



*...working together
for a good beginning*

FAQs about Ann Arbor's award-winning psychoanalytic school

What is Allen Creek's mission? Healthy development

Allen Creek Preschool's mission is to create a school community that supports and strengthens the parent-child relationship for the benefit of each child, family, and the greater community.

Who is served by Allen Creek? Children 0-6 and their parents

Families come to Allen Creek from the greater Ann Arbor area and Washtenaw County. They hear about us from other parents, community guides and local agencies. Allen Creek's population is diverse in many ways, as we seek to support families from all backgrounds and all walks of life. Every family faces challenges throughout life – Allen Creek teaches parents and children to meet and master both ordinary and extraordinary challenges.

Why is preschool important? Foundations of learning

Experience and empirical research agree that the early years establish lifelong patterns of learning and of relationships to others. Quality preschool programs that nurture the whole child lay essential foundations for later school success, healthy adolescence, mutuality in relationships, and fulfilled adult life. Choosing a good preschool is more important than choosing a college.

What's unique about Allen Creek? Parent support and education

Every parent wants to do the best job possible to raise healthy, happy children who become loving, productive adults. Allen Creek's programs empower parents to be effective. Parents gain insight into their children's experiences and learn how to teach them to love, work, and play with pleasure.

How does Allen Creek help parents? Our team approach

Teachers, family consultants, and parents work together, so we know each child as a unique, complex individual in the context of his or her family. We support parents' growth through group discussions, regular workshops on parenting topics, and the availability of specialized help when needed. At Allen Creek, developmental specialists (volunteer psychologists, psychoanalysts, psychiatrists and social workers, our 'family consultants') visit the classroom, talk with teachers, and meet with parents regularly. Our family consultants continue to serve as an ongoing resource to our alumni and the community.

What is Allen Creek's curriculum? Blend of the best

Each class has a relationship-based emergent curriculum, drawing upon the interests of the children and providing mastery of developmentally-appropriate academic, social and cognitive skills. Approaches build upon elements from Reggio Emilia, High Scope and Montessori traditions. Our approach to the whole child is supported by the most current research on early development and education. Our goal is to foster creativity, individuality, love of learning, kindness, responsibility, resilience, and self-esteem. Details of aims and content for each program may be found on the Allen Creek website at www.allencreek.org

How many children are at Allen Creek? 50-60 families

Each class group is small, ranging from 7 students in 0-3-year-old classes to 13 in preschool and Fives. There are two teachers in each group and the teacher-student ratio is 1:6. Our 0-3 programs are all for children with a parent(s). Children attend our 3-6 programs by themselves.

What does Allen Creek cost? Comparable tuition and unique scholarships

Allen Creek's on-site program tuition is comparable to fees at other quality area preschools. Our extensive scholarship program is unique. It is a Board value and goal to try never to turn a family away for financial reasons.

Why is Allen Creek expensive? We offer the best.

Our programs demand extensive ongoing professional development for our teachers and family consultants. Supporting paid time for improving staff understanding of best practices and insightful, individualized teaching, developing training models for spreading our knowledge in the region and beyond – these make Allen Creek unique. We focus on high quality education. Tuition revenue does not cover the full cost of running our 0-6 programs. Grants and donations support scholarships and staff development.

Who are the Allen Creek staff? *Cream of the crop*

Allen Creek teachers are experienced professionals, with backgrounds in early childhood education, child development, school psychology, social work, and arts education. Family consultants are volunteer mental health specialists, many renowned nationally, published in journals worldwide, and affiliated with all major universities in the region.

What is a psychoanalytic school? *Nurturing growth of the whole child*

At psychoanalytic schools we recognize and respect each child's individual personality. We foster integration of gifts, strengths, vulnerabilities and differences with the input of loving parents and devoted teachers. Teachers in later grades recognize Allen Creek graduates as "kind, focused, socially mature, able to ask for help, inclusive, showing initiative." Well-rounded friends and good citizens grow from this setting.

Who can attend Allen Creek Preschool? *Children from birth to 6 years of age*

Allen Creek Preschool is dedicated to providing services to families of all kinds and structures. Through our extensive scholarship program we welcome children to our on-site programs regardless of their financial situation, and we seek to include children of all nationalities, ethnicities, languages, religions and races. Our outreach programs serve varied schools and child care settings that draw from all segments of the southeastern Michigan community.

How does Allen Creek serve the wider community? *Teaching teachers*

Allen Creek's Early Childhood Outreach (ECO) program and our Early Childhood Training Initiative (ECTI) bring Allen Creek's model of classroom techniques and parent empowerment to schools and daycares throughout southeastern Michigan. On-site programs serve as the incubators for educational techniques that reach more than a thousand families each year through our outreach programming. Allen Creek has been represented on major county- and state-wide task forces for children throughout the years (Good Start, Project Challenge, Success by Six, First Steps). These efforts have been sustained through grant funds from family foundations, community foundations and government agencies. Allen Creek has received two national awards recognizing innovation and excellence in quality preschool education.

Are there other schools like Allen Creek? *International Alliance for Psychoanalytic Schools*

Allen Creek is accredited by and is a founder member of an international non-profit organization, the Alliance For Psychoanalytic Schools. This professional group mentors new schools in various locales and conducts conferences and research among member schools in 8 states, as well as in England.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
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