

Earthplace Preschool FAQs

COVID-19 Response:

April 24, 2020

When will Earthplace Preschool reopen?

Earthplace will reopen when it is safe to do so. We wish that we could put your mind at ease and let you know exactly when we will all be going back to school. However, we are painfully aware that there is no line of defense between carriers of Covid-19 and those with whom they come in contact.

We have not yet reached the peak of this infection. People in Connecticut still face barriers to getting tested. Until we have widespread capability to test for antibodies and immunity to this virus, we will not know for sure that we are safe to return to normal.

Will my prepaid tuition be refunded?

Parents of preschool students enrolled in our **part-time program** who have paid their tuition in advance can receive a partial refund of 25% for the months of April and May, 2020. Please see the Refund Fact Sheet, attached. Choose from the following options:

- **Receive a credit** for the partial refund to be used in a future summer camp week or Preschool season; this credit is good for one year. To apply the credit to a current invoice, Please contact Diogo Antunes at d.antunes@earthplace.org We are offering this option to provide some relief and flexibility.
- **Request a partial refund** of 25% for the months of April and May, please contact LaWanza Holder at l.holder@earthplace.org. We are offering this option to help families through the pandemic. Please refer to the list below.
- **Leave your partial refund with Earthplace.** Please email Sophie Pollmann at s.pollmann@earthplace.org to arrange for a donation and tax receipt. We are providing this option for those who wish to contribute to our mission. Our sincerest thanks!

PART-TIME PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Chickadees:

2 Days/wk	\$166.75/month for April & May
3 Days/wk	\$216.75/month for April & May
5 Days/wk	\$344.50/month for April & May

Hummingbirds, Robins:

2 Days/wk	\$155.50/month for April & May
3 Days/wk	\$194.50/month for April & May
5 Days/wk	\$283.50/month for April & May

Woodpeckers, Falcons:

5 Days/wk	\$283.50/month for April & May
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Full Refund for pre-paid add-on programs like lunch club and extended day.

Will my monthly tuition amount be reduced?

In order to support the Earthplace Preschool community, its teachers, and the curriculum content the teachers are able to provide, we are asking full-time families, who pay their tuition monthly, to pay 50% of their regular tuition. The next payment will be due on May 15th. No back tuition will be collected.

If this poses a hardship for your family due to a change in your financial situation, please report your hardship via email. Any hardships already reported, have been noted by the finance department.

Can I continue to make full tuition payments?

If you are able to continue to make full monthly tuition payments, please let us know. We ask that you email Sophie Pollmann at s.pollmann@earthplace.org to arrange for a donation and tax receipt for the additional 50%. We are providing this option for those who wish to contribute to our mission. Again, our sincerest thanks!

What about tuition payments for the 2020-2021 school year?

If you haven't already paid your April installment for the 2020-2021 school year, it is now due on June 1st without penalty. The July installment has been delayed as well. We are considering a monthly payment structure for all families moving forward. This will give families more financial flexibility in the future. We are also looking into options such as tuition insurance and pandemic insurance to prevent this from happening again.

Does Earthplace have any online programs or videos to keep my family engaged?

Yes! In addition to the learn-at-home curriculum provided by our classroom teachers, we are creating new educational nature-based videos regularly and will post them on our [YouTube channel](#). We also have a brand-new page on our website, [Stay-At-Home Activities](#), which includes various links and resources to keep your kids occupied.

How is Earthplace responding to the needs of the community during this crisis?

Earthplace has donated 80 N95 masks and two cases of latex-free nitrile gloves to the Westport Emergency Medical Services. We have also produced nature enrichment videos available on [YouTube](#) for all young families.

Once Earthplace Preschool reopens, what precautions will be taken to protect children and families from exposure to COVID-19?

Post COVID-19 outbreak treatment: As a result of the COVID-19 closure in March, we have engaged a certified cleaning service for full floor, carpet, and surface cleaning including antimicrobial agents. Before they begin, they will do a building-wide fogging treatment using full PPE and masks to treat the air and unreachable surfaces.

Earthplace, as a licensed and accredited preschool and summer camp program, is held to the highest standards of safety and cleanliness for all classroom and public spaces. Our program

spaces are sanitized, and disinfected daily in accordance with state licensing and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) guidelines. You will find our procedures listed below.

- Upon arrival staff members wash hands, put on gloves and mix a sanitizing strength of bleach and water.
- We clean using Green Works or another environmentally safe cleaner, and then we disinfect using a bleach and water solution. Using the same process, we clean and disinfect the door handles, cabinet handles, classroom sinks, classroom sink handles, and any bathroom countertops.
- For sanitizing and disinfecting we use appropriate mixtures of bleach and water as indicated on the bleach bottle.
- Dwell Time—The duration a surface must remain wet with a sanitizer/disinfectant to work effectively is 2 minutes for sanitizing and 10 minutes for disinfecting.
- Cleaning —Physically removing all dirt and contamination, oftentimes using soap and water. The friction of cleaning removes most germs and exposes any remaining germs to the effects of a sanitizer or disinfectant used later.
- Sanitizing —Reducing germs on inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe by public health codes or regulations. Sanitizing may be appropriate for food service tables, high chairs, toys, and pacifiers.
- Disinfecting—Destroying or inactivating most germs on any inanimate object, but not bacterial spores. Disinfecting may be appropriate for diaper tables, door and cabinet handles, toilets, and other bathroom surfaces.
- During the day if a toilet seat, toilet handle or door knobs become wet or soiled, the teacher will repeat the cleaning and disinfecting procedure.
- During the day if the bathroom sink becomes dirtied with art materials due to hand washing, the teacher will repeat the cleaning and disinfecting procedure.
- If the teachers need to use the classroom sink for snack preparation, they clean and sanitize it before using it to prepare food.
- Changing Tables are cleaned and disinfected by teachers as they are used, as per the Diaper Changing Policy.

How can I help Earthplace during this trying time?

We are so grateful to the members of the Earthplace community including alumni, preschool families, camper families, Harbor Watch supporters, volunteers, staff, and guests who have recognized the challenges that crises like this pose to a nonprofit organization. For those who value the role of Earthplace in our community and are able to contribute to our ongoing mission, please [make a gift here](#). We consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you.

THANK YOU for your support during these uncertain times!