

Frequently Asked Questions

常 见 问 题 解 答

1. **What ages does your program serve?**
   We serve children aged 1 to 7 years.

2. **What are the specialties of your program?**
   We were the pioneer in WA State for children's English-Chinese bilingual education. After two decades of diligent research and hands on experience, we have proudly developed a very successful teaching system, featuring:



   - **bilingual education,**
   - **advanced academic learning, and**
   - **leadership and social skills development.**

   Our classroom has both American and Chinese teachers every day. It is a true English-Chinese immersion environment. Lessons are very fun, designed for young children, and delivered in both English and Chinese languages. Our children learn to communicate with their American teachers in English and with their Chinese teachers in Chinese.

   It is a complete preschool program covering language arts, math, science, crafts, music, and physical education. Some English speaking families tend to think their children don't need English lessons because they speak English at home. It is a misunderstanding of the lessons because our English lessons are not just teaching children how to speak, but focus on phonics, reading, and writing. Not only does it build a solid foundation for kindergarten, but also offers excellent preparation for entering gifted and specialty programs, as many of our alumni have. After graduating from preschool, students are welcome to continue their language and academic courses with other departments in our school.

   In addition, we provide enrichment programs in **Art, Music, and Gymnastics**. These programs are optional. Each family is welcome to choose their own selections.

3. **What are your hours and schedule?**
   - Morning program is **9:00 am – 12:15 pm**. Afternoon program is **2:30 – 5:00 pm**.
   - The morning program includes two lessons, snacks, and indoor and outdoor play. The afternoon program includes one lesson, snacks, and indoor and outdoor play. The order of activities varies slightly by class, ensuring everyone has a chance to enjoy our amazing, fun-filled playground!

- Before-school care is available at **8:15 - 9:00 am** for morning program.
- After-school care is available at **5:00 - 5:45 pm** for afternoon program.

4. **How much is tuition?**
   It depends on your child's **age, attending schedule, and toilet training status**. Please provide this information to info@washingtoninternationalschool.com to get a tuition quote.

5. **What is the teacher student ratio?**
   - A toddler room is usually 7-10 children with 2 or 3 teachers.
   - A preschool room is usually 15-20 children with 2 or 3 teachers.
   - In addition to the primary teachers, we have floating staff available when there is a need for additional help, such as when a new child needs extra comfort while dealing with separation anxiety.

6. **How to arrange a tour?**
   We usually begin with a virtual tour on Zoom, followed by an in-person visit within a day or two. To book a virtual tour, please email the following to info@washingtoninternationalschool.com:



   a) **your phone #.**
   b) **Your available day/time for the virtual tour.**
   c) **Your second choice of the day/time for the virtual tour.**

7. **What are the teachers' qualifications?**
   All our teachers have completed the following –



   - Background check
   - Basic early childhood education courses
   - CPR training
   - First Aid training
   - HIV / AIDS and bloodborne pathogen training
   - Food handler certificate
   - COVID vaccine
   - MMR vaccine
   - TB test
   - Onsite orientation
   - More early childhood education courses and training each year while working in our program

8. **Does my child need to be potty trained?**
   No, it's normal for toddlers and young preschoolers to be in diapers.
   We don't require them to be toilet trained before entering our program.
   We have a detailed policy and procedure for working together between



school and home to help your child through the potty-training process.

9. **Do you provide lunch and snacks?**
   Morning and afternoon snacks are provided at no additional cost. Lunch is available for full-time students only, not for half-day students.



10. **How will I know about my child's day in school?**
    We keep close communication with our school families! There are many ways for you to learn about your child's day in school:
    a) At drop off and pick up time, you are welcome to talk to your child's teacher briefly. The releasing teacher will offer a quick report of the day.
    b) We use email throughout the day to communicate with our school families.
    c) For toddlers, a written daily report is available.
    d) Every child has a folder in the lobby for filing their schoolwork, which is a good reflection of what your child has done during the day. Parents are welcome to check on the folder at any time.
    e) We send out monthly newsletter, plus many emails for special events, like Chinese New Year celebration, dental talk, Santa's visit, or costume contest.
    f) We send out individual child's photos as well as group activity photos roughly weekly or monthly. Each child has a photo folder in google drive.
    g) We issue an annual report with assessment tests in all developmental fields, partnered with a parent-teacher conference to discuss each child's development, skills, and areas of improvement in detail.



11. **How often do children go outdoor play?**
    - 30-45 minutes in the morning
    - 30-45 minutes in the afternoon

12. **How do teachers handle discipline and behavior management?**
    Our teachers use positive behavior reinforcement to help children learn school routines and safe behaviors, as well as manners and social skills. We model positive behaviors and use encouragement to help children become independent, and support children during the process of developing independence. We do not use time-outs in our program. If a child is displaying unsafe behaviors, we will redirect them to a new activity or ask them to take a break in a quiet area until they are ready to safely rejoin their friends.



13. **What is your health policy?**
    We follow the standard health policy by King County Health Department.

14. **How can I get more information / enroll my child?**
    Please email info@washingtoninternationalschool.com. Thank you!