

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LEAD. CARE. INSPIRE.



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS



W. Scott Westerman, Jr.
PRESCHOOL AND
FAMILY CENTER

Preschool @

Allen Elementary

Bryant Elementary

Mitchell Elementary

Thurston Elementary



"Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children."

- Walt Disney

LEARNING IS A LIFELONG PROCESS

The Ann Arbor Public Schools offer a continuum of early education and support for children and families from birth to 5. We understand that during the first years of life, children are forming the basis of lifelong learning and success - and families play an integral role in their progress. Our youngest learners deserve all the best!

Children learn at many different rates, in many different ways, and through many different processes.

At the Westerman Preschool & Family Center (WPFC), our primary responsibility is to provide a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment in which children, from birth to age 5, can thrive as they "learn" to learn.

OUR WHOLE CHILD APPROACH

Exposure to academically robust programming and services promote positive social interaction, self-expression, emotional development, curiosity, and independence necessary for a lifelong love of learning. We create an exciting classroom environment that combines foundational skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic, with hands-on learning and constructive play to enhance social, emotional, physical, and creative skills.

Students are taught using The Creative Curriculum - a formalized preschool-specific, research-based curriculum approved by state and federal educational authorities.

Programs offer core educational components, including:

- Academics
- Imaginative play
- Large and small group activities
- Nutritious meals
- Outside time
- Social-emotional development
- Access to technology

We welcome all families and celebrate cultural and linguistic diversity.



"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery."

- Mark Van Doren, U.S. poet and writer

A COORDINATED, TEAM APPROACH

Experienced, highly-qualified teachers and professional support staff, with multiple degrees in early childhood development, guide students through enriched curricula supported by Everyday Math for Preschoolers, Dialogic Reading, Second Step Social Skills Development, and Handwriting Without Tears, developed explicitly for preschool students.

Classroom activities and access to the media center, gymnasium, and outdoor recreation areas - are designed to inspire, challenge, and strengthen young minds and bodies. For this reason, every aspect of your preschooler's early education is carefully planned, implemented, and evaluated to maximize growth and developmental potential. When necessary, modifications - such as home visits or one-on-one classroom support from auxiliary personnel - may be recommended.

PRESCHOOL OPTIONS

The Ann Arbor Public Schools offer free, grant-funded, and tuition-based preschool options at one or more of our 5 locations (Westerman Preschool, Allen, Bryant, Mitchell, Thurston). Programs serve 3- and 4-year-old children living in Washtenaw County or one of the nine Washtenaw County school districts. School-day length classes (approximately 7 hours) operate four days per week (Monday-Thursday) and follow the AAPS School Calendar. (A Friday program is available at some locations for an additional fee.)

A Free Grant-Funded Programs for 3-year-old Children Available only at Westerman Preschool & Family Center and Mitchell

- Available for children who turn 3-years-old on or before December 1 of the school year.
- Transportation provided for in-district students.
- Family must be below 100% FPL* or meet other criteria.
- Go to www.washtenawpreschool.org to complete an interest survey to start the application process.

B Free Grant-Funded Programs for 4-year-old Children Available at Westerman Preschool, Allen, Bryant, Mitchell, and Thurston

- Available for children turning 4-years-old on or before December 1 of the school year.
- Transportation provided for in-district students at Westerman Preschool, Mitchell, and Bryant only.
- Family must be below 250% FPL* or meet other criteria.
- Go to www.washtenawpreschool.org to complete an interest survey to start the application process.

C Tuition Programs Available at Westerman Preschool, Allen, and Thurston

- Available for children turning 3- or 4-years-old on or before December 1 of the school year.
- 3-year-old option available at Westerman Preschool.
- 4-year-old option available at Westerman Preschool, Allen, and Thurston.
- Transportation provided for in-district students at Westerman Preschool only.
- For more information on how to apply, to www.annarborpreschool.org or call 734-994-2252.

*FPL = Federal Poverty Level

"Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning."
- William A. Ward, U.S. college administrator

MEETING THE NEEDS OF EVERY CHILD...

Ann Arbor Preschools recognize the needs of the individual child and developmental challenges. To ensure that each child has the opportunity to be successful, we make available a full range of special programming to address circumstances that stand in the way of typical learning and development.

...AND EVERY FAMILY

Ann Arbor Preschools believe that a supportive and collaborative relationship with families is essential to the continued success of their children. Parent education and family involvement activities are an essential component of the early childhood preschool program.

REGISTERING FOR PRESCHOOL

Applications for enrollment in Ann Arbor Public Schools preschool programs are accepted throughout the school year, and placement is based on space availability.

To start the application process for free preschool, visit washtenaw.preschool.org, and complete an initial interest survey.

To apply for tuition preschool, visit annarborpreschool.org, or call 734-994-2252.



"The challenge for the 21st century is to bring together parents, the early education community, and schools so that every child acquires the foundation necessary to succeed in school and in life."

- Mary Jean LeTendre, U.S. educator and government official

We Believe Children Learn Best:

We Provide:

In small class sizes

Small class sizes with low child/teacher ratios

When given opportunities to work individually, in small groups, and in large groups

Individual attention along with small and large group activities

If they acquire knowledge at their own pace

A program with emphasis on individual learning styles

When they are actively involved by using all their senses, manipulating and experimenting with a variety of materials and situations

Hands-on opportunities to create, manipulate, and explore in a sensory-rich environment

Through play to translate experience into understanding, by exploring, observing, imitating, and practicing

A flexible schedule that allows time to play, explore, observe, imitate, and practice

When they feel physically and emotionally safe and secure

A safe, trusting, and nurturing environment with positive role models and consistency of educated and trained teachers

When all areas of development are viewed as equally important and interrelated

Curriculum that includes experiences to enrich and enhance cognitive, language, social, emotional, physical, and creative development

When they feel a sense of achievement and self-worth

Developmentally appropriate curriculum with built-in successes and challenges

When engaged in self-initiated as well as teacher-directed activities and experiences

A balance of child-initiated and teacher-directed activities

When teachers use language to enhance critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving, and teach English as a second language

An emphasis on language development to enhance problem-solving and critical thinking skills - through English and English as a second language

In a literacy and numeracy rich environment

Curriculum that enhances reach and math skills

When children have time to interact socially with peers

An environment sensitive to learners who are developing social skills

With regular parental support and participation

Opportunities for ongoing family involvement

"America's future walks through the doors of our schools each day."
- Mary Jean LeTendre, U.S. educator and government official

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Ann Arbor Preschool Locations

Allen Elementary

2560 Towner Blvd | 734-994-1210

Mitchell Elementary

3550 Pittsview Drive | 734-997-1216

Bryant Elementary

2150 Santa Rosa | 734-997-1212

Thurston Elementary

2300 Prairie | 734-994-1970

W. Scott Westerman, Jr. Preschool & Family Center

2775 Boardwalk | 734-994-2303



Visit us at www.annarborpreschool.org