Playing with Numbers Frequently Asked Questions
2023-2024 School Year

• What is Playing with Numbers?

Playing with Numbers (PWN) is a professional development program for educators that’s all about early math. The series of sessions focuses on foundational concepts in mathematical thinking: number sense, base ten, operations, geometry, measurement and data.

The content of PWN is based on mathematical principles—not a specific curriculum—and is aligned to Common Core Standards. The ideas and activities from this program can find a place in your scope and sequence no matter what math program you use.

Playing with Numbers is cohort-based, meaning applicants who are selected will complete the entire series together as a group.

• Who is Playing with Numbers for?

PWN was initially designed for kindergarten and first grade teachers. However, PWN is open to all educators from pre-kindergarten (full day programs) to second grade teachers. SPED educators, interventionists, and teaching assistants are welcome to apply as part of a school team.

PWN is intended for classroom educators in Chicago, Illinois. Because of the in-person requirements of the program, you must teach in the city of Chicago to be eligible.

Chicago Children’s Museum has offered Playing with Numbers since 2012; if you are part of our PWN alumni who completed any level of the program between 2012 and 2022, know that this year (2023-2024) is introductory PWN content and is meant for educators who are brand new to the program.
We highly encourage educators to apply from schools where you teach alongside PWN alumni; having this shared professional experience creates continuity in instruction and benefits your entire grade band.

- **When does Playing with Numbers take place?**

The program launches on Thursday, September 28th, 2023 with a 1-hour orientation to provide a thorough overview of the PWN program and the commitments it entails. After that, sessions alternate between 3-hour in-person sessions at the Museum and 2-hour virtual sessions via Zoom. Participants must attend every session. Make-up sessions are not provided.

### PWN Program Timeline

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<td>Orientation</td>
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- Orientation: Thursday evening, September 28th, 2023 via Zoom
- Session 1: Saturday morning, October 21st, 2023 at the Museum
- Session 2: Thursday evening, January 18th, 2024 via Zoom
- Session 3: Saturday morning, February 10th, 2024 at the Museum
- Session 4: Thursday evening, February 23rd, 2024 via Zoom
- Session 5: Saturday morning, April 13th, 2024 at the Museum
- Celebration: Thursday evening, May 9th, 2024 at the Museum
• When can I apply for PWN?

The online application will go live on **Tuesday, August 1st, 2023** and will close at 11:59pm on **Thursday, August 31st, 2023**.

• How do I apply for PWN?

The 2023-2024 PWN Application Checklist will be posted on the PWN web page with more detailed information on August 1st when the online application opens. Before beginning the application, you should have the following ready to go:

1) The names of your pre-k, kindergarten, first grade, and second grade teammates from your school (if you are applying as a team)
2) Responses to the following essay question: *How will Playing with Numbers support your learning goals this school year?*
3) Confirmed availability for the dates of all PWN sessions (see above for dates)
4) Your school’s complete address
5) Your school administrator’s contact information (name, email, phone number)

• I don’t have any other teachers at my school that are interested in applying to the program. Can I apply by myself?

PWN best practices are more likely to be implemented and sustained if you have at least one fellow team member at your school, so do your best to recruit a partner to join you in applying. However, if you are unable to form a team at your school, you’re in luck—this year single applicants are eligible to apply for Playing with Numbers. Because collaboration is an essential part of PWN, you will be paired with another solo applicant to form a team.

• Can I apply for PWN if I teach another grade level besides Pre-K, kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade?
PWN is designed specifically for K-1 classrooms and is aligned to CCSS in those grades, but we have found that pre-kindergarten and 2nd grade teachers alike have found value in the program. That’s why this year we are expanding the range of grades to include pre-kindergarten (3 to 5-year-olds in an elementary school setting) and second grade.

- **Can I apply if I don’t teach in Chicago?**

  No. For now, this PD offering is for educators in the city of Chicago.

- **Can I apply if I teach diverse learners?**

  Yes! SPED teachers that service Pre-K through 2nd grade students are eligible to apply for PWN.

- **Can I apply if I am a co-teacher?**

  Yes! Full-time teachers in self-contained Pre-K through 2nd classrooms are eligible to apply for PWN. We encourage you to apply with your co-teachers or teaching assistants for the best experience.

- **I will not be able to attend all of the PD session dates listed. Should I still apply?**

  No. You must be available to attend every single session. No makeup sessions are provided. PWN is an intensive, yearlong program that builds on content from one session to the next. You will be participating as part of a team, and regular attendance is required. Additionally, participants earn ISBE clock hours for complete attendance only. No partial credit hours will be given.

- **If I have applied for PWN before, do I need to complete the application again this year?**

  Yes. You must complete a new application for the 2023-2024 school year to enter our applicant pool. Please note in your application that you have previously applied.
• If I completed PWN already, can I still apply to PWN?

This year’s cohort of Playing with Numbers is intended for teachers who have not completed any prior level of PWN from 2012-2023.

If you joined us for one or more sessions of PWN Online during the 2021-2022 school year, you are welcome (and encouraged!) to apply to the cohort for this year.

• What types of professional development credits are available?

Participants receive 30 ISBE clock hours for their participation in the entirety of the program.

Any other questions that weren’t answered here?
Email us at pwn@chicagochildrensmuseum.org.