

What is DCP's definition of "preschool experience?"

All children enrolled in DCP's Preschool Camps are required to have prior experience in a preschool or a preschool-like setting. This requirement is in place to ensure the camp experience at DCP is as positive as possible for our campers and staff.

For children currently enrolled at DCP, any child who has been in the Pollywog Room or the Leap Frog Room has met the "preschool experience" requirement. Children who have only attended the Tadpole Room and who meet the age and toilet-trained requirements may be considered for enrollment in the Preschool Camps based on individual consultation and approval of the Director.

For families who are not currently enrolled at DCP, the following is what our staff looks for in evaluating children for the Preschool Camps:

- Ideally, the child has attended a preschool program for a one-year period or more. Examples may include full-day, half-day, or cooperative programs. The program can be a play- or curriculum-based school, in-home child care facility, or a day care facility. We do not consider participation in playgroups, going to library story time events, being babysat or nannied, or attendance at drop-in child care facilities (i.e., the YMCA, JCC, etc.) as meeting this requirement.
- In addition to being toilet-trained (see FAQ here), the child must be reasonably independent and able to do the following (i.e., within reason as is age appropriate for a three- to five-year old):
 - Separate somewhat successfully from the primary caregiver(s)
 - Recognize belongings
 - Pack/unpack a backpack
 - Participate in a group setting
 - Listen to a teacher who is not the primary caregiver(s)
 - Follow age-appropriate directions/guidance
 - Wait turns
 - Line up
 - Sit at a table
 - Pack/unpack a snack bag/lunch box
 - Feed him/herself

If your child has stayed at home with the primary caregiver(s) or is homeschooled and meets the age and toilet-training requirements for the Preschool Camp, please contact the Director for an assessment of attendance eligibility. Approval for enrollment is at the sole discretion of the Director.