



Question 1

What is your main education philosophy?

Our Philosophy is two pronged:

- STEM based: Our focus on cognitive development through manipulative- based learning allows children to experience and build understanding in areas of science, technology, engineering and math
- Social/Emotional based: We focus on social-emotional development as a cornerstone of preschool education. This helps children become empathetic, kind and confident, all traits needed for personal success and emotional fulfillment.

Question 2

What is the Teacher to Student Ratio?

Age Group	State Ratio	Birch Tree Ratio
Infants	1:4	1:3
12 - 18 months	1:7	1:4
18 - 24 months	1:7	1:5
24 - 36 months	1:10	1:7
3 years - 4 years	1:10	1:9

Question 3

When do you expect the Canyon Park location to open?

October/November

What happens if there are delays in opening the daycare?

We have built some delays into our schedule, so if there is a delay, we hope it will be minimal. The biggest wild card is our licensing process, but we will keep everyone updated on progress. Luckily we've been through licensing many times before and will be well prepared!

If the school is delayed and you want to withdraw due to the delay, we will refund your deposit.

Question 4

How will enrollment be prioritized?

Enrollment will be prioritized in the following order;

1. Current families and siblings (*complete*)
2. Families transferring from other Birch Tree schools (*complete*)
3. Families referred by current Birch Tree families (*starting soon*)
4. Bothell waitlist families that have already toured
5. Families that have signed up on the website in order of signup date



Question 5

How do I reserve a spot? Does paying the registration fee guarantee my spot?

You will receive an email with a link to our Parent/Teacher communication and billing platform Brightwheel. Once you have created an account on Brightwheel and submitted your application for Canyon Park, we will add you to the waitlist and be in contact regarding available spaces.

Once a spot is offered you will have 24hrs to confirm your enrollment before we offer the spot to the next family on the waitlist.

There is no fee to join the waitlist. We only charge you once we find a spot and officially enroll you into a class.

Question 6

I am pregnant with my second and would want to enroll my second child in July 2025- should I put them on the waiting list now?

YES! The infant and toddler classes have the lowest ratios and fill up the fastest, it's best to plan ahead!

Question 7



Could we drop off child between 9:00am and 10:00am although the open time is 7:00am?

You can drop off anytime from 7:30 am- 11 am and pick up anytime after 3 pm. We ask that you don't pick up or drop off between 12 pm and 3 pm as the children are eating and sleeping, and it is disturbing to the class.



Question 8



Could you please provide information about the holiday schedule and the duration of school closures?

We are closed on the following days:

- New Years Day (Teacher In Service)
- Thurs and Fri before Labor Day
- Christmas Day
- Thanksgiving and Friday after Thanksgiving
- Memorial Day
- 4th of July
- Labor Day
- Presidents Day (Teacher In Service)
- Thurs and Fri before Labor Day



Question 9

Where are all the teachers from? Do you transfer teachers from other center or hire new staff for the new center?

We aim to transfer about 30% of the staff at a new location from an existing location to help maintain the Birch Tree culture and help train new staff. The remainder of the staff will be hired externally but they will interview and train at current Birch Tree schools, so they are ready to hit the ground running when Canyon Park opens.

Question 10

- Do you have option for 3 days/week for infants?

We do not offer a 3- day option for infants but we offer 3, 4 or 5 days for all other age groups

- Do you offer part day options (half day)?

We do not offer part day options.

Question 11

Could you tell us about the daily schedule?

For our infant's class, we follow cue-based care, where the schedule of the class is not set but each child individually follow their own napping and eating schedule.

Puffins Weekly Schedule					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30	Arrival, Early Snack, & Free Choice				
8:00					
9:00					
	Circle Time				
	Morning Snack				
10:00	STEM & Math			Spanish	Music
11:00	Morning Recess				
12:00	Lunch				
1:00	Nap Time				
2:00					
	Afternoon Snack				
3:00	Art & Sensory				
	Afternoon Recess				
4:00	Literacy & Language Arts				
	Late Snack				
5:00	Quiet Table Activities: Books, Puzzles, Coloring, etc.				

Question 12

What activities do preschool and Pre-K classes do?

Math: We use Everyday Math curriculum, which is a manipulative based program that focuses on:

- Counting and 1:1 correspondence
- Adding & subtracting
- Sorting & classifying
- Arranging patterns
- Exploring and naming two and three-dimensional shapes
- Standard Non-standard measurements
- Graphing
- Estimating

Literacy: We teach literacy by focusing on sound recognition and letter formation. We use Zoo phonics and Handwriting without Tears as our manipulative based curriculum.

Science and Engineering: We have created our own curriculum for that focuses on the three areas of science: Earth Science, Physical Science and Life Science. Our curriculum scaffolds for each group to build understanding in each of these areas of learning.

Question 13

What do activities look like?

Most of our activities are based around small group activities where children learn both individually and in groups.





Question 14

Will Canyon Park have classroom cameras accessible to parents?

Yes! We have live-streaming cameras in each of our classrooms. Parents will get a password protected link to the cameras so they can check on their kiddos anytime during the day.

Directors have access to camera recordings to check on any situation that may require us to go back and look into something that happened in the classroom.



Question 15

How does Birch Tree Academy support kids with developmental delays - specifically motor and speech delays?

We always strive to support children in their individual needs. If a child is able to be successful in our environment, we want to make it work for them at their developmental level. Having said that, our curriculum-based structure with lots of kids is not ideal for all children, regardless of their abilities.

Our teachers have a lot of tools and strategies to support children at their individual levels. If we exhaust our strategies, we will reach out for additional support from parents and specialists. We want to make Birch Tree an inclusive environment for children of varied abilities and are happy to discuss if Birch Tree Academy is the right fit for your child!

Question 16

What will the outdoor area be like?

Canyon Park is going to have an amazing outdoor space, the largest of all of our schools. We have a large playground (almost double the size of Bothell) that is adjacent to trails and a creek, and we will make sure that children have plenty of activities to keep them busy while outside.

Like Bothell, the Canyon Park playground will be separated into two parts- one for toddlers and one for bigger kids. Each side will have equipment that is age appropriate for the specific age group. We will have padded turf for both sides in order to protect children from falls.

Question 17

What is your vacation policy? If I go on vacation for a month, do I still have to pay tuition?

We are not able to prorate tuition for any reason as our costs don't change. If taking a prolonged vacation, you can either:

- Disenroll from the school (give us 30 days notice) and try to return into your spot if it is still available. Please know that we do offer your spot to people on the waitlist once you give notice, so likely it will not still be available.
- Continue to pay tuition while you are on vacation in order to ensure your spot is saved for you.



KEEP ME HOME IF...

I have a temperature of 100.4°F or higher



- I'm younger than 2 months; OR
- I'm older than 2 months **AND have other illness symptoms** (rash, sore throat, earache, headache, vomit, diarrhea) or are **just not feeling well**

I'm vomiting



2 or more times in 24 hours

I have diarrhea



- 2 loose/watery stools more than normal for child in 24 hours; OR
- Any blood or mucus in stool

I have a rash, sores, lice, ringworm, or scabies



- Body rash (not related to allergic reaction, diapering, or heat)
- Oozing open sores or wounds
- Mouth sores with drooling
- Untreated head lice, ringworm, or scabies

I'm not feeling well



- Unusually tired
- Low activity level
- Lack of appetite
- Cranky/fussy
- Crying more than normal
- Unable to keep up with program activities

Question 18

What kind of sick symptoms (such as running nose) will influence acceptance that day?

Please note: As of 2022, American Academy of Pediatrics defines fever as a temperature of 100.4°F or higher.

COVID-19 is not the only illness in the community. Child care and early learning programs are required to follow Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 110-300-0205 and send children and staff home when they are sick.

Programs are allowed to have sickness policies that are more cautious than WAC requirements. For example, a program may require children be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to care, or they may choose to exclude for COVID-19 symptoms and require a negative test before a child can return. **Please follow your child care program's sickness policy.**

Nobody likes to get sick. Keeping your child home when they are sick helps teachers, children, and other families from getting their germs. Other things you can do to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands
- Stay up to date on your vaccinations, including COVID-19 and flu
- Consider wearing masks when you are in a crowded public setting

Supported by:
Public Health   **SNOHOMISH COUNTY**
 Seattle & King County HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 2/2023

Question 19

Where are the meals prepared?

Our amazing cooks prepare all 5 meals per day in our commercial kitchen. All meat and dairy are organic, and all our food is freshly prepared.

Are there gluten-free options available?

We do not offer gluten free options but are happy to offer the child food from home when we are not able to accommodate the gluten free option.

What if my child has allergies?

We take allergies very seriously! We make sure that anyone handling food is aware of the child's allergies and have multiple steps to ensure the child is not exposed to the allergen food. We can eliminate the allergens from the diet and offer food parents bring from home instead.





Thank You!

Birch Tree Academy is a STEM based bilingual preschool with heart. We're located in the greater Seattle area. Learn more at www.BirchTreeAcademy.com.

Questions? Contact us at info@birchtreeacademy.com.