

Nursery School



The Y Nursery School Your Child. Our Focus.

Emphasizing individual attention for each child, the Y Nursery School builds a community of learners in a safe, nurturing, and academically enriching environment.

- Full- and extended-day options
- 3K/Pre-K for children born in 2020 & 2021

www.ywhi.org/yms | Susan Herman, Director of Early Childhood Services (sherman@ywhi.org)

Licensed by the Early Childhood Education Division of the New York City Department of Health, the YM&YWH of Washington Heights & Inwood Nursery School is registered by the New York State Department of Education and is an accredited preschool and childcare center.





The Y: Then and Now

The Y was established in 1917 as a multi-service community center, providing educational, recreational, and social services for our families from preschoolers to older adults. Over the last ten years, in particular, we have seen a tremendous growth in the number of families with young children living in the surrounding neighborhood. An expansion of our preschool facility and the inclusion of full-day, tuition-free 3K and Pre-K for All for three and four-year-olds reflects the change and growth in the community.

Today the Y Nursery School's collaborative environment fosters children's emotional, social, intellectual, physical, and aesthetic development. Experienced teachers guide children to become independent thinkers and lifelong learners as they make connections, solve problems, and explore their worlds. The Y Nursery School embraces families from diverse backgrounds and cultivates a connection to Jewish values and traditions.

The Standard for Pre-Kindergarten

We incorporate a constructivist approach, providing children the opportunity to learn by directly experiencing their environment. Children explore, touch, taste, build, interact with other children, and experiment as they learn about the world around them. Teachers take an active, intentional role using a balanced approach that combines children's interests and needs with the goals of achieving the New York State standards for pre-kindergarten.

We Listen and Adapt to Your Child's Individual Needs

By listening to children's conversations as they play, a teacher discovers what captures their attention. From this they incorporate language arts, music, art, social studies, science, and physical education to plan appropriate experiences and projects based on those

interests. This type of planning curriculum, known as emergent curriculum, involves a good deal of listening, documentation, flexibility, and creativity on the part of the teacher. When units of study are based on student interest, involve students in planning, and incorporate more open-ended materials, children work to construct their own learning and learning becomes more relevant and meaningful.



Meeting the Community's Needs through 3K/PreK for All

Through an award from the New York City Department of Education, the Y is excited to offer full-day, tuition-free 3K and Pre-K for All for children born in 2020 and 2021. In order to prepare students for kindergarten and beyond, we encourage children to grow as they work and explore together. Lunch and snacks are included for children enrolled in 3K/PKA and are served family-style within a language-based classroom setting.

Our Classrooms are an Inspiration for Inquiry

The Y Nursery School's wings on the first and second floors provide a natural environment within a safe setting that enriches our school community and encourages interactive learning. Recently renovated classrooms have enhanced security, bathrooms, and updated lighting and flooring. Our beautiful, expansive rooftop playground, full-sized gymnasium, and first floor outdoor play area provide daily opportunities for large motor development.

A Nurturing, Welcoming Community

At the Y Nursery School we strive to create an open and welcoming community of children, teachers, staff, and caregivers. There are numerous ways that families can become further engaged. Our Parent Committee meets monthly and is comprised of parents from each class. We invite family members to visit our classrooms as mystery visitors, storytellers, or participants in our cooking activities, music, dance, theater, or visual arts experiences. To keep parents informed, photographs and updates are shared weekly through a secure app, allowing parents to follow their child's progress and the classroom's units of study, activities. Parent-teacher conferences are held twice a year and families are welcome to schedule more frequent meetings if needed.

Instruction Provided by a Highly Trained, Professional Staff

Lead teachers are experienced in early childhood education and most are New York State certified. Associate teachers enhance our program with skills in art, drama, and literacy. Outside specialists offer opportunities to provide music, creative movement, and environmental education in our rooftop garden and hydroponics laboratory.



Take a Tour

Prospective families are welcome to participate in a school tour either virtually or in-person (if health conditions allow.) Please contact the school office to schedule a tour or use the link on our website.

Application Process

Children Born in 2022 (must be 2 by September 2024)

Registration opens to all in November for the following school year. Children are accepted into the program on a rolling basis until we are fully enrolled. In order to secure a spot, a \$1000 deposit must be included along with the completed registration form. Financial assistance is available for families with documented need.

Children Born in 2020 and 2021 (3K and 4K)

Admission to 3K and Pre-K for All is determined through the NYC Department of Education application process that begins in February for the following school year. Current students in the Y's 2s and 3s programs will receive priority for spots in the 3K and PKA programs based on the city's enrollment priority policies.

Enrollment Options

Children Born in 2022 (must be 2 by September 2024)

- Full-Day Program: 8:30 am – 2:50 pm
- Extended-Day Program: 8:30 am – 6 pm

Children Born in 2020 and 2021 (3K/PKA)

- Full-Day Program: 8:35/8:40 am – 2:55/3:00 pm
- Extended-Day Program: 2:55/3:00 pm – 6 pm

Transportation option for Children in 3K and 4K

One Way or Round Trip: 8:30 am and 2:55/3:00 pm

Buses pick up and drop-off at pre-determined bus stops from 178th Street up through Inwood

What Parents Say About Us

We are so eternally grateful for having stumbled upon the Y for both my boys' Pre-K years. The experience has been incredibly rewarding for my entire family. My son has grown in so many ways and so much of it is due to the TLC of your wonderful staff. THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts. We will always remember the Y with love and a full heart of joy.

- Zabryna and Michael

Let's Hear From You

For more information about applying, tuition and fees, and 3K/Pre-K for All, visit www.ywhi.org/yms. Learn more about the Y's Early Childhood programming, including Toddler Exploration, Ukulele Shabbat, New Mom's Support Group and Footpaths Summer Camp at www.ywhi.org/early-childhood. Still have questions?

Contact Susan Herman, Director of Early Childhood Services (sherman@ywhi.org) and Laura Sanchez, Assistant Director of Early Childhood Services (lsanchez@ywhi.org).

Marcia Cohen, Board of Directors President | Martin G. English, Chief Executive Officer



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