

Founded in 2004, The Nest @ CNS is a program for toddlers ages two to three, and is affiliated with Community Nursery School (CNS), which serves children ages three to five and has been in existence for over sixty years. We are a nonprofit, nonsectarian, parent cooperative program located in the heart of Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, NY.

Ten children, two teachers and an aide comprise the Nest class. Our teaching philosophy is that children learn through play and that the teacher's role is to facilitate each child's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. In simple terms this means that a day at the Nest is filled with music, art, story-telling, physical play, and lots of fun, creative projects.

Facility

The Nest is in Cayuga Heights within a half-mile of Cornell on a regularly running bus route. We can be found in the lower level of the First Congregational Church, in a quiet neighborhood, on a quiet street. Our building and shady fenced playground — with a new climbing structure, giant sandbox, swings, and riding toys — are far from any road. The classroom has areas for puzzles, blocks, and make-believe play; an easel, and two tables for art projects and manipulatives; and a cuddle area for books.

Children expend energy on the playground every day that weather permits. In inclement weather, children use other indoor spaces: a "climbing room" featuring items like a trampoline and a structure for climbing and sliding; and a bike room where they ride on tricycles and other small vehicles.

Parent Participation

As a cooperative, the quality of our program depends on the participation of all families, but responsibilities are light. We have only one or two parent meetings per year, and families participate once a year in a maintenance and cleaning day. Each family serves on the Board or on a committee to support the classroom experience—

hospitality, fundraising, fix-it, laundry, etc. Like other area pre-schools, we do ask that all of our families assist with minimal fundraising efforts. Regular parent responsibilities include providing a healthy snack on a rotating basis, and substituting for the occasional absent teacher.

Enrollment and Tuition

Enrollment in the Nest is from 9 am to 12 pm, two, three, or five days per week. Monthly tuition for the 2008–2009 school year is:

M–F \$375

MWF \$220

Tu/Th \$155.

Any increase in tuition for 2009–2010 will be voted on at the first parent meeting in September. Scholarships may be available upon request.

CNS follows the ICSD elementary school calendar. We are a ten-month program, September to June.

Daily Schedule

9:00 Free Choice / Art Project / Manipulatives

10:00 Clean-up

10:15 Circle Time

10:45 Snack and Story Time

11:15 Clean-up, Bathroom, and Outdoor Preparation

11:30 Outside / Climbing Room / Bike Room

12:00 Parent Pick-up

Application Details

Children entering the Nest must be two years old by September 1. Toilet training is not a requirement. Please note that enrollment in the Nest is for the full year. In the interest of maintaining classroom stability and continuity, Nesters may not move up to the CNS classroom until the following school year.

If you would like to enroll your child in The Nest, please complete the application form and send it with the nonrefundable application fee to the **Registrar, The Nest @ CNS, 309A Highland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850**

Staff

Cathy Savage, Lead Teacher

Cathy has worked in the early education field for fifteen years as a co-teacher in a toddler classroom at UMass CEEC at Amherst. She was also a self-employed child care provider, lead teacher at Smith College Center for Early Childhood Education, and an assistant teacher at Amherst Montessori School. She holds a B.S. in child psychology from Westfield State College and a Lead Teacher Early Education and Care Certificate. Cathy is entering her third year here with us at The Nest.

Rebecca Nellenback, Assistant Teacher

Rebecca has recently returned to early child care and education after several years of traveling and farming in far-flung places, from India to Kentucky and back home again. She holds a master's degree in educational theater from New York University and permanent New York State elementary education teaching certification. She lives in Brooktondale with her husband and son, and is excited to both farm and teach. Rebecca is entering her second year at The Nest.

Faith Cristantiello, Teacher's Aide

Faith has experience working with nursery school students in the Newfield school district, as an assistant teacher in the Head Start program in Auburn, and as an observer at the Stone Circle School in Ithaca. She continues to work on her early childhood education degree and is beginning her third year at the Nest.

For questions about the Nest contact:

Nest Registrar, 607-257-7648 or thenest@cnsithaca.org

For questions about CNS's preschool program for 3 to 5 year olds, contact:

CNS Registrar, 607-257-7648 or registrar@cnsithaca.org

The Nest @ CNS



A toddler program
for 2 to 3 year olds

309A Highland Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.cnsithaca.org

607-257-7648

The Nest admits persons of any race, color,
and national or ethnic origin.