



TSD Preschool FAQ's

Q	What is the preschool curriculum and philosophy?
A	<p>The TSD Preschool curriculum is designed from a comprehensive approach; we've incorporated the best of several philosophies to ensure the highest quality programming for our students. Authentic, balanced literacy is at the heart of our daily interactions with students. The influence of Reading Recovery and the work of Marie Clay echoes throughout our work with preschoolers by having their interactions with literacy be meaningful and imbedded. We emphasize the importance of each child's oral language development, and partner this with intentional and developmentally appropriate interactions with print. Teachers implement the Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy, which is in direct alignment to the Early Childhood Standards of Quality for PreKindergarten.</p> <p>Our commitment to the Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy is coupled with use of the HighScope framework which ensures a consistent daily routine for all students. The HighScope approach supports active, play-based learning and builds on children's interests. During active learning, children construct knowledge through immediate hands-on experiences, scaffolded by teacher expertise. The components of High Scope include: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Health, Language, Literacy and Communication, Mathematics, Creative Arts, Science and Technology, and Social Studies.</p> <p>Troy School District Preschools are proud of the connections and partnerships which support our vision. TSD students and staff benefit from our long-lasting University partnerships with Oakland University and Teachers College at Columbia University.</p> <p>Our programming has an ongoing connection to resources within the Troy Community including Troy Public Library, Stage Nature Center, and Troy Youth Assistance. We strive for an inclusive environment in which students see themselves as active members in both our learning environment and the larger Troy Community.</p>
Q	What preschool programs does Troy School District offer?
A	TSD Preschool offers Head Start, Great Start Readiness Preschool (GSRP), tuition preschool, and Early Childhood Special Education Preschool.
Q	I see that there are grant-funded FREE preschools offered. How do I qualify and apply?
A	<p>Preference for grant program admittance is given to students living in the Troy School District attendance area. Grant funded programs prioritize students based on the highest documented need. Call the preschool office at 248.823.3000 to be placed on the screening list in spring.</p> <p><u>Great Start Readiness (GSRP)</u> Students must be four years old by December 1. The main qualifying factor for GSRP is low to moderate family income. In addition to income, other qualifying factors are considered.</p> <p><u>Head Start</u> Accepts 3 and 4 year old children. Children must turn 3 on or before September 1st of the current school year. Preference is given to three year olds.</p>

	Acceptance into the program is prioritized for families with income within the Federal Poverty Guidelines as documented with a current income tax return (or other supporting documents).
Q	What is the main difference between the programs?
A	The main difference between each program is the amount of time per week students are in class. All classrooms use the same curriculum. GSRP: 4 Full Days Tuition: 5 Full Days (8-3 or 8:30-3:30) or 5 Half Days (8:00-11:00, 8:30-11:30, 12:00-3:30 or 12:30-3:30)
Q	Why are there more all day and five-day, preschool options?
A	Based on current research, children having a high quality preschool experience, are more confident socially and emotionally for future learning.
Q	What does "current families" mean?
A	Families who have a child enrolled in our preschool programs during the current school year.
Q	What ages can enroll in the preschool program?
A	TSD Preschool serves children ages 3-5. Children must be 3 by December 1 of that school year. If they are not yet 3 at the time school begins, their tuition will be prorated to their third birthday when they are able to begin. For example, if your child turns 3 on October 1, 2019, you can enroll them for preschool, however, due to licensing requirements they are not able to begin school until on or after October 1, 2019.
Q	Are there any benefits to a mixed-age class?
A	<p>There are several reasons someone might select a mixed-age class. Depending upon the age of the student, the student might spend two years with the same teaching team. All Troy preschools differentiate instruction, meaning the teaching team strives to meet children where they are developmentally.</p> <p>For the mixed age classroom, younger children can learn positive behaviors from older children, and have great language models to learn from. Younger children get exposed to more advanced play skills (dramatic play, etc.) and problem solving skills, while older children get experience being leaders and helping the younger children.</p> <p>Mixed-age grouping invites cooperation and other pro-social behaviors, the discipline problems of competitive environments can often be minimized.</p> <p>Older children scaffold younger ones. Younger children look to older ones as models. It's not just the younger ones who benefit from the older; older children learn by being models for the younger ones. It's a win-win.</p> <p>Having a room full of children at different ages means no one has to feel judged for "not measuring up"—they can all find people they relate to in different ways.</p> <p>A mixture of ages within a class can be particularly desirable for children functioning below age group norms in some areas of their development. These children may find it less stressful to interact with younger peers than with same-age peers. Such interactions can enhance younger children's motivation and self-confidence</p>

Q	If my child attends Troy School District preschools, and we live outside the Troy School District attendance area, will my child have a better chance or preference to attend Troy Schools for kindergarten?
A	There is a lottery process for Schools of Choice acceptance. Please refer to Schools of Choice FAQs
Q	If my child attends a half-day preschool, will they have school on a half day?
A	Class will be held on half days. Morning and afternoon classes will rotate. Your child's teacher can provide further information.
Q	If my child attends a full day program, will they have school on a half day?
A	In most cases, full day programs follow the Troy School District calendar. If school is in session on a half day, the preschool program will be in session for a half day in the morning. Families needing extended day child care for the afternoon, may register separately for half-day child care on these days.
Q	Is before and/or school child care available for preschool students?
A	Yes, CARE is offered from 6:30AM- 6:00PM. Look for more information on preschool before and after CARE enrollment and rates coming soon.
Q	Is there any summer programming for preschool children?
A	Yes. We offer both part-time and full-time preschool summer program options.
Q	My family usually takes several weeks off for travel during the school year. Do I have to pay for the time my child is absent?
A	Yes. A child's placement cannot be held without payment. If a parent chooses to withdraw, a two week written notice is requested.
Q	If the school is closed due to weather conditions or an emergency school closing, will my account be credited?
A	Credits are not given for school closings due to weather or emergency school closings.
Q	Will my child be prepared for kindergarten?
A	<p>While all children develop in their own time, teachers make every effort to prepare students for kindergarten. Through differentiated instruction, teachers work toward student achievement and success. Teachers will communicate with families during everyday conversation, email, and conferences regarding student progress.</p> <p>Our preschool teachers collaborate with kindergarten teachers and reading specialists to ensure students experience success and are prepared for kindergarten.</p> <p>Parent involvement is crucial for student success. When families are involved it sends the message that the child's work is important. Teachers will send home-school connections to help families reinforce and support their child's learning.</p>
Q	What can I do to help support my child in school?
A	Make reading in your home a priority. Being a role model showing your child that reading is enjoyable, can establish the beginning to becoming a strong reader, and lifelong learner.

Q	Are there payment options for tuition
A	Yes, families can choose to make tuition payments in one, five or ten installments. This is an option upon enrollment.
Q	Is it a requirement that students be fully toilet trained to attend 3, 4, & 5-year-old preschool classes?
A	Yes, the majority of our classrooms do not have capability for diaper changing. However, toilet training needs should never exclude a child from the preschool experience. We know that accidents will happen and we are prepared to work with your child to build their confidence and independence with these self-help skills. If you have a concern regarding toilet training please communicate this concern to your child's teacher so that we can support you.
Q	My child's birthday is a few days after the December 1 st cut off date for admittance. Can I sign an age-waiver?
A	We do not accept age-waivers for preschool, however we do have parent-child class options for students as young as 18 months. Due to licensing requirements, our preschool students must begin school on or after their third birthday. Tuition will be prorated to this date for those families affected.
Q	I need to get my other child to Elementary School on time. Will there be staggered start time options?
A	Morning programs will begin at 8:00AM or 8:30AM in an effort to accommodate families who have multiple TSD students. Full day programs will conclude at 3:00PM or 3:30PM.
Q	Can I request my child's teacher?
A	In emulation of our K-12 programming, we are not able to guarantee placement with a specifically requested teacher. However, we are aware of importance of consistency for our preschool learners and the value of maintaining those pre-existing parent/child/teacher relationships and will take that information into consideration.
Q	Now that tuition preschool classes are at one location, how are classes created?
A	Our goal is to create balanced classes. When possible, we will group students by their home elementary school in an effort to support long lasting relationships for both children and families, as well as ease the transition to Kindergarten.
Q	What preschool programs will remain at the Elementary?
A	We strive to be responsive to the needs of our community and to follow the trend of our enrollment. Some preschool programs could potentially remain at the Elementary School.
Q	Is hot lunch an option? What is the cost?
A	Yes all TSD programs offer hot lunch at the TSD rate. All families may apply for free or reduced lunch rate if applicable.
Q	Do you offer transportation?
A	Early Childhood Special Education offers transportation for qualifying preschool students.

If you have additional questions, we are happy to help.

Please call the preschool office directly at (248) 823-3000