



Gecko
Garden
School

School Program 2019-2020

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Our school

Gecko Garden School is a community of happy, caring, creative, collaborative individuals who are impassioned and empowered to create a safe and wholesome community for our children.

- Waldorf-inspired
- Not-for-profit
- International
- English language
- Play-based
- Established in 2001
- Preschool (ages 18 months to 3 years) and kindergarten (ages 3 to 6 years)

Our curriculum

- **Play.** We value free play as essential to the fullest development of a child's imagination and social skills. We offer a natural environment and open-ended toys, and adapt practical activities such as baking, cleaning, gardening, and handcrafts so the children can incorporate them into their play.
- **Imitation.** Young children imitate all models set before them. As such we provide kind, natural, curious, artistic, useful, and joyful models of behavior in our teachers and environment, enabling children to weave these characteristics into their identity.
- **Rhythm.** The school days provide a gentle rhythm of repeated daily, weekly, and seasonal activities, bringing children a sense of security, self-confidence and empowerment, and establishes the foundation for self-care.
- **Sense of place and tradition.** We embrace Khmer culture through festivals, songs and stories, celebrating our community's home in Cambodia. Our international families also contribute stories, celebrations and customs, creating a culturally aware community which celebrates our many commonalities.
- **Sense of home.** We strive to give children a sense of warmth, beauty, home and family. We use beautiful, soft, and natural toys and materials in the classrooms. The classes are arranged in mixed age groupings, modeling the relationship of older and younger siblings.
- **Imagination.** The children's imagination is cultivated by creating an environment full of creative activities, including painting, drawing, modelling, sewing, singing, dancing, and storytelling, and through free, imaginative play and open-ended toys.
- **Environmental appreciation and conservation.** We use natural and environmentally conscious materials and practices to create the healthiest possible environment for our families and our planet. We teach children how to use natural materials as alternatives to plastics and other dangerous materials, instead of relying only on reduction and recycling.
- **The magic of childhood.** Our teachers make every effort to provide a loving environment with a pervading sense of their own joy and conviction that the world is good.

Our notable policies

- **Limited Technology.** We believe that children deserve the chance to develop their imagination and sense of self independently of the influence of media and technology. Our school is media and technology free. We advise that families eliminate or reduce the use of technology and media by their children, and by adults in their household in the presence of the children.
- **Community Meals.** In order to allow the children to realize the social benefits of eating together as a community, and the nutritional benefits of eating healthy food, the school provides all snack and lunch food, and water. Families are asked not to send additional food with the children, as it may become a distraction from their carefully planned meals.
- **Environmental Priorities.** Our school makes every effort to reduce its environmental impact, and encourages our families to do the same. Please consider the materials used by the children, in the form of their clothes, backpack, and toys, and strive to make them as natural as possible. Programs offered at the school must conform with our policy to use only natural materials.
- **Parent Participation.** We encourage and rely on parent participation, and view parents as key collaborators to create a healthy school experience for the children. We ask the entire school community to attend the quarterly Parent/Teacher Nights, and the All School Meeting at the end of the year. There are also additional opportunities to join committees and volunteer.
- **Mixed Age Classes.** Our school believes that children benefit from an environment in which older children are able to care for younger children, while younger children imitate the older children. As such, we have mixed age classrooms: two preschool classes of children ages 18 months to 3 years old, and two kindergarten classes of children ages 3 to 6 years old.

Our classes

Class	Ages	Start/Finish Time	Portion of Year
Preschool (<i>Romdoul and Malis Classes</i>)	18 months to 3 years	8:30am/11:15am	Weekdays,
Kindergarten (<i>Champa and Phka Chhouk Classes</i>)	3 years to 6 years	8:15am/11:30pm	August until May Earliest: 7:45am
Full Day Program	18 months to 6 years	8:15am/2:30pm	Latest: 12:00pm
Parent and Child Group	Birth to 4 years	2:30pm/4:30pm	August until May
Winter School	18 months to 6 years	8:30am/11:30pm	January, 2 weeks
Summer School	18 months to 6 years	8:30am/11:30pm	June, 5 weeks

Our tuition and fees

Class	Preschool (18 months to 3 years old)	Kindergarten (3 years to 6 years old)
Half Day Tuition	USD 700/term (USD 2,800/year)	USD 830/term (USD 3,320/year)
Full Day Tuition (includes lunch)	USD 1,120/term (USD 4,480/year)	USD 1,220/term (USD 4,880/year)
Winter School	Ask at office	
Summer School	Ask at office	
Parent and Child	USD 100 per term (USD 400 per year)	
Annual Capital Fee	USD 440 per student, paid annually	
Registration Fee	USD 495 per new student, paid one time, at enrolment	

Next steps

Visit our enrolment page (<http://geckogarden-preschool.org/admissions/enrolment/>) to:

- Review our School Handbook
- Fill out and submit the Waitlist form