





TAKING THE FIRST STEPS INTO THE WORLD

Springside Chestnut Hill Academy's Early Childhood Center (ECC) offers a warm and stimulating entry into learning for children 18 months to 4 years old. The Early Childhood Center is modeled on the Reggio Emilia philosophy (used in 34 countries around the world), which emphasizes child-centered, teacher-guided exploration in a relationship-driven environment, with a focus on nature and community as sources of learning.

The Reggio approach is one that values the child as strong, capable, resilient, and rich with wonder and knowledge. The program emphasizes project-based activities,

the arts, the environment, family participation, and community. It fosters children's intellectual development, encouraging them to explore their environment and express themselves through all of their available "expressive, communicative, and cognitive languages." Their explorations and learning are made visible through teachers' written, pictorial, and video documentation.

The Reggio approach is closely aligned with SCH Academy's own educational mission to inspire unbounded curiosity and independent thought. ECC classrooms have been specially designed to support children's comfort, creativity, and exploration.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Children may attend ECC for 3, 4, or 5 days/week. Aftercare is available every day of the week.

There are two program periods:

Academic Program: September–May

Summer Segment: June–August

Daily hours for both periods:

Monday–Friday, 7:30 am–6:00 pm

Drop off: 7:30–8:30 am | Pick up: 3:00 pm

Aftercare: 3:00–6:00 pm (\$25/day, \$30/drop in)

TUITION

Academic Program tuition for 3–5 days/week (without Aftercare) ranges from \$9,000–\$13,500.

Summer Segment tuition for 3–5 days/week (without Aftercare) ranges from \$3,250–\$4,875.

For more details, see the full tuition schedule on our website at sch.org/ecc.

STAFF

The Early Childhood Center is directed by experienced educator and longtime SCH teacher and administrator Janet Giovino. Janet has a master's in education from Temple University and a combined 43 years in education, as an elementary teacher, student support coordinator, and most recently, head of Lower School for Boys at SCH. She has been fully trained in the Reggio Emilia approach, and it has been part of her teaching philosophy for years. Janet is supported by administrative and classroom staff as well as specialized teachers in art and music.

“NOT ONLY HAVE INTERACTIONS WITH HIS TEACHERS BEEN WARM, WELCOMING, AND COMMUNICATIVE, HE HAS BLOSSOMED. HE COMES HOME FULL OF LIFE, LOVE, AND LEARNING. ~ PARENT, ECC

TYPICAL DAY AT SCH ECC

7:30–8:45 am: Children arrive and play freely in centers

8:45–9:30 am: Children and teachers gather for circle time. This time drives the activities for the day, i.e., stories read and questions posed. Children move to center exploration.

9:30–10:00 am: Small-group activities—Environmental Art Projects/Music and Movement

10:00–11:00 am: Snack and outdoor recess

11:00 am–12:00 pm: Children work on projects independently, in small independent groups or in small groups with teachers. They may rotate outside during this time for nature exploration. Clean up and meet to share morning activities. Set table spots and prepare rest mats/cots.

12:00–1:00 pm: Lunch. As children finish their lunch, they clean up, wash hands, potty, then go to their rest spot. Music/story on tape.

1:00–3:00 pm: Rest time, slow wake up, and snack.

3:00–4:00 pm: Pick up begins and children have outdoor time or free play.

4:00–6:00 pm: Children may choose a center such as art, imaginative play, literacy, science and sensory, or may continue developing a project of their own.





"Children, from birth, are eager to learn and relate. They seek to examine, experience, and connect with the people and phenomena surrounding them. In education and in life, children and adults thrive when there are interesting resources, complex

environments and experiences, time for the pleasure of learning and being, reciprocity, sharing, traces of interpreted experiences in process, a strong sense of belonging, and optimism for the future." ~ North American Reggio Emilia Alliance