

Bush Hill Presbyterian Day School

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Bush Hill Day School (BHDS) is a church-related preschool for children ages 2, 3, and 4—and for those children who have turned 5. Two-year-olds must turn 2 by June 30. The cut-off birthday for 3- & 4-year-olds is September 30.

We are located in the Franconia area of Alexandria, across from the Rose Hill Shopping Center. Our hours of operation are 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. Before-and-after school care is **not** provided.

Frequently Asked Questions:



Q: *Are you an accredited preschool? What training/education do your teachers have? Are teachers CPR certified?*

A: We are not accredited. Bush Hill Day School is religiously exempt by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The vast majority of teachers have a college degree. All college degrees have been earned in different fields. All staff members have experience with young children. The criteria we value most when interviewing prospective teachers is their love of children. All but one of the staff members are mothers of BHDS graduates. That speaks highly of our Day School. All of our teachers are CPR certified.

Q: *What is the student/teacher ratio?*

A: Two-year-old classes have 6 children in the class, with one teacher. Three and four-year-old classes have a lead teacher and an assistant teacher. Having the same two teachers in the classroom offers stability and consistency to the program. Typically, 14 children comprise a 3-year-old class, and 4-year-old classes have a maximum of 17 students. The final decision as to the actual size of each class is left to the discretion of the Director. [Note: The composition of the class and the needs of the children may determine an exception to the class size numbers noted.]

Q: *Is potty training required for entrance into your school?*

A: No. There is no written policy regarding potty training. Obviously, the teachers would prefer that all children were toilet trained; however, this is an unrealistic expectation. We are willing to cooperate and assist in this important step.

Q: *How much religion is incorporated into your daily schedule?*

A: We are a Christian preschool. However, we have children of all faiths attending BHDS. All children say/sing a blessing before the daily snack. All 4-year-olds attend a regular chapel time led by the director and the pastor. When chapel is held, everyone in the group participates without exception. Four-year-olds also sing and say a daily prayer. All children in the school participate in our Christmas Program.

Q: *When is Registration for the upcoming school year?*

A: Registration for September takes place the preceding February for church members and for those families who currently have children enrolled in the school. Former families also have priority during the registration process. New families register by attending a Registration Day in March. (New families should call the school in mid-January to schedule a visit to the preschool. Several small tours are given during the month of February.)

Q: *Do you go on any field trips?*

A: We do not have a school bus or van. Therefore, we must rely on parents to transport all children on any and all field trips. For this reason, we “bring many field trips to the school.” In other words, we invite various individuals and/or groups to talk and interact with our children. These include, but are not limited to, a pediatric dentist, a professional storyteller, local firefighter, etc.

Q: *What is a typical day at your school like?*

A: Each day includes: arrival time (parents drive up at arrival and dismissal—we are one of the few preschools that offers a carline—and our teachers take children out of the cars at arrival and put children in the car at dismissal), undirected free play (e.g., activities at learning centers, dress-up, a table with manipulative materials, puzzles, Lego table, etc.), daily art time, clean-up, outdoor play (on our new playground), circle time, story time, snack time, quiet time/looking at books, creative movement/rhythmic activities, and preparation for dismissal. Children also have a scheduled music session with our music teacher(s).

Q: *Is parent participation required? If not, is it an option?*

A: We are not a Co-op or Mother’s Day Out; therefore, parent participation is not required. However, we welcome and encourage parental participation. Parents complete a Parent Volunteer Form at the beginning of the year. Parents may volunteer to: provide special snacks, sew, be room parents, organize parties, drive on field trips, provide transportation for a family that cannot bring/take child to school, or talk to their child’s class about an occupation/talent/avocation, etc.

Q: *Are snacks provided? If not, do parents provide them?*

A: Snacks are provided by the Day School. Water is served with each snack. However, parents do bring in special snacks/juices for holiday celebrations and for their child’s birthday celebration.

Q: *How “academic” is your school?*

A: We are **not** a “worksheet” preschool. However, our 4-year-olds will be prepared for kindergarten. We believe “play is education.” Our school is a supplement to the home and a place where the young child can feel cared for, protected, and secure. A stimulating environment for learning is created—an environment in which the child has an opportunity to develop a sense of achievement and self-worth. Our purpose is to help the children discover the joy of learning and to establish positive foundations on which the child can build their lives. BHDS provides a pleasant environment, limited enrollment, experienced teachers, a curriculum tailored to the developing interest and abilities of each child, and a wide range of resources for instruction. In this framework, children are free to develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically. This allows children to work toward happy relationships with others.