

Park Forest Preschool Annual Newsletter 2025



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Play-Based Learning by Sue Yearick, Director

At Park Forest Preschool, we emphasize play-based learning. This educational approach is child initiated and teacher supported. Our classrooms are set up to offer a variety of enticing hands-on activities from which children choose. Teachers interact with the children, commenting on what they are doing, and asking children questions such as:

- Tell me about your building.
- What do you think you will do next?
- I noticed that you took a deep breath when your tower fell down and then you started building again.

Play-based learning has many benefits for children's development, such as:

- Promotes language development;
- Fosters creativity and imagination;
- Creates a positive relationship with learning;
- Develops social-emotional skills; and
- Improves motor skills.

The following graphic, from *Rooted in Play*, illustrates that while an observer sees children playing, much learning is going on below the surface.

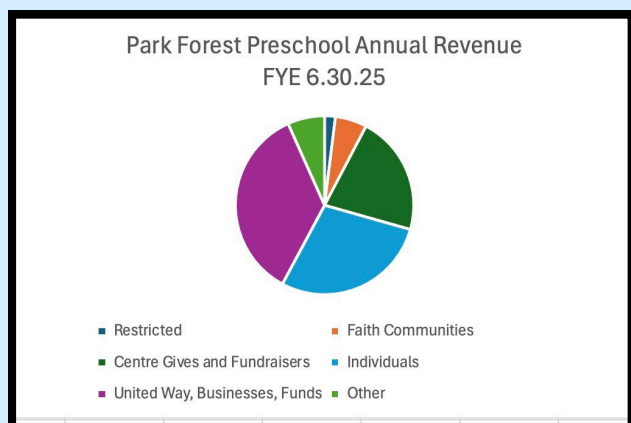


Our Mission

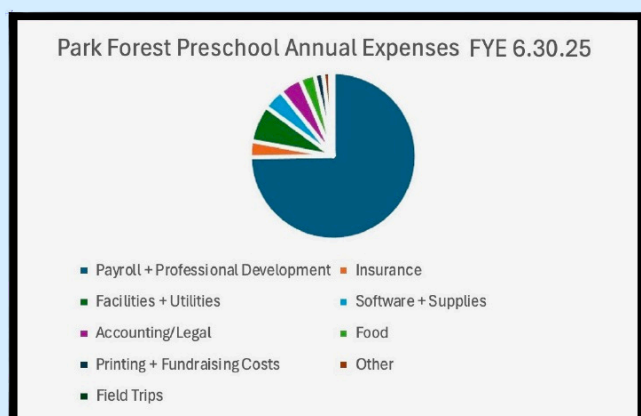
The Park Forest Preschool is a nonprofit, state licensed program that provides 100% scholarship-funded, high quality preschool programming for low income, qualifying families in the community of State College, the Centre Region and the surrounding areas. The purpose of the preschool is to provide a safe and nurturing environment while promoting cognitive, social-emotional and physical growth for all the children it serves.



Where our money comes from:



How it is spent:



**Despite our careful budgeting, we continue to need to draw from our reserves.
Your generosity is so important!**

JoAnn Vautour is Park Forest Preschool's Volunteer of the Year



Each year, the Centre County Council for Human Services (CCCHS) honors volunteers who work to further the mission of CCCHS' member agencies.

Park Forest Preschool honored JoAnn Vautour as our 2025 Rose Cologne Volunteer of the Year through the Centre County Council for Human Services. JoAnn joined the PFP Board of Directors in the 2019 - 2020 school year. She jumped right in, joining the Governance & Futures committee and Co-Chairing the Public Relations and Outreach Committee. The very next school year, JoAnn willingly embraced increased responsibilities, becoming Co-Chair of the entire PFP board while continuing committee work and managing COVID challenges. She is currently the Board Chair. She admirably manages multiple projects and details. We are so grateful to JoAnn for her inspirational leadership.

Preschool Highlights

We are excited to be fully enrolled serving 36 children from 33 families.

In early September, Board members, Parents and Parenting Plus professional enjoyed gathering for our first Back to School picnic on the playground with 19 parents and guardians and 16 children in attendance.

During the October United Way Day of Caring, our PNC volunteer team worked on painting, playground work, as well as a construction project in our FREE clothing closet, including lots of sorting and re-organizing. Thank you PNC!

We went to Wasson Farm and the Arboretum - two fun field trips!

We are excited to share that we are currently planning our December evening parent meeting with the support of the Jana Marie Foundation presenters.



Park Forest Preschool Now Participates in the **EITC** (an educational tax credit program)

Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) offers individuals and businesses an opportunity to invest a portion of their tax dollars into education programs that directly benefit students.

The State Department of Community and Economic Development's Tax Credit Division oversees the EITC program. There is no fee to participate in the program.

The minimum EITC gift in any calendar year is \$3,500. You can make a gift up to the amount of your state taxes. The funds Park Forest Preschool receives under the EITC program directly support tuition scholarships for low-income students, ages three and four. The EITC program allows you to get a 90% tax credit against your PA tax liability.



3 EASY STEPS

- 1. Sign Up:**
Sign a simple 1-page joinder to make your gift to Park Forest Preschool through the Central PA Scholarship Fund (CPSF).
- 2. Make Your Gift:**
Write your check to CPSF for the amount of your donation.
- 3. Receive a Tax Credit:**
CPSF sends you a K-1 for your tax return.



You have just helped a child obtain a very valuable early childhood education!

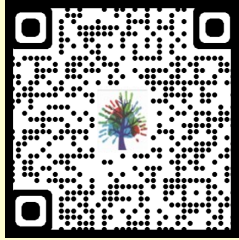


If interested in enrolling in EITC or if you have questions, please email JoAnn at: jorayv@gmail.com.





The Park Forest
Preschool



You can view and purchase items needed by our preschool with this link:

Supplies for Park Forest Preschool WalMart Gift Registry

Any items purchased will be delivered free directly to the Preschool.

Save printing and mailing costs!

You can opt for digital-only newsletters by emailing

PFPreschoolFundRaiser@gmail.com. Thank you!

United
Way

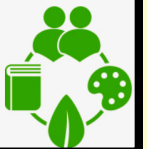


Centre County
United Way

Thanks to our many
supporters including
individuals and agencies.



Centre
FOUNDATION



Ways to help:

Make a donation - envelope enclosed
or scan the QR code



Volunteer your time and talents in the
classroom, kitchen or on our board.

Contact us:

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<https://parkforestpreschool.org>