We offer half-day and full-day programs for ages 2½ to 4. Children must be 2½ or older by September 1 of the school year.

Nursery Class (ages 2½ to 3)
 pounded: Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Full-Day: Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
No knowledge of Mandarin needed.

Junior Pre-K/Pre-K Class (ages 3 to 4)
Half-Day: Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Full-Day: Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Some knowledge of Mandarin desired, though not required.

The goal is for our students to grow as a whole person with development benchmarked in Social/Emotional, Linguistic, Cognitive, as well as Fine and Gross Motor Skills. A balanced introduction of culture and wisdom from the East and the West will also be integrated in the curriculum.

More info at: chinainstitute.org/mandarin-immersion-preschool

Open House Sessions
Saturday, September 21, 2019, 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Families
Thursday, October 24, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Parents only
Thursday, November 21, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Parents only
Saturday, December 14, 2019, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Families

RSVP: Contact preschool@chinainstitute.org

Founded in 1933, The School of Chinese Studies (the School, 华美学苑) was the first China-focused educational center in the United States, and was chartered in 1944 by the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education. Today, the School’s comprehensive slate of courses fosters a life-long learning community for children looking to learn more about China’s language, art, culture, history, people, and society.

China Institute’s Mandarin-Immersion Preschool
Launching Fall 2020
A rich history, a vibrant culture, a language for the future: China today

China Institute’s 2015 move to a spacious, state of the art facility in lower Manhattan enables us to realize our dream of opening a preschool that will offer the language and pedagogy standards we have been refining since 1946. It is no secret that China has expanded its global presence and influence, creating a growing need for cross-cultural understanding to ensure future collaboration and cooperation.

As Mandarin becomes an ever-more important language in the world of business and trade (and remains the most popular spoken language in the world), there is no better time than now to launch our Chinese immersion program for our youngest students who will go on to become global citizens and leaders.

 Trusted Experience Matters

China Institute’s School of Chinese Studies was the first China-focused educational center in the United State. Generations of learners have grown up studying Mandarin in our educational and cultural courses and programs and we look forward to welcoming your family. Hear what recent parents had to say about their child’s experience at China Institute’s Summer Camp Program, which mirrors the lessons and environment of our preschool:

“We were looking for Daniella not only to learn the language but also to immerse in the culture. That’s why we chose CI, since every single thing you do, you get immersed into to Chinese culture.”
- Parent of preschool aged child

“Our children enjoyed their first week of camp – because they’re beginners to Mandarin, they enjoy the hands-on activities and the Songs and Music most…they also loved the field trips!”
- Parents of two young children

“Both kids are having a great time at camp and enjoying learning. They are having a wonderful summer!”
- Mother of two preschool aged children

Early Mandarin immersion: Creating life-long benefits for children

Research has identified many cognitive benefits to learning a second language—especially Mandarin—during a child’s formative years. The first few years of life are considered a critical period for language learning acquisition; early exposure paves a great foundation for achieving bilingual fluency.

Learning Mandarin, a pictographic and tonal language, naturally activates more regions of the brain, thereby benefiting overall development. Research also shows that the language learning process can benefit emotional and social skills as well.

About the Program

The preschool program is taught entirely in Mandarin Chinese — the perfect preparation for families planning to start or advance their child’s education in Mandarin Chinese, and those who believe in the benefit of a bilingual/bicultural early education.

Via carefully designed curricula, students are fully immersed in a Mandarin Chinese environment from morning greetings through a day of fun filled activities in reading, math, science, art, music, physical exercise and fieldtrips. Students will build their language and literacy skills from this early age, learn to work in a social group setting with peers and teachers, and further their intellectual, social, and emotional development. Exposure to culture and wisdom from both the East and the West is a hallmark of the curriculum.

Our teachers are certified early childhood education experts and native Mandarin Chinese speakers.