



2021 Fall Tot Lot FAQs

Register online at: www.hpncclub.org/early-childhood

Visit HPNC's Instagram page for photos of our first days: [@hpncclub](https://www.instagram.com/hpncclub)

General Information

Ages: Infant- 5 y/o

Schedule: Monday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Groups: Groups of children are welcome at a ratio no greater than 1 adult to 3 unrelated children. Each child must be individually registered.

Cost & Discounts

Fees: Registration is through the HPNC Website. There are two options: Season Pass or \$10 drop in.

Q: What if I don't get a chance to pre-register, can I just pay at the door?

A: It is always better for you to register online in advance. You may even do so on your phone. If that's not possible, we have a computer station at HPNC that you may use to register when you arrive.

Q: Can I pay in cash?

A: No, we are unable to take cash at this time. You may pay with debit or credit card through our online registration site.

Q: Is there a sibling discount?

A: Yes, 10% discount for the second and third child. This discount ONLY applies to siblings. It DOES NOT apply to two unrelated children coming in with one caretaker.

Q: What if I have an infant that is coming along with my older child? Do I have to pay for the baby?

A: As a general rule, each child must be pre-registered. If you have an infant *under 9-months* that will be *carried in a sling or otherwise not independently participating* **and** *will be accompanying a parent or caretaker attending with another paying child*, please discuss your situation with our Tot Lot Facilitator.

Activities

Tot Lot is held in HPNC's full-size gymnasium. The gym will be divided into several sections, each containing a separate set of activities that relate to the unique developmental needs of young children.

Constants will include an infant area, an area for riding toys, a play structure, and an area for slides and other climbing or rocking toys.

There will be special instructor-led activities at 10 and 11 a.m.

On Mondays our special activities will focus on large gross motor fun such as ball play, parachute games, and obstacle courses.

Fridays will target quieter gross motor activity such as yoga, stretching, and circle play.

All activities assume that adult caretakers will be active participants in their children's play and exploration. Caretaker participation is also needed to assist children to use toys in a manner that is safe for everyone.

Q: I have an infant. My baby can't walk yet, is there anything for us?

A: Yes! There is a separate mat area for non-walking children. It has safe activities for infants and offers a spot for adults to socialize as the babies to play.

Toy and Activity Safety

Q: What if I see a child playing with the toys in a way that is not safe for themselves or others?

A: We hope to create a mutually supportive community at Tot Lot. To that end, we encourage you to say something whenever you have general safety concerns.

If you are concerned that another child is acting unsafely, please alert the caretaker that is accompanying that child. If the behavior continues or is a widespread problem across multiple children (e.g., frequent tug-a-war over a particular toy or frequent conflict in one particular part of the gym), feel free to locate our Tot Lot facilitator, Carolyn Banner, and ask for her assistance.

Covid Safety

HPNC is dedicated to ensuring the safety of visitors and staff alike. We take Covid risk seriously and invite you to join us in keeping our environment safe and healthy. Specific safety measures that you will experience at Tot Lot include:

- There is a sign on the HPNC front door specifying that anyone exhibiting covid-like symptoms is not allowed to enter our facility.
- Temperature check at the door (all visitors, all ages). Anyone with a temperature above 100.3 will not be admitted.

- Masks are required in the building for all adults and children ages 2 y/o and up.
 - ** It is important that caretakers supervise young children's mask use. They often let their masks slip when they play and may need frequent reminders to keep their masks in place.
- Hand sanitizer will be available, but we also encourage you to bring your own, especially if you want your children to use it throughout the morning as they play. We encourage all visitors to wash their hands with soap and water before and after visiting any HPNC programs.
- The HPNC facility and HPNC gymnasium are well ventilated. We follow the CDC guidelines on ventilation in schools and childcare programs. We have installed and we regularly replace MERV-13 filters in the building's HVAC system. The HVAC system runs continuously while the building is occupied, regularly replacing interior air with fresh air from the outside. The gym has a special vent that uniquely circulates air by pulling it up and venting out through the ceiling.
- The gymnasium, where Tot Lot is held, has a capacity of 500, giving plenty of space for physical distance between participants. We cap registration well below this number. Typically, in pre-covid times, max attendance, in a single day, spread out over 3-hours was around 30 kids and 25-30 adults.

Q: What if I see a child or adult whose mask is falling down or coming off?

A: If you notice a child whose mask has slipped down or is taking their mask off, please politely remind the child to keep their mask on. You may also want to let the adult caretaker of that child know that the little one is having trouble.

- If you notice an adult whose mask is not on correctly (fully covering both mouth and nose) gently remind them to please keep their mask up.

This will be a learning process and we hope everyone will take a caring approach to helping one another learn as we re-enter social spaces such as Tot Lot.

A Note on Germs

We have all been physically distanced for 1.5 years! During that time, you may have noticed your children had fewer of the normal colds and sniffles that are common as children go in and out of group settings like Tot Lot. Reopening means that we will likely see the sniffles return from time to time. This is no reason to panic but if your child is having a lot of nasal congestion or coughing, and mask wearing becomes difficult, it is best for you to keep her/him home for a few days.

Q: What if I see a child putting their mouth on a toy in Tot Lot?

A: Young children like to explore toys with all 5 of their senses, including their mouths. As a consequence, it is you WILL run across a child mouthing something here and there. If the child is over 2, she or he should be reminded to keep her mask on. If the child is under 2, the best thing we can do is help her remember that, at HPNC mouths are only for food (or blowing kisses). This is a positive statement that we hope everyone can use to help our youngest children learn.

Food & Snacks

Food is not allowed in the gym, but we have a snack area with tables that set apart by at least 6 feet. Masks may be removed for snacking but should be put back on immediately after eating. Please clean up after yourself and only stay at the tables while you are eating. With just a few spots for snacks, we want to be sure everyone has a chance to take their turn.

Bathrooms

HPNC bathrooms are only available to registered program participants. Tot Lot participants will use bathrooms located in the hallway just beyond the gym entrance. Both Men's and Women's bathrooms have diaper changing stations.

Q: What if I see a mess in the bathroom?

A: Please report the mess to the Tot Lot Facilitator so that she can have our maintenance team clean things up. Remember our moto, 'See Something, Say Something!' This will help to keep our community healthy and safe!

Stroller Parking

Strollers may be folded up and placed in our hall coat closet/stroller parking area. Strollers will not be allowed in the gym other than under unusual circumstances and at Tot Lot Facilitator discretion (such as one adult bringing 3-infants).

Thank you for your cooperation! We look forward to getting to know you and building the HPNC and Hyde Park Early Childhood Community!