



Princeton Public Schools

**Preschool Information Session
2024-2025**

What does it mean to be a Preschool Expansion district?

As a Preschool Expansion district, Princeton Public Schools receives funding from the State of New Jersey to provide age-eligible 3 and 4-year olds with a full-day of high quality preschool programming (N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-2.1)

2019-2020: 4 Classrooms/ 60 spots
2020-2021: 5 Classrooms/ 75 spots
2021-2022: 6 Classrooms/ 90 spots
2022-2023: 6 Classrooms/ 90 spots
2023-2024: 9 Classrooms/ 135 spots
2024-2025: 12 Classrooms/ 180 spots



Riverside

- Mrs. Dawn DeVeaux
- 4 Year Old room



Johnson Park

- Ms. Christina Maloney
- 4 Year Old room



Community Park

- Dual Language Immersion
- Ms. Rodica Asay
- 4 Year Old room



THE BURKE 
FOUNDATION

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
at YWCA Princeton**

- Ms. Carissa Titus
- Ms. Jacqueline Profaca
- Mr. Dan List
- Director: Ms. Tara O'Shea
- Both 3 and 4 Year Old classrooms



Marcy T. Crimmins Learning Center

- Ms. Lee Kudesh
- Operated by the Princeton YMCA and Princeton Community Housing
- Mixed Age – both 3 and 4 year olds



Princeton Community Family Learning Center

- Ms. Christine Caputo and Ms. Jennifer Yanovitch
- Ages 3 and 4



Pannell Learning Center

- New!
- Operated by YWCA
- 3 and 4 years olds



Redding Circle

- New!
- Mixed age 3 and 4 year olds



Preschool Placement Zones

Zoned school for Kindergarten	3 Year Old Placements	4 Year Old Placements
Johnson Park	Burke Foundation/YWCA Pannell Learning Center	Johnson Park CP (DLI only) Burke Foundation/YWCA Pannell Learning Center
Community Park	Burke Foundation/YWCA Pannell Learning Center	Community Park Burke Foundation/YWCA Pannell Learning Center
Littlebrook	Cub School Crimmins Learning Center Redding Circle	Cub School Riverside Crimmins Learning Center Redding Circle
Riverside	Crimmins Learning Center	Riverside Crimmins Learning Center

Classroom Requirements & Support Staff



Each classroom has:

- One P-3 (Preschool-3rd grade) certified teacher
- 1 Teacher Assistant / Paraprofessional
- **Maximum of 15 students**

And is supported by:

- **Preschool Instructional Coach**
Coaches teachers on the development of pedagogy and practice to affect student outcomes.
- **Preschool Intervention & Referral Team Specialist**
PIRS coach teachers on the development of social-emotional practice to affect student outcomes.

Additional Support Staff Include

- **Preschool Supervisor**
- **Building Principals and Center Directors**
- **Community and Parent Involvement Specialist and Center Family Workers**
- **School Nurses**
- **District Behaviorist/Speech Consultant**



Before- & After- School Care



- After Care is offered at all sites except Crimmins
- Before Care is offered at YWCA sites and Cub School only
- There is a fee depending upon the amount of time you wish your child to participate. (Please inquire with the provider for the 2024-2025 school year fee).
- Childcare is offered during the weeks that school is not in session at the YWCA and Cub School only. The provider will share this information as it becomes available.

Program Operating Hours

8:25 am – 3:00 pm. In district

9:00 am – 3:30pm Private Providers

- The Princeton Public Schools Early Childhood Program is a **full-time**, 6 hour-per-day program (as mandated by the NJDOE-DECE).
- The program follows the district calendar and operates when the public schools do.
- This includes snow days



Attendance Counts

Students are expected to attend school daily, unless they are ill.

It is recommended that a doctor's note accompany their return if applicable.

- Our NJDOE partners define Chronic Absenteeism as being absent 10% of the total expected days of school.
- As your child nears certain milestones you will receive notices to discuss attendance from the preschool leadership.
- Lack of attendance may jeopardize your ability to participate in our program.

- Vacations:

Please be cognizant of school calendar when planning vacations. These will be logged as absences and will be reflected on the student record and school record.
This will be an unexcused absence.

Meals

- All programs accommodate for allergies and/or food restrictions due to health or religious reasons.
- We maintain a **nut-aware** environment in all buildings. (YWCA is completely nut-free)
- Students have the option of bringing home lunch or ordering school lunch
- School lunch is prepared off site and delivered to the locations daily
- Cub School prepares all meals on site and maintains their own menu.

Breakfast

- Students have the option of bringing breakfast from home or ordering school breakfast
- Breakfast is continental consisting of cereal, cheese sticks, fruit and/or bagels

Lunch and Breakfast is at no cost to families that qualify for the meals benefits program

Program Curriculum: Creative Curriculum



Research-based program

One of the four approved curricula recommended by the NJDOE-DECE

Differentiated instruction model allows teachers to provide challenges and/or support where needed to ensure classroom success for students of all learning abilities.





Boosts Creativity & Imagination

Role-playing and self-expression help **develop their creativity** and **encourages critical thinking**.

Language Development

Social interaction and **language-rich** experiences help **build their vocabulary, communication skills,** and **promotes early literacy**

Encourages Hands-on Learning

Helps students **understand** and **make connections** with the world around them in a **meaningful** way

Promotes Physical Development

Activities often involve **movement**, which enhances strength, **coordination**, and **gross motor skills**

Supports Diverse Learners

Provides **multiple ways** for students to **engage** with the material and **understand it on their own terms**

BENEFITS OF

Play Based Learning

To Learn About Play Based Learning....

The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University ([Play in Early Childhood: The Role of Play in Any Setting \(harvard.edu\)](https://www.harvard.edu/play-in-early-childhood))

Play in Early Childhood: The Role of Play in Any Setting



Content in This Guide

Part 1: What is "Serve and Return"?

- 1 Intro to Serve & Return
- 2 Young Children Develop in an Environment of Relationships
- 3 Video: Serve & Return Shapes Brain Circuitry

Part 2: How Do I "Serve and Return"?

- 4 Handout: 5 Steps for Serve & Return
- 5 Video: 5 Steps for Serve & Return

You Are Here: Video: The Role of Play in Any Setting

- 6 Video: Building Babies' Brains Through Play

The science of child development points to three core principles that can guide what society needs to do to help children and families thrive. These include:

Learning Through Play – Lego Foundation ([Play unlocks essential skills \(learningthroughplay.com\)](https://www.learningthroughplay.com))

Explore the research

Learning through play: what the science says

Do you know that play builds brains? We look at research that shows how playful learning experiences lay the foundations for brain development and develops 21st century skills

IN THE CLASSROOM, AT HOME, FUTURE SKILLS

Why school time is playtime

It's official: play belongs in school. We've investigated eight different teaching methods to uncover the playfulness that's already there. Dive in to learn more

IN THE CLASSROOM, FUTURE SKILLS

Closing the skills gap

Education systems need to keep up with the world's rate of change to close our widening skills gap. Here's what they can do

FUTURE SKILLS

How can reading be more playful?

Play is a powerful tool for children's language development. Here's why playful reading is so important.

IN THE CLASSROOM, FUTURE SKILLS

Explore more

Play boosts wellbeing for life

Play is for everyone, everywhere

Social Emotional Learning in Preschool

www.challengingbehavior.org

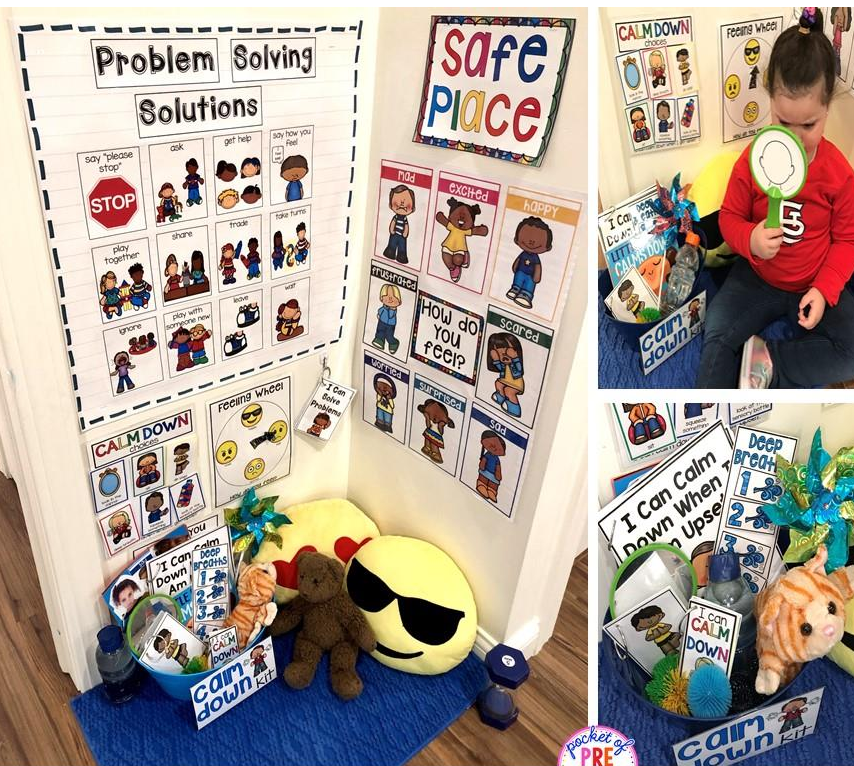


National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations



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Safe Place for little learners



What does a typical day look like?

The typical preschool day contains a balance of small-group and large-group activities, including skill development through play, while allowing ample time for routines, such as eating and toileting.

A young child with a joyful expression is holding five wooden blocks in front of their hands. The blocks are arranged to spell out the word 'LEARN'. The 'L' is on a blue block, 'E' is on a red block, 'A' is on a red block, 'R' is on a green block, and 'N' is on a green block. The child is wearing a red shirt. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage.

LEARN

→ The daily schedules contain the same basic components but may vary in the sequence of the day so that teachers may respond to the needs of the students within their classroom as well as the location where the classroom is placed.

Sample Daily Schedule

Morning

- 8:30 Arrival/Breakfast
- 8:45 Opening Group
- 9:00 Choice Time
- 10:15 Handwashing/Snack
- 10:30 Gross Motor (outdoor play)
- 11:15 Small Group
- 11:30 Large Group Read Aloud
- 11:45 Lunch

Afternoon

- 12:15 Rest Time
- 1:30 Choice Time/small group
- 2:15 Gross Motor (outdoor play)
- 2:30 Closing Group/ Dismissal



Do the students go outside?



It is very important for children at this age to be physically active and to develop their gross motor skills.

In accordance with the *Preschool High Quality Guidelines*, children go outside daily, unless there is active precipitation, extreme cold or extreme heat.

In the event the children do not get the opportunity to go outside, the teachers will conduct gross motor activities in the building's gym (if accessible), or in the classroom.



Screenings and Assessments

Early Screening Inventory - Revised

- Children are screened with the ESI-R upon entering the program and by the classroom teacher.
- This screening gauges several developmental domains and assists in identifying children in need of additional assistance.

Teaching Strategies - GOLD

- We utilize Teaching Strategies-GOLD in assessing, via the collection of observational evidence, for 38 research-based objectives which are most predictive of school success.



Monitoring Program Quality

Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale: *Measures the quality of the classroom environment and teacher/student interaction*

Curriculum Fidelity Tool: *Measures the implementation of the curriculum and assessment tool*

Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool: *Measure the implementation of the pyramid model of social emotional learning*

We use these tools to assure:

1. Program quality across settings
2. Professional development planning
3. Continuity in a mixed delivery system

How are parents informed of their child's progress?



→ **Parent/Teacher Conferences**, held 2 times per year.

→ Classroom newsletters and online platforms
→ Report cards twice annually

→ Parents may ask their child's teacher for information regarding the child's performance in the classroom at any time.

How can parents be involved in the program?



Parents are highly encouraged to volunteer in their child's preschool classroom, or participate in special activities like reading a story, sharing their culture, or arts & craft activities.

Parents can also serve on the **Princeton Early Childhood Advisory Council (PECAC)** and/or site parent groups.

Parent workshops are provided throughout the school year.

Program Application Requirements



In order to apply for the Princeton Public Schools Early Childhood Education Program for the 2024-2025 school year:

- You must be a resident of Princeton.
- Your child must turn three or four years old on or before October 1, 2024.

Preschool Registration

Eligibility Requirements

- **Applicants must reside in Princeton.**
- Each applicant's proof of residency will be checked by our district registrar
- Child must turn 3 or 4 years old by October 1, 2024.
- Can be completed entirely online

Documentation Requirements

- 1 primary document: current lease, deed, mortgage statement, tax bill or housing letter
- 3 secondary documents: current cable, phone, PSEG bill, bank, tax bill or credit card statement, pay stub
- Copy of your child's immunization records **AND** updated physical
- Your child's birth certificate or passport *(foreign copy must be translated in English)*
- *Other pertinent legal documents e.g. custody agreement, divorce decree, IEP or 504*

Priority Placement

Priority Placement will be given to:

- Children with special needs as confirmed by the Office of Special Services and student's IEP. (State regulation)
 - Children who qualify for free or reduced meals (see guidelines on our website)
 - Children with siblings already enrolled in the Princeton Public Schools Preschool program in the 2022-2023 school year.
 - Current preschool students rolling up to the 4 Year Old program
- Preschool seats will be filled through the priority process, followed by a random lottery selection, and are based on the number of projected/approved seats shared with NJDOE-DECE*

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do preschool students currently enrolled in the program need to register?**

No, students already enrolled do NOT need to register again. A transition survey will be distributed to gather data regarding rising PK4 students. If you respond 'yes,' your child will be automatically rolled over to the next grade.

- **When will I find out where my child was placed?**

Provider placement letters will be sent following the lottery. You will receive an invitation for orientation from your assigned location in late summer.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What happens if my child does not get placed right away?**

After available seats for each program are filled, the remaining names will be drawn in our lottery and added to a waitlist in the order they are drawn.

In alignment with NJDOE ECE regulations we are responsible for offering a seat in one of our locations. We **cannot** accommodate special request.

Applicants will be notified by Ms. Valerie Ulrich, preschool supervisor, via email as seats become available by specific location.

- **Can I choose where my child is placed?**

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate placement requests. We work to place child as close to home as possible to prevent long bus rides and to prevent too many transitions from school to school in Preschool and Kindergarten.

For Additional Information

Ms. Valerie Ulrich, Preschool Supervisor

609-806-4203 ext. 2044 valerieulrich@princetonk12.org

Ms. Laurie Oneto, Preschool Administrative Assistant

609-806-4203 laurieoneto@princetonk12.org

Ms. Liliana Morenilla, *Community & Parent Involvement Specialist*

609-806-4240 ext 4240 lilianamorenilla@princetonk12.org

Dr. Amy Hnasko, Preschool Instructional Coach

609-806-4203 ext. 2085 amyhnasko@princetonk12.org

Private Provider Contacts

- Ms. Tara O'Shea and Mr. Nick Cheng
 - Burke Foundation Early Childhood Center Director
 - toshea@ywcaprinceton.org or ncheng@ywcaprinceton.org
 - 609-497-2100 ext. 325
 - [The Burke Foundation Early Childhood Center \(ywcaprinceton.org\)](http://www.ywcaprinceton.org)
- Mr. Matt Boyd
 - Crimmins Center Director
 - mboyd@gscymca.org
 - 609-497-9622
 - www.gscymca.org
- Ms. Lori Musa
 - Cub School Center Director
 - Lori.musa.pcflc@gmail.com
 - 609-454-3637
 - www.princetoncflc.com

For More Information:

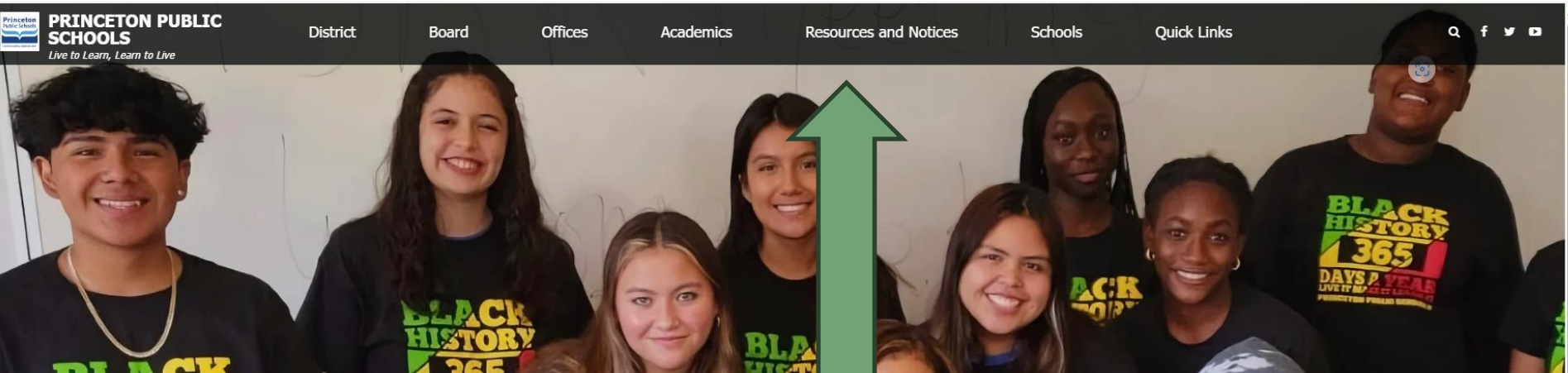
www.princetonk12.org



Under "Academics",
select
Preschool

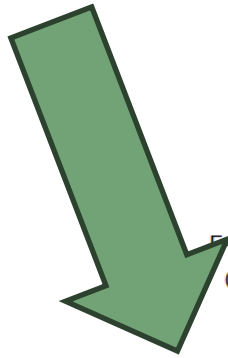


Under "Quick
Links", select
"Student
Registration"



Under "Resources and Notices", select
"Free/Reduced Priced Lunch"

Not sure if you are a Princeton resident? Look up your street address in our Residency manual on the Student Registration page.



Welcome to Princeton Public Schools Student Registration

Grades PreK – 8 Registrar

25 Valley Rd.

Princeton, NJ 08540

609-806-4200 ext. 2042

E-mail: LaurieOneto@princetonk12.org

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Grades 9 – 12 Registrar

151 Moore St.

Princeton, NJ 08540

609-806-4200 ext. 3739

E-mail: LoriScala@princetonk12.org

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Student Menu

- [Full Day](#)
- [Full Day](#)
- [Dual Language](#)
- [School](#)
- [Free/Reduced](#)
- [Student](#)
- [Address](#)

[Click here for the residency manual](#) to search your address and locate which school your child is zoned for. * Please note that all students enrolling in kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade can choose to participate in the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program at Community Park. Students zoned for Community Park who do not wish to participate or who are entering grade 3 or above will be re-assigned to an alternate elementary school.

- **Any student who registers after August 12th may not have transportation until September 23rd, but are still eligible to start school on the first day under their own transportation.**
- **Any student who registers August 30th through September 3rd may not start school on the first day and will not have transportation.**

