



# Bellevue Discovery Preschool

Center for Early Childhood Education

Mailing Address:

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**An independent nonprofit preschool for gifted children**

## About our Preschool

**Bellevue Discovery is a non-profit Inquiry Learning preschool for highly capable children**

*We believe every child deserves to have a joy-filled preschool experience that supports their innate desire to learn*

- We have a 1:4 teacher-child ratio with experienced and loving teachers
- Our small homerooms have a maximum of 8 children and 2 teachers to build a caring community
- Our preschool serves children ages 30 months to 5 years; children must be 30 months by August 31
- Our primary focus is social-emotional development, supporting executive function and kindergarten readiness skills as children grow in their friendships
- We have a creative curriculum that follows best practices in early childhood gifted education: combining play-based exploration, skill-based instruction, and in-depth project-based learning
- 89% of Bellevue Discovery's preschoolers have moved on to gifted programs since our founding in 2007
- We have a September – June school year, with breaks similar to Bellevue School District
- The 2022-2023 annual tuition rate will be set by our Board of Trustees in January 2022; the annual tuition for 2021-2022 has been \$19,400 for a 5-day week

### **Grasshoppers and Dragonflies:** Two Inquiry Learning classrooms at Bellevue Discovery

- **Grasshoppers, ages 30 months to early 4s:** Monday-Friday schedule (9:30am-1:00pm) with a focus on exploratory Inquiry Learning and an introduction to Project-Based Learning
- **Dragonflies, ages 4 and 5 years old:** Monday-Friday schedule (9:30am-1:00pm), with a focus on junior kindergarten Inquiry Learning and a year-long Project-Based Learning theme

### **Skill-Based Instruction:** Building skills and knowledge to support Inquiry Learning

- **Building Block Classes:** Drama Club, Directed Drawing, Math Games, Phonics and Journals, School Skills, Science Lab; children work in groups of 4 with 1 teacher
- **Reading Experience:** While most of our language experience activities (reading, writing, listening and speaking) take place in small and large groups, children meet one-on-one with their reading teacher for a monthly check-in
- **Math Experience:** Children work on daily number awareness activities, building foundational knowledge about counting, comparing, ordering, early computation and place value. Number activities are expanded in Math Games and other mat activities, along with measurement, geometry, sorting, patterns, and graphing activities
- **School Readiness:** Throughout each school week, the children engage in activities designed to help develop their pre-academic, fine motor, and executive function skills

### **Inquiry Learning:** Developing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creative production in a learning community that supports kindness, risk-taking and independent thinking

- **Project Groups:** Each week, our preschoolers engage in open-ended problem-solving; they begin with a literature experience, are introduced to their problem, and typically engage in a design-build activities and dictated writing to solve their problem; children work in groups of 8 with 2 teachers
- **Project Presentations:** Grasshoppers have mini presentations (galleries) throughout the school year; Dragonflies have galleries and an end-of-year Project Presentation for their families

# Bellevue Discovery Admissions



**Challenging and nurturing preschoolers who are bright, curious and original thinkers, using research-based methods for working with young gifted learners**

Children applying to Bellevue Discovery Preschool are considered for admission based on their potential for success in our program. Consideration is given for:

- High intellectual ability, including advanced abstract thinking
- Creativity, advanced language skills, and a self-directed desire to learn
- Creating gender balance, a healthy mix of personalities and cultural diversity
- Age-appropriate social and emotional development
- A match between a family's educational goals and our project-based-learning program and constructivist teaching philosophy

**Application Dates: See our website for virtual Open House dates**

**Friday, February 18, 2022: Applications due for the 2022-2023 preschool year**

A complete application includes an Application for Admission, a Teacher Questionnaire and a \$100 non-refundable application fee.

**Sunday, January 27, 2022, 10:30-11am: Applicant Play Date (optional)**

*Play Date at Bellevue Discovery Preschool* is an optional visit offered to families who have submitted their child's application materials. It is an unstructured play time designed to help our young applicants feel comfortable at our preschool before their Child Visit the following Friday. We can host only the applicant and parents (or parent-designated caregiver) due to licensing regulations. Attending (or not attending) will not impact your child's application: it's just a play time!

**Friday, March 4, 2022: Child Visit Day (required)**

After receiving your child's application materials we will contact you by email to schedule a Child Visit for Friday, March 4. Child Visits are for the preschool applicant and parents (or parent-designated caregiver). Several children will be scheduled for the same 45-minute visit time. A Child Visit is required as part of the admissions process.

Your child's visit will include time for free play and exploration, informal assessment by the teachers, a group circle time and a simple teacher-directed project. Parents or caregivers must stay at the preschool during the Child Visit. We don't expect children to do everything we ask during their visits – we're looking for an eagerness to learn, not a performance. Our goal is for children to enjoy their visit to Bellevue Discovery!

**Friday, March 11, 2022: Admissions Notifications**

Families will be notified of their child's enrollment status by email on Friday, March 11. If we have more qualified applicants than openings in our class, children may be offered a place on our wait list. If a place becomes available, children on the wait list will be offered enrollment based on their unique strengths and learning styles, as well as in consideration of the existing class composition.

**Friday, March 25, 2022: Enrollment Contracts Due**

A signed enrollment contract, along with the tuition deposit, will be due by Friday, March 25, to hold your child's place in our 2022-2023 preschool class. New families will be invited to attend our spring family event and summer play dates with our current and alumni preschool families.

**For more information about our preschool, educational philosophy and curriculum, please visit our website at [www.BellevueDiscovery.org](http://www.BellevueDiscovery.org). If you have questions after viewing our website, please email our Admissions Director at [admissions@BellevueDiscovery.org](mailto:admissions@BellevueDiscovery.org).**