

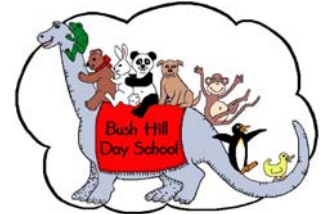
Bush Hill Presbyterian Day School

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Bush Hill Day School (BHDS) is a church-related preschool for children ages 2, 3, and 4. 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 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-year-old classes have a maximum of 14 children in the class, with one lead teacher and one assistant teacher. Four-year-old classes have a maximum of 17 children in the classroom with one lead teacher and one assistant teacher. Having the same two teachers in the classroom offers stability and consistency to the program. The teachers get to know each and every child.

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 months of January and February.)*

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

A: A couple of field trips are planned during the school year. We attend a Tiny Tots Concert which is presented by a local high school band and choral group. In the past, 4-year-olds have visited the planetarium at Edison High School. We rely on parent drivers for our various field trips.

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. 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 mothers, 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.