

Piedmont Recreation Department

Tiddlywinks 2024/2025 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Tiddlywinks Program?

At Tiddlywinks, the magical year of two is celebrated as children learn through play and are provided with the tools and confidence needed for a life-long love of learning! Each day, children experience meaningful opportunities in our indoor/outdoor classroom that foster creativity and imagination through science, dramatic and sensory play, manipulatives, outdoor exploration, and art. Through play, children are naturally exposed to concepts like colors, shapes, letters, numbers, rhythm, and movement. More structured activities and routines like learning centers and circle time are introduced and our low student-teacher ratio provides children with valuable learning interactions with a focus on fostering independence and social skills by modeling, scaffolding, and teaching self-help skills.

How old must my child be to attend Tiddlywinks?

Children eligible for Tiddlywinks are 2 years old. They must be at least 24 months BY August 1, 2024 or turn 3 years old AFTER December 31, 2024.

**2024/2025 Note: At this time, PRD has paused the Tiddlywinks: Caterpillars (18-24 months) Program.*

Where is Tiddlywinks located?

Tiddlywinks is an indoor/outdoor program located at the Lower Level of the Community Hall, 711 Highland Avenue, in Piedmont.

What are the dates and times of Tiddlywinks during the 2024/2025 School Year?

Tiddlywinks meets 3 or 2 days per week: Monday/Wednesday/Fridays OR Tuesday/Thursdays, from 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

What is the duration of the Tiddlywinks program?

Tiddlywinks is a one-year program that runs from August to May of the following calendar year. Opportunities for summer programming may be available and announced closer to the summer season.

What is the class ratio and maximum enrollment at Tiddlywinks?

There is an approximate 4:1 student-to-teacher ratio. Max enrollment is 16 students.

How much is the tuition at Tiddlywinks?

Based on an hourly rate, tuition is calculated for all preschool programs from a child's start date to the end of the school year, and broken down into flat-rate monthly payments (holiday breaks are calculated into the school year tuition).

Fees are collected monthly, typically on the 5th of each month. There is a marginal difference between resident and non-resident rates. A typical monthly payment: Monday/Wednesday/Fridays (3 days/week) is \$613.00 for residents and \$643.00 for non-residents; Tuesday/Thursdays (2 days/week) is \$432.00 for

residents and \$462.00 for non-residents. Your first payment will be due at the time of lottery enrollment, subsequent payments are made October–May of the following year.

Please Note: Because Preschool enrollment takes place before the City’s annual budget process begins, please be aware that the hourly rates for Preschool may increase in the next fiscal year. Your first month’s tuition will be honored, however, subsequent payments may be adjusted to reflect a higher rate.

I heard PRD registers via Lottery. What is it and how does it work?

To provide equitable opportunities for enrollment, PRD has designed a lottery system to select participants for each program.

The preschool lotteries consist of two registration date ranges: Piedmont residents will first have access to the online registration and following the first resident deadline (see dates below), online registration will then open to all families. A second deadline and lottery will take place for non-residents, one-week later. While Piedmont residents do receive priority registration, historically spaces are available for non-residents following the resident lottery.

As children are selected from the lottery, program rosters will be created. Once a program is full, any remaining children in the lottery will continue to be randomly selected and the school year waitlist will be formed.

Following the lottery, families can continue to add to the waitlist. As no additional lotteries will take place, entries will be called from the waitlist in timestamp order.

When can I register and when is the deadline for the 2024/2025 school year?

Piedmont Residents can register their child(ren) for the 2024/2025 school year beginning Monday, January 22nd at 8:00 am via [Community Pass](#). The Piedmont Resident registration **DEADLINE is Friday, February 2, 2024, at 4:00 pm**. Proof of residency may be required at the time of registration. Use of grandparents or other Piedmont residences is not permitted.

Non-Residents will be able to register their child(ren) beginning Monday, February 5th at 8:00 am via [Community Pass](#). Non-Resident registration **DEADLINE is Friday, February 9, 2024, at 4:00 pm**.

Following the lottery deadlines, families will continue to have opportunities to add to the program waitlist. As no additional lotteries will take place, vacancies will be filled from the waitlist, in timestamp order.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The registration portal will not be viewable to the public until their designated registration time.
- All children are automatically WAITLISTED upon registration, enrollment from the lottery will be processed, by PRD staff, from this list.
- Should a resident add their child to a preschool waitlist between the two lottery deadlines, they will be contacted and enrolled, pending space availability prior to non-resident enrollment.

How do I register for the 2024/2025 school year?

Registration is processed through PRD’s [Community Pass](#) website. *This step is required for all families to be entered into the preschool lottery and considered for enrollment.*

Before registration, please complete all 3 steps to prepare for your child’s preschool registration (account creation, add family members, add payment method). Click [HERE](#) to learn how to create a [Community Pass](#) Account and/or log in.

At the time of registration, all registrants are automatically placed on a "waitlist". Please only add your child to a preschool list that you are willing to accept. During the lottery, if your child is selected, PRD will accept your registration request and enroll your child into the designated preschool program.

If you have submitted for multiple and are selected for more than one program, PRD staff will contact families to confirm program preference (72-hour deadline from invitation). After which time, and at the discretion of PRD, my child will be assigned to one preschool program and sent an enrollment confirmation.

After the lottery period, as spaces become available, families will be contacted, in timestamp order, via email, to fill vacancies.

Preschool Registration Process

- Select your child(ren) from your family account, choose your desired preschool program(s), and follow prompts to complete your transaction. You will not be charged for this transaction.
- Families are required to store a credit card in their Community Pass account prior to the lottery deadline. Failure to do so may delay or prevent enrollment into a preschool program.
- Following lottery deadlines, families will be notified, via email, regarding your enrollment status, typically 3 to 5 business days following the deadline. Your child will only be enrolled into and charged for ONE program.
- If your child is enrolled in a preschool program, a first month's tuition is due and will be processed. The first month's tuition is refundable (less \$50 processing fee) up to 14 days following the confirmed enrollment transaction date. Requests must be made, in writing, to prdpreschools@piedmont.ca.gov. **After 14 days, payment is NON-REFUNDABLE.**
- Families that remain on the waitlist following the lottery will also be notified, via email.

I'm already enrolled in a PRD Preschool program. Do I need to re-register this next year?

In some cases, yes. If your child is enrolled in their first year of Hillside Playschool and/or Skipping Stones, are age-eligible, and received a priority invite for a second year, families will need to re-register/waitlist for the next school year (i.e. Tiddlywinks → Hillside Playschool or Skipping Stones).

I'm already on a PRD waitlist. Do I need to re-register this year?

To provide new opportunities for families to register during a new school year, PRD renews their waitlists during each open preschool registration period. If your child is on a waitlist for a previous school year, you will need to re-register/waitlist for the next school year.

Do incoming siblings receive priority?

As preschool enrollment is lottery-based, and provides equitable opportunities for all families, sibling priority is not offered.

Do you accept friend requests?

As enrollment is a lottery-based system, we cannot take friend requests.

I'm Enrolled! When will I receive my Preschool Welcome Packet and School Year Info?

Preschool packets for the 2024/2025 school year will be sent, via email, late May 2024. Families will be required to complete and submit program forms by August 1, which can include: Parent Handbook Agreement Form, Participant Intake Form, Walking Permission Form, Immunization Records, Medication Consent and Epi-Pen Plan (if applicable), Getting to Know You Form (Tiddlywinks).

Must my child be toilet-trained?

Children who attend Tiddlywinks **do NOT have to be toilet-trained**. We provide diapering on-site. To assist with the toilet-training process, families will be asked to provide a sleeve of diapers and two packs of unscented wipes at the start of the school year and again in January.

What steps is PRD taking to ensure safety during ongoing concerns of COVID-19 and other health-related illnesses?

The health and safety of our participants is a partnership between staff, families, school, and your medical provider. PRD Staff will continue with developed safety protocols which may include daily health screenings, maximizing the use of outdoor classroom space, and the use of indoor air purifiers. Families are expected to observe their child(ren) each morning for any signs of illness. Please note that some illnesses require isolation to ensure the ill child's protection, and to protect the other children, families, and staff. If you are unsure if your child should attend class, please reach out to your program director with questions or concerns.

Who do I contact PRD if I have additional questions?

Staff can be reached anytime via email or phone at prdpreschools@piedmont.ca.gov or (510) 420-3070 during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am–5:00 pm (excluding City holidays).