

Our Mission

PCNS is a Christian preschool dedicated to providing a nurturing and safe environment where each child can grow developmentally and spiritually. We value each child as a unique gift from God. Our goal is to establish positive relationships so that each child develops respect for others and becomes a confident member of our community.

A Unique and Special Preschool

What makes PCNS a great choice for your child? It's a combination of many things working together: a highly experienced staff, our innovative child-focused curriculum, mixed age groups, sunny open classrooms, and a love for God and his children.

Professional Teaching Staff

Our teachers are our most valuable asset. They have considerable experience with three and four year olds; their combined experience totals over sixty years in the classroom! Our staff is passionate about fostering each child's growth, and designs curriculum that is centered on individual developmental needs. We encourage the children to explore and make choices through our innovative program. Equally important, our teachers excel in helping children to express their feelings and needs in words.

Student/Teacher Ratio

On a typical day, there are 25 students with four teachers, a 7:1 or better ratio.

Teaching Style

Using a positive and encouraging approach, our teachers help children to navigate individual developmental challenges. We also work to develop children's expressive capabilities and their emotional and social well-being. We find that our team teaching model is invaluable in providing insight to each child's developmental path.

Curriculum

Our carefully crafted curriculum is rooted in our philosophy of developmentally appropriate activities for children's learning and confidence. We provide an array of integrated themes throughout the year to offer children exciting, challenging and safe ways to explore their world. Recently, our themes have included the Arctic, ladybugs, recycling, and the books of author and

illustrator Eric Carle. Each year, we also offer an art unit focusing on the individual styles of two artists. This prompts the creation of many expressive paintings and sculptures for viewing at our annual art show.

Each child has daily opportunities for free play, both in the classroom and outside on our playground. Choices of developmentally appropriate activities are always available.

Throughout the year, we are visited by a talented musician who leads us in song and movement, a librarian, and parents who share their unique hobbies and cultural heritage.



Environment

Our school has two spacious sunny classrooms; within the classrooms are a small loft, a water table, a science and cooking area, a housekeeping corner, puzzle tables, floor space for group meetings, easels to paint on, and lots more. Our outdoor playground has a new, inviting structure for climbing and sliding, a large sandbox and plenty of space for running and bicycling.

Christian Focus

Our belief in God is an integral element of the program at PCNS. Woven into our day are expressions of our Christian faith. We talk about how God made us, the wonders of other creatures, and our incredible earth. Together we thank God for His blessings before we share a snack or meal. Between children and teachers, you may hear phrases such as "How did God figure out that a caterpillar should turn into a butterfly?" Or, "God gave you an amazing brain!" We also take joy in celebrating Christian religious holidays.

Community Building

In the Classroom - Each child has a "home" in either the Frogs Room (three year olds) or Bears Room (four and five year olds). However, all of the children are together for much of the school day. Everyone begins the day together at "Hello Time". Next is "Choice Time" where children can choose an activity and others with whom to enjoy it. Frogs and Bears separate for snack and small group time, and later, reconnect on the playground.

We place a high premium on healthy social behaviors at PCNS, which benefits everyone at the school. Loving your neighbor as you would yourself, and the Golden Rule, go hand in hand with learning about God's love for us.

Among Parents - Parents are a critical element of the PCNS community. We encourage their involvement and frequent communication with the teaching staff. It's extremely important to our program! Regular conferences are held twice a year, but can be scheduled at other times by parent request. And of course, parents are welcome in the classroom.

To encourage new friendships, we offer coffee get-togethers. We also sponsor periodic Director/Guest Speaker-led parent discussions. Past topics have included successful discipline strategies, the media in the home, and how to enhance children's self-esteem. There are many other ways to enjoy being part of the PCNS family. If they wish, parents can participate in school events and serve on the Fundraising Committee or the Board.

Location

We're located on the quiet side streets of Newton Corner. Most of our enrollment is from Newton, Brighton, and Watertown.

Diversity

We welcome families who reflect the cross section of races and cultures that are found in the Boston area. To encourage socio-economic diversity in our classrooms, PCNS offers partial scholarships to qualifying families.

Tuition

As a non-profit preschool we strive to offer our program at the most reasonable cost possible. The generosity of the Newton Presbyterian Church helps to defray our costs and keeps our tuition very competitive with other preschools.

Flexible Enrollment Options

Core Program - School hours are 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Monday through Friday. Parents may select a three, four or five mornings-a-week program for their child. Our school calendar is similar to that of the Newton Public Schools.

Enrollment Eligibility - All children who are 3 years old by August 31st are eligible. PCNS does not discriminate in providing services to children or their families on the basis of race, religion, cultural heritage, political beliefs, marital status or disability.



Supplemental Programs

We offer three programs in addition to our core morning program.

Early Birds - 8:30 to 9:00 AM, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, as interest warrants. Children join in supervised play and crafts.

Extended Day - 12:00 Noon to 2:30 PM, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Extended Day is a mix of playtime, parent-provided lunch, then rest time, followed by outdoor play, a project, creative movement, or a choice of activities.

Junebugs - For three weeks in June we offer a more informal educational experience, comprised primarily of outdoor activities, water play, and group time. This 9:00 - 12:30 program is available only to PCNS enrolled students.

Applying to PCNS

Please Visit - We welcome visitors during classroom hours. Come see us on a typical morning! Just call ahead to make an appointment at 617-332-9255, Ext. 1. Adults only, please.

Application Process - Applications and an application fee of \$80 are accepted beginning October 15th of the year prior to enrollment. Available openings are filled in the following order of priority:

First - returning students

Second - siblings and church members

Third - new students, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Families are informed by letter, beginning in early November, as to whether their child is offered enrollment for the following fall or is placed on our waiting list.

Reputation

Every year we ask parents to complete a questionnaire about the school, and every year we receive responses that make us blush. With considerable humility we commit some of these comments to print.

"We're grateful for the school and the teachers. We wouldn't go anywhere else."

"We love this school! It's a warm Christian community, very child-focused."

"I can't say enough positive things about PCNS. The teachers' combined skills make a phenomenal team."

"PCNS is a very special place"



The Presbyterian Church Nursery School, PCNS, is a Christian preschool serving Newton area families since 1981. We are licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care.



*"Behold, children are a gift from God."
Psalm 127*

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