



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every Child, Achieving Excellence

DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PRESCHOOL ORIENTATION

Our Vision

Elizabeth Public Schools will be one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation

Our Promise

To provide an innovative and personalized learning environment that ensures that every child achieves excellence

Our Early Childhood Philosophy

- We believe that the experiences children have in their first classroom setting can shape their attitude about learning for the rest of their lives.
- We believe that children learn best when they participate actively in the learning process.
- We believe that children learn best through direct experiences with people, objects, events, and ideas.
- **We believe that children learn best when parents and teachers work *together* as a team to support children's learning experiences.**

Our Curriculum

- High Scope Preschool Curriculum
- Scholastic Early Childhood Program
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Second Steps Social-Emotional Program (3 yr. olds)

The High Scope Preschool Curriculum

- Research Based
- 8 content areas:
 - Approaches to learning
 - Social Emotional Development
 - Physical Development and Health
 - Language Literacy and Communication
 - Mathematics
 - Creative Arts
 - Science & Technology
 - Social Studies

Scholastics Early Childhood Program

- Supplemental Literacy Program
- Provides High Quality Story Time & Read-Alouds
- Provides Children's Story Books in English & Spanish

Handwriting Without Tears

(Get Set For School)

- Researched-Based
- Hands-on materials and manipulatives
- Teaches children how to draw lines and curves, write proper letter formations
- Teaches children to become independent writers

Second Steps

Social-Emotional Program (3 yr. Olds)

- Uses puppets, stories and music to teach children:
- self-regulation skills that help them pay attention, remember directions, and control their behavior
- how to identify and express their feelings
- Friendship and problem solving skills
- Transitioning to Kindergarten (4 yr. olds)

All components of the preschool curriculum are aligned to the ***NJ Teaching and Learning Standards***

Daily Routine (Sample)

- Breakfast
- Morning Message
- Small Group Read -Aloud
- Work-Time (centers)
- Outside Time
- Small Group Times (math, science, language & literacy)
- Lunch/Rest Time
- Large Group Story Time
- Large Group Time (social-emotional, language & literacy)
- Art, Music/Dance & Physical Education

The Importance of Play in Preschool

Provides Opportunities to Develop:

- Language and Vocabulary
- Imagination and Creativity
- Problem Solving and Mathematical Skills
- Gross and Fine Motor Skills
- Social Skills
- Teaches Children How to Appropriately React to and Express Their Feelings and Interact with the World Around Them.

The Importance of Maintaining the Home Language

- ***Personal:*** The child's first language is critical to his or her identity. Maintaining this language helps the child value his or her culture and heritage, which contributes to a positive self-concept.
- ***Social:*** When the native language is *not* maintained, important links to family and other community members may be lost. By encouraging native language use, parents can prepare the child to interact with the native language community, both in the United States and overseas.

Importance of Maintaining the Home Language

- ***Intellectual:*** When non-English speaking students switch to using only English, they are functioning at an intellectual level below their age.
- Learning concepts FIRST in the native language will help students to become more successful learners.
- When parents and children speak the language they know best with one another, they are both working at a level in which they will learn best.

Importance of Maintaining the Home Language

- ***Educational:*** Students who learn English and continue to develop their native language have **higher academic achievement** in later years than do students who learn English and do not continue to develop their native language.
- **Parents should read to their child every day in their native language!!!**

What will my 3 year old be learning in the preschool program?

- Show an interest in numbers and counting
- Distinguish between a number and a letter
- Identify common shapes
- Compare objects by size, weight
- Respond to questions using sentences
- Retell simple stories with some detail
- Repeat/Recite nursery rhymes
- Identify some letters
- Make form that resemble letters-begin to write name

What will my 4 year old be learning in the preschool program?

Mathematics

- Count item accurately
- Add or subtract using small toys/fingers
- Identify and write some numbers
- Identify 2 or 3 dimensional shapes
- Use measurement to explore length, height, volume, weight

Language & Literacy

- Use complex language and strong vocabulary
- Participate in discussion by asking questions & making connections
- Separate words into syllables
- Create rhymes
- Identify most letters- Identify some letter sounds
- Write first and last name
- String letters together to begin write words

How Will My Child's Social/Emotional Skills Develop?

3 Year Olds

- Begins to follow the classroom routine with occasional reminders
- Begins to share and take turns but may need some reminders
- Begins to resolve social conflicts with adult guidance

4 Year olds

- Follows the classrooms routine
- Expresses needs and feelings verbally and appropriately
- Understands the feelings of others
- Takes turns when playing and understands how to share
- Follows classroom rules and process for solving problems

Should I expect my child to get homework?

- **3 Year Old** children may occasionally come home with a fun activity to do with their parents, however, daily homework at this age is not appropriate.
- **4 Year Old** children may receive homework once a week or several times per week depending on the skills and topics they are learning in school. At this age, homework will be a fun activity that should only take a few minutes and not cause any stress for your child.

Is there an attendance policy in preschool?

- All parents must sign a preschool attendance contract
- Lottery schools (26, 29, 30, 50, 51, 52): 10 consecutive or 20 random absences
- Neighborhood and providers: Excessive unexcused absences may result in termination from program.
- Students will only be excused from school for illness
- Vacations/trips while school is in session will **NOT** be approved and will be considered unexcused absences

Attendance Contract

- Consistent attendance in the early grades, beginning in preschool, is shown to increase scores in reading and math
- Helps children to develop strong social-emotional skills needed to become successful learners.
- **The Elizabeth Public Schools Preschool Program is an educational program and requires your commitment to bring your child to school every day.**
- Schools will provide attendance contract for parents to sign and return

This is my child's first year in preschool. Why did I receive a letter that my child will be screened?

- NJ Department of Education requires that all new preschool entrants (3 or 4 years old) are be administered a simple screening upon entering the preschool program
- Learning Consultants administer the ESI-R
- Screens for difficulties with hand-eye coordination, receptive and expressive language, and fine motor development.

Will a receive updates about my child's progress in preschool?

- Yes...Mid-Term and Progress Reports will be sent home with your preschool child three times per year
- Mid-Term Reports: Updates on Social/Emotional Development
- Progress Reports: Academic Development (Math & Literacy), Physical Development and the Arts
- **Parents Teacher Conferences: November 17, 2016**

What Immunizations does my child need during the preschool years?

- Flu Vaccine is required every year for all 3 and 4 year old students
- Preschool Students **MUST** receive the Flu Vaccine between

September and December 31, 2016

- Preschool Students who **DO NOT** receive **Flu Vaccine** by **December 31, 2016** will not be allowed in school until
 - April 1, 2017 or
 - Upon receiving the Flu Vaccine prior to April 1, 2017

What can I do, as a parent, to help my child succeed in school?

- **Bring your child to school EVERY DAY**
- **Provide schedules and routines for your child**
- **Put child to bed early 8PM!**
- **Feed child nutritious meals and snacks**
- **READ, READ, READ!!!**

What should I do if my child is experiencing learning difficulties?

- Contact Teacher
- Request to speak/meet with Social Worker or Learning Consultant
- Request an evaluation from The Division of Special Services

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