



The Preschool at KiDiMu

Preschool Program
2024 - 2025 Family Handbook



*A preschooler isn't going to **BE** someone when they grow up,
a preschooler **IS** someone right now.*



301 Ravine Lane NE
Bainbridge Island, Washington

www.kidimu.org

Program

The Preschool at KiDiMu is a vibrant, inclusive, educational and fun program for preschoolers. The multi-age classroom fosters empathy and understanding while educating each child at their own pace. The Kids Discovery Museum is our classroom, allowing for lots of engaging spaces for children to explore.

Our curriculum includes stories, music, movement, games, scientific exploration and plenty of free play. Nature walks and outdoor play are a daily part of our curriculum. Children make friends and support each other while learning the social and emotional skills helpful at the elementary school level. Our teaching style is organic, following the interests and energy level of the children. Our goal is to create a positive learning mindset that will inspire students for years to come.

Philosophy

Children learn best through play. Our program guides children as they explore nature, science, early math concepts, early reading skills, and creative self-expression. We create a predictive, safe, nurturing environment that fosters learning and prepares children for elementary school.

Supporting the Whole Child

A preschool education program provides the first stepping stones for lifelong learning, in and out of a classroom. Young children are creating order within the world around them, and the development of social-emotional skills requires patience and guidance from trusted caregivers and teachers. Our program will provide for student growth and development as it relates to social/emotional intelligence. We recognize that students' abilities to self-regulate emotional responses are ever-evolving. Our caring education team will provide opportunities for students to create boundaries for one another and learn to respect others. Modeling safe, gentle, and respectful behavior and redirecting a child to a more appropriate activity are the forms of discipline we use with this age group.

Schedule

School meets each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Drop off begins at 8:15 am with our school day starting at 8:30am.

Dismissal is between 12:00 - 12:10pm.

2024 - 2025 Calendar

September

9th - First Day of School

October

TBD - Conferences (school in session)

November

TBD: No School/Professional Development Day

11th - No School/Veteran's Day

27th - 29th - No School/Thanksgiving

December

23rd - 31st - No School/Winter Break

January

1st - 10th - No School/Winter Break

13th - School Resumes

20th - No School/MLK Day

February

17th - 21st- No School/Mid-Winter Break

March

TBD - Conferences (school in session)

April

7th - 11th- No School/Spring Break

May

TBD - No School/Professional Development

26th - No School/Memorial Day

June

6th* - Last Day of School

*We will adjust for up to three inclement weather days at the discretion of the executive director.

Policies & Procedures

We have made every attempt to create a comprehensive handbook to support our families. If amendments and changes are made to the policies and procedures, families will receive an electronic copy of an updated document. Please note the date at the bottom of each page when referencing future versions.

Attendance Policies

Consistent attendance is vital to establishing the foundation for academic readiness in the elementary years. Attendance is expected, and we are unable to amend tuition payments due to extended absences. Please do your best to arrive on time each day and pick up your child at dismissal time. Frequent late departures will result in additional fees.

Lunch, Snack, and Water Bottles

Students should bring their snack/lunch and filled water bottle to school each day. Students will not have access to a refrigerator or a microwave, so plan accordingly to use a thermos for hot food and ice packs for cold food. If your child has a severe food allergy, we will notify all parents before school begins to ask students to avoid bringing that food item to school. We cannot guarantee your child will not come into contact with that item and we will create an emergency care plan with you. As a universal precaution, please do not include peanuts in the food you send with your child.

Dress Code

Please dress your child in clothes that allow for free movement and play and that your child can undo snaps, zippers, and buttons independently. Children should wear closed-toed shoes and dress in weather-appropriate attire to spend time outdoors.

Inclement Weather Policy

Inclement weather is inevitable. We will do our best to alert families via text and email by 6:30am the day of a potential cancelation. Typically, we will follow the cancelation decisions of Bainbridge Island School District as well as Kitsap County safety measures and precautions. Due to our program time, we will only cancel and not have delayed starts.

Parking

We are located in the active Island Gateway Plaza. We share driveways and parking with our neighbors. For arrival and departure, please utilize one of two options to assist us in a smooth transition for your child. We may have limited parking available in the front of the building on any given day, particularly at dismissal. For that reason, we ask parents that are able to park behind the building and walk down using the path. This will allow parents of multiple children in their vehicle to pick up more easily.

Volunteers

Kids Discovery Museum volunteers are a near and dear asset to our community. At times, volunteers will be present during your child's school day either assisting in the program or assisting with other mission critical projects within our museum. Volunteers participate in a comprehensive training program and we run background checks on all our volunteers.

Enrollment Process

The Preschool at KiDiMu will begin enrolling children ages 3 - 5 for the 2024-2025 academic year, on January 31, 2024.

For early learners aged 3 - 5, our multi-age program centers around curious learners ready to explore a school environment. Students must be toilet-trained and able to use the toilet independently. Students must turn three by September 1, 2024 and turn 5 after September 1, 2024. Exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis under the Museum's teaching staff and Executive Director's discretion.

Applications for the 2024-2025 school year are available now and applications will be accepted until the class size is reached. For the 2024-2025 school year, enrollment is limited to 12 students.

Our class size is limited to 12 students and we strive to create a balanced mix of children regarding gender, age, and developmental stages.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Preschool at KiDiMu admits students of any race, color, gender, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational or admission policies.

To Enroll please:

- Complete online application
- Attend a tour and meet with preschool program staff
- Submit signed Enrollment Agreement form
- Complete the immunization record form
- Submit tuition payment plan
- Pay registration fees and deposit within 15 days of enrollment

Tuition

\$6,000 annually

\$600 monthly for the school year (September-June)

\$250 annual materials fee

*A non-refundable tuition deposit of \$850 (includes a \$250 materials fee) will confirm your enrollment. An invoice will be sent upon receipt of completing the preschool enrollment agreement. Your deposit is due seven days after you receive your invoice from The Preschool at KiDiMu.

Payment Schedule

Multiple payment plan options are available. Families can remit payment in full prior to the first day of school, or tuition can be divided evenly in semi-annual, quarterly, or monthly installments. We will work with you to create a payment plan upon request.

Tuition payments are due by the 5th day of the month in which the payment is due. A late fee of \$25 is assessed for payment not received by the 5th of that month. Please make checks payable to Kids Discovery Museum.

The Enrollment Agreement outlines payment options and tuition liability.

Withdrawal

Families that choose to withdraw from The Preschool at KiDiMu program forfeit their materials fee and deposit.

We will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations and to create a thriving environment for every student. In the unlikely event our education team determines that we are unable to meet your child's needs within our program and ask that you withdraw, a prorated deposit will be refunded.

Health and Wellness

We recognize that children will experience an array of symptoms that may or may not be contagious at any given point; however, we ask that you follow the below medical guidelines in determining if your child should attend school.

Please **do not** send your child to school if they have:

- **Cough** (not related to seasonal allergies): A persistent cough. Conditions may be contagious and may require treatment from your health care provider. A child or staff may return when the cough is not present.
- **Runny nose** (not related to seasonal allergies): Persistent nasal discharge. Conditions may be contagious and may require treatment from your health care provider. A child may return when the discharge is not present.
- **Sore throat:** Sore throat or loss of voice, especially with a fever or swollen glands in the neck. A child may return when symptoms are gone or they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours, if diagnosed with a condition such as strep throat.
- **A fever** (an oral temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher). A fever is a common symptom when it occurs with sore throat, an earache, nausea, listlessness or a rash. You **MUST** keep your child home during the course of a fever - and for an additional 24 hours after the fever has passed without the use of fever reducing medication.
- **Vomiting** during the night or more than twice in the past 24 hours.
- **Diarrhea** during the night or more than twice in the past 24 hours.
- **Bacterial Conjunctivitis, or Pink Eye** (Must have been taking an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school.)
- **Ear Infection** (Must have been taking an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school.)
- A bothersome body **rash**, especially with fever and/or itching that spreads quickly and has open, weeping wounds.

Prior to student enrollment in September, The Preschool at KiDiMu shall require proof of current immunization status. The Preschool at KiDiMu shall follow guidelines set forth by the State of Washington Public Health Department.