



# About Us

2024

**Preschool founded  
1982.**

**NGUMC Preschool  
Association certifies  
Druid Hills Preschool as  
a School of Excellence**

**1994**

**New playground  
installed**

**2005**

**Reggio Approach  
officially adopted**

**2013**

**Search for new home  
2016**

**Move and renovation  
502 Seminole**

**2017**

**Renamed FREEDOM  
PARK PRESCHOOL,  
dry creek bed, & shade  
structure**

**2018**

**Noted adaptive reuse of  
historic property**

**2020**



## The Basics

Freedom Park Preschool is a private, not for profit, half-day preschool program exempted from state licensing.

Welcoming approximately 165 children ages 18 months - 5 years of age. We operate a school year calendar beginning in-August and ending in May. We also offer a summer camp program operating in June and July with flexible options for children who are enrolled in our school year program.

We are a Reggio Emilia inspired school fostering curiosity and wonder. We incorporate the rich diversity of our community and we draw upon that resource to provide a foundation for lifelong learning. As such we value our partnership with Beyond Play to serve the needs of children with varying ability levels. Diversity, gender, and inclusion of children with special rights are other enrollment considerations as we strive to create a diverse community of families, educators, and children.

## The Hundred Languages

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The child  
is made of one hundred.  
The child has  
a hundred languages  
a hundred hands  
a hundred thoughts  
a hundred ways of thinking  
of playing, of speaking.  
A hundred always a hundred  
ways of listening  
of marveling, of loving  
a hundred joys  
for singing and understanding  
a hundred worlds  
to discover  
a hundred worlds  
to invent  
a hundred worlds  
to dream.  
The child has  
a hundred languages  
(and a hundred hundred  
hundred more)  
but they steal ninety-nine.  
The school and the culture  
separate the head from the  
body.  
They tell the child:  
to think without hands  
to do without head  
to listen and not to speak  
to understand without joy  
to love and to marvel  
only at Easter and at  
Christmas.  
They tell the child:  
to discover the world already  
there  
and of the hundred  
they steal ninety-nine.  
They tell the child:  
that work and play  
reality and fantasy  
science and imagination  
sky and earth  
reason and dream  
are things  
that do not belong together.  
And thus they tell the child  
that the hundred is not there.  
The child says:  
No way. The hundred is there.

by: Loris Malaguzzi, (translated by  
Lella Gandini)

## History

Druid Hills United Methodist Church began a preschool and mother's morning out program in the fall of 1982. Over the years the preschool continued to adapt and grow to reflect a changing composition of educators, children, and families. In the winter of 2015 the preschool was informed of the church's intent to sell. The school, along with a dedicated group of parent volunteers then began a quest to find a new home. In November 2016 we found that home at 502 Seminole Avenue in Inman Park. This new chapter has begun with the renovation of our historic building and the development of the amazing green space into a magical place for children! We announced our new name, Freedom Park Preschool in the Spring of 2018.

In the words of a proud parent of 3 children, *"What makes this Preschool special? It's an atmosphere of respect and joy, a truly shared learning environment.. I see a stable yet ever changing community that knows how to learn together, grow together and have fun together, day after day, year after year. -Andy Sarvady 2008*

These words are as true today as they were in 2008.





# Educational Practice

2024

## Flow of the Day

Time and schedule are important components of creating a successful learning environment. A flexible flow of the day is established to give children the security necessary to explore and deepen their knowledge.

## Studio Space

Inspired by the ateliers of Reggio Emilia, these studios are laboratories for thinking and investigating. The art studio offers a wide variety of tools, resources, and natural materials for small groups to generate inquiry and deepen research.



*“As children develop understanding of the world, they build a collection of ideas about how the physical and social worlds work. Recent research on brain development and young children’s abilities suggest that we have underestimated what children can do. And, since early experiences are the foundation for later schooling and life, early education – what we offer young children to think about—matters greatly.”*

*- From the Wonder of Learning Exhibit  
from Reggio Emilia*





## The Learning Environment

The learning environment is itself a teacher. The physical space welcomes children and adults, fosters encounters with learning materials, and encourages communication with each other. Our educators arrange, organize, and plan a learning environment that is inviting, sensory rich, beautiful, unhurried and inspires learning.

*“We must provide for children those kinds of environments that elicit their interests and talents and that deepen their engagement in practice and thought.” - David Hawkins.*

An environment supportive of learning allows children to

- make choices
- use a wide variety of materials
- move around
- work alone and in both small and large groups
- engage all the senses
- encounter new experiences as well as time to revisit experiences

## Educational Practice

At Freedom Park Preschool we view the curriculum as all the experiences children are engaged in throughout the day. Purposeful play is at the heart of these experiences and cultivates independent thinking, problem-solving skills, mental flexibility, and complex high-level thought. In our educational practice classroom teachers and resource educators work together to:

- Make preparations that engage children’s thinking process and offer developmentally appropriate challenges.
- Make hypotheses about possible directions projects might take to capitalize on children’s curiosity and wonder.

Teachers facilitate children’s explorations of themes and work on short and long term research projects. Projects may start from a chance event, an idea or question posed by children, or an experience offered by teachers and educators. In this balance of child and teacher initiated activities, the curriculum emerges and evolves.

Embedded within these research projects and play based activities are the foundations of “academic” preparations. Children and educators are actively engaged daily in brain-based, meaningful experiences in language, mathematics, science, art, music, and social interactions. We utilize the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning’s (Bright from the Start) research based and developmentally appropriate curriculum framework upon which to build opportunities for children.

*The Reggio Approach is not a pre-set curriculum but a process of inviting and sustaining learning.- Lella Gandini*





# Educators

2024

## Some of Our Resource Educators

- Studio educators specialize in offering materials and resources to both classroom teachers and in the studio to inspire and provoke additional complexity in thought and learning.
- STEM, Naturalist or resident experts who support a focus on science learning especially in regard to the natural world.
- Story teller,(not your typical librarian) who creates story times, curates book selections, and supports teachers in finding just the right books.



Recognizing that teaching and learning are relationship based processes, each of our classrooms is staffed with two co-teachers who collaborate with one another and with “Resource Educators” to support children’s learning and development. Our teachers are carefully selected for their experience and education in early childhood as well as a commitment to the importance of purposeful play, a loving and caring approach to young children, and a passion for learning. To model and engage in learning all staff pursue ongoing professional development.





## What Parents and Children Are Saying

*Loving professional teachers provide a warmth of heart that is palpable walking down the hall. Children are honored and understood and accepted where they are developmentally. -11/2008*

*My teachers are very patient with my child. He has struggled with behavior with peers and they always look at his bright side. - 5/2018*

*My child's teachers have the expectation that students can and will give their best. They do it all with humor, patience, and warmth that help students flourish. They were exactly what my child needed and now I only need to clone them. - 8/2015*

*"I like my teachers because they let us do what we want with our art. They don't tell us what to make." - Drew age 5.*

*"FPP has truly shaped our children in the most beautiful way. I hear and see pieces of each of the educators that they have had in our time here in my children daily. I will forever be thankful for the way they have helped support and shape my children." - 12/2022*

*"This is an amazing school. The kids are loved and encouraged to be creative. There is nothing that I would change." - 12/2022*

We have a long-term staff. The majority have been with our school 10 years or more. We strive for a collegial, collaborative environment where teachers can share and learn from one another. The teachers are challenged to engage in 20 hours of professional development each year.

*"A strong image of the child has to correspond to a strong image of the teacher.*

*Teachers are not considered protective baby-sitters, teaching basic skills to children but rather they are seen as learners along with the children. They are supported, valued for their experience and their ideas, and seen as researchers."*

~Lella Gandini





# Parents

2024

## Family App

In the Family app each class shares events, photos, and documentation about life in the classroom. It is a great communication tool for updating your child's teachers and messaging other parents and staff members as well.

## Orientation & Parent Conversations

In addition to regular communications in the Family app, there are also planned opportunities for parents to visit classrooms, hear from teachers, peruse portfolios, and meet other parents.

In August there is a classroom meet & greet and parent orientation.

In the Fall there is a parent night intended to give parents an update on their child's experience as a part of their preschool family. In the spring the preschool will close for one day to host parent teacher conversations.



## Parent Participation

It is our goal to involve parents not simply by informing you about the events and day-to-day life of the classrooms, but as a partner in reflecting about children's learning. We invite you to share your family traditions, your talents, and participate with us to connect your child's experience from home to school and from school to home.





## A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words?

If that's true, then just imagine what pictures and words can reveal to us. As educators we share photos and videos to create partnerships with families. Communication is at the heart of building relationships that will support children's learning. We want you to know what's happening in our school and we want to know what you observe too. Here are some of the ways we share:

- Family App Newsfeed
- Portfolios & Family App observations
- Website (year-at-a-glance calendar is helpful), Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Opportunities for casual conversation daily at pick-up and drop-off
- Classroom meetings plus a chance to engage with other parents in your child's classroom
- Parent Conversations (more formal individualized exchanges with educators about your child)



A child discovers his hand print from a year ago in his portfolio.

## Portfolios

Portfolios have layers of importance to teachers, parents, and children. For teachers, they are a way of clarifying our thinking, capturing our observations, focusing our reflections and telling stories that are important and moving to us. They are one of the ways we make our respect for the children's work and our tender feelings about their individuality visible to them and to you, their families.

For parents, your child's portfolio is a window into their life at school, an explanation of our educational practice, and a source of joy and pride. We intend for portfolios to deepen your understanding and appreciation of your child's learning as it develops and is achieved over time.

And for children, portfolios say, "You are the protagonist in a compelling story. What you do and what you learn are recognized and appreciated. The grown-ups in your life see you, respect you, and value your ideas." And eventually, we hope the portfolios are a rich archive and inspiration for children as they remember their preschool days, reflect on their identity and their unique path; and make choices about who they will be and what they will do in the world.





# STRUCTURE & FEES

Rooms	Age	Schedule	Child:Teacher Per Day
Caterpillars	18-23 mos	Any 2 days	10:2
Fireflies	24 - 36 mos	2, 3, 4, or 5 days	8:2
Las Libelulas	24-36 mos	2,3, 4, or 5 days	12:2
Busy Bees	24-36 mos	2, 3, 4, or 5 days	12:2
North Stars	3 years	3, 4, or 5 days	14:2
Sun Rays	3 years	3, 4, or 5 days	14:2
Gotitas del Saber	3 years	5 days	14:2
Italians	3 & 4 years	5 days	14:2
El Bosque	4 years	5 days	16:2
Loft	4 years	5 days	16:2
The Nest	5 years	5 days	14:2

## COSTS AND FEE SCHEDULE 2024 - 2025

Freedom Park Preschool offers a scholarship program providing tuition assistance. Contact [preschoolinfo@freedomparkpreschool.org](mailto:preschoolinfo@freedomparkpreschool.org) for further information about the application process.

**Registration Fee**      \$150 first child, \$120 additional child

Annual, Semi-Annual, and monthly installment plans are available for tuition payments.

Annual Tuition		2024-2025 Fee Schedule	
2 days per week	\$4,775.00	January - March & ongoing	Registration fee due at time of registration
3 days per week	\$6,237.00	March - April 2024	Tuition account set-up and 1st payments due
4 days per week	\$7,712.00	April 2024	Deadline for withdrawal notification.
5 days per week	\$9,184.00	May 2024	Installment plan 20% due.
PreK & Multi-age	\$9,552.00	August 2024 - March 2025	Installment/ Monthly plan payments
Young 5's	\$10,165.00		