

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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1. What is GAP? **G**ROWING • **A**DVANCING • **P**REPARING

At the time establishment, GAP stood for Monia **G**uyot, Aisha **A**bubakar, and Juna **P**uentes. These visionaries founded the organization as a child development center to provide a multi-cultural educational and developmental program for children ages six (6) weeks through five (5) years.

2. How long has GAP been in existence?

- GAP began providing high quality early education services in 1982
- Over the past 40 years, GAP has provided services to over 25,000 children and their families

3. What is GAP's philosophy?

- GAP believes that it is our obligation to ensure the health and safety of all children, families, and staff
- GAP believes that every child should have access to a high-quality education
- GAP believes in diversity, and that all children should be in learning environments that foster their growth and development and that is grounded in experiential learning and best practices
- GAP believes in strong partnerships with parents and that parents are a child's primary nurturer, teacher, and advocate

4. How much is the tuition?

Our weekly rates are competitive:

- \$550 (infant)
- \$500 (toddler)
- \$350 (pre-school)

GAP also provides services to families that participate in the DC Child Care Subsidy Program

5. How does GAP ensure the health and safety of children, families, and staff?

- GAP views health and safety for children, families, and staff as its number one priority
- GAP follows DC Government and CDC health and safety guidelines
- GAP practices social distancing, requires all staff and children ages two (2) and older to wear masks, does not allow parents or visitors beyond the entrance of the center, and cleans and sanitizes all classrooms, floors, and common areas multiple times each day

6. How are GAP's classrooms structured?

- GAP provides early care and educational services to children six (6) weeks to five (5) years old
- GAP's classrooms are structured in the following manner: Infants, Toddlers, Two's and Pre-Kindergarten
- Many of GAP's children begin as infants and continue receiving services until they are ready to go to kindergarten

7. Does GAP have a structured curriculum?

- Yes. GAP uses the Creative Curriculum which is rooted in educational philosophy and theory as well as practice. The curriculum builds on Erik Erikson's stages of socio-emotional development and Jean Piaget's theories of how children think and learn
- GAP teaching staff develop weekly lesson plans that include specific goals and learning objectives

- GAP teaching staff work with children in groups and individually. All children receive developmental assessments and the teaching staff document children's developmental progress to ensure each child has an opportunity to reach his/her potential
- GAP uses the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale - (ITERS-3)[™] to assess the program quality for infants and toddlers. The ITERS-3[™] focuses on space and furnishings, language/books, personal care routines, activities, staff/child interactions, and program structure
- GAP uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to assess the teachers' performance in pre-kindergarten classrooms. The CLASS instrument focuses on the adoption of the curriculum and the interaction between children and teachers.

8. How does GAP ensure Pre-k school children are ready for school?

- GAP has received high quality designation by the DC government as one of a select group of community-based Pre-k programs that meet all the requirements of the DC Public Schools, including qualifications of teaching staff and learning standards
- GAP focuses on physical, cognitive (thinking), cultural, language, social, and emotional development as the key components of school readiness
- GAP teachers consistently assess children's developmental progress to establish school readiness goals.
- GAP views parents as partners and consistently engages each child's family in the educational process through family meetings and conferences

9. What is the average tenure of GAP's teaching staff?

- In an industry where the turnover rate exceeds 35%, GAP is unique in

that over 50% of the teaching staff has tenure of 10 years or more

10. What is GAP's approach to training and professional development for its staff?

- GAP ensures that teaching staff receive on-going training and professional development to remain current as it relates to the most innovative and best practices in teaching and learning
- GAP teaching staff consistently exceed the 28 hour per year minimum training requirement. Professional development and training include, but are not limited to, health and safety, curriculum planning and implementation, language development, assessing children's development progress, cognitive development, school readiness, diversity, family engagement, physical development, and CPR/first aid
- Teachers required to apply their training in an effort to enhance classroom performance

11. What opportunities exist at GAP for parents to be involved?

- GAP welcomes and incorporates ideas and suggestions from parents
- GAP has Center-wide parent meetings on a regular basis and parent-teacher conferences
- GAP will resume in-classroom volunteer opportunities (e.g., reading stories to children) once COVID-19 is no longer a threat

12. What is the process to enroll?

- Complete the application on the GAP website at www.gapccc.com
- Contact GAP at 202-462-3636 or info@gapccc.com