



Dear families,

We are so happy to welcome you to Mini Mozarts Preschool! Our school has been operating for over a dozen years in Downtown Vancouver and has graduated hundreds of students. We operate a Reggio Emilia based program with a heavy focus on music and arts curriculum. These additional elements create an environment in which students can thrive and explore education.

Our indoor and outdoor spaces are bright and spacious, giving children an exciting place to create, move, learn and discover. Throughout the week, we offer events such as music and dance classes, yoga, and other interactive breaks so children have a wide array of options to experience. We truly consider our classrooms to be the “third teacher,” offering space for students to learn. Mini Mozarts' mission is to foster students' creativity through playful inquiry, creating a love life-long learning and tools for thoughtful problem solving.

Curriculum

At Mini Mozarts, our curriculum is based on a child-emergent program that encourages learning in a mixed-age environment. We teach through story workshops and provocations, nurturing open-ended questions and prompts that help students discover their own answers. We, as instructors, provide directional guidance so children create meaningful connections to the world around us. As a process-oriented school, we offer the tools for life-long love of learning. Some of the activities your student will experience include:

Music: Musical activities are based on rhymes, recitation, and rhythms. This includes percussion instruments such as bongos, sticks, shakers, and marimbas. We also use string and wind instruments to expose children to multiple musical styles. Our resident musicians offer tools to nurture the love of music.

Singing: At the core of each child is the innate sense to sing. We teach various fun pieces to solidify the relationship of music to melody and harmony. Your child will also learn the solfeggio symbols (Do, Re, Mi, etc.) so they can have a visual relation to the notes they sing.

Art: We provide a wide array of art materials and facilitate projects that reflect students' interests. We are also very proud to have a resident artist on staff to help children thrive.

Dramatic Play: Students are encouraged to dress up during free-play time. This fosters their imaginations to explore endless possibilities. Instructors may introduce different props to help students create live performance acts and mini plays.

Kindergarten Readiness: The goal of preschool is to get students ready for the social and academic norms of elementary school. These are some of the capabilities we instill as part of our educational program:

- participation as a member of an interdependent community
- self care, as well as care for others
- treating others with love and compassion
- cooperation with other children to accomplish goals
- celebration of group accomplishments
- laughter and play that creates a tangible sense of joy
- expression of emotion through language and art
- inquisitive thinking
- initiation of new ideas, and the skills to invent solutions to problems
- the ability to stick to difficult tasks, or come back to them later to find success
- singing and dancing with exuberance
- painting, drawing, and sculpting objects of beauty
- maintaining the community spaces with cleanliness and order
- treating guests with courtesy and charm

Daily Operations

Our day-to-day structure is full of fun activities, and we have simple needs to make our days run smoothly. Parents should drop off their children at 8:30 am for the morning classes and 12:30 for the afternoon classes. Because our school's security system requires us to open the door manually, late arrivals create disruptions to our class flow.

What to Bring:

Your child's backpack should include weather-appropriate clothing, as well as a full change of clothes in case of accidents. It should also include a water bottle. Please refrain from sending toys and other personal items outside of our Thursday afternoon and Friday Morning Show and Tell days. Those times are the only time personal toys will be permitted.

Each child will have their own drawer by the front door of the school in which notes, art, and other take home items will be placed. Lost and found items will be in a basket by the door, and consider labeling items so they don't get lost.. Please be considerate of our lack of storage when sending your child's items to school.

Shoes: Please send your child to school in shoes that are easy to take off and put back on.

Snacks and Lunches:

Mini Mozart's supplies a healthy snack daily. Please inform us of any allergy information or dietary restrictions. Our snacks generally include:

- a grain, such as crackers, bread, popcorn, pretzels, etc.
- fruits and/or vegetables
- a dairy product such as cheese sticks or yogurt

If you would like to pack an alternative snack for your child, you are welcome to do so. We are a nut-free school, so please refrain from packing any nut products with your child.

On Fridays, we eat lunch together. Please pack your child a cold lunch that does not require heating up, as our time to eat and prepare lunch is limited.

Birthday Snacks:

We encourage celebrations of birthdays! If you would like to bring a birthday treat, please help us adhere to our nut-free policy. Also, consider bringing smaller, healthy snacks to share. Good options include special fruits or parfaits, mini-muffins and cupcakes, and any treat that is important to your family's culture. These opportunities provide great learning experiences for all of our students!

Illnesses and Health Policy:

Please let the school know as early as possible if your child will not be attending school due to illness. If you child has a contagious illness, please let us know so we can alert other parents as required by law.

Per law and policy, your child may NOT attend school with the following symptoms:

- a fever over 100.3F within 24 hours
- diarrhea within 24 hours
- vomiting or nausea within 24 hours
- severe cough within 24 hours
- unusual yellow color to skin or eyes
- skin or eye lesions or conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- rashes that are weeping, pus-filled, or possibly contagious
- difficulty breathing or wheezing
- complaints of severe pain
- head lice

If your child develops any of these symptoms at school, they will be asked to rest and stay isolated from other students. You will be called immediately and asked to pick up your child.

Accidents:

All of our staff members are required to be First Aid/CPR certified for infants, children, and adults. Any accident or injury that occurs during the school day will be reported to you in writing, describing the nature of the injury and any action taken. Please sign and return the accident form; a copy will be kept on file at the school. Minor accidents, such as cuts and scrapes, will be treated with soap and water. Band-aids may be administered. Bumps and bruises will be treated with ice. If immediate emergency care is necessary, we will attempt to call the parent first, but reserve the right to call 911 at any time. Guardians will be responsible for any emergency service charges.

Medications:

Our staff does not administer medication without written consent from the parent or guardian. If your child requires medication, please notify staff with instructions and consent.

Discipline Policy

At Mini Mozarts, we believe that praise and positive reinforcement are the most effective methods of behavior management. When children receive positive, non-violent, compassionate interactions from adults and others, they develop good self-concepts, problem solving skills, and self-discipline. Our behavior management techniques include:

- Communication to children using positive statements.
- Communication with children on their level.
- Talking with children in a calm, quiet manner.

- Explaining unacceptable behavior to children.
- Giving attention to children for positive behavior.
- Praise and encouragement.
- Applying reason and setting limits.
- Applying rules consistently.
- Modeling appropriate behavior.
- Setting up the classroom environment to prevent problems.
- Providing alternatives and redirecting children to acceptable activity.
- Giving children opportunities to make choices and solve problems.
- Helping children talk out problems and think of solutions.
- Listening to children and respecting the children's needs, desires, and feelings.
- Providing appropriate words to help solve conflicts.
- Using storybooks, role plays, and discussion to work through common conflicts.

We **DO NOT**:

- Inflict corporal punishment in any manner upon a child. (Corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force to the body as a discipline measure. Physical force to the body includes, but is not limited to, spanking, hitting, shaking, biting, pinching, pushing, pulling, or slapping.)
- Use any strategy that hurts, shames, or belittles a child.
- Use any strategy that threatens, intimidates, or forces a child.
- Use food as a form of reward or punishment.
- Use or withhold physical activity as a punishment.
- Shame or punish a child if a bathroom accident occurs.
- Embarrass a child in front of others.
- Compare children.
- Place children in a locked and/or dark room.
- Leave any child alone, unattended, or without supervision.
- Allow discipline of a child by other children.
- Criticize, make fun of, or otherwise belittle a child's identity, parents, families, gender, orientation, background, or ethnic group.

Conferences will be scheduled with parents if disciplinary problems occur. If a child's behavior consistently endangers the safety of the children around him/her/them, then the director has the right, after meeting with the guardians and documenting behavior problems and interventions, to suspend and/or terminate services for that particular child.

Note: If, at any point, there is an indication that a child may have special needs, Mini Mozart's will inform the child's family and make contact for assessment and assistance.

Billing

All tuition payments are to be made by check, written to Mini Mozarts Preschool. Please fill out 10 post-dated checks (September – June) dated on the first of each month. The checks will be deposited on the first of each month. Checks should be given to the Director along with enrollment and signed parent handbook page to ensure your student's enrollment.

Withdrawal

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from the program must give a 30 day written notice. If no notice is given, parents will be responsible for the next month's tuition. If the preschool has concerns

that the school is not a good fit for a student, the director will take all steps necessary to work to a good solution so the child can succeed. In the event that a solution is not possible, Mini Mozarts Preschool reserves the right to request withdrawal from the program. No refunds of fees or tuition will be given.

Communication and Documentation

Communication with our families is of utmost importance. Teachers will make efforts to talk regularly with parents about their student's progress and classroom experience. We send out weekly newsletters to all families, so please remember to fill out your email address on our enrollment forms.

Day-to-day updates will be periodically posted through our Facebook page as well as an app called Bloomz. You will be given a code to log in to your child's virtual classroom. Updates will include notes, photos, and daily messages. Please contact us if you prefer your updates through alternative means.

We choose to focus on documenting our students' progress rather than assessments. We will send updates through Bloomz, as well as display documented projects within the classroom. Please remember, since our students work in a collaborative work environment, your student may not regularly bring home projects. Please contact a lead instructor if you have specific questions about your student.