



2015-2016
Parent Handbook





Chinmaya Blossoms

**Preschool with a difference
where children bloom with fragrance**

2015-2016 Parent Handbook

Chinmaya Mission San Diego

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Welcome

Dear Families,

Welcome to *Chinmaya Blossoms*! We are happy that you have chosen our program for your child's preschool enrichment. We look forward to providing a year filled with exciting and rewarding experiences to all our preschool friends.

This Handbook has been gathered from the mutual experience of various staff members and childcare centers, and is meant to be a reference for the policies and procedures at the *Chinmaya Blossoms* preschool. These policies are subject to change, and each classroom is given the flexibility of developing specific policies to meet the needs of its students. If you have any questions regarding these policies or procedures, or if you require further clarification, please feel free to address the administration.

We hope the information provided in this handbook will help you to gain an understanding and appreciation for your child's preschool experience. The aim of preschool is to provide a basic foundation for your child's education and to make each child's first experience with school a successful and happy one. We will be integrating Montessori philosophy and materials wherever appropriate. As teachers and parents we must remember, and keep in mind, that a positive self-image is the main ingredient to a child's success. It is our job as parents and teachers to make this a priority.

As we look forward to the next 10 months, we are reminded of the teaching of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda (1916-93), a world-renowned Hindu spiritual leader and teacher who inspired the formation of Chinmaya Mission, a worldwide nonprofit organization, to spread the knowledge of Advaita Vedanta, the non-dual system of thought found in the Upanishads, which epitomize the philosophical teachings of the Vedas.

The three main values of Hinduism are self-control, non-injury and truthfulness.

- Self-Control: When we practice self-control we discover in ourselves a renewed dynamism, and become pillars of strength in society.
- Non-Injury: Our motives behind all our actions should be blessed and pure without any cruelty or hatred.
- Truthfulness: Truthfulness enjoins us to live according to our intellectual convictions. Our integrity and dignity depends on our ability to live up to our convictions at all times.

Let us not forget, knowledge enters the mind gradually, almost unconsciously. It is the teacher's job to plant it like a seed, tend to it with encouragement and love, and nurture it while it grows and blossoms. It is our goal at *Chinmaya Blossoms* to help your child achieve such growth opportunity. Enjoy your year with us! We know we will enjoy the year getting to know all of our friends and families at *Chinmaya Blossoms*.

Sincerely,

Chinmaya Mission San Diego



Table of Contents

Mission	7
School Philosophy	7
Accomplishing our goals	7
Fostering values	8
Staff requirements and ratios	9
Choice of Programs	10
Admission Procedures and Requirements	11
Tuition Policies and Fees	12
Communications	13
School Curriculum	14
Thoughts on Education	14
Curriculum	14
Outdoor Learning Environment	15
Daily Schedule	16
School Policies	17
Arrival and Departure	17
Parking	18
Medications	18
Injuries	18
Illness	18
Absences	18
Illness Screening Checklist	19
Children's clothing	20
Labeling and Personal items	20
Lost & Found	20
Children's cubbies and Art folder	20
Snack and Lunchtime	21
Nap and Rest time	21
Babysitting	21
Birthdays	21
Summer Session	22
School closings	22
Countywide Disasters and Emergency closings	22
Calendar of Events	23
Photographs and Telephone release	23
Sunscreen Application release	24
Keep me at home if	24
When your child is sick	24



Chinmaya Blossoms

Mission

Our mission is to provide children with a nurturing and stimulating environment, for healthy exploration with fun, and to blossom with beauty and grace.

“Be like the flower. Give happiness and fragrance to all.” – Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda

School Philosophy

The program is organized to satisfy two basic educational requirements: the needs of children as a group and the needs of the individual child.

A dependable sequence of events and an orderly arrangement of materials provide a framework of confidence in which each child makes individual choices.

The availability of a wide selection of toys, materials, and experiences encourages personal exploration. At the same time, the environment guides, directs and sets limits on the child’s behavior. It tells the child what is appropriate when living and learning in a group of children and adults. The teacher acts as less of a supervisor and more as a guide to the environment. The teacher does not interpret the environment but makes it more accessible. This teacher-child relationship promotes an atmosphere of personal warmth and trust.

Accomplishing Our Goals

In order to accomplish our goal of operating a quality educational facility where children are content, secure, and happy exploring and discovering an environment that yields their growth and development, we are heavily reliant on our community. A healthy community of students, staff members, and parents working together toward this common goal is absolutely essential in meeting this goal and providing the best for your child.

Communication is of vital importance in this community, as is an equal share of responsibility for each member of the community. As much as children are responsible for exploring their interests, parents and staff members are equally responsible for maintaining an environment where such interests can be encouraged and explored. *Chinmaya Blossoms* staff will partner with parents to consider optimal ways to do so with each unique child.

Parents of students enrolled at *Chinmaya Blossoms* are relied upon to deliver a safe, consistent structure in which children may easily move between home and school with little variance in expectations placed upon them.



Fostering Values

In a climate of mutual respect and support, we can each strive to develop and support the following values in ourselves and in others:

Attitudes Toward Work And Learning

- To be self-directed, to be able to initiate activities, set goals, organize time, and complete projects
- To have the determination to try, to be capable of working to the limit of one's ability in everything one does
- To be persistent, to struggle with challenging work for periods of time with few extrinsic rewards, to take disappointment in stride
- To think logically and rationally, to evaluate information and seek out different opinions and facts before making a decision
- To be creative, using imagination to generate fresh new ideas in all areas
- To love learning, to find knowledge interesting in itself, to pursue interests with enthusiasm and for fun

Attitudes Toward Self and Others

- To recognize oneself as being special and to acknowledge the uniqueness of other people
- To approach a broad spectrum of social situations with grace, demonstrating geniality, recovery, acceptance, courtesy, and empathy with others
- To be self-evaluative, to have realistic knowledge of one's own strengths and weaknesses, not ignoring nor dwelling on them
- To have a sense of humor that does not rely on insulting or showing disrespect to others
- To develop a personal code of ethics and to remain true to these values under emotional or group pressure
- To be able to work with others to accomplish a goal, to learn to contribute to ideas, to listen to others, and to compromise
- To be responsible, not only in the sense of being reliable, but also able to take into account the effect of an action before performing it, and then being answerable for it afterward
- To balance development in emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and physical areas



Attitudes Toward Society

- To understand the interdependence of all living things and the natural systems of the Earth
- To have knowledge of and respect for the different ways humans have met their physical and spiritual needs over the ages and in different contemporary cultures
- To recognize that it is not helpful to label personal choices as right or wrong
- To be able to communicate clearly and comfortably with individuals of all ages and backgrounds
- To be courteous, caring and respectful towards others, to know how to behave appropriately
- To be competent in the use of a variety of effective non-violent techniques for resolving conflict
- To accept responsibility for making a contribution to benefit future generations

Staff requirements and ratios

Qualifications of the Director:

- Must have knowledge of the requirements for providing the type of care and supervision needed by the children, including the ability to communicate with such children.
- Must have knowledge of and ability to comply with applicable law and regulation.
- Must have the ability to maintain or supervise the maintenance of financial and other records.
- Must have the ability to direct the work of others when applicable.
- Must have the ability to establish the facility's policies, program and budget.
- Must have the ability to recruit, employ, train, and evaluate qualified staff, and to terminate employment of staff, if applicable to the facility.
- Must be a high school graduate or have a GED; completion with passing grades of 15 semester units (or equivalent quarter units) in early childhood education at an accredited or approved university or college; and at least four years teaching in a licensed day care program or comparable child care program.
- Must have 3 semester units (or equivalent quarter units) of the 15 units required above be in administration or staff relations.
- Must have 12 semester units (or equivalent quarter units) of the 15 units required above include courses which cover the general areas of child growth and development, or human growth and development; child, family and community, or child and family; and program/curriculum.



Qualification of Teachers:

- To be a fully qualified teacher, a teacher must have 12 post-secondary units (or equivalent quarter units) in early childhood education or child development, completed at an accredited or approved college or university.
- Must have at least 6 months of work experience in a licensed day care center or comparable group childcare program.
- The educational units specified above must include courses that cover the general areas of child growth and development, child, family and community, or child and family, and program/curriculum.

Qualification of Teacher Aides:

- An aide must be 18 years of age, a high school graduate, or be currently participating in an occupational program at high school. An aide shall work only under the direct supervision of a teacher.
- An aide may escort or assist children in going to the bathroom and may supervise napping children without being under the direct supervision of a teacher.

Ratios:

- Due to our open environment, *Chinmaya Blossoms* has additional staff to accommodate teacher/child ratios of one teacher per 8 children.

Choice of Programs

- While your child is a student of *Chinmaya Blossoms* preschool you must enroll in on July 1st (12 months) or end of August (10 months). Notice of which month you choose must be given to administration at the time of enrollment.
- You can choose a 2-day program (Tu, Th) or a 3-day program (M, W, F) or a 5-day program (M, Tu, W, Th, F). All programs are from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- Extended day care is available from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM.



Admission Procedures and Requirements

Chinmaya Blossoms is licensed for 60 children a day. It admits toilet-learned children from 2 ½ years through kindergarten age.

To gain admission for a child, parents need to visit the school, observe, and have an interview with the Director. The purpose of the interview is to acquaint the parent with the philosophy of the school, not to screen the child.

Once a parent has decided to enroll their child into *Chinmaya Blossoms*, a Registration Form is filled out, signed and dated. Additionally, parents must carefully read the Parent Handbook, sign and date the terms of enrollment. A space is reserved for the child once fees are paid (registration fee).

In the event the program a parent desires for his/her child is filled, the child's name may be placed on a waiting list. In order to be fair to all applicants, the list is addressed on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces are filled according to the program you are enrolling in. (Example: An opening for 3 days a week will be filled with the first child on the waiting list whose parent has requested 3 days a week.)

Upon enrollment, parents must fill out, a week before the start date, all Community Care Licensing Forms including a copy of the immunization record and Physician's report.

Toilet-Learned Policy

A child needs to be toilet learned before the start of school. If your child needs to wear pull-ups, we consider this not toilet learned. We will, however, allow children to wear pull-ups only while napping if provided by the parent.

At the beginning of the year, teachers will take the 2- and 3-year-olds to the toilet during their 9 a.m. group time and every hour thereafter. Teachers will provide assistance when needed but children should be dressed in non-restrictive clothing to make their toileting more successful.



Tuition Policies and Fees

- The monthly tuition fees (including lunch) are as follows:
 - 5 day program (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM) \$950
 - 3 day program (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM) \$650
 - 2 day program (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM) \$500
- Extended daycare is available. The fees are as follows:
 - 5 day program (7:30 AM – 5:30 PM) \$200
 - 3 day program (7:30 AM – 5:30 PM) \$160
 - 2 day program (7:30 AM – 5:30 PM) \$130
- Other fees, except monthly tuition and extended daycare, are due at the time the application is accepted.
 - Registration Fees (annual) \$200 **NON-REFUNDABLE**
 - Tuition Deposit (one time) \$250 **REFUNDED LAST MONTH**
- Tuition is due on the first day the child attends school and on the first day of each month thereafter. Payment received later than the fifth day of the month is subject to a \$20 late charge. Returned check charge is \$20. If there is a returned check, tuition payment must be made in cash.
- Tuition deposits are refunded the last month of enrollment at *Chinmaya Blossoms*. In order to receive a tuition refund during the school year (September 1st through June 30th), a four (4) week **written** notice of withdrawal is mandatory on the 30th of the preceding month. If written notice is not received, the tuition deposit will be forfeited.
- We will keep your child before or after the contracted schedule time, however, you will be charged for extra hours @ \$10.00 per hour (\$2.50 every 15 minutes), to be paid by cash or check when you pick up your child. Prior approval must be given by administration before any changes are made to your child's schedule.
- We open at 7:30 am and close at 5:30 pm. Children picked up after 5:30 pm will be charged a late fee (5:30-5:45 pm: \$10.00 + \$1.00 per minute thereafter, per child).
- There is no reduction for illness, scheduled holidays or family vacations. Tuition is not reduced for school closings.
- The school will give parents 30-days notice prior to a tuition change.



Communications

Parents may schedule a conference with their child's teachers for more information on their child's progress and/or concerns. In addition to these conferences, there are several ways that the staff consistently communicates with parents. These communication methods include:

- Directors and/or staff greet children and parents upon arrival. Any concerns about the child's health must be communicated at this time.
- Bi-monthly Newsletters are distributed to parents.
- Written progress reports are done twice a year, one in the winter and one in the spring.
- Parent volunteer opportunities.
- Parent/teacher conference as needed and mandatory meeting in January
- If a parent has a grievance with another family enrolled at *Chinmaya Blossoms*, the administration requests that the parents communicate to resolve the problem in an ethical manner.
- If a grievance cannot be resolved after communication has occurred in either of the scenarios above, the administration has the right to terminate enrollment based on the unethical behavior either towards *Chinmaya Blossoms* staff or any member of another family enrolled at *Chinmaya Blossoms*.



SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Thoughts on Education

At *Chinmaya Blossoms* preschool, we follow the principles and practices espoused by great spiritual masters and thinkers.

“Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man” – Swami Vivekananda.

“Children are not vessels to be filled but lamps to be lit” – Swami Chinmayananda

“Look at life as a whole and live a whole life” – Swami Tejomayananda

Curriculum

The curriculum plan reflects the philosophy of the program: to meet the needs of the children as a group and the needs of the individual child. The role of the teacher is to facilitate, actively listen to each child, and then guide the learning process.

The teacher evaluates children twice a year on their developmental progress. Teachers consider the five domains of child development: cognitive, social, emotional, creative and physical development for each child’s age.

Circle Time

- Daily Prayers
- Attendance
- Phonetic Analysis
- Group lessons from cultural curriculum

Work Time

- Practical life activities
- Language
- Math
- Cultural Curriculum
- Art

Practical Life

The exercises in the practical life area consist of materials that are familiar to the child and so he is attracted to this area when he first comes into the school. These exercises have objects and materials normally encountered in everyday living experiences such as cleaning, food preparation, pouring, polishing, etc. The exercises of practical life fall into four major categories: care of self, care of the environment, grace & courtesy, and control of movement.

The purpose of the practical life activities is to help the child develop coordination, concentration, a sense of personal independence, and a sense of order. Through the exercises of practical life the child develops the self-confidence, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and attention essential for the mastery Language and Math.



Language

Language area is where children learn reading through phonics, and writing through working with different activities, which help to develop their fine motor skills. The children are taken through a sequence of fun activities to master phonics.

Mathematics

The Math area focuses on the thorough understanding of quantity and number symbols. The decimal system and the four basic operations (addition, multiplication, subtraction and division) are understood in a concrete manner through use of the math materials.

Culture

The Cultural area has materials that help children become aware of their surroundings as well as appreciate the gift of nature around us through fun activities and hands on materials. Following are the sections in Cultural curriculum.

- History
- Geography
- Biology
- Zoology

Outdoor Learning Environment

Our natural outdoor learning environment stimulates the social-emotional, language, physical and cognitive domains in the child's interaction with nature.

It is through social interactions that children learn how to solve problem, negotiate and communicate.

Nature-based outdoor spaces provide a perfect setting for meeting each child's unique sensory needs. A wide variety of natural materials provide ways for each child to feel comfortable and successful.



Daily Schedule

07:30 AM	–	09:00 AM	Extended care
09:00 AM	–	10:30 AM	Circle Time & Work Time
10:30 AM	–	11:00 AM	Snack
11:00 AM	–	12:00 PM	Play
12:00 PM	–	01:00 PM	Lunch
01:00 PM	–	02:30 PM	Nap Time
02:30 PM	–	03:00 PM	Snack & Dismissal
03:00 PM	–	05:30 PM	Extended care



SCHOOL POLICIES

In order to have a successful year together, we would like you to consider and follow the following policies. They were developed with the well being of your child in mind. You will help other parents, your child, and the staff a great deal by adhering to them.

Arrival and Departure

- Children need to be brought into the school and signed out by adults only.
- No one is allowed to wear shoes inside the school building. Please remove your shoes and place them neatly in the shoe racks provided before entering the building.
- All doors and gates that lead out to the parking lot must remain closed at all times.
- Please do not play in an area that is unsupervised by teachers.
- Please arrive and depart at your contracted time and only leave your child in an area that is properly supervised by teachers.
- Parents who visit with siblings of the enrolled child must be responsible for the care and supervision of siblings.
- Do not forget to sign your child in and out of school. It is a California State law that we have both your child's first and last name and your full signature when you sign your child in and out of the facility.
- At the time of drop off, parents or authorized persons* need to sign in each child, recording the time.
- At the time of pick up, parents or authorized persons* need to sign out each child, recording the time.
- We ask parents not to hang out at pick up time, chatting with other parents or teachers. Children deem that time as "School is over, rules don't apply, and therefore I can do anything I want." It is fine to ask the child's teacher how did the day go, but any lengthy conversation about the child's progress should be scheduled so as not to interfere with the teacher's primary responsibility of supervising the children.
- No person other than those listed on the identification and emergency information form will be allowed to pick up a child unless the child's parent puts a request in writing. The request must include the child's first and last name, date of change, parent's full signature and the full name of the person transporting your child.
- We ask that you not allow your child to climb over the front railings, gates, pylons or bushes. Use ramps or steps only.

* Authorized person is one listed by parents on emergency form filed in the office.



Parking

For the children's safety, we ask parents to park in designated parking spaces.

- Hold your child's hand when cautiously walking across the parking lot.
- Never leave small children/infants unattended in a vehicle when dropping off or picking up preschoolers.

Medications

- *Chinmaya Blossoms* will administer medications to your child upon request. Parents need to fill out the medication log, which is located in the entryway, under the sign in/sign out sheet. We need the date, time and amount to be given. After the dose has been administered, the teacher will initial it.
- The California State Department of Social Service and Community Care Licensing requires that all medication must be in the original prescription container with the child's full name on the label, dose, administration directions, pharmacy's name, date and expiration date.
- Since this is a well child program, it is *Chinmaya Blossoms* policy, when requested, to administer over the counter medications only if it is accompanied by a physician's written request, and the reason why it must be taken.

Injuries

An injury report will be filled out when a child has an accident at school. The report will give the time and description of the injury and first aid steps taken. The original report will be placed in the child's art folder for the parent. A copy will be placed in the child's permanent folder. The teacher who is present at the time of injury signs the report.

Absences

Please notify the school when your child is absent. If your child has been exposed to a communicable disease, please let the school know as soon as possible when a child has been exposed to a communicable disease so we can alert parents and staff. It is also helpful if you let us know what illness your child has so we can keep track of what illnesses are going around.

Illness

Parents are asked to observe their children before sending them to school and to keep them home if any of the symptoms are observed on the **Illness Screening Checklist**. The school will call to have your child picked up if they are not acting well or are not able to function within the group setting. This may mean that they are not exhibiting any of the symptoms on the list but should be at home with one-on-one care.

Chinmaya Blossoms reserves the right to exclude a child from school if he/she exhibits a communicable illness. Depending on the illness, the child may return if the symptom subsides or the child is on the appropriate medication and is within the appropriate time period.

Please make advance arrangements for childcare, if needed, when your child is too sick for school. We cannot, by California State law, and in good conscience, allow ill children to attend.



Illness Screening Checklist

Listed below are some important symptoms of illnesses to look for in your child. If your child is exhibiting these symptoms, please do not send him/her to school until the symptoms have subsided for at least 24 hours.

- Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool). If a child has only one loose stool, observe the child for additional loose stools or other symptoms. Be sure that the child and care providers wash their hands often.
- Severe coughing. The child gets red or blue in the face or makes high pitched, “croupy” or “whooping,” sounds after coughing.
- Labored or rapid breathing
- Yellowish tint to the skin or eyes, which could be a sign of jaundice
- Tearing, irritation and redness of eyelid lining, followed by swelling and discharge of pus (conjunctivitis, also called pink eye)
- Unusual spots or a rash
- Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing
- Fever or feverish appearance
- Infected areas of skin with crusty, bright yellow, dry or gummy areas
- Unusually dark, tea colored urine
- Grey or white stools
- Headache and stiff neck
- Vomiting
- Unusual behavior (crankiness, listlessness, crying more than usual, obvious general discomfort)
- Loss of appetite
- Severe itching of body or scalp or constant scratching of the scalp

Decisions about keeping or sending a child home with minor colds is dependent on how uncomfortable the child is, how well the child can contain the cough and/or runny nose, and how well the staff can care for or respond to the child’s symptoms.

Ear infections are not easily spread from child to child. The main concern is that the child gets medical treatment and follow-up care. Decisions should be based on how uncomfortable the child is and how well the staff can care for the child and respond to the child’s symptoms.

*Adapted from: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control*



Children's Clothing

Children in preschool engage in active play. They explore both indoors and out, experimenting with many different materials. Clothing that is comfortable, sturdy, and washable permits children to engage in all activities without undue concern for spills or rips. Aprons are provided for painting and working with glue. Detergent is added to paints for easier stain removal.

For safety, long dresses and shoes with slippery soles need to be avoided. We ask that parents have their children wear shoes that have covered toes and at least a back strap.

For young children who are unable to tie shoelaces, shoes with Velcro fasteners will allow a child the independence and confidence, which comes with dressing oneself.

Pants with elastic waist allow children the freedom of taking care of their own toilet needs.

Children who need their soiled clothes changed are more comfortable if they have their own clothes.

Please bring extra clothing to school in a bag and put them in your child's cubby.

Parent/Visitor Attire

In keeping with the desire to model appropriate public behavior, we require that visitors to the facility wear apparel that is not provocative, suggestive, offensive or otherwise deemed inappropriate. Violation of this policy may result in the site visitor being asked to leave, with repeat violations carrying the risk of expulsion of the student with whom the person is associated.

Labeling Personal Items

All clothing and personal items need to be clearly marked with the child's name. The school cannot be responsible for unlabeled personal items and clothing. We discourage bringing toys from home as they tend to get lost or broken and may be a source of conflict.

Lost & Found

Lost and found is located in a basket in the entryway.

Children's Cubbies and Art Folders

Each child is assigned a cubby for storing personal items such as extra clothing. Parents should provide a complete change of clothing. Include extra jacket or sweater for cold weather. All items placed in the cubby should be labeled with your child's name.

No food, drink, or medication is allowed in the cubby.

Additionally, each child has an art folder in the entry way where crafts, artwork and parent notices are placed. Please remove items from your child's art folder on a daily basis.



Snack and Lunch Time

Snack and lunch times are important parts of our curriculum. During these times we address the social/emotional, cognitive and physical development of your child. We begin to teach manners, learn to wait turns, have thoughtful conversations and work on appropriate mealtime behavior. It is a time where the children learn to pour liquids, serve themselves and others and count how many items they may take. Once the meal is completed, they learn to clean up their place at the table and throw any trash in the trashcans.

Lunch will be provided at Noon. The school will also provide snacks at 10:30 am, 2:30 pm, and 5:00 pm.

If your child has certain dietary restrictions, you may provide an alternative vegetarian snack. Please let administration know about this so we can alert the teachers. You may send these in a lunch box. *Chinmaya Blossoms* will provide hot, healthy, balanced and nutritious lunch. Wherever possible, fresh organic ingredients will be used. The school also provides organic milk.

Nap and Rest Time

At the time of enrollment you choose whether your child is a rester (1/2 hour rest period) or a napper (sleeps up to 2.5 hours). If your child is a “napper” and no longer sleeps, we will move the child to a rest group. You will be notified of this move. The “lovie” and blanket, if provided, will be sent home after the move. A mat is provided to be used during the rest/nap period. Parents provide a small blanket and a pillow if needed.

Babysitting

The administration understands that parents need babysitters from time to time. However, our teachers are not permitted to babysit for families that are currently enrolled. We hope this policy does not present difficulty for your family and appreciate your observance.

Birthdays

Parents of birthday child are invited to participate in their child’s birthday celebration at school. We will be celebrating your child’s birthday at 2:45pm. The birthday child and the whole class will be waiting for you so please arrive on time. Please bring one picture of your child starting from his/her birth to current, e.g. one picture when he/she was born, one picture from when he/she was one year old to current age. After the celebration, your child will be presented a special card made by his/her friends. If you wish, you may bring school approved non-edible goodies or school approved edible goodies to be distributed for your child’s class.



Summer Session

Chinmaya Blossoms will offer a fun and activity filled summer session in July and August. Parents should opt for the 12-month program or enroll in the summer session by April. The daily program will be different from the regular preschool program.

School Closings

Chinmaya Blossoms is open Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm. The school is open year-round except for the observance of holidays and teacher in-service days. Each year in the fall, parents are given the exact dates the school will be closed. These are also posted on our website. We do our best to match the same days the Poway Unified School District follows when holidays occur.

These holidays include:

- Labor Day (September)
- Veteran's Day (November)
- Thanksgiving Break (November – Wed., Thurs., Fri.)
- Winter Break (December – Christmas through New Year)
- ML King Jr. Birthday (January)
- Presidents' Day (February)
- Good Friday (Spring)
- Memorial Day (May)
- Summer Break (beginning of July)

From time to time, there are closings for emergencies or major repairs. In the event one of these occurs, parents will be given as much notice as possible. Tuition is not refunded in these cases.

Countywide Disaster and Emergency Closings

In the event of a countywide disaster/emergency (fire, earthquake, flood, etc.), *Chinmaya Blossoms* follows the Poway Unified School District closings. We will re-open our school when the Poway Unified School District re-opens.

If children are present during an emergency:

- Do **not** call the school. We probably won't have time or the personnel to answer phone calls because our focus will be on the children.
- Do **not** come to school, unless you are within walking distance and radio reports indicate there is no danger in traveling the area streets. Children will be released only from a designated dismissal area and only to authorized family members or their representatives.
- Community disasters will be reported on the radio. Be sure that your family has a battery-operated transistor radio. Listen to it for directions. We will be listening to the same information that you are and following the same directions.
- Be assured that the teachers and other school personnel are giving your child any emergency care that may be needed.



- The safest place in case of a disaster is off the streets, out of the way of emergency and rescue equipment. Traffic jams prevent emergency vehicles access to their destinations.
- We will keep your child at *Chinmaya Blossoms* until the emergency is over. If it is determined that our site is unsafe, we will follow instructions for evacuation from appropriate emergency personnel.
- In the event of an evacuation, we will post a notice of our new location. *Chinmaya Blossoms* has chosen the Legacy Montessori and the parking lot of Pomarado Elementary School as an offsite evacuation site. If it is determined that it is not safe to take the children there, we will find the safest spot at the school and await instructions from emergency personnel. Be assured that the police and fire departments treat area schools (private and public) as a priority.

Calendar of Events

- 1st Day of School (August 20)
- Back to School Night (August 26)
- School Portraits (fall)
- Halloween (end of October)
- Holiday Celebration (December)
- Parent Night (January)
- CMSD Festival Celebrations throughout the year
- Open House (April)
- Graduation (end of June)
- Last Day of regular School (end of June)
- Summer session (July/August)

Photographs, Telephone numbers Release

Throughout the school year our staff takes pictures of the children for the purpose of display at school. We will not post pictures of the children on our website or brochures without obtaining specific permission from you.

Additionally, parents often ask for telephone numbers of school mates to arrange for play dates, birthday invitations, etc. Telephone numbers will only be released to other parents if consent is given.

If you do not wish your child to participate in any of the aforementioned, please fill out the release form that was given to you at the time of enrollment. If you change your mind any time throughout the school year, please inform administration and we will make that change for you.



Sunscreen Application Release

As a courtesy, *Chinmaya Blossoms* will apply sunscreen to your child upon written request from you and if your child ventures outside after 1:00 pm. Please apply sunscreen on your child in the morning. Permission slips are part of the packet given at the time of enrollment.

Keep me at home if ...

- I'm vomiting - two or more times in 24 hours
- I have a rash, lice or nits - Body rash, especially with a fever or itching.
- I have diarrhea - 3 or more watery stools in 24 hours
- I have an eye infection - Thick mucus or pus draining from the eye
- I have a sore throat - With fever or swollen glands
- I'm just not feeling very good - Unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, confused or cranky
- I have a fever - Temperature of 100° or more (taken under the arm) AND sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, earache or just not feeling good.

When your child is sick:

1. *HAVE PLANS FOR BACKUP CHILD CARE.*
2. *TELL YOUR CAREGIVER WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR CHILD, EVEN IF YOUR CHILD STAYS HOME.*



Chinmaya Mission Pledge

We stand as one family bound to each other with love and respect.

We serve as an army, courageous and disciplined, ever ready to fight against all low tendencies and false values, within and without us.

We live honestly the noble life of sacrifice and service, producing more than what we consume, and giving more than what we take.

We seek the Lord's grace to keep us on the path of virtue, courage and wisdom.

May thy grace and blessings flow through us to the world around us.

We believe that the service of our country is the service of the Lord of Lords, and devotion to the people is devotion to the Supreme Self.

We know our responsibilities; give us the ability and courage to fulfill them.

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