

Eligibility & Placement:

- Children who turn 5 between June 1 and December 1 are typically considered for Young 5s.
- Children who turn 5 before June 1 are enrolled in Kindergarten.

Placement decisions consider age, developmental readiness, social-emotional skills, and screening results during August Orientation.

Young 5s vs. Kindergarten:

Young 5s	Kindergarten
Developmentally focused bridge year	Traditional Kindergarten curriculum aligned to grade-level standards
Strong emphasis on social-emotional growth	Continued social-emotional development within a more academic structure
Play-based and hands-on learning with gradual introduction of academic skills	Structured literacy and math instruction aligned to state standards
Additional time to build independence and school stamina	Expectation of greater independence and sustained attention
Designed for children who may benefit from extra time before entering Kindergarten	Designed for children ready for full Kindergarten expectations

We're Here to Help!

Choosing between Young 5s and Kindergarten is an important decision. We are happy to partner with you to determine the best placement for your child.



Welcome to Y5/Kindergarten Roundup



Paddock Elementary School
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Milan, MI 48160
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At Milan Area Schools, we recognize that every child develops at their own pace. Our Young 5s and Kindergarten programs are designed to meet students where they are and help them grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Who Attends Young Fives?

Young 5s is a developmentally focused bridge year between preschool and Kindergarten. It is designed for children who meet age eligibility but may benefit from an additional year to build confidence and readiness. This program follows the Michigan Early Childhood Standards.

The program provides:

- Smaller class sizes
- A strong focus on social-emotional development
- Play-based and hands-on learning
- Early literacy and math readiness instruction
- Opportunities to build independence and school stamina

Children who turn five between June 1 and December 1 are typically considered for Young 5s. If your child's 5th birthday is before June 1, 2026, they will be enrolled in Kindergarten for the 2026–2027 school year.

Our Kindergarten Programs:

Kindergarten follows Michigan grade-level standards within a structured, engaging full-day program. Students experience:

- Structured literacy and math instruction
- Continued social-emotional growth
- Increasing expectations for independence
- Engaging, hands-on learning aligned to state standards

Kindergarten builds strong foundations in reading, writing, math, and problem-solving while preparing students for future academic success.

Both Programs Offer

- A full-day elementary schedule
- Highly qualified, experienced teachers
- Special classes such as Art, Music, Physical Education, Technology, and STEM
- A nurturing, supportive school environment
- Support the whole child