two's in a program that runs 3 days a week from August-December and then moves into a 4 days a week program in January. The Butterflies class still has a 4:1 ratio but has a slightly larger class size.

How old must my child be to attend Caterpillars?

Children eligible for Caterpillars are between 18–24 months. They must be 18 months old BY September 1, 2022 or turn 24 months old AFTER December 1, 2022.

Where is Caterpillars located?

Caterpillars is an indoor/outdoor program located at the Lower Level of the Community Hall, 711 Highland Avenue, in Piedmont.

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

UPDATE

Caterpillars meets 3 days per week: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00 am–12:00 pm.

What is the duration of the Caterpillars program?

Caterpillars is a one-year program that runs from August to May of the following calendar year. There will be an opportunity for priority registration for the Tiddlywinks: Butterflies program the following school year.

What is the class ratio?

There is an approximate 4:1 student to teacher ratio.

How much is tuition at Caterpillars? 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 \$586.00 for residents and \$616.00 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 Caterpillars 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 Caterpillars 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.

Must my child be toilet-trained?

Children who attend Caterpillars **do NOT have to be toilet-trained**. We provide diapering on site.

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

In order to prioritize the health and safety of our families, Caterpillars 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).