



Thank you for your interest in Community Arts Preschool!

Center for Community Arts, a program of the City of Walnut Creek's Arts and Recreation Department, is offering preschool classes in accordance with the current Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) guidelines. Our professional staff is committed to providing you and your children with a safe, fun, and enriching experience

Please review our Safety Protocols at walnut-creek.org/artsrecsafety and review our frequently asked questions below.

If you have additional questions about preschool enrollment for the school year, please contact us at: info@communityarts.org
(925) 943-5846

Frequently Asked Questions: School Year Preschool & Virtual Preschool

When will the school year begin?

The school year will begin on **Monday, August 24 (Monday classes) and Tuesday, August 25 (Tuesday classes)**. Our first week of preschool will take place virtually over Zoom to help the teachers and children get to know each other before they meet in person. All preschool classes will meet in-person the following week, **Monday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 1**.

Virtual preschool begins over Zoom on **Wednesday, September 9**.

What classes are going to be offered?

Community Arts Preschool will offer both in-person classes and virtual classes this school year.

Virtual preschool classes will be available to families that would like to engage in preschool through distance learning. Virtual preschool will include Zoom Circle Times, Family Lesson Plans, at-home projects, guided field trips, and a virtual classroom to be explored at each family's own pace.

Virtual Preschool classes will be offered in the Fall (September – December) and in the Spring (January – May). Classes will meet each week as follows:

Virtual Classes	Teacher	Class Days	Class Time
Threes Virtual Class	Ms. Denise	Mon / Wed	9:30 – 10:10 am
Fours Virtual Class	Ms. Denise	Mon / Wed / Fri	10:30 – 11:10 am

To learn more about our Virtual Preschool classes, please visit:
<https://www.communityarts.org/preschools/virtual-preschool>



Our **in-person classes** will be modified so that children remain in small, stable groups that allow for appropriate social distance while continuing to support development and learning. Please see our [Arts + Rec Safety Protocols](#) that outline the steps we are taking to create a safe environment for our teachers and students.

The following classes will be offered in-person this school year:

Shadelands	Teacher	AM Class	PM Class
Twos Classes – Mon / Wed	Ms. Julie	8:45 – 11:30 am	12:45 – 3:30 pm
Twos Classes – Tues / Thurs	Ms. Julie	8:45 – 11:30 am	
Threes Classes – Tues – Thurs	Ms. Karen	8:30 – 11:15 am	12:30 – 3:15 pm
Fours Class – M / Tu / W / Fr	Ms. Kiara	8:30 – 11:15 am	
Mixed Age Class – M / W / Fr	Ms. Kiara		12:30 – 3:15 pm

Heather Farm	Teacher	AM Class	PM Class
Twos Classes – Tues / Thurs	Ms. Megan	8:30 – 11:15 am	
Mixed Age Class – M / W / Fr	Ms. Megan	8:30 – 11:15 am	12:30 – 3:15 pm

Civic Park	Teacher	AM Class	PM Class
Mixed Age Class – Mon - Thurs	Ms. Lorie	8:30 – 11:15 am	
Mixed Age Class – Mon – Wed	Ms. Lorie		12:30 – 3:15 pm

How many children will be in each class?

We have reduced class sizes to 10 children per class in order to meet the current standards that have been set by CCHS and Community Care Licensing. All classes will be stable for at least three weeks per CCHS recommendation and will not be allowed to mix with other classes in order to limit exposure throughout preschool.

What do you mean when you say children will remain in stable classes?

Classes will remain “stable” with no more than 12 children in each class and no new children added partway through a summer preschool. We will have one Lead Teacher and one Co-teacher per class of 12 children. Children and teachers within a classroom are expected to physically distance as much as possible.

If a teacher is out sick, we will have either a staff member or a substitute teacher assist in the classroom. Substitute teachers will not work with more than one class per day.



Can my children be placed in the same group for preschool?

Unfortunately, we are not able to place siblings of different ages in the same class.

We prefer to keep our child at home during the Fall. Can we join classes later in the year when we feel more comfortable attending class in-person?

Families will be allowed to join our preschool classes later in the year as space becomes available. Families will be withdrawn from our current class and added to a new waitlist for our Fall families. As space becomes available throughout the year, we will reach out to this waitlist first to offer up open spots.

I am currently enrolled in one class but prefer to have my child in another class. Can I join the waitlist for another class (my preferred choice) in case a space becomes available?

Families should enroll in their preferred class when space becomes available as we are not allowing families to enroll in one class and waitlist in another class. We are working to maintain stable groups of students therefore students cannot enroll in class and then switch to another class.

My child is on the waitlist for a class. If a space becomes available, when can they join?

In order to maintain stable class groups, we are only allowing new students to join classes at the start of each month, if space allows. All classes will remain stable for one month at a time per CCHS's recommendation that groups remain stable for at least three weeks.

If I enroll in virtual preschool, will I be able to receive priority registration for the upcoming school year (2021-22)?

Families that enroll in both Fall Virtual Preschool and Spring Virtual Preschool will be considered a current preschool family and will have priority registration for the upcoming school year.

Families that are enrolled in quarterly classes (eg. Terribly Terrific Twos) do not qualify as a current family and will not be given priority registration for the school year.

Will physical distancing be practiced at preschool?

Physical distancing will be practiced whenever possible during preschool. Children will be encouraged to keep their hands to themselves and they will be strategically spread during activities. However, collaborative play that naturally occurs will be allowed within the stable groups. Our goal is to ensure that children feel safe and welcome in the classroom. If children need to be comforted, our teachers will be there to give them a hug and help them during class.



Will children be encouraged to wash their hands at preschool?

Children will be encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day including:

- Arrival to preschool
- Before and after eating food or drinks
- During transitions of activities
- After using the restroom
- After playing outdoors or in sand

All teachers and children will wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Children will be supervised when washing their hands and will be assisted with handwashing if they can not do it on their own.

We will not use hand sanitizer on children during preschool classes.

Who will be required to wear face masks during preschool?

Staff and teachers will wear a face covering at all times. With the [latest order](#) from Contra Costa Health Services, children age 2 years and older are required to wear masks when participating in our program. Masks will be required when children are taking part in activities indoors. Children can opt to remove their masks when participating in activities outdoors.

We understand that wearing masks may be new for some children and this may be a transition for many. Our teachers will support and monitor children throughout the program and check in with them if there is any concern regarding their masks.

We ask that parents/guardians wear masks and practice physical distancing during drop-off and pick-up.

Will materials and equipment be shared during preschool?

Items will not be shared amongst the different preschool classes. Our teachers have created individual bins with items for each child to use throughout the day. Children that are in the same class may share other items and materials. Any shared items will be disinfected before another class can use it.

Can my child bring their favorite toy to preschool?

Personal items such as toys will not be allowed at preschool or in cubbies /backpacks.

Lovies and pacifiers are allowed for our incoming Twos classes to help with transition. Teachers will closely monitor each child's lovie/pacifier.



Can we bring water bottles to preschool?

Water bottles are okay to bring to school. We highly encourage water bottles that have caps. Please be sure to label your water bottle with your child's name.

Water bottles are not mandatory as water will be available to children throughout the day. Children will use paper cups for water and will dispose of their cups after each use.

Will snack be provided at preschool?

All Twos classes (Heather Farm and Shadelands) will participate in a snack rotation. Parents will sign up for snack rotation at the start of the summer. Snack items must be individually packaged (Eg. String cheese, yogurt, crackers, Cuties, etc.). We will not accept snacks that are prepared at home during this time.

Threes class (Shadelands), Fours class (Shadelands) and Mixed Age class (Civic Park and Heather Farm) will bring their own snacks from home. We ask that families pack their snacks in brown paper bags or packages that can be disposed.

Please note that all of our preschool classroom are nut-free environments. Please be mindful of this as you prepare snack for your child or child's class.

What kinds of activities will take place during preschool?

Our teachers will be planning activities and learning centers that continue to allow children to play and explore each day. Classroom activities will include more individual play and solo activities (Eg. drawing, painting, cutting, puzzles, etc.).

When possible, our teachers will bring their classes outdoors. Children will have additional time outside to play and explore, weather permitting.

Our classes will not include the following during this time:

- Playdough
- Sensory tables
- Partner activities
- Play clothes

We encourage families to continue these activities at home with your child to encourage skill building in these areas.



Will children be able to play outside?

Preschool classes will have more time outside per the recommendations of CCHS. Children will have open play outside as well as learning centers that may extend outdoors, weather permitting.

Please be sure to apply sunscreen on your child before coming to preschool. Teachers will not apply sunscreen on children at school. We encourage parents to pack a protective hat for your child to wear outside.

What are the cleaning procedures during preschool?

Please see our cleaning procedures in the [Arts + Rec Safety Protocols](#).

In addition to daily cleanings, frequent sanitizing of high touch surfaces will occur throughout the day, including but not limited to toys, tables, chairs, bathrooms and outdoor surfaces.

Does my child need to be toilet-trained to attend School Year Preschool?

Toilet-training is required for all children in our Mixed Age classes (Heather Farm and Civic Park) and Fours class (Shadelands). Please see our Parent Handbook for toilet training policies. If your child attends class and is not fully toilet trained, teachers will discuss options that include withdrawing from preschool for the summer or taking time at home to work on toilet training and returning when your child is fully toilet trained.

Will bathrooms be cleaned regularly during preschool?

Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized regularly throughout the day.

How will drop-off and pick-up for preschool work?

Drop-off and pick-up will take place at designated areas at each preschool in order to maintain appropriate physical distancing practices. Parents will be asked to line up at least 6 feet apart during drop-off and pick-up.

Children will be greeted by their teacher at drop-off and brought to class with their teacher. At the end of class, teachers will bring children out to their parents.

More details are included in our Drop-Off and Pick-Up protocols, which will be shared in advance of the summer session starting.

**Please note that pick-up times at Shadelands will be staggered in order to allow proper physical distancing and reduce traffic during drop-off and pick-up.*



Will parents be allowed in class with their child?

Parents will not be allowed into preschool to help minimize exposure. Drop-off and pick-up will take place outside of our facilities.

What should I do if I am running late to preschool drop-off?

We strongly encourage parents to arrive on time. If you are late, please check in at the front office (Shadelands) or knock on the door (Civic Park and Heather Farm) and one of our teachers will come out to meet you and your child at their earliest convenience. Please be patient as our teachers will need to ensure that all children are settled in order to leave the room to meet you and your child.

What should I do if I need to pick-up my child early from preschool?

Please let staff know at drop-off if you need to pick-up your child early from preschool. We ask that parents/guardians call us before arriving so we can arrange to have your child brought outside to you with a staff member. Please call us at (925) 943-5846.

Will you be taking temperatures every day?

Staff, teachers, and children must take their temperature everyday before coming to work / preschool or when they arrive on site. Please see [Arts and Rec Safety Protocols](#) for screening details. We encourage parents to take your child's temperature before you arrive to school or upon arrival at school.

If you need to take your child's temperature on site, please look for the designated spots where a thermometer and alcohol wipes is set up. Please take your child's temperature before lining up in line.

What health practices will you follow during preschool?

All staff, teachers, and children will be screened before class each day. Please see the [Arts + Rec Safety Protocols](#) for daily screening procedures. Sick children and staff are required to stay home and will not be allowed in the program.

"Sick" is someone exhibiting, but not limited to, the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, fever (temp 100.4°F or higher), sore throat, chills, vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

Staff and teachers will be vigilant in monitoring symptoms in children and themselves and will notify a supervisor if they or a child is showing symptoms of being sick (symptoms listed above).



My child (or a member of my family) falls into the high-risk category. Is it okay for my child to attend preschool?

We encourage families with children of high-risk to consult with your doctor about enrolling in preschool this summer.

Parents/guardians are required to fill out emergency forms and supplemental forms before attending preschool. Please use these forms to share any other health information or concerns that you may have.

In addition to preschool, we offer a variety of virtual classes for youth. [Learn more here.](#)

What happens if a staff member is sick?

Staff and teachers are required to stay home if they exhibit any symptoms of being sick. If a staff member or teacher becomes sick or is absent from work, we will have another staff member or teacher step in to assist in their place. Whenever possible, mixing of staff in groups will be avoided to the best of our ability.

What happens if my child does not feel well at preschool?

If a child becomes sick at preschool, a parent/guardian will be notified and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible (no more than 20 minutes). Sick children will be isolated from other children while they are waiting to be picked-up. A staff member will remain with the child until picked-up.

Staff will wear appropriate personal protective equipment while assisting children that are not feeling well including face masks and gloves. One staff member will maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet and will supervise any sick children until a parent/guardian arrives. Children will be made as comfortable as possible.

Please notify us immediately if your child has symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

What should I do if my child is sick? When can my child return to preschool?

Sick staff members or children should not return to preschool until they have met CDC's criteria to [discontinue home isolation](#). Please refer to the CDC's guide – [What to do When Sick](#).

Staff members or children can return to school once they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.

Please notify us immediately if your child is sick and has symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

info@communityarts.org

(925) 943-5846



My child has been exposed to someone that has COVID-19 or has COVID-19 symptoms. When can we return to preschool?

It is important to remember that anyone who has close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness. Please see the [updated CDC guidelines](#) on when you can be around others after being sick.

Staff, teachers and children who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home (quarantine) for 14 days since symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus, even if you test negative for COVID-19 or feel healthy.

Please note that preschool may be cancelled due to an illness in the program or a change in State, County or Federal guidelines.

Please notify us immediately if your child has symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Will parent/guardian be notified if a child at preschool has COVID-19 or symptoms consistent with COVID-19?

Parents/guardians will be notified if a member of their child's class is diagnosed with COVID-19. Please note that preschool may be cancelled due to an illness in the program or a change in State, County or Federal guidelines.