



FAQs

What is your adult to child ratio?

The Ministry of Education requires a minimum ratio of one teacher to eight children. Two additional adult volunteers or assistants are required for nine to 16 children. Oriole Nursery School usually achieves a better ratio of one adult to five children since assistants and volunteer Duty Day participants are present with the teacher.

What is a co-operative nursery school?

In short, a co-operative preschool is a non-profit organization owned and operated by the parents of the children enrolled.

At Oriole Nursery School, our families play a vital role in the school's operations and ongoing success. The School primarily is administered by an elected Board of Directors and numerous volunteer committees, comprised of families with children currently enrolled in the school. All families are required to choose a Board or non-Board volunteer position that contributes to the daily management and operation of the school and its activities. Also, each family can affect the direction of the organization, as a "member" of Oriole Nursery School, and is, therefore, entitled to one vote per child at the Annual General Meeting.

What volunteer jobs are available to parents?

The following is a list of current parent volunteer jobs, which is subject to change from year to year.

Property Maintenance and Repair Coordinator

Coordinate the maintenance and repairs of the school to ensure equipment, toys and furniture in both the classrooms and playground are in good repair.

Curriculum Enrichment

Under the direction of the supervisor, prepare craft materials (i.e. cut shapes, pieces of art material, tracing, writing for posters etc.) in the classroom or at home.

Purchaser

Under the direction of the supervisor, purchase staples such as snack food, office supplies, playground supplies, etc.

Registrar's Assistant

Throughout the year, take and return calls with prospective parents, answering any questions, arranging and giving tours, and following up until the family decides to register, at which point they are referred to the Registrar.

Yearbook and Newsletter Editor

Edit the Yearbook and Newsletter.

Fundraising Committee

Assist with fundraising initiatives where required. i.e. maple syrup sales, gala planning.

Special Events Planner

Coordinate the planning for the Fall Family Day, Holiday Party, and End of Year picnic, including the menu, identifying requirements, sign-up for food and contributions, room set-up and logistics such as program requirements and equipment, “entertainment”, and the like.

Playdough Preparation

Purchase supplies and make playdough weekly in the appropriate amount using the school recipe (to be provided)

Art Filer

Come into the classroom on a weekly or biweekly basis and file artwork into children’s files.

Weekly Laundry

Under the supervisor’s direction, launder dress-up clothes and towels weekly.

School Outings/ In-Class Photographers

Digitally photograph class events and school trips.

Scholastic Book Coordinator/Camp Assistant

Liaise with Scholastic Books and the school. Each month distribute book catalogues to parents, teachers and assistants and arrange delivery of orders.

Parent-Teacher Liaison

If parents have a question or issue that they do not feel comfortable discussing with the teacher directly, they may approach this individual who will advise them on next steps.

What are Duty Days?

In addition to volunteer positions, families are encouraged to “participate” in the classroom on a Duty Day. Each “participating” family is normally expected to attend two Duty Days per month, per child. Duty Day parents/caregivers work with the teachers in the classroom. It is a special opportunity to observe your child playing, interacting with others and engaging in new activities. In addition, it provides valuable support for the teachers and helps them gain a better understanding of your child.

If families are not able to participate in the classroom they can opt to be “non-participating”. Non-participating families are required to pay a higher fee to compensate for hiring assistants to maintain our one adult to five children ratio. They still are required to provide assistance to the co-operative by fulfilling a volunteer position. Of course, non-participating parents are always welcome to visit the classroom to observe their child and teacher.

What is your teaching approach? Is there a set curriculum?

Oriole Nursery School’s program emphasizes “learning through play” where preschoolers learn about themselves, others, and their environment through actively exploring and experimenting with a variety of materials and equipment. Children are naturally curious, eager to learn and want to master new skills. Learning is enhanced when children are free to choose where they play, with what, and with whom. Teachers, assistants and Duty Day participants support the children's choices and their quest for independence and learning while maintaining a framework of common sense, safety and well-being.

Oriole Nursery School sets the stage for learning by creating an enriched, unbiased, inclusive, and stimulating environment where children pursue their natural inclination to learn and be independent. We provide a happy, relaxed, encouraging atmosphere that fosters self-respect, self-discipline, self-esteem, a sense of humour, and security.

Creativity is essential to the nursery school experience. Creative activity fosters a sense of individuality and the ability to think for oneself. While the finished product may reveal little of the richness of experience gained by the child, the actual process of completing the project is important.

Oriole Nursery School enhances creativity by developing programs in dramatic arts, music, stories, arts and crafts, special themes, field trips and special events, as well as gross and fine motor activities. Socially, we nurture the students’ growing interest in playing with others by helping them learn to share, take turns, verbalize their thoughts and feelings, and find acceptable solutions to challenges and problems.

The curriculum details are below:

Curriculum		
<u>Mathematics Program</u> Counting Weight Size Matching Time	Quantity Classifying Comparing Graphing	1:1 Correspondence Sequencing Predicting Recognizing numbers
<u>Language Skills</u> Listening Oral expression Following directions & instructions Expressing feelings	Explaining Making polite requests Vocabulary building Describing Rhyming	Alphabet Sharing ideas in a group Recognizing letters Reading in various ways i.e. books, sign, symbols
<u>Natural Science</u> Knowledge, appreciation, respect of the natural world Observing Identifying	Discovering Experimenting Predicting Describing	Measuring Comparing Handling & examining authentic specimens
<u>Social Skills</u> Sharing Taking turns Initiating play Cooperative play	Team work Eye contact Expressing feelings Helping others	Empathizing Developing friendships Respect for others
<u>Affective Skills</u> Establishing nurturing, caring, supportive setting promoting risk-taking, decision-making, independence	self-awareness, self-control, self-expression, and positive self-esteem	Exuberance for learning Pride and pleasure in accomplishment
<u>Physical Skills</u> Large and small muscle development Physical fitness	Experimentation with apparatus Hand-eye coordination	Skill development Expressing creatively in movement Acting upon movement direction
<u>Aesthetics</u> Creating using a variety of materials and mediums Experimenting	Learning about colour, texture, shape, design Fine muscle control	Self-expression
<u>Curriculum is thematically-based utilizing</u>		
Books Puzzles Toys Dress-up clothes Pictures	Songs Finger plays Art activities Multi-sensory activities	Experiments and outings promote integrating new skills, concepts and knowledge in meaningful and constructive ways

Does my child need to be toilet trained?

Children do not have to be toilet trained to attend Oriole Nursery School. The school works with parents to encourage children who are interested in using the toilet, and to ensure it is a positive experience. All children visit the washroom at routine times. Children receive positive reinforcement and encouragement for their successes in using the toilet. Similarly, we are accepting when accidents occur. Learning to use the toilet takes time and we take pride in being a positive part of your child's learning experience.

What is the school-provided healthy snack?

A healthy snack is provided each day and is included in the tuition. Children are served fruit or vegetables, a dairy product and a carbohydrate each day.

What is your admissions policy?

Oriole Nursery School is licensed for children ages two to four years old. Admission is open to the community at large and is on a first-come basis. Children enrolled in the school have priority over newcomers when applying to the Senior class. Siblings of a child enrolled at the school, and children of staff, also have priority.

The Junior class is intended for children two to three years old. Junior students may register for three, four or five mornings per week. Junior class students may be enrolled for the full year starting in September or may be enrolled once they turn two (subject to availability and suitability). Students enrolling for the full-year will be given priority. Children who turn two after January are welcome to enrol in the Junior class, but will have to continue in the Junior class the following year (until they are eligible for the Senior class). The Junior class has a maximum enrolment capacity of 15 students per day.

The Senior class is intended for three to four year olds. The program is designed for Senior students to be full-time (five mornings per week). The Senior class is designed for children who are entering kindergarten the following year. Children must turn three before December 31st of the calendar year. The Senior class has a maximum enrolment capacity of 16 students per day.

What types of special events do you have on Toronto District School Board PD Days?

Special events on Toronto District School Board PD days are open to siblings of students enrolled in the school (with caregivers present). Special events include (but are not limited to) special classes or visits from: Rainbow Songs, Mad Science, WHIMZ Animals, Mystic Drumz and Hands-On Exotics.