



Dedham Community House Preschool

70 Bullard Street Dedham, MA 02026

www.dedhamcommunityhouse.org

1. What **ages** does the preschool serve?
 - a. Children from 15 months through age 5 (not yet in Kindergarten) in 6 age-based classrooms.
2. What **hours** is the preschool open?
 - a. Monday thru Friday 7:30am-4:30pm
3. Is the preschool **open all year**?
 - a. Our preschool has both a school year program (late August to mid-June) and an 8-week summer program. Many children are enrolled for both. However, if you do not need summer care you will not lose your spot in the fall.
4. Does the preschool close for **holidays**?
 - a. Our preschool is closed for 11-12 holidays and 1 professional development day each year (tuition is collected), and for one week between the summer program and the start of the school year (tuition is not collected). The calendar is posted on our website.
5. Are there **part time options** available?
 - a. Yes, we do offer PT options, both half-days and full-days, partial and full weeks.
6. What is the **mission** of the DCH Preschool?
 - a. The mission of DCH Preschool is to foster the growth and development of young children by providing a play-based, developmentally appropriate, and nurturing environment that will pave the way for a lifetime love of learning.
7. What does **play-based** mean?
 - a. Children are naturally motivated to play. A play-based program builds on this motivation, using play as a context for learning. In this context, children can explore, experiment, discover, and solve problems in imaginative and playful ways.

8. Who are the **teachers**?

- a. Every teacher in our school is carefully selected for his/her educational background, teaching experience, and sensitivity to the individual needs of the young child. Each teacher has at a minimum, a degree/credential in child development or a related field and is responsible for the curriculum planning and development of the classroom program following the school's philosophy and based on the developmental needs of the children in their classroom. All teachers have a CORI, SORI, and are fingerprinted prior to beginning employment and throughout their years at DCHP. Many of our teachers have worked in our school for over 5 years with some over 25 years. We celebrate the longevity of our staff.

9. Do you offer additional **enrichment activities** for the children?

- a. During previous school years we have brought in outside specialists focused on Spanish, gross motor play, music and movement, and the ever-popular Tumble Bus.

10. What does a **typical day** look like at the preschool?

- a. Each classroom's daily schedule is planned to meet the needs of the children within the group. All groups offer a variety of quiet and active play options to ensure a balanced program. The daily schedule is a developmentally appropriate mix of free choice activities such as puzzles, Legos, and construction toys; art and sensory activities; science exploration; group time; and quiet/nap time.

11. Does the school provide **meals or snacks**?

- a. Mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks are scheduled in each classroom daily, in addition to lunch. Families provide all food for their children. The DCH Preschool is a peanut and tree nut free school.

12. Do the children **play outside**?

- a. The children will go outside in most weather to play on our playgrounds and explore the nature/community around the preschool. Many groups love going for neighborhood walks, exploring down near the Charles River, or playing on the field multiple times per week in addition to their daily playground time.