

The SUN Kids preschool provides a developmentally appropriate setting for children who have been identified with special needs and for children who are developing typically. We encourage and actively seek the participation of typically-developing children. Research shows that peer children who participate in a program alongside children with developmental delays will grow to become more independent and more empathetic adults. Our students grow together as they develop language, social, and physical skills. The inclusive setting has proven to be a successful experience for all children.



Play is the primary means of encouraging skill development, and children are given the opportunity to manipulate classroom materials and interact with each other. Our staff understands that children develop at their own rates and that new skills are acquired when they are developmentally ready. Our program focuses on child-directed rather than teacher-directed activities. The program combines music, movement, art, drama, large and small muscle activities, language, and concept development. Through social interaction and play children learn to share, respect others, problem-solve and understand how they can positively affect their environment.

Classes are taught by certified teachers with academic backgrounds in early childhood and special education. Specialists -- speech/language pathologists, physical and occupational therapists -- present activities to stimulate language, gross and fine motor development, and help children with sensory issues.

Values, Vision and Mission

We, the stakeholders of the PV Schools SUN Kids Preschool program, value:

Developmentally Appropriate / Outcome Based Practices
Child Centered Focus
Collaboration
Family Inclusive Approach
Equal Learning Opportunities
Respect

Vision. The vision of the Paradise Valley Unified School District SUN Kids Preschool Program is to be a high quality program for all preschool aged children and their families. Children demonstrate growth in all areas of development in a safe nurturing environment that is child-centered and based on individual needs. Highly qualified professionals provide an engaging learning atmosphere where development is fostered and measured through a variety of methods. Preschool evaluation teams and classroom teams facilitate transitions from early intervention agencies and to kindergarten. All adults in the school community collaborate to ensure student success through professionalism, continuous learning, respectful behavior and compassion.

Mission. The mission of the Paradise Valley SUN Kids Preschool is to lead in the facilitation of all students to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their preschool experiences through developmentally appropriate practice, professional expertise, compassion and collaboration between preschool teams, parents and students.

Tuition

Our fully-certified teachers and staff offer programs at several locations in elementary schools throughout the PVschools district. The 4.5 days a-week preschool charges a minimal fee of \$130 per month.

Peer Pals

Typically developing 3-5 year old children are screened and chosen for placement as a Peer Pal based on their ability to be strong language and social models.

Where: Elementary locations throughout the Paradise Valley School district

Hours: Morning and afternoon classes, Monday through Thursday, 2.5 hours per day

Cost: No registration fee. \$130 per month

Staff: One certified teacher and two assistants instruct 15-18 children

Evaluation Center/Child Find

The Preschool Evaluation Team completes screenings and evaluations for children ages 2.9 - 5 years who are not kindergarten-eligible to determine possible eligibility for special education services. The PET members include a school psychologist, speech/language pathologist, occupational therapist and physical therapist.

A developmental screening is scheduled when a parent calls the preschool evaluation center and indicates a concern in one or more developmental areas. The areas included in the screening include vision and hearing as well as five developmental areas:

- Cognitive
- Communication
- Motor
- Adaptive
- Social-emotional

A child who passes each of these developmental areas may be eligible to attend the SUN Kids preschool program as a peer pal.

If a child fails one or more of these developmental areas, the PET will recommend a more in-depth evaluation to be completed at a later date. This evaluation is a comprehensive developmental assessment and will include at least two PET members. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine if a child is demonstrating significant developmental delays, which meet federal and state eligibility for special education services.

Sample SUN Kids Preschool Schedule

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. 12 – 12:14 p.m.	Circle Time Circle time builds many skills including language acquisition and comprehension, social interactions, cooperation, pre-literacy skills, turn-taking, an introduction to learning in a large group.
10 – 10:15 a.m. 1:30 - 1:45 p.m.	Clean-Up and Transition Children work together to accomplish the task of cleaning up. They learn such skills as: cooperation, following directions, and responsibility.
8:45 - 10 a.m. 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Center Time Children have the opportunity to choose which center they would like to begin their play and are free to move from one center to the next throughout this time. There are a variety of centers for the children such as: dramatic play, science, books/reading, art, sensory table, quiet, blocks, listening, writing, snack bar, and table toys. All of these areas provide opportunities to explore, manipulate, and develop fine motor, large motor, play, language and problem solving skills.
10:15 – 10:40 a.m. 1:45 - 2 p.m.	Outdoor Play Children have the opportunity to practice gross motor skills and coordination by climbing, swinging, playing in the sand, riding bikes, playing with water and other outdoor activities. This is another opportunity to develop social and language skills as well.
10:40 – 11 a.m. 2:10 - 2:30 p.m.	Closing Circle Closing circle provides a quiet time to recall the days activities and read a book before departure. Books are carefully selected to be engaging and appropriate for young children. Most stories involve repeated lines and predictable patterns to enhance language development in a natural setting. Pre-literacy activities are an integral part of the entire preschool day.

SUN Kids Preschool Locations

James P. Lee Early Childhood Center (Preschool and Evaluation Center)

3820 E. Nisbet Road
Phoenix, AZ 85032
602-449-2650

Cactus View Elementary

17602 N. Central
Phoenix, AZ 85022
602-449-2500

Desert Shadows Elementary

5902 E. Sweetwater
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
602-449-6900

Desert Springs Elementary

6010 E. Acoma
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
602-449-7100

Desert Trails Elementary

4315 E. Cashman Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85050
602-449-4100

Hidden Hills Elementary

1919 E. Sharon
Phoenix, AZ 85022
602-449-3100

Larkspur Elementary

2430 E. Larkspur Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85032
602-449-3300

Palomino Elementary

15833 N. 29th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85032
602-449-2800

Sky Crossing Elementary

3300 E. Sky Crossing Way
Phoenix, AZ 85050

Sunset Canyon Elementary

2737 E. Siesta Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85050
602-449-5100