



*75 years of
learning
through
play*

Sleepy Hollow Preschool's educational philosophy is centered on the belief that it is essential to love and accept each child for who they are.

When this type of environment is fostered, children are able to develop their own self-confidence.



Learn more at
sleepyhollowpreschool.org

Sleepy Hollow Preschool
6531 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003
703-941-9791

A note from our Director

Working in early childhood education for over 20 years has taught me what to value in each stage of preschool development. When joining Sleepy Hollow Preschool, I found this school to embody a wonderful balance of development theory that puts into practice a celebrated and gently-tailored approach for each child.

Founded with the mission to provide an enriching environment and the knowledge that children learn best through play, Sleepy Hollow Preschool has been an integral part of our community for 75 years! Our innovative approach creates a top-notch program with fulfilling and plentiful experiences, personalized support, and an inclusive environment that respects diversity, learning styles, and individual development. I look forward to getting to know your children and you this year as we work together. Please know you are welcome here!

Ashley Gormley
Director

At Sleepy Hollow, Everyone Gets to Play

We strive to create a community that is diverse in many ways, as we believe diversity in the classroom increases opportunities for learning and provides a richer environment for all students.

Curriculum

Children at Sleepy Hollow Preschool learn through play. We use an emergent curriculum model to develop activities and enriched environments which reflect the children's interests while offering appropriate developmental tasks. Our staff does not use a static or inflexible curriculum. Rather, children are free to select their own play from activities that include:

- active and quiet play
- large/small motor activities
- visual/auditory/kinesthetic opportunities

We give children the opportunity to engage in organic and spontaneous social interactions by providing them with age appropriate activities to interact through play.

Outside Play

All three and four year-old classes join together daily, rain or shine, on our natural expansive playground. The facility contains a wide array of equipment including age-appropriate structures, sandboxes, belt and tire swings, bikes, and art easels. On most days, a variety of art supplies are available on the playground for quiet creative play. On some days, other teacher-inspired games or activities, such as nature exploration, are offered.

Open Centers

The Sleepy Hollow Preschool philosophy of learning through play flourishes in the open center program. During this portion of the day, children are free to move from one room to another and to choose among the various opportunities in each. Teachers guide and encourage the children as they construct their individual experiences. Each unique center offers a range of activities that are consistently available every day, including our Pretend Room, a magical play space where students can imagine and learn. Project work is planned and offered daily to support children's active exploration and extend learning. The topics are chosen to be responsive to children's passions, learning styles, and developmental needs.

Home Base

Children join their respective classes in their rooms for teacher-led group activities such as songs, stories, and conversation during circle time. The students enjoy a family style snack together. Classroom traditions are built around special events including birthdays, family celebrations, and special Sleepy Hollow events. Home base provides time for children to grow confidence as they learn to work as a member of their classroom community, acquiring skills that will support their success in kindergarten, through their school years, and adult life beyond.

Staff Qualifications and Practices

Led by our director, Ashley Gormley, the dedicated teaching staff at Sleepy Hollow Preschool comes to us from diverse backgrounds and experiences, but two things they all share are their love for children and a passion for teaching!

Each of our lead teachers holds a Bachelor's degree – many in the field of education. Through our philosophy of learning through play, the teachers use positive discipline and emergent curriculum to meet each child at her/his developmental level and support their growth while respecting each child's interests. The staff meets weekly to collaborate, plan, and to discuss the best path forward to ensure each student's success.



Enrichment Programs

In addition to Sleepy Hollow staff and co-oping adults, our specialty curriculum teachers bring a love and affinity for many subjects, including science and music. Our school also offers a variety of after school classes for children in the 3's and 4's programs.

Kindergarten Readiness

Our four year-old program prepares our children to succeed as they enter kindergarten and pursue their school careers. We ensure they have the social and emotional skills necessary to participate in a school community, form friendships, and engage in the classroom as curious and inquisitive learners. Students in our four's program are exposed to various preliteracy skills such as identifying letters and letter sounds and writing the letters in their own name. Students practice beginning math concepts such as comparing and contrasting, categorizing, and counting. Sleepy Hollow Preschool fosters a natural sense of curiosity.

The Co-Op Experience

Choosing a cooperative preschool is a personal investment in your child's education. Parents are in the classroom participating in making memories and learning in the process. We have a diverse group of families in our membership, and encourage all families to apply. Ask about our flexible buyout options for busy and/or working parents—we find a way to make sure everyone can join the fun!

Participating adults are assigned to co-op in their child's classroom on a rotating basis. The amount of required participation at full classroom enrollment is approximately:

- **2 year-old program (meets 2 days a week):**
8-9 times per year from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- **3 year-old program (meets 3 days a week):**
9-10 times per year from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- **4 year-old program (meets 4 days a week):**
9-10 times per year from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SHPS accommodates a variety of family arrangements, and appropriate training is provided to all. Co-oping adults are also required to join a school committee and complete four maintenance hours and four adult education hours throughout the school year.

Sleepy Hollow Programs

Two Year-Old Program

The Two Year-Old Program takes place in a self-contained classroom, designed to support toddlers' budding curiosity and independence while meeting their needs for trust and security. As children become comfortable, mini Open Centers open and the 2's move freely between their classrooms, the hallway (for pushing baby strollers and riding scooters), and the Pretend Room to play in the rich themes offered there.

The Two Year-Old Program is offered two days a week: Thursday and Friday from 9:10 a.m. to noon.

A typical Two's Schedule:

- **Parent drop-off** in the classroom
- **Classroom play:** Activity centers provide appropriate opportunities for sensory play, art activities, dramatic play, puzzles, toys, and a quiet corner.
- **Circle:** Teachers lead children in a variety of stories, songs and discussions. Special music and science themed circles also take place every month.
- **Snack:** Each co-oping parent provides a nutritious snack for children to enjoy while practicing meal time social skills and engaging with one another.
- **Playground:** Two year-olds have their own size-appropriate structures where they slide, climb and jump. They also swing, ride bicycles, balance on logs and stumps, jump in mud puddles, dig in the garden, and play with water and sand.

Three and Four Year-Old Program

The school morning for three and four year-olds is balanced between outside play time, home base time, and open center time.

The **Three Year-Old Program** is offered three days a week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9:10 a.m. to noon.

The **Four Year-Old Program** is offered four days a week: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:10 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

A typical Three's and Four's Schedule:

- **Parent drop-off** on the playground
- **Outside Play:** Children are free to choose from a variety of activities from sandboxes to obstacle courses to impromptu mud-pits.
- **Home Base:** Children join their respective classes in their rooms for teacher-led group activities such as songs, stories, and conversation in circle.
- **Snack:** Each co-oping parent provides a nutritious snack for children to enjoy while practicing manners and engaging with one another.
- **Open Centers:** With guidance from their teachers, children are free to move among the classrooms and participate in different projects.



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Office Hours
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Learn More

To learn more about Sleepy Hollow's robust programs, get current tuition information, and to apply, please visit us at:

sleepyhollowpreschool.org