



Gecko
Garden
School

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School Program 2020-2021

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 the world's children.

- Waldorf-inspired
- Not-for-profit
- International
- English language
- Play-based
- Established in 2001
- Mixed age classes 18 months to 6 years

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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: 4 classes of children ages 18 months to 6 years old.

Our classes, tuition and fees

Class	Ages	Start/Finish Time	Tuition and Fees
Early Bird Arrival Based on request	18 months to 6 years	To be requested: 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	---
Half Day Romdoul and Malis Classes	18 months to 6 years	Malis: 8:30 AM – 11:45 AM Romdoul: 8:45 AM – 12:00 PM	USD 800 per term (USD 3,200 per year)
Full Day Champa and Phka Chhouk Classes	18 months to 6 years	Phka Chhouk: 8:00 AM – 2:15 PM Champa: 8:15 AM – 2:30 PM	USD 1,220 per term (USD 4,880 per year)
Twilight Garden	18 months to 6 years	2:30 PM – 5:00 PM	USD 275 per term (USD 1,100 per year)
Parent and Child Group (English) Parents only, no nannies please	Birth to 4 years	Fridays, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM	USD 110 per term (USD 440 per year)
Parent and Child Group (Khmer) Parents and nannies welcome	Birth to 4 years	Thursdays, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM	USD 110 per term (USD 440 per year)
Capital Fee Paid annually	---	---	USD 452 per child
Registration Fee Paid one time, at enrolment	---	---	USD 510 per child
Summer School	18 months to 6 years	To be announced	To be announced

Next steps

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

- Review the School Handbook
- Fill out and submit the Waiting List Registration form