

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE [102 CMR 7.06(1)]

Framingham Centre Nursery School is a secular early childhood program established in 1963 by First Parish in Framingham. It separated from the church and incorporated September 1, 2006. FCNS is administered by a Board of Directors made up of parents elected to 2 year positions which insures continuity for the management of the school. The Executive Director of FCNS, an experienced early childhood educator chosen by the Board, oversees the day to day operations. The mission of the school is to provide a high quality preschool program which meets the needs of diverse families in the Framingham area. FCNS is licensed by the MA Department of Early Education and Care and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

As time has passed, FCNS has expanded its licensing capacity and time of operation to better serve families for both regular nursery school classes and extended hours. Currently there are 7 morning classes, 2 afternoon classes and options for early arrival drop-off at 8:00am, stay days and extended days until 5:30pm. It is the goal of FCNS to offer a developmentally appropriate, supportive and stimulating preschool experience for a maximum of 80 children at a time while meeting the needs of their families for care. Class size averages 10-12 children with 2 teachers. Limited tuition assistance is available for Framingham families who qualify for Community Partnership for Children funds. There is also a small scholarship fund restricted to emergency assistance. Families enrolling 2 children receive a discount on tuition.

Staff members of FCNS are committed to families, enthusiastic about children's growth and development and aware of the important role they share with parents in setting expectations for behavior and promoting respect for others. As teachers and parents we share a common goal and must, therefore, work together cooperatively. It is in each child's best interest to keep the lines of communication open and honest. Parents are always welcome to visit school. Parents may always make unannounced visits to the Nursery School while their child is present. Teachers are always available to talk with parents about concerns or a child's progress.

We believe that children learn from personal interaction with their peers and their world. In other words, we believe children learn best through play and through socializing with other children. Our specific goals are:

- 1) To treat each child as a unique person worthy of respect and personal attention.
- 2) To encourage and support the development of each child cognitively, emotionally, socially and physically by providing the environment, experiences and relationships which will enable him/her to reach his/her own potential.
- 3) To nurture the joy of learning.
- 4) To develop programs which offer a wide variety of activities and materials that will encourage creativity, curiosity and self-reliance.
- 5) To help each child build a foundation for future success.

Intake Procedures

Visiting Framingham Centre Nursery School is encouraged throughout the school year. Parents and children are requested to visit the school during regular school hours. Priority for admission is given to returning children and siblings of past FCNS students. The remaining spaces are filled in order of the date of the visit to the school. All observers are offered an application marked with the date of the visit. A brochure, rate sheet, sample newsletter, calendar and explanation of our curriculum philosophy accompany the application. All applications are to be returned with a non-refundable registration fee and are accepted on the basis of available openings. Enrollment is for the school year, September through June, with a new application process for each child every year.

Currently enrolled children are given a new application in early December for the following year. They are asked to return the application within a few days. Applications for children new to the school are due in early January. Parents are informed shortly thereafter with an acceptance letter and contract if a space is available. The signed contract due within 2 weeks and the first tuition payment due June 1 finalize enrollment at FCNS.

The Nursery School staff will work closely with a parent who informs the Nursery School that a child has or may have a disability. With the parent's input and all available information, staff will identify in writing the specific accommodations that may be required to meet the needs of the child. The child will be admitted if the necessary changes are possible within the context of the existing building plan, staffing patterns, etc. If, however, this would cause an undue burden to the Nursery School [see 102 CMR 7.10(2)], the child would not be admitted to the program.

Framingham Centre Nursery School will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, cultural heritage, national origin, political beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. This policy will apply to admission, tuition and employment practices. ***Every child will be granted equal rights, privileges and opportunities to participate in all activities.*** Our enrollment procedure is consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Services

The Nursery School does not provide any health or social services. For a detailed list of professionals who may be called upon for referrals, please request the Plan for Referral Services.