

Herricks High School Early Childhood Education Lab School
The Friendship Garden

Thank you for your interest in setting your child up for lifelong success by providing him/her with the opportunity to have a safe, nurturing, and high-quality early education experience. This opportunity is unique because your child will learn and grow with high school students who take the Child Study Practicum as a course selection. These students are interested in pursuing careers within the field of Education or Family Services.

Our Early Childhood Education Lab provides a year long nursery & preschool style experience, where volunteer children from our community are taught and led by high school students. These secondary students are supervised and guided by a certified classroom teacher.

Our class meets on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:30-11:45 am from September to early June. This program is free of charge.

If you are interested in having your child become one of our volunteer participants, please read the following information prior to completing the application.

OUR PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To provide a teaching experience and model for the Early Childhood students of Child Study Practicum.
- To provide a challenging environment with developmentally appropriate materials to facilitate the learning process.
- To guide children's construction of knowledge through play and active exploration of the physical and social environment.
- To maintain a quality childcare style setting that reflects the interest of the whole child including social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.
- To establish and carry out a child-centered curriculum based upon observing, understanding and applying each child's individual skills and interests.
- To plan a broad range of related experiences individually and age appropriate, based upon what children are discussing and doing.
- To respect and acknowledge that each child is unique with an individual pattern, pace of growth, personality, learning style and family background, which is reflected both in the curriculum and adult interactions with the child.

CHILD PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:

To attend the Herricks High School Early Childhood Education Lab School, The Friendship Garden, each family must complete an online form, attend a screening, and complete a student packet for each child.

The child/family must meet the following requirements:

1. Reside within the Herricks School District boundaries.
2. Child(ren) must be at least three years old by July 1st.
3. Child(ren) must be able to separate from parent/caregiver.
 - a. Initial separation may be difficult for some children. However, parents will not be able to enter the building to accompany a child who cannot separate on an ongoing basis.
4. Be independently potty-trained.
 - a. Without assistance, and/or guidance, the child independently recognizes the need to eliminate, uses bathroom independently, and is able to change his/her clothes, if or when necessary.
5. Children should be best suited to be cared for, interacted with, and “taught” by high school students.
 - a. The Herricks High School Early Childhood Education Lab, The Friendship Garden, is a nursery and preschool type experience for community children and a child development laboratory for Herricks High School students.
 - b. High school students cannot provide:
 - i. Assistance in the bathroom.
 - ii. Educational services beyond regular classroom activities.
6. If an applicant has been expelled from another school/facility (private or public), participation in this program may not be deemed appropriate.

PARTICIPANT SELECTION

1. All families interested in volunteer participation must complete all application procedures and attend the initial screening.
2. If there are more applicants than spots available for the next school year, a lottery may occur to aid selection.
3. We will look at the existing class makeup and fill the opening(s) in a way that allows for a balanced class consistent with course objectives.
4. Once form is completed and returned, you will be contacted **VIA EMAIL** for an initial screening appointment where you and your child will come to see our classroom and learn more about our program. Screenings will take place on March 30, April 3 and April 6 and last approximately 30-45 minutes. You will be able to select a date once we contact you VIA EMAIL.

Participant Application

Please complete and return to:

Herricks High School
% F. Armoza
100 Shelter Rock Rd.
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

Child's Name	
If applicable, nickname	
Child's Birthday	
Parent Name #1	
Best Contact #	
Email Address	
Parent Name #2	
Best Contact #	
Email Address	
Primary Address	
Is your child potty trained? *Please note that ALL students MUST be potty trained when school begins	
Does your child separate from you easily?	
Does your child speak English?	
What are some of your child's favorite activities?	
List your child's favorite toys.	
What would you like your child to learn from this experience?	
Is there anything else you would like us to know about your child?	

When this form is complete, return to the address above.

You will be contacted **VIA EMAIL** for an initial screening appointment where you and your child will come to see our classroom and learn more about our program.