Play 2 Learn

Gwinnett County Public Schools

2026-2027 Program Guidelines and Parent Understandings

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) is excited to offer Play 2 Learn (P2L) at all elementary schools. Please read the information below carefully. Your signature indicates your understanding of, and agreement to, the following guidelines:

WHAT TO EXPECT

- A 90-minute fun and engaging condensed preschool class where caregivers and children are learning together.
- A classroom set up with different centers and activities. Encourage your child to choose different activities during each session and join him/her in play. It is important for your child to see you participating and having fun while learning.
- Lesson plans are focused on rotations of activities and materials.
- Teachers model as well as work with both the child and parent/caregiver in order for the learning to be continued at home. Home learning resources will be provided.
- You will be participating in each activity with your child, so please dress appropriately for movement activities, sitting on the floor, and engaging in all the learning activities during the session.
- Art and Sensory Play are critical components to learning at this age, but these materials can be messy. Please dress your child in appropriate clothing so that he/she can utilize all the materials.
- The teacher will give a 2 or 3-minute warning before it is time to clean up from an activity and then will utilize a "clean-up" song or other sign to signal that it is time to clean up and move on to another activity. Please model how to clean up for your child and support them in putting away their own materials.
- If your child is in diapers, please bring a plastic bag with you for diaper changes. You will need to dispose of soiled diapers at home. Please change diapers in the designated area at the school.
- During gross motor activities, your child will exercise the large muscles of his/her body. Because young children are not always spatially aware, take care that your child moves and plays in a way that is safe for him/her.
- You can support your child's learning by preparing him/her for this new experience:
  - Before the first day of the Play 2 Learn class, tell your child that he/she is going to a new place to play and learn. Explain that other children and adults will also participate.
  - Tell your child that you will be with him/her at Play 2 Learn.
  - Show excitement for the program as this will model for your child that the class will be fun.

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

- Please complete all sections of the Play 2 Learn registration form and provide all necessary documents for enrolling in Gwinnett County Public Schools.
- It is possible that not every student registering for this program will be accepted due to limited space. If more registrations are received than space is available, a wait list will be used.
- Children who attended the class last year receive registration priority.
- GCPS employees' children and siblings of students enrolled in the program last year or currently enrolled will receive registration priority.
- A waiting list will be maintained throughout the school year. Wait lists do not carry over to the next year.

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Play 2 Learn is intended for children aged 0-60 months. Students who are considered school age and able to enroll in kindergarten (turning 5 on or before September 1, 2026) are not eligible to enroll in Play 2 Learn.
- GCPS' Play 2 Learn program requires a commitment on the part of both parents and students to ensure that everyone gets the most benefit from the program.
- It is very important that you arrive on time, as it is hard for children to come into an activity in the middle or at the end.
- There is no additional cost to parents for this program.
- An adult/caregiver must accompany children to all Play 2 Learn sessions and be present for the duration of the class time.
- Adults/caregivers are required to participate with the children in the activities. The goal is for the parent/child to learn alongside each other.
- Speak to each other in a normal ("inside") voice. Model appropriate language for your child.
- Use a loving, nurturing touch and positive guidance at all times.
- Be respectful to children, adults, yourself, and the materials and toys.
- For safety, water is the only drink allowed in the classroom.
- Cell phones are not to be used in class except in the case of emergencies. Neither children nor parents should be using a cell phone at any time during class. Please ask your child's teacher before taking photographs or videos within the classroom.
- Families with poor attendance will be removed from the program and will be added to the bottom of the waitlist.

REMOVING STUDENTS FROM THE PROGRAM

- The formal process for withdrawal from the program for enrolled students is handled on an individual, case-by-case basis. Please let your teacher know as soon as possible if you will be withdrawing from the program.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Since class meets only once per week, it is extremely important that you arrive on time and be present for each session. We understand that families go on vacation, children (and adults) get sick, and things come up unexpectedly that may prevent you from attending class. Please contact the teacher if you are going to be absent, and be mindful of the attendance policy outlined below.

- If your child misses two consecutive classes without contacting the teacher, your child will be withdrawn from the program and your spot given to another family.
- If your child misses a total of four classes without contacting the teacher during the year, your child will be withdrawn from the program and your spot given to another family.
- If your child has excessive tardies or absences, your teacher will contact you to discuss the appropriateness of continuing in the program.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Gwinnett County Public Schools uses and releases photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings taken or recorded at its facilities and events for educational, instructional, or promotional purposes as determined by Gwinnett County Public Schools for use in broadcast and media formats now existing or created in the future. These photographs and recordings often include depictions of students and/or parents engaged in instruction, school functions, and school activities. Any such photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings shall become the property of Gwinnett County Public Schools and may be used or disclosed by Gwinnett County Public Schools or others with the consent of Gwinnett County Public Schools and/or its representatives to students, parents, community members, or media outlets. By signing the Program Guidelines and Parent Understandings, you consent to the foregoing. As the parent of a student, you may elect to withhold your consent for Gwinnett County Public Schools' use of photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings of you and/or your child. In order to withhold your consent for the disclosure of your and/or your child's photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings, you (the parent/ guardian of the student) must notify the Director of Early Learning and School Readiness in writing within 10 days of receipt of this document. The written notice must: (1) include the name of the student; (2) include a statement that the parent/guardian is opting out of the release of photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings depicting the student; and (3) be signed and dated by the parent or guardian. Please note that your written notice will be effective for the current school year only and must be renewed on an annual basis should you wish to continue to opt-out of the release of photographs and recordings. Finally, please note that Gwinnett County Public Schools will not be responsible for, and cannot control, photographs, audio recordings, or video recordings captured by individuals who are not employed by, affiliated with, or under contract with Gwinnett County Public Schools. Please contact your teacher if you have further questions regarding this topic.

Responsible Use of Electronic Media for Students

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) recognizes that the use of technology is prevalent in society. Students and staff have access to the Internet, cell phones, games, and a variety of personal technology devices. Students and staff utilize social media websites and applications as well as a variety of other digital resources that allow them to interact, share, create and innovate. Staff members utilize these same resources as a means to effectively engage students, motivate student learning, and collaborate with colleagues. When using GCPS technology or network access, students are expected to follow the Student Conduct Behavior Code, including respecting others' privacy. Online student accounts to be used for legitimate educational purposes will be subject to monitoring and review, including review of text and attachments that are related to that student or students. At NO TIME should a student consider GCPS e-mail, networked applications, or account or technology access private or confidential in any way. While the school district does maintain Internet filters, there may be times when a student may accidentally or purposefully discover inappropriate materials online. Gwinnett County Public Schools DOES NOT CONDONE the use of such materials. Inappropriate use of GCPS technology or network access is a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code. Access is a privilege, not a right, and all students are expected to treat this learning tool with respect. GCPS technology, network access, and electronic resources must not be used to:

- Harm other people
- Interfere with other people's work.
- Steal property.
- Gain unauthorized access to other people's files or programs.
- Gain unauthorized access to online resources, including using someone else's password.
- Make changes to the hardware or software configuration of any machine, including installing or deleting any software.
- Improperly use the network, including introducing software viruses and/or bypassing local school or office security policies.
- Steal or damage data and/or computers and network equipment.
- Access, upload, download, and/or distribute pornographic, hate-oriented, profane, obscene, or sexually explicit material. Failure to follow these guidelines can violate the Official Code of Georgia, O.C.G.A., Codes 16-9-90, 16-9-91, 16-9-93, and 16-9-93.1 as well as Title XVII of United States Public Law 106-554, known as the Children's Internet Protection Act. Such use can also lead to disciplinary actions, up to and including loss of access to GCPS technology resources and further disciplinary actions as defined by existing GCPS policies. Such disciplinary actions may include confiscation of technology being used inappropriately if an incident occurs.

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HEALTH POLICY

Children or adults who show any of the following signs and/or symptoms should not attend Play 2 Learn. Please wait to return to class until the child or adult has been free of the symptoms without medication for 24 hours.

- Excessive fever (101 degrees or higher)
- Excessive cough
- Diarrhea
- Excessive runny nose
- Vomiting
- Unexplained rash
- Pink eye
- Untreated head lice
- Any contagious disease
- Lethargy that prevents the child from fully participating in Play 2 Learn activities

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe and healthy!

Release of Directory Information

FERPA permits the District to disclose information designated as Directory Information without the consent of the parent or eligible student. Directory Information is information, the disclosure of which is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. Among the purposes that the Directory Information exception facilitates is the release of student information in athletic and extracurricular programs, yearbooks, honor roll and other recognition lists, graduation programs, etc. Gwinnett County Public Schools has designated the following information as "Directory Information": name, address, telephone number, date of birth, electronic mail (e-mail) address, photograph, audio recordings, video recordings, grade level, years of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, and honors and awards received. Unless the parent or eligible student opt-out of the disclosure of "Directory Information," the information designated as Directory Information above may be disclosed in District publications or to appropriate legitimate agencies, entities, or individuals identified by the District, including, but not limited to, PTA, colleges, and military recruiters. The District will not regard agencies, entities, or individuals submitting Open Records Requests as appropriate legitimate agencies, entities, or individuals for the purpose of disclosure of Directory Information. You have the right to refuse to allow "Directory Information" to be disclosed. In order to opt-out of the disclosure of Directory Information, you must notify the Director of Early Learning in writing within 10 days of receipt of this handbook. The written notice must: (1) include the name of the student; (2) include a statement that the parent/guardian or eligible student is opting out of the disclosure of Directory Information under FERPA; and (3) be signed and dated by the parent, guardian, or eligible student.*

**Please note that your written notice will be effective for the current year only and must be renewed on an annual basis should you wish to continue to opt-out of the release of Directory Information.*

Closings Due to Weather Conditions

If bad weather causes school to be canceled or dismissed early, public announcements will be made on GCPS TV, on the school system's website (*www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us*), via School Messenger, on Twitter and Facebook, and via metro-Atlanta radio and television stations. School closings are determined by the Superintendent, not by the local school. **School is open or will remain open unless it is specifically announced otherwise. Full-day cancellations usually are announced by 6 a.m.**

For further information, please contact our office directly:
Early Learning and School Readiness
678-301-7298

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School Name

_____

Child's Name

_____

Child's Name (If applicable)

_____

Child's Name (If applicable)

_____ _____

Parent Name Parent Signature*

_____

Date

***By signing this, you are acknowledging that you are aware of all policies pertaining to Play 2 Learn and agree to adhere to these policies.**