General Information

A community of parents dedicated to early childhood enrichment established our cooperative nursery school in September 2002. The child development philosophy and theoretical underpinnings of our school are detailed in our informational folder available at school tours and upon request, and on our website. Here are some logistical facts you might find helpful as you look for the school that best fits your family's needs.

\* The Garden serves students from approximately ages \*\*2 to 5.5.
\* The Garden's basic hours of operation are from 9 am to 12:30 pm.  An Afternoon Enrichment program until 2:30 for children 3.5 is available several days a week, depending on need.
\* The Garden's paid staff is one Teacher/Director and three part-time Teachers.
\* 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 1:30, as parents will help set up and clean up on those days. Workday responsibilities also include providing a portion of the snack for the community that day (fresh, yummy, minimally processed, sugar-free and preferably organic foods).
\* The Garden has up to 30 member families and no more than 24 children at the school each day.  With 2 teachers and 5 or 6 parents on site each day, the adult to child ratio is a little less than 1:4.
\* In addition to workday responsibilities, parents participate in one maintenance day and one housekeeping day, held throughout the year.  Parents also take on a “family job” to help keep the school running smoothly (i.e., maintenance, curriculum assistance, finance, fundraising, etc) which can be time-consuming (and fun.)  Finally, parents are expected to participate in fundraising for the school, with a required goal of each family bringing in at least $500 of additional income to the school through selling tickets to events and other activities.
\* Tuition information is included in this packet. We have a scholarship program (see application for details)
\* 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 Teacher when appropriate.

\*\*If your child is 2 by September 1, 2019, but not 2.5, he/she still qualifies for Fall 2019 admission. However, you will need to attend with your child until he/she is 2.5.

**Membership Fees 2019-2020 School Year**

$316.00 enrollment commitment fee (gets applied to the first month of tuition—see terms below)

$500.00 tuition deposit (one time, refundable upon leaving the school or applicable toward last month)

$45.00 registration fee (billed once)

$41.00 Music Together fee (billed twice annually)

$15.00 earthquake supplies fee (one time)

$25.00 accident insurance fee (paid annually)

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

Tuition rates

$316 per month for three days per week
$357 per month for four days per week
$398 per month for five days per week

\_\_\_\_\_ \_ TOTAL

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

A $316 enrollment commitment fee is due upon accepting enrollment at our school. We offer a 100% refund if you decide not to attend and it is more than 90 days notice from the start of school.  75% with 60-90 days notice, 50% with 30-60 days notice and 0% if less than 30 days. The start of school is typically the Tuesday after Labor Day.

After your first month, tuition will be billed monthly, 11 months of the year.
Scholarship program available.  Please inquire about our application form.

**ADMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

If a family is interested in membership, they can contact the External Membership Chairperson to schedule attendance at one of the school tours to learn more about our school’s program and philosophy. The enrollment process proceeds as follows:

* Attend a school tour.
* Complete and submit an application.
* Attend a visit day at the school.
* Interview with Membership Chair and Teacher/Director.

Initial offers of membership will be made in early to mid-March. Additional spaces, especially for older children, can and often do become available in late spring or over the summer.

Enrollment shall be available to anyone without discrimination as to race, color, creed, or political beliefs. The Board may give special consideration to families that meet the following criteria:

* Families already connected with the school.
* Families that will enhance the cultural and social diversity of the school.
* Families that provide gender and age balance to the student population.
* Families with special needs or families that would be particularly active and enthusiastic participants in the co-op.

In addition, applications may be rejected if the Board feels that the parents will not fulfill the duties of membership.  Some reasons for rejecting an application might be:

* The parents are not able to do a workday or attend meetings.
* The parents are not in agreement with the school's philosophy of continuity between home and school in regards to parenting style and discipline.

**Application for Membership, Part One**The Garden 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 birthdate: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_   M    F      Ethnicity (optional)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Special needs      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tour attended (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
When would you like your child to start?
Are there any days you cannot bring your child?

Are there any days you cannot perform a parent workday?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
How did you hear about The Garden? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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, Terra Cherowitzo, (424) 319-0065. Applications should be returned to her at peeps@thegarden.la or 3602 Eagle Rock Boulevard, Los Angeles 90065. Also, remember to make a copy of your completed application for your own files for backup.

**Application for Membership, Part Two

School Program Philosophy**l.     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 co-op 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?

5.    Responding to and handling children’s issues in a non-shaming manner, as with all challenging behavior, are required of all staff and workday parents.  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.    What are your reasons for wanting to participate in a cooperative nursery school and why did you choose The Garden?

8.  A co-op functions and flourishes through the contributions of its member families. 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.)

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

**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 challenging behaviors with your child?

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?

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 community. Please remember to make a copy of your completed application for your records. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chair, Terra Cherowitzo at peeps@thegarden.la. Completed applications can be emailed (preferred) to peeps@thegarden.la or snail mailed to the school at: 3602 Eagle Rock Boulevard, Los Angeles 90065.  Please remit the application fee of $46.30 ($45 + $1.30 Paypal processing fee) at:**

**https://www.paypal.me/gardenschool**

**Alternately, you can include or mail separately (if emailing application) an application fee of $45.  Checks should be made out to: The Garden Cooperative Nursery School.**

**Thank you!**