



Fox Chapel Area School District Pre-Kindergarten Program





Rationale

Research:

- Children who get off to a poor start rarely catch up
- Children from families of lower socioeconomic status enter school less ready
- The best solution to the problem is to allocate resources to early identification and prevention

(Torgesen, *Catch them Before They Fall*; National Association for the Education of Young Children; PA Pre-K Counts; Perry Preschool Project)

Challenge: Population of students come into our classrooms lacking the readiness skills needed for success

Question: How can we better prepare students within our district to enter into our system regardless of economic status?



Pre-K Site Visits and Research



Site Visits

- Carnegie Mellon University's Children's School
- Carnegie Mellon University's Cyert Center for Early Education
- Winchester Thurston Early Childhood Program
- Woodland Hills Pre-K Counts Program

Pre-K Counts Research

- Highlands, Riverview, Pittsburgh Public, Northgate, McKeesport, Crafton, and Bethel Park



Program Philosophy



PRE-KINDERGARTEN
FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The FCASD Pre-Kindergarten Program is designed to promote positive approaches to learning.

These areas include designing a supportive **classroom environment**; strengthening **social, emotional, and behavioral** skills in students; and working collaboratively with **families**.

Our approach is also aligned to the outcomes set by the **Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards** and is designed to maximize students' academic learning, achievement, and growth.



Program Pathways to Readiness



Social-Emotional Development (self awareness, self-regulation, social competence, and social awareness)

Oral Language Development (speaking and conversation, listening comprehension, vocabulary, and sentence structure)

Emergent Reading (concepts of print, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, and comprehension)

Emergent Writing (forming letters, writing conventions, and conveying meaning)

Math Development (number sense, geometry and spatial sense, measurement, and classification and patterns)

Scientific Inquiry (ask, imagine, plan, create, improve)





Eligibility Requirements

- ★ Must turn 4 on or before September 1.
- ★ Family income of no more than 300% of the current federal poverty guidelines.
- ★ Parent must be able to provide transportation.
- ★ Must be toilet-trained.

Additional Program Information

- Class hours 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Will follow the FCASD school calendar
- 20 students maximum
- 1 lead teacher and 1 full time assistant
- After 10 absences, children may be withdrawn from the program



Classroom Characteristics

- Breakfast, lunch, and snack provided
 - Served family style within the classroom
- Special area teachers travel to Pre-K classroom to deliver content
 - All content tied to Pre-K program themes and goals





Pre-K Program Schedule

9:00-9:10 Meet and Greet/Breakfast	12:10-12:40 Special Area
9:10-9:35 Circle Time/Story Time (Big Experience 1)	12:40-1:20 Learning Centers/Small Group/Instruction
9:35-10:35 Learning Centers/Small Group/Instruction/Fundations	1:20-1:40 Rest/Quiet Time
10:35-10:45 Snack Time	1:40-2:05 Circle Time/Story Time (Big Experience 3)
10:45-11:10 Circle Time/Story Time (Big Experience 2)	2:05-2:35 Learning Centers with Responsive Instruction
11:10-11:35 Gross Motor Activity	2:35-3:00 Gross Motor Activity/Closure
11:35-12:05 Lunch	

Curricular Frameworks

Big Day for Pre-K

Pre-K Foundations

Integrated STEAM

Eureka Math Pre-K

The Responsive Classroom



Big Day for Pre-K

1. Ready for School
2. My Family
3. Our Community
4. Awesome Animals
5. Imagine it, Make it
6. Growing Up Healthy
7. Nature All Around Us
8. Moving On





Big Day for Pre-K cont.

- **Integration** of social-emotional development, oral language, literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, art, and physical development
- Opportunities for meaningful conversations that build **oral language and vocabulary**
- Access to the very best **literature and nonfiction** (big books, little books, eBooks, audiobooks, etc.)
- Integration of **innovative technology** that connects everyone to the learning process
- Daily Writing, Daily Math, and Extended Play activities
- Correlated to **PA Early Learning Standards**

Pre-K Foundations



Semester One (Whole Group)

- Alphabetical order (two letters introduced per week)
- Letter name, keyword, and sound (letter-sound correspondence)
- Visual connection between letter name and sound

10-15 minutes per day

Semester Two (Whole and Small Group)

- Letter name, keyword, and sound (letter-sound correspondence)
- Letter formation lowercase (two per week) and uppercase (four per week)
- Association of a sound with the written letter

10-15 minutes for whole group

5-10 minutes per small group rotation (20-40 minutes)

STEAM: Exploring, Scientific Inquiry, and Discovery

Science (Biological, Physical, Earth and Space, and Environment)

Technology (Computer and Information Technology)

Engineering (Plan, Build, Test, Revise)

Art (Creativity and Design)

Math (Shapes, Patterns, One-to-One Correspondence, Sorts)




Eureka Mathematics Pre-K

- Module 1: Counting to 5
- Module 2: Shapes
- Module 3: Counting to 10
- Module 4: Comparison of Length, Weight, Capacity, and Numbers to 5
- Module 5: Addition and Subtraction Stories and Counting to 20

Eureka Math™ Tips for Parents Grade PK
Module 1, Topics A-G

Welcome to the World of Pre-K Math!

Throughout the year, you will receive letters highlighting the age-appropriate mathematical ideas that your preschooler is learning. These ideas are foundational to the way we understand and analyze the world. Each letter includes a summary of what your child is learning, key vocabulary terms, and ways you can provide support and make connections at home.

<p>How You Can Help at Home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have your child help with household chores that require matching or sorting, such as matching socks in the laundry, organizing shoes, or collecting materials for meals. As your child matches objects, ask questions like, "How do they match?"• Play I Spy together to continue developing vocabulary around size, shape, color, and texture. For instance, saying a sentence like "I spy something yellow and smooth."• Identify and count parts	<p>Numbers to Five</p> <p>In the first half of Module 1, children match and sort objects based on their attributes (e.g., color, size, use).</p>  <p>Sorting by size This group has big bears. That group has small bears.</p>	<p>Words and Key Terms:</p> <p>Matching/Sorting Compare Identify the same Match Size Use The same, but...</p> <p>Other Vocabulary/Terms: Count How many? How many?</p>
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Key Standards:



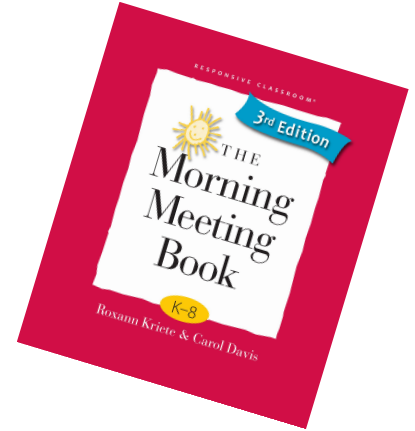
The Responsive Classroom

Emotional Competencies

- Cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self control

Academic Competencies

- Academic mindset, perseverance, learning strategies, and academic behaviors



Assessment

The Work Sampling System®, 5th Edition Formal (Fall/Winter/Spring)

- Uses actual classroom experiences, activities, and products to benchmark domains
- Guidelines/Checklists, Teacher Observations, and Student Work Samples

Scholastic Early Childhood Inventory (Fall/Winter/Spring)

- Formal one-on-one assessment, that measures children's progress and growth
- Five modules in key domains that have been shown to be most predictive of kindergarten readiness (Phonological Awareness, Alphabet Knowledge: Letter Recognition, Letter Sounds, Mathematics: Geometry, and Number Sense)

Curriculum Based Assessments (Foundations and Eureka)

Portfolio Assessment (On-going)



Parents as Partners

Literacy and Math Family Nights

Home Visits

Parent Teacher Conferences

Reports on Progress

Parent Focus Groups/Feedback



Enrollment Procedures



Stage #1: Pre-Enrollment (January-February)

- FCASD Pre-K Program Application
- FCASD Pre-K Income Verification
- Proof of Income (W-2 or 3 paystubs)

Stage #2: Student Selection (March-April)

- 20 students who meet the FCASD Pre-K Criteria will be selected via a random selection process
- Letters mailed to families (acceptance or waitlist)

Stage #3: District Enrollment

- Families will follow the FCASD enrollment procedures
 - Online application window (April)
 - Pre-K Student Registration Meeting @ KR (May)
- Parents will sign the FCASD Pre-K Parent Commitment Form



Additional Information

prek.fcasd.edu

