

Literacy Enhancement Class 2011-2012

Families Together Cooperative Nursery School offers a specially focused Literacy Enhancement class that utilizes puppet-theater, storytelling, reading, writing, dramatization, social collaboration and games as springboards for pre-literacy empowerment. Changes for this year include lengthening the class to 1 hour and 45 minutes, decreasing the number of performances to two (one at the session mid-point and one after the final class), and including a parent assistant to better support children's learning.



What happens in a typical Literacy Class?

Students typically begin class by drawing in their individual journals and having a teacher or parent assistant help them write text to go with the drawing. A group “Hello” time and fun literacy-based group game follows. Centers are next and include a reading station, manipulative station where students might do a puzzle or other letter-based game, a fine motor station where emerging writing skills are practiced, a more advanced writing station, and a gross motor station on the rug. The group then returns to the rug to talk with puppet “Maya Word,” guess and discuss the word of the day that Maya has brought to share, and read a book based on the word. The class concludes with each student creating an entry for that week’s class book and sharing their entry with their classmates through a “performance.” Each week, one student will have the chance to bring the class book home.

When does the class meet?

There will be four 7-8 week sessions throughout the year meeting on either Tuesday or Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Who can/should take this class?

Each class session will have up to 10 students. Nursery, Mixed Age, and Pre-K students are eligible to enroll in the class, although priority enrollment in the first session is given to returning FTCNS students and in the fourth session to Kindergarten-bound students. If you are interested in the class but aren’t sure if it is right for your child, here are some questions to guide your decision. Is your child:

- *Able to follow directions easily?*
- *Able to sit with a group and wait/take turns during a discussion?*
- *Able to cope with a more structured schedule, rather than a more open/free choice environment?*
- *Interested in the letters of the alphabet?*

How can parents get involved in Literacy Class?

Attend Class Book Sharing Performances

Parents are invited to watch the students share their class book entries with the group at two points during the session—during the session mid-point and during the final class. These “performances” run from 11 to 11:15 a.m.

Serve as a Parent Assistant

For each session, we are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable parent to attend all 7-8 weeks of the session in a teacher assistant role, including arriving 15 minutes early and staying 15 minutes late to assist with class set-up and clean-up. This parent must be a qualified assisting parent. In exchange for fulfilling the teacher assistant role, their child’s literacy tuition will be fully waived for this session. If interested, please attach a brief statement detailing why this role would be a great fit for you and whether you prefer to assist on Tuesday or Thursday.

How do I register for Literacy Class?

Below you will find a registration form and a schedule for all four sessions along with information on eligibility, priority and cost. Please fill out the form and submit it with full payment to the PO Box.

Questions about the class?

Please contact our Literacy Teacher, Deadre Lorber, at deadre@ftcns.org

Questions about registration/payment?

Please contact our Business Manager, Kate Brenner, at businessmanager@ftcns.org

Literacy Enhancement Class Schedule 2011-2012

There will be four sessions throughout the year meeting on either Tuesday or Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:15 a.m. Enrollment forms will be provided prior to each session and a blind lottery will be held if more applications are received than slots available.



Session	Fall		Early Winter		Late Winter		Spring	
Eligibility	Students enrolled in Nursery, Mixed Age or Pre-K classes		Students enrolled in Nursery, Mixed Age or Pre-K classes		Students enrolled in Nursery, Mixed Age or Pre-K classes		Students enrolled in Nursery, Mixed Age or Pre-K classes	
Priority	Returning Students		Children not enrolled in prior session		Children not enrolled in prior session		Children entering Kindergarten Fall 2012	
Dates	T	Th	T	Th	T	Th	T	Th
Week 1	9/20	9/22	11/8	11/10	1/31	2/2	4/10	4/12
Week 2	9/27	9/29	11/15	11/17	2/7	2/9	4/17	4/19
Week 3	10/4*	10/6*	11/29	12/1	2/14	2/16	4/24*	4/26*
Week 4	10/11	10/13	12/6*	12/8*	2/21*	2/23*	5/8	5/10
Week 5	10/18	10/20	12/13	12/15	2/28	3/1	5/15	5/17
Week 6	10/25	10/27	12/20	12/22	3/6	3/8	5/22	5/24
Week 7	11/1*	11/3*	1/10	1/12	3/20	3/22	5/29*	5/31*
Week 8			1/24*	1/26*	3/27*	3/29*		
Session Length	7 weeks	7 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	7 weeks	7 weeks
Cost	\$140	\$140	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$140	\$140

* Indicates a performance week. Parents, plan to arrive by 11 a.m. on these days.

Literacy Enhancement Class Registration 2011-2012

Child's Name: _____

FTCNS Class: _____

Session: Late Winter Tuition: \$160.00

Preferred Class:
_____ Tuesday Class _____ Thursday Class _____ Either Class

Are you interested in being a Parent Assistant? ____ yes* ____ no

*Please write a brief statement detailing why this role would be a great fit for you.



If you think your child is ready, please mail this form to the PO Box with full payment. Forms and payment must be received at the PO Box by **Friday, January 20, 2012** to be considered for the late winter session. Forms will not be accepted at school.

FTCNS
PO Box 268592
Chicago, IL 60626

For FTCNS Use:

Date received _____

Check # _____