

Green Gardens

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Green Gardens is a managed cooperative in a dedicated home based space that strives to serve the Ditmas Park and local Brooklyn community with a quality early childhood option where their children are honored and engaged in an age appropriate play based curriculum that has heavy emphasis on experiential learning. We are working towards our official licensure at this time, but will operate under group home day care licensing guidelines put out by the NYDOH.

Philosophy-

Green Gardens believes that children are inherently intelligent, insightful people and should be honored as such. We believe play is the primary mode through which children learn, and that providing a space for that play to happen in an unhurried, natural way is tantamount to healthy development. We believe open-ended, high quality materials are important to foster deep, meaningful play. We want to honor the natural ebb and flow of the day by providing a set structure that leaves flexibility to respond and change in the present moment in response to the needs of the group or an individual child.

At Green Gardens, among other methodologies, you will see Reggio Emilia and Waldorf practices in action. We strive to have our space honor ideals of environmentalism and appreciation for the natural world by, among other things, growing plants and food, composting, using recycled materials for art, and honoring the change of seasons. We are a non-competitive, non-violent, non-discriminatory, space where we strive for ideals of kindness, compassion and awareness.

Green Gardens will offer your child a rich, creative, engaging preschool experience, that will prepare them for their journey to kindergarten and into their world at large.

Model-

This is a managed co op model. Meaning that families have responsibilities, but they don't have to run the entire thing. There is a hired head and assistant teacher and a manager who oversees day to day needs, supplies ordering, billing etc. Parents may, for an added fee, opt out of assistant duties. Should a family choose this option, the other families will be offered the ability to assist more often for a discount. See Fee schedule, and Co op duties below.

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Calendar-

We will run on the NYC public school system schedule, save that we will not break for winter or spring breaks. We will abide by all NYC public school weather closings.

Co op duties

- * **Assisting**-To assist in the classroom on a rotating basis (swapping with other families for days is fine). Every 12 school days, you are expected to be in the classroom for the designated time as an assistant. Duties are to help teachers as needed in the space. There will be an assistant orientation at the beginning of school so duties are clear.
- * **Tom Sawyer Days**-Each family is expected to have a representative* at 1 of 2 tom sawyer days. These will be scheduled on Sat's in the school year, and we will clean, clear, paint, nail etc. as needed to keep our space great.
- * **Fundraising**- If co op families wish to work together to do some fundraising, the money can go towards anything of their choosing to accentuate the learning at Green Gardens. The fundraising committee, should one be started has total control of the funds they raise, and can work with the teachers and administrative staff to decide what sort of services (music, field trips etc) would be advantageous to the children.
- * **Twice yearly parent/teacher conferences**- we believe this is a very important aspect of a co operative environment, and expect at least one parent to attend each of the two conferences save for extenuating circumstances on a case by case basis.

Half day 8:30-11:30 \$6300 per year (paid on the 15th, monthly August-May monthly) or 12-3. Full day 8:30-3:00 \$12,600 per year (paid on the 15th monthly August-May minus \$500 deposit upon enrollment)**

*All programs are 5 days a week.

*There is a \$35 non refundable application fee

*A one time, yearly supplies fee of \$200 PT or \$400 FT is due upon enrollment.

*A non refundable \$1000 deposit +supplies fee due with the contract to hold your spot.

**A family may opt out of their assistant duties and pay an additional \$2100 for PT or \$4200 for FT days, per year. If a family chooses this, another family may opt to take these assistant days, and receive the \$2100 or \$4200 discount. If a family opts out, but no one opts for extra days, an assistant will be hired for that day.

*Applications due by feb 15th. Notifications will go out via email and usps by March 1st 2012. A non-refundable deposit is due with the contract by March 9th 2012 to hold a spot for the fall.