

DIRECTOR SEARCH

PARK CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL

New York, New York

parkchildrensdayschool.org

Start Date: July 2025



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

At a Glance



Established
1963



Enrollment
113



Student-teacher ratio
4.4:1



Total faculty
32



Faculty with advanced degrees
40%



Faculty with more than 20 years' tenure at PCDS
45%

Overview

Nestled in a charming building, across the street from the iconic Central Park in the heart of the Upper West Side of New York City, Park Children's Day School (PCDS) is a nurturing preschool for children ages two through five. The school embodies a child-centered approach to education, focusing on play-based learning and active engagement with the surrounding environment. At PCDS, students are provided with an exemplary foundation for their educational journey. The school's proven play-based approach not only helps prepare children for future schooling, but also builds their confidence and equips them with essential life skills for the world beyond. Park Children's Day School's dedicated faculty, with an admirable track record of tenure, is passionately aligned with the school's mission. Teachers help the children thrive through play by nurturing self-esteem, positive self-image, and a love of learning.

More than just a school, PCDS is a close-knit community where children and families forge enduring connections. A committed parent community contributes to the school's success via a robust Parents Association. Families value meaningful relationships built through the school's annual traditions and events, including a Pajama Breakfast, Family Fridays, and the Alumni Ice Cream Social. It is a testament to the enduring impact of the school and its community that many alumni return to attend these events over multiple years and choose to send their children to the school once they become parents. PCDS truly embodies the spirit of continuity and community.

Led by a dedicated Board of Trustees, PCDS seeks a Director, to start July 2025, who will guide the school into its next chapter. Successful candidates will be committed to a play-based philosophy for early education, well-versed in exmissions to ongoing independent schools, adept at operations and managing faculty and administrative staff, and dedicated to maintaining close relationships with parents and alumni families.



School History

An engaging and vibrant school, Park Children’s Day School opened in 1963 as Park Avenue Christian Church Day School (PACCCDS) on the Upper East Side of New York City. The school was originally affiliated with the Park Avenue Christian Church and built by the church’s congregation as an investment in the community. In its first year, PACCCDS opened to thirty students and eventually grew to 230 students at its east side location.

PACCCDS had built a wonderful reputation and a “history of consistency” that it leveraged to successfully move to the Upper West Side in the summer of 2013 when the church announced that it was selling the school’s real estate to a developer to raise money. Over half of the students made the move across Central Park when the school reopened its doors at its new home at 4 West 76th St. Within a few years, the school had rebuilt its community and was enrolling to its new capacity. This year, the school celebrates its 61st year of educating young children and its eleventh year at its Upper West Side location. PCDS continues to benefit from the support of the families that helped move the school ten years ago and has established a strong community of mostly Upper West Side families, in addition to families from other neighborhoods close by.

Curriculum and Approach

PCDS understands that children are natural explorers, and it has created a vibrant learning environment that celebrates their boundless curiosity and creativity. The classrooms are designed to be a haven of hands-on experiences and exciting activities, where learning is an adventure filled with joy.



Engaging, Playful Learning: At PCDS, children learn best when they're having fun. The curriculum is brimming with dynamic activities like dramatic play, block building, art experiences, sensory play, storytelling, scientific discovery, culinary adventures, and music. Given the school's proximity to Central Park, the children enjoy going to the park and being outdoors with their classmates on an almost daily basis. Each child at PCDS is encouraged to dive into his or her unique learning style, fostering cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. PCDS understands that a well-organized environment is crucial for children's growth. The classrooms are thoughtfully equipped, organized and structured to encourage free expression, experimentation, and movement, with the goal of ensuring a safe and inspiring space for exploration.

Child-Centered Philosophy: PCDS follows a child-centered approach. The school aims to provide a nurturing and joyful atmosphere where children build a positive self-image, and also cultivate a lifelong love for learning. The flexible curriculum offers diverse and developmentally appropriate activities, respecting the individuality of each child.

Preparing Young Minds for a Bright Future: PCDS is committed to equipping each child with the skills needed to thrive in his or her educational journey. Through the power of play, young children are empowered to become critical thinkers, fostering a sense of challenge and personal mastery at every age level.

Community & Collaboration: The faculty at PCDS believe that a child's education is a collaborative effort. Parents are invited to be an integral part of the school community, encouraging close communication and active involvement in their child's school life. The Parents Association hosts a variety of engaging activities for families to participate in. Parents, for example, volunteer to run the beautiful Children's Lending Library.

A Caring, Trusting Community: Above all, PCDS cherishes an atmosphere of trust, shared concern for children's well-being and development, and a strong sense of community. These core values are the heart of the school's philosophy and the foundation of its practice.



Opportunities and Challenges

In addition to joining a school rooted in tradition and connection, the new Director will join Park Children's Day School at a time when the community is headed towards its next chapter. The new Director will need to:

- Continue the school's commitment to its child-centered, play-based approach to learning and preparing children for kindergarten;
- Actively lead and support families in their exmissions processes and maintain longstanding relationships with ongoing schools in the New York City area;
- Embrace a close-knit faculty, staff and family community and celebrate beloved traditions;
- Continue the school's excellent shared-space relationship with an adjoining but unaffiliated church and oversee facilities maintenance and upgrades;
- Assess and manage the institutional organization, including individual staff responsibilities, employee evaluations and professional development;
- Serve as a visible external face of the school and engaged leader for the children and families; and
- Support and sustain a diverse and inclusive community.



Qualifications and Personal Attributes

Park Children's Day School is seeking in its next Director an innovative, experienced, and inspiring educational leader who fully embraces the school's mission and vision and eagerly intends to make a long-term commitment to the position. The next successful candidate will possess most or all of the following qualifications and qualities:

- A thorough and demonstrated knowledge of early childhood education issues and philosophies;
- An experienced educational leader with a commitment to play-based early education;
- Experience with exmissions in a competitive independent school environment;
- A community builder who enjoys being an active and visible presence in the life of the school during and beyond the school day;
- A strategic thinker who can articulate vision and strategy;
- Experience managing the systems and processes necessary to implement the Park Children's Day School's strategic plan and day-to-day operations;
- Proven ability in managing financial resources thoughtfully and sustainably; and
- Experience in recruiting, retaining, supporting and developing the growth of talented faculty, staff, and administration.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Park Children's Day School:

[School Website](#)

[About New York, New York](#)

[School History](#)



To Apply

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the below-listed consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A writing sample (such as a communication to parents, students, or teachers) that will provide a sense of the candidate's writing style and tone; and
- A list of five professional references with the name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each. References will not be contacted without the candidate's permission.

Materials should be sent to:

Seliat Dairo

Consultant

seliat.dairo@carneysandoe.com

Allison Stiles

Consultant

allison.stiles@carneysandoe.com

The full-time equivalent salary range for this position is \$200,000 - \$250,000. The starting salary is based upon, but not limited to, several factors that include years of experience.