

Mini-Branches Q & A

Q: What are the ages for Mini-Branches classes?

A: Children ages 0-24 months will attend the Seedlings (nursery) class. Very young infants are welcome to stay with their moms throughout the day and are not required to be placed in the Seedlings class. Children ages two to three-and-a-half will attend the Saplings class and children ages three-and-a-half to four will attend the Sprouts class. Children ages 5-6 will attend the Buds class, however, mature six-year-olds are welcome to opt out of the Minis program and join the regular elementary-aged classes.

Q: How much does Mini-Branches cost?

A: All classes at Branches have a \$5 class fee. Mini-Branches classes also include the following supplies fees:

- Seedlings (nursery): \$15
- Saplings, Sprouts, & Buds: \$50

Q: Do my kids in Mini-Branches have to stay for the full session?

A: No, your child does not need to stay for the full session. However, please note that the classes for Mini Branches are registered as one complete class, not as three separate periods, and the cost is not pro-rated if children leave early. Also, if they leave early, the mini will have to leave in the middle of a fun activity. If your child is enrolled in a Mini-Branches class, you may not take them in and out of the class throughout the day. If the child is enrolled in the class and they are on campus, then they need to stay in the class for the duration of the day.

Q: How is Mini-Branches different than the rest of the Branches program?

A: Both Branches and Mini-Branches follow the same schedule in regards to start-, end-, and lunch-times. However, while regular Branches classes are divided into 50-minute periods, Mini-Branches just one, continuous morning session.

Also, there are a variety of classes to take for elementary through high school students and parents can choose from these classes; students will rotate from classroom to classroom throughout the day. However, with Mini-Branches, students stay in one class all session and the class subjects and activities are determined by the coordinator and teacher.

Q: Do kids in the Mini-Branches classes play outside?

A: We are blessed to have a shaded playground with grass area for our Mini to use. Our Saplings, Sprouts, and Buds classes are all designated separate hours for playtime outside. The playground is fenced-in and playtime is supervised by all the class teachers and helpers. Teachers also set time aside for indoor playtime as well.

Mini-Branches Q & A

Q: Who oversees the Mini-Branches sessions?

A: There is a Mini-Branches coordinator overseeing the program; this coordinator will help out with the various Mini-Branches classrooms throughout each session. Each Mini-Branches class is overseen by a lead teacher, who is in the class for all three periods. The lead teacher is expected to maintain classroom control and communicate any issues with the Mini-Branches coordinator.

Q: Who teaches the Mini-Branches sessions?

A: Each Mini-Branches class will be taught by content teachers, who will come in for one-hour segments to teach a specific subject. The lead teacher, and helpers (both parent and student) will help the content teacher.

Q: Can I come in and visit my child's Mini-Branches class when I'm free?

A: Absolutely! You are welcome to visit any of your children in any of their classes at any time. However, we ask that if you come in to visit, please be mindful of the activities and serve as a helper and not as a distraction (chatting with other moms, unnecessarily taking your child aside, etc..)

Q: How are parent-job credits assigned for Mini-Branches coordinators and teachers?

A: According to the table below, the Mini-Branches coordinator and Mini-Branches lead teachers both earn 5 credits, content teachers earn 3 credits, and Mini-Branches class helpers earn 2 credits.

JOBS WORTH 1 CREDIT	JOBS WORTH 2 CREDITS	JOBS WORTH 3 CREDITS	JOBS WORTH 5 CREDITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• setup crew• breakdown crew• event helper• picture day photographer• security (1 hour)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• class helper (1 hour)• snack bar helper (1 hour)• Mini-Branches class helper (1 hour)• cleaning crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Branches teacher (1-hour class)*• Mini-Branches content teacher (1-hour class)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini-Branches lead teacher (3 hour class)*• coordinators & directors*

****includes access to early class registration for students***

ALL NEW FAMILIES MUST SIGN UP FOR TEACHING AND CLEANING CREW JOBS.

Mini-Branches Q & A

Q: How do I determine my family credit-obligation for the semester?

A: The Mini-Branches session is equivalent to 3 class periods, therefore, families with students attending Mini-Branches will have a 5 credit obligation. Families that have children in both the regular Branches and Mini-Branches programs do not incur separate credit obligations; each family will only have one credit obligation based on their time on at co-op.

	Period 1 9:00-9:50	Period 2 10:00-10:50	Period 3 11:00-11:50	Lunch 11:50-12:30
Seedlings (0-24 mo.) Saplings (ages 2-3.5) Sprouts (ages 3.5-4) Buds (ages 5-6)	Mini-Branches Session			
Elementary- High School	classes	classes	classes	

Required Job Credits

families attending Mini-Branches (equivalent of 3 class periods)
5 credits