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**The Garden Cooperative Nursery School**  
3602 Eagle Rock Boulevard, La ca 90065  
(323)258-4525 [www.thegarden.la](http://www.thegarden.la)

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in the Garden Cooperative Nursery School, Please find detailed information and application forms for the school on the pages to follow.

IF YOUR CHILD IS YOUNGER THAN 20 MONTHS and you are interested in applying for membership, please return **Part 1** of the application with a \$45.00 check made out to the Garden Cooperative Nursery School. You will be put on the waiting list, and, when your child is closer to school age, we will ask you to fill out **Part 2** and your complete application will be considered. Please feel free to follow up with us after submitting Part 1 of the application

IF YOUR CHILD IS OLDER THAN 20 MONTHS and you are interested in applying for membership, please return **Parts 1 & 2** of the application with a \$45.00 check made out to the Garden Cooperative Nursery School. Your application will be considered when next appropriate, depending on your child's age, the time of year, and current and future membership openings.

If you would like to visit The Garden, tours are scheduled approximately 4 times a year (fall, winter and twice in the spring) Please explore the website for detailed information about the Garden Cooperative Nursery School. If you have questions about the school, the application or to schedule a visit, please call me (213) 712-3448 or email me at [peeps@thegarden.la](mailto:peeps@thegarden.la).

C'est Moi,

Lisa Moncure  
Membership Chair, The Garden School

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### **Membership Fees 2010-2011 School Year**

\$300.00 tuition deposit (one time, refundable upon leaving the school  
or applicable toward last month)

\$45.00 registration fee (one time)

\$15.00 earthquake supplies fee (one time)

\$25.00 accident insurance fee (paid annually)

\$30.00 Music Together fee (paid twice yearly)

\_\_\_\_\_ tuition\* (first month should be paid before student begins)

#### \*tuition rates

\$230 per month for three days

\$265 per month for four days

\$300 per month for five days

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

Please note that these fees are in addition to the \$45.00 application fee.

After your first month, tuition will be collected at monthly General Membership meetings for the next month.

Limited scholarships are available. Please inquire about our scholarship application form.

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### **General Information**

As a community of parents dedicated to early childhood enrichment, we have established a cooperative nursery school in Glassell Park that opened in September of 2002. Our program model has been created, implemented and conducted by an experienced early childhood professional with additional guidance of the California Council for Parent Participation Nursery Schools. Here are some facts that you might find helpful as you look for the school that best fits your family's needs.

- ❖ The Garden serves students from approximate ages 2 1/2 to 5 1/2.
- ❖ The Garden's basic hours of operation are from 9 am to 12:30 pm. An Afternoon Enrichment program until 3:00 for older children is available at least several days a week, depending on need.
- ❖ The Garden's paid staff is a Teacher/Director and an Assistant Teacher.
- ❖ The Garden is a cooperative school. One parent comes from each member family one day a week to work with the teachers and children. Parent workday hours are from 8:30 to 1, as parents will help set up and clean up on those days.
- ❖ The Garden has up to 32 member families and no more than 24 children at the school each day. With two teachers and up to five parents on site, the adult to child ratio is a little less than 1:4.
- ❖ The Garden is a Music Together preschool. A twice-yearly fee covers the cost of a Music Together class 1x per week, a CD and a parent guide.
- ❖ The Garden offers a Parent Education class (at no extra cost) to Garden School parents. The class is taught by a graduate of the Echo Center (formerly known as the Center for Non-Violent Parenting). The classes are held at the Garden School over a 6 week period, with a once monthly support group that continues after the class has concluded.
- ❖ In addition to workday responsibilities, parents need to participate in quarterly maintenance and housekeeping days, usually held on Saturdays. Parents also take on individual responsibilities to help keep the school running smoothly (i.e., library, membership, program assistance) which can be time-consuming (and fun.) Finally, parents are expected to participate in fundraising for the school, with a goal of each family bringing in at least \$300 of additional income to the school through selling tickets to events and other activities.

- ❖ Tuition information may be found on the second page of this document. Limited scholarships are available.
- ❖ The Garden is a non-profit organization governed by a member elected Board of Directors drawn from parents of member families in consultation with the Teacher/Director and Assistant Teacher when appropriate.

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**Application for Membership, Part One**

The Garden Cooperative Nursery School is non-discriminatory and anti-bias. We believe that our children deserve to play in a safe environment that provides diversity in areas of gender, age, race, religion, physical ability and class. We seek to honor these goals in our membership selection process.

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' names: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (night) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle/Bold): M F Ethnicity (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

When would you like your child to start? \_\_\_\_\_

How many days per week would you like your child to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your first choice of attendance days (circle or bold):

First: M T W Th F

Second: M T W Th F

Are there any days you cannot bring your child? \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter your choice of days for your weekly parent workday:

1<sup>st</sup>:                      2<sup>nd</sup>:                      3<sup>rd</sup>:

How did you hear about The Garden? \_\_\_\_\_

**Application for Membership, Part One (cont'd)**

Briefly, what attracts you to The Garden's nursery school environment?

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**COOPERATIVE COMMITMENT**

I understand that The Garden is a cooperative nursery school made up of member families working together to continue and forward the work of the school. As such, the operation of the school is wholly dependent upon the full participation of each member family. Upon admission to the school, we are ready to commit to the agreed regular workday, monthly membership meeting and/or parent education meetings, maintenance days (for the school's upkeep) and fund raising obligations scheduled by the collective membership.

Signature of parent applicant \_\_\_\_\_

We appreciate your interest in our school. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chair, Lisa Moncure at (213) 712-3448. Applications should be returned to her at [peeps@thegarden.la](mailto:peeps@thegarden.la) or 3604 Eagle Rock Boulevard, Los Angeles 90065.

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### **Application for Membership, Part Two**

#### **School Program Philosophy**

1. The Garden's "child-led" curriculum philosophy focuses on a day of "choice activities" that are designed to meet the individual needs and interests of our children. We do not promote a routine adult-led curriculum. How do you feel about this type of approach to learning for your child?
2. The primary focus of the Teacher/Director for the children's day is on conflict resolution within a social interactive curriculum. How do you feel about supporting this main objective on your workday?
3. The Garden's program reflects a strong emphasis on parent education and the importance of continuity between home and school. How do you feel about being guided by the Teacher/Director and other teaching staff on parenting approaches?
4. A coop requires teamwork. During the workday, guidance will come from the Teacher/Director, teaching staff and parents in a variety of responsibilities. How do you feel about being directed by others in supporting the workday?

## **School Program Philosophy (cont'd)**

5. Workday parents provide snack each day, and our goal is to give the children a variety of fresh, yummy, minimally processed, sugar free and preferably organic foods. We also try to consider health issues of individual children, such as nut allergies and dairy sensitivities. How do you feel about this?
  
6. The Teacher/Director will be assessing your child's overall development on a routine basis, which will be relayed to you during informal conversations or private conferences. Due to the role of other workday parents as "teacher assistants", some of this information may need to be shared with them. How do you feel about this?
  
7. The Teacher/Director and other teaching staff will be creating a monthly framework of curriculum activities with a "seasonal approach" to a "social study", e.g. September, October and November will represent Fall, but reflect an emphasis on self, family and friends. Our staff will sometimes require your support in implementing these activities by asking for "prep" help. How do you feel about this?
  
8. Our program offers drama for the children in the form of @3 plays a year. The Teacher/Director will be creating these plays as collectively written and performed by the children. Parents will be asked for support on varying levels, e.g. costumes, music, scenery, etc. How do you feel about this?
  
9. What are your reasons for wanting to participate in a cooperative nursery school and why did you choose The Garden?

**School Program Philosophy (cont'd)**

10. What do you hope to contribute to our program? Please include any skills, hobbies, or interests, e.g., fundraising, accounting, building, art, music, organizing, etc.

11. Do you have any other comments or questions regarding our philosophy?

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### **Your Child's Information**

1. Here, at The Garden, we seek to honor each child's unique personality and temperament. What aspect of our social program do you see supporting your child as an individual?
2. What are your child's current interests? What types of toys and activities do you provide for your child and how can we extend on that?
3. Describe your child's relationship with members of his family and household, as well as any relationships or interactions with peers.
4. Has your child been in a school or any type of playgroup? Please describe the program, the experience it provided and how your child responded.
5. How do you or other family members handle unacceptable behavior with your child?

### **Your Child's Information (cont'd)**

6. The Garden's basic philosophy on children viewing television and playing interactive video games, is "the less the better", but, we are mostly concerned about content. How much time does your child spend watching television and/or playing video games and what type of content do they present?
  
7. Responding and handling children's issues in a non-shaming manner, as with all unacceptable behavior, is required of all staff and workday parents. Please know that we will discourage children from playing games that involve weapons or violent oriented drama. How do you feel about this?
  
8. Please use this space to share any special concerns or general information about your child as it relates to our program.

**We appreciate your interest in our school. Please remember to make a copy of your completed application for your records. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chair, Lisa Moncure at: 323-223-8231. Completed applications should be returned to Lisa at [peeps@thegarden.la](mailto:peeps@thegarden.la) or mailed to the school at: 3604 Eagle Rock Boulevard, Los Angeles 90065. Please include or mail separately (if emailing) an application fee of \$25. Checks should be made out to:**

**The Garden Cooperative Nursery School.  
Thank you!**