

## MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Criteria for Accepting Children

The Early School welcomes all families who wish to enroll their children on a first come first service basis after the following criteria have been met:

For the Young Children's Program, three children between 18 months and 21 months are admitted and the others must be 21 months or older by the date of entry.

For the Preschool, children must be fully toilet trained (as defined by the staff) at least one month prior to entry. Previous experience with other children in a group setting, such as a family day care home or playgroup, is preferred.

The "population mix" will be considered, e.g., the ratio of girls to boys in the school and the ages of the children and to the extent possible, programs will be balanced. Families are encouraged to spend time at The Early School to help their children make the transition and should be willing to send their children for partial days at first, gradually working up to the full day. To help children with the transition to school, the staff requires that all new children be picked up by lunch time on their first day and before 2:30 p.m. on their second day. Parents must ask the Preschool and YCP Afternoon Coordinator's about appropriate pick up times for the remainder of the first week.

It is The Early School's policy to adhere to the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and to accept children with disabilities who can be reasonably accommodated. The staff will make the final decision of acceptance based on the following guidelines:

- No more than one child with special needs in each classroom (Young Children's Program, Preschool Lokahi Room and Sky Room); and
- The availability of special help for children who, in the staff's judgment, require assistance for them to function optimally in the school environment.

### School Closings

The school is closed for state and federal holidays, the Friday after Thanksgiving, two weeks at Christmas, one week in the Spring, the last week in August and one other day scheduled annually in the school calendar for professional development. August closing is for a staff workshop. As a service to families, a limited number of spaces for child care are available at cost during regular program closings at Christmas and Spring breaks.

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## Field Trips

Field trips are a basic component of The Early School curriculum. Children leave the school to explore the many natural environments found in Hawaii, attend plays and cultural events, check out and return books at libraries, see films, visit the homes of staff members and other families, and in as many ways as possible, relate to the real world. Field trips are always taken in small groups and become occasions for children to learn how to handle themselves in situations where cooperative effort and mutual support are needed.

## Parent Involvement

Choosing The Early School for your child means that you are choosing to participate in the school community. We ask that you attend an open house in the Fall, the annual meeting of the school corporation, parent conferences, and that you regularly read your child's sharing notebook which is a dialogue between parents and teacher.

Many other opportunities to be involved in the school are available: parent-organized educational and social events scheduled frequently throughout the year; classroom participation; work days to help repair and maintain the school environment.

Parents also form the majority of the Board of Directors and can be members of Board committees such as Community Involvement, Ways and Means and Property Improvement whether or not they serve on the Board.

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