

Altadena Nursery School

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How old does my child have to be to start at ANS?** Your child must be 2 yrs old by Dec 1st. ANS is licensed to hold a maximum of 45 children per day between the ages of 2 and kindergarten.
2. **Does my child need to be toilet trained?** Absolutely not! We recognize every child's individual readiness for this big step and it often doesn't coincide with their readiness for preschool.
3. **What does a typical day look like?** School begins at 9am and ends at 12pm. Our youngest classroom (2-3 year old) ends their day at 11:30am. From 9am-10:30am ANS offers a mixed-age environment where children of all ages interact with each other and choose the activities they are interested in. From 10:30-12pm (or 11:30am) the children separate into their own age specific classrooms to enjoy a snack and child and teacher-directed activities.
4. **What's the ratio of adults to children?** During the first half of the morning our adult to child ratio is 1:5 at all times with an adult stationed in each classroom. During the second half of the day, the Discovery Room (2/3 yr old) maintains a 1:3 ratio with two teachers and two parents. The Art Room (3/4 yr old) maintains a 1:4 ratio with two teachers and two parents and the Block Room (4/5 yr old) maintains a 1:5 ratio with two teachers and two parents.
5. **What is the "Philosophy" at ANS?** ANS believes in providing a well-rounded, child and teacher directed curriculum that is grounded in PLAY. We are a developmental preschool with an emphasis on the social and emotional development in young children. More detailed information about our philosophy and unique curriculum can be found in the "Programs" section of our website.
6. **How is conflict handled at ANS?** ANS believes that conflict resolution begins with communication. Often, preschool age children do not have the language to express their needs. Our goal is to give them this tool by modeling language ("May I have a turn when you are done?"). By the time children arrive in our older classrooms they are continuing to develop this skill and have more useful language tools. We do not do "Time Outs" at ANS. Although a teacher may need to separate a child from the group, they never leave the child to figure out an issue by themselves.
7. **How does the separation process work for new students at ANS?** Each family is asked to be available for the first 2-6 days of their child's attendance. During this time, parents are asked to sit on the sideline and be a stable, but boring presence as their child plays. Our teachers work with each family individually and let them know when their child is ready to separate.
8. **What are the family commitments involved in a co-op?** Each family works 2-6 times a month from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM, depending on the amount of days their child attends school. Other commitments include: Four (3 hour) weekend workshops, one community snack per month, two parent education events,

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and participation in the Orange Sale Fundraiser. There are two mandatory meetings for new families where both parents must attend.

9. **Tell me more about the Orange Sale Fundraiser.** The 60 year old orange sale takes place every January, and is the only mandatory fundraiser at ANS. Each family is required to sell 35 cases of fruit each year. We understand that this may seem daunting, so we provide lots of assistance to our families!
10. **Can I bring my baby to ANS on my workday?** Unfortunately, we do not provide childcare for younger children on workdays. However, we are proud of our supportive community atmosphere, and families often work out babysitting swaps.
11. **Can both parents do workdays?** Yes! Both parents are welcome to do workdays. We welcome other family members to participate as well. All adults that perform workdays must meet certain health requirements, and are encouraged to attend our workday orientation each fall.
12. **What if I can't attend my workday?** You can trade days with another family or pay a parent sub to work for you.
13. **How do we apply?** You can pick up an application at the school, or download one from our website at altadenanurseryschool.org. Simply mail, or deliver, your application, family photo and the designated fee to Altadena Nursery School, and you'll be placed on the wait list.
14. **Is there a wait list? How long is it?** Yes, we have a wait list. However, it is not numbered. Wait list families are invited to attend our Prospective Parent Night in March each year. Most children start school in September, but children are accepted from our wait list as late as November as space permits.
15. **How much is tuition?** Annual Tuition fees are as follows: 2 Days- \$2080, 3 Days - \$3120, 4 Days - \$4160, 5 Days - \$5200. Tuition is divided into 10 equal payments. We offer a multiple child discount of \$260 per year, per additional child.
16. **Do you offer any extended care?** Yes! Our Lunch Bunch program (12pm-1:50pm) takes place 3 times per week (Sept-May) and is available to children 3 and up who are no longer napping and independent on the toilet. The cost is \$20 per day and \$25 a day if you select the workday buyout option.
17. **Is there a summer program?** Yes! Our summer program is available to current families entering the 3-4 and 4-5 year old classrooms. It is a 4 week program, typically held in June. Children attend 4 days per week from 9am-12pm.
18. **Who can I talk to if I have any questions?** Our Membership chairperson is a great source for additional info, she can be reached by email at mamadoesvegan@gmail.com.