



## Frequently Asked Questions About ONEgeneration Child Care

### 1) What is unique about ONEgeneration?

#### **Intergenerational Program**

ONEgeneration provides families with the opportunity for natural encounters between generations. Our unique Intergeneration Program provides for daily opportunities for the children to interact with our “neighbors”, the seniors. Through exciting activities such as creative art, cooking, movement, gardening and games, we establish caring connections between children and seniors. These interactions help children acquire new interests, skills and learn the meaning of acceptance, cooperation and compassion. We recognize the value of these connections and provide positive and developmentally appropriate interactions for our older and younger participants.

#### **Celebration of Diversity**

A special feature of the Center is the diversity of the families who participate. We invite parents or other family members to share traditions, hobbies, songs or other interests with the children in our programs. So that everyone can enjoy the enrichment activities, talk with the lead teacher in your child’s classroom to prearrange your visit. Family members are also invited to the Center on many occasions throughout the year for socials or special celebrations.

We honor diversity in many ways. Every month, two families will be in charge of the Cultural Center and Star of the Month. This means that you and your family need to decide what part of the world you would like to present. During this month, you will be in charge of setting up the Cultural Center as well as the Star of the Month. You will also have circle time with the children and present the Cultural Center and Star of the Month. Feel free to be as creative as you want. You may bring pictures, books, artifacts, traditional clothing and so forth.

### Getting “To Know You” Visits

Once families have signed a contract, we encourage them to sign up for play dates. Generally, families are encouraged to visit the Center with their child(ren) once a week. Regular and consistent visits before your child starts in the fall will help ensure a smooth transition between school and home. Infants/Toddlers are required to have three visits prior to their child’s start date as well as participate in an intake meeting with the classroom teachers.

**2) When are tours offered?**

Tours are offered Monday through Friday with appointments.

**3) Are part time slots available?**

Yes! However, we give priority to parents who need full time care.

**4) What is the cost of tuition?**

<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>
<b>Infant/Toddlers</b> (6 weeks to 2 years)	\$1720	\$1259
<b>Preschool</b> (2 years to 3 years)	\$1302	\$952
<b>Preschool</b> (3 years to 6 years)	\$1126	\$833

**\*Part time is considered any three full days of the week or five half days from 7:00 to 12:00pm.**

**5) Are sibling discounts available?**

Yes! We offer 15% off of the tuition for the oldest child.

**6) Does ONEgeneration offer food for children?**

Yes! We provide two complimentary organic snacks a day and offer a hot lunch program for \$5.75 a day.

**7) Can I visit my enrolled child during the program hours?**

ONEgeneration understands the value of the parent and child relationship as the family serves as the child’s first teacher, and the bond of a child and their family is crucial to healthy development. It is for this reason that ONEgeneration maintains an open-door policy for all the families of the children served.

Parents and family members have open access to their children who are enrolled in the program at all times. The only exception is if there is legal documentation on file in the Center that forbids access. Parents of children enrolled in our programs are **not** required to call prior to arriving or entering the program and may visit unannounced at any time during Center operating hours. Ongoing communication is essential between parents and the program to ensure optimal outcomes for children. This communication can take place via face-to-face conversations, e-

mails or telephone calls. Other forms of communication and access include but are not limited to parent-teacher logs, parent conferences, parent message boards or Center literature. Conferences can be initiated by parents/family or by staff of the program. Families are welcome to visit anytime. If the visit is stressful to the child, a conference with the family may be needed to discuss the effects of the visit on the child.

**8) What is your discipline policy?**

The essence of parenting and teaching is to nurture and guide children at each stage of their development such that they reach their individual highest potential or growth in all areas—social, intellectual, physical, emotional—and that they become fully-functioning citizens of the world. Like adults, children make mistakes. It is through their mistakes that they learn and that we help them learn. Simply, our policy is one that seeks to promote positive behavior using methods appropriate to the age of the child. Redirection, modeling and guidance form the core of the discipline policy, not punishment. For the youngest children who are not yet using language, redirection is the most often used method. As soon as children are able to use language, they are taught to identify their feelings and use language or words to solve conflict or problems. Children then will learn how to control their own behavior and solve their own problems.

**9) What is your sick policy?**

The health and well-being of the children in our care is a paramount concern. We rely on the families enrolled to abide by our Health Policies to support this effort. Each day, a teacher will conduct a brief health assessment to ensure that a child has no visible signs of illness. Please stay at the Center until your child has been accepted. A child exhibiting signs of illness that would exclude him/her from school will be sent home. In general, a child who is not able to participate in all school activities is not well enough to be in school.

When a child becomes ill during the day, the school will contact the parents. An ill child will be excluded from the group and must be picked up from school within an hour. If a vaccine-preventable disease occurs in the program, a child who has not been vaccinated against that disease will be excluded from attending school until otherwise noted by a physician.

The following are the most commonly seen symptoms that require a child's exclusion from school:

1. A fever (i.e., temperature greater than 100°F): The child must be fever free (without medication) for 24 hours before returning to school.

2. Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye): Redness of the eye; mucus or watery discharge from the eye; itchiness of the eye. A physician's clearance is required before a child can return to school.
3. Unexplained rash: A physician's clearance is required before a child can return to school.
4. Impetigo: A physician's clearance is required before a child can return to school.
5. Diarrhea, defined as two loose bowel movements: Children must be diarrhea free 24 hours before returning to school.
6. Vomiting: Vomiting must cease for at least 24 hours before a child can return to school.
7. Evidence of nits or lice: Before children can return to school, they need to be nit and lice free.
8. General lethargy and discomfort: Any child who is too ill to participate fully will be excluded.
9. Other communicable diseases (chicken pox, strep throat, continuous cough, ringworm, etc.): The child must have a physician's clearance to return to school.

If your child contracts any communicable disease or condition, please notify the Main Office of the doctor's diagnosis. A notice will be posted (child's name confidential) so that teachers and other families can watch for symptoms in their own child.

#### **10) What is the ratio of children to educators?**

State licensing requires the ratio for infant toddlers to be 4:1. At ONEgeneration, our infant to teacher ratios are 1:3. Additionally, state mandates a 1:12 teacher to student ratio for children two years and up. At ONEgeneration, our ratios for children two to three is 1:6.

#### **11) How do you assess children's progress?**

Our assessment process is embedded into everything we do at school. When children enter the school, we send home a parent intake form. This gives us valuable information about the children's most important learning space - their home, and their most important teachers - their family. Children visit the classroom with their parents before the first day of school to get acclimated and interact with the teachers. As school starts, teachers watch the children play, interact and find their place in the preschool community. Teachers take

notes, pictures and collect children's work to place in a portfolio which becomes a personal history of each child. Our first set of parent/teacher conferences are held in November giving parents and teachers a chance to discuss the children's school experience and life, play and learning at home. Learning is not confined to school of course, so the opportunity to understand the whole child is an essential aspect of conferences for both parents and teachers. Teachers continue to document the play, activities, friendships and projects happening at school throughout the year. Over the time children are at school, the documentation helps teachers see growth and development across the educational spectrum. It helps us understand the child, make sure they are on track developmentally, see and scaffold their learning and skill development as well as inform curriculum. In March, we hold a second parent/teacher conference and an end-of-the-year summary is included in each child's portfolio.

**12) How can families be involved?**

Families can be involved in a number of ways directly in the classrooms. A special feature of the Center is the diversity of the families who participate. We invite parents or other family members to share traditions, hobbies, songs or other interests with the children in our programs. So that everyone can enjoy the enrichment activities, talk with the lead teacher in your child's classroom to prearrange your visit. Family members are also invited to the Center on many occasions throughout the year for socials or special celebrations. Additionally, the mission of the Parent Advisory Group is to provide opportunities for parents to become involved in the life of the preschool, to contribute to a positive preschool experience by providing events to support the developmental learning program, and to support the staff of the preschool as well as the preschool itself.

**13) Many schools institute volunteer/fundraising requirements, does ONEgeneration require such obligations?**

**YES! Every family must volunteer 12 hours per year.**

Families can also choose to opt out of the "Volunteer Hours Policy" and pay a \$120 fee (\$10 for each unfulfilled volunteer hour). **Hours may not roll from one year to the next.** Parents with specific skillsets may choose to donate an unlimited amount of "goods" IF:

- 1) The goods will benefit the school as determined by the Center Director,
- 2) This has already been approved by either the Center Director or the Parent Advisory Group.

**14) How does ONEgeneration prepare my child for Transitional Kindergarten and or Kindergarten?**

We prepare children to be ready for their education beyond preschool by providing a preschool experience that is rich, engaging and collaborative. We empower children to believe in their own capabilities and potential, while developing new knowledge and skills that support learning now and in the future. Children leave ONEgeneration with a strong sense of self. They have been listened to and respected. They have learned how to be a part of a community, to respect others differences and gifts. They have learned how to deal with hard situations and have engaged in projects that encouraged them to solve

problems and learn new skills. They have been exposed to and explored ideas in the areas of scientific inquiry, mathematics, literacy, language, community, the arts and symbolic languages. They have learned to work with others - both when it is easy and when it is hard. These are the qualities that we feel help children be successful in any environment when they leave ONEgeneration. We also remember that these are important years of childhood. These children will only have a chance to be 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years-old once. Ultimately, our mission is to enhance the development of social skills, relationships, respect for others and oneself, self-help skills, autonomy, peaceful conflict resolution and the empowerment of one's own ideas and feelings leading to success in school and life.

**15) What is the mission of your school?**

Our mission is to enrich the lives of children, seniors and their families throughout our diverse community. ONEgeneration provides families with the opportunity for natural encounters between generations. Our unique Intergeneration Program provides for daily opportunities for the children to interact with our "neighbors", the seniors. Through exciting activities such as creative art, cooking, movement, gardening and games, we establish caring connections between children and seniors. These interactions help children acquire new interests, skills and learn the meaning of acceptance, cooperation and compassion. We recognize the value of these connections and provide positive and developmentally appropriate interactions for our older and younger participants. ONEgeneration childcare provides a nurturing, diverse environment where children can develop socially, emotionally, cognitively and physically. Our daily practices incorporate emergent curriculum and anti-bias curriculum which stimulate each child's unique interests, curiosity and sense of discovery. Ultimately, our mission is to enhance the development of social skills, relationships, respect for others and oneself, self-help skills, autonomy, peaceful conflict resolution and the empowerment of one's own ideas and feelings leading to success in school and life.

**16) Does ONEgeneration have a nut policy?**

ONEgeneration is a nut-free Center. This means that any foods containing peanuts, almonds, Brazil nuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, macadamias, pistachios, pecans, and cashews are not allowed at the Center. The rationale has to do with the unique nature of nut allergies. Most people with food allergies can manage their allergies by simply not eating foods that have their allergens in them. However, with nut allergies it is possible for children to react to traces of nut dust in the air. Also, nuts are full of natural oils that leave residues that are difficult to clean. Olives, avocados, soybeans and dried plums are good healthy fat-nut alternatives. Soy nut butter, sunflower butter, vegetable and/or bean spreads are great peanut butter substitutes.

**NOTE:** Please see our Parent Handbook which is posted online for a full explanation of policies and procedures.