

RMSC PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2018-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How long has the **RMSC Preschool** existed?

A. The school began on this site in 1976.

Q. When is **registration**?

A. To be included in the lottery for the 2018-19 school year, your application must be received by midnight on February 10, 2018. After the lottery is completed, registration is ongoing until all spaces are filled (See brochure or application for details on how our lottery works).

Q. What are my **class** choices?

Three-Year Old classes - must be 3 by 12/1/2018

- Two mornings per week (T & TH) 9 - 11:30
- Three mornings per week (M W F) 9 - 11:30

Four-Year Old classes - must be 4 or 5 by 12/1/2018

- Three mornings per week (M W F) 9 - 11:30

Pre - Kindergarten Classes - must be 4 or 5 by 12/1/2017

- Four mornings per week (M - TH) 9 - 11:30
- Five morning per week (M - F) 9 - 11:30
- Four afternoons per week (M - TH) 1 - 3:30

Note: *All classes are play-based and combine small and large group activities, art, science and math exploration, literacy, music and physical education.*

Q. What is the difference between the **pre-K** and the **preschool** classes?

A. All 4/5 year-old classes are designed to prepare children for kindergarten. They focus on curriculum exploration, individual and group social skills and the development of routines. The teachers plan experiences that match the developmental age of their class. Our Pre-K classes which meet four or five consecutive days allow for a more in-depth focus in these areas. Some families who know that their child will not be attending kindergarten when they are age eligible, may opt for two years in our 4/5 year old programs. For instance, they may start in a three day a week class and then opt for the pre-k class the second year.

Q. What is a typical **class size**?

A. Class size generally ranges from 12 - 17 children with two teachers. If need be, we may go up to 18 children and two teachers (four year old groups only) and still be within the recommended staff/child ratio as established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Q. Can I request a **specific** room or teacher?

A. Families make their choices based on the time slot that works best for them. At the time of registration, I do not know who the teachers will be for next year or what schedules they may have. While some teams have been together for many years, teaching schedules are always subject to change, and are not finalized until June. If you have questions about staffing and room assignments, please see me.

Q. Do I have to submit two application **fees** if I have two children applying?

A. No - I need two applications, but only one non-refundable application fee per family is required. Siblings will be treated as a unit for registration purposes.

Q. If I have more than one child attending is there a **discount** on tuition?

A. Yes - you will receive a 10% discount off the lowest tuition.

- Q. What is the **deadline** for the application to the lottery?
 A. Deadline for the **lottery** is February 10, 2018 at midnight. Applications may be emailed, mailed, hand delivered or faxed to this number - **271.0747**. I suggest calling to see if your application has arrived. *Any spaces left after the lottery is complete are processed on a first come, first served basis. We accept applications throughout the year until all spots are full. Call 697.1949 for availability.*
- Q. When do **payments** begin?
 A. A \$200 deposit is due April 1, 2018 and regular payments begin in August. The deposit secures your place and goes towards the total tuition. Payments are made either monthly or in two installments. For late enrollees, payments begin within a month of their start date.
- Q. What is the **refund** policy?
 A. Up until June 1, your deposit of \$200 is refundable. After June 1, \$100 is retained no matter when you withdraw. You must notify the Head of Preschool if you decide to withdraw your child from the program.
- Q. Are there refunds or reduced tuition if families take extended vacations?
 A. No.
- Q. How **long** is the school year?
 A. The school year starts September 10, 2018 and runs through June 7, 2019.
- Q. When does the school **close**?
 A. The preschool generally follows the Rochester City School District calendar. We have Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Memorial Day off. We also have Thanksgiving Recess, Winter Recess, February Recess and Spring Recess. Preschool closes during parent teacher conferences (fall & spring) and when the RCSD has a snow day. We may also have professional development days when school may be closed.
- Q. Do the children have to be **potty-trained** before entering school?
 A. No. We accept children who are in all stages of toilet training.
- Q. Are all staff **certified teachers**?
 A. No. Our baseline for employment in the preschool is a Child Development Associate's Degree plus early childhood classroom experience. The current staff has education, experience or degrees in early childhood, elementary and special education, science, art, physical education and administration. Many are certified and some hold Master's degrees. We use a team teaching model in the preschool, where both teachers have equal responsibility for all aspects of the program.
- Q. Do you have an **outdoor play space**?
 A. Yes, we have several outdoor areas that we use for large motor activities and exploration. We share the Genesee Community Charter School playground behind the school and the gardens and park-like open spaces on the RMSC campus.
- Q. Do you take a child who has an **IEP** or special needs?
 A. Yes, if our program can accommodate your child's needs and is a good developmental match.
- Q. Where can I get **more information**?
 A. Please refer to the brochure and application (available on line, by email or by post) or come to an **Open House** - January 12 or 26, 2018 from 12:00 - 2:00. No registration is necessary, children are welcome. To plan a visit, call the preschool office at 697.1949.

Thank you for your interest in the RMSC Preschool.

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