



# Metro Nashville Public Schools Prekindergarten Curriculum

Parents in Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) have many options when it comes to their child's first school experience. Our prekindergarten classrooms are diverse learning environments where activities are driven by students, and allowing teachers to help children play and explore as a path to learning.

District wide, most Pre-K classes use a curriculum called The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool. It focuses on all areas that are most important for school success:

- social-emotional
- cognitive
- math
- literacy
- physical
- language
- social studies
- science and technology
- the arts

These concepts are built into every activity that happens in the classroom, from building blocks to playing pretend. Everything teachers do with your child during the day focuses on building skills and knowledge in these important areas.



In our classrooms, a year of learning is broken into sections of four to six weeks where we explore different topics, which we call studies. Studies give children the chance to learn more about topics like trees, buildings, clothing and shapes. Your child will have the chance to explore, experiment with and investigate these topics in a hands-on way through activities that take place in the classroom, during read-alouds, centers, small and large group instruction, and while exploring the outdoors.

Teachers document children's progress in real time with online portfolios. Detailed reports are generated as a parent communication tool on a regular basis to support communication between home and school and to monitor student progress.

There are many opportunities for families to become involved in what's happening in the classroom. Your child's teacher will let you know how you can be part of the learning taking place in the classrooms. We hope that you will participate whenever possible and help us build the important connection between home and school.

For additional information & reading tip sheets visit the "Countdown to Kindergarten" webpage at [www.mnps.org/countdowntokindergarten](http://www.mnps.org/countdowntokindergarten)



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# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## **What is a play-based curriculum?**

Play-based curriculum provides students an opportunity to learn and explore through play. In our Pre-K classrooms, students will have the opportunity to learn through hands-on and interactive learning activities.

## **Why doesn't my child receive homework in Pre-K?**

We encourage families to use every day experiences to support literacy and math concepts to extend learning at home. For example, reading with your child at bedtime or writing letters to family members to develop literacy skills, and cooking dinner together to develop math and fine motor skills. For additional ideas, please contact your child's teacher.

## **Why do you have family style dining in Pre-K?**

Family style dining provides Pre-K students with the opportunity to eat in a safe and calm atmosphere while the adults are able to model and engage in conversations with students, which develops vocabulary and oral language skills. Students are able to serve their own food, which supports the development of fine motor skills and encourages children to try new foods.

## **Do Pre-K students nap during the school day?**

MNPS Pre-K students have an hour rest time each day at school. If a child does not want to nap, then after all students are settled into their cots, a teacher will provide a book to a child and encourage them to remain on their cot quietly during rest time.

## **Why do some classrooms require a fee, have an income, or zone requirements and others do not?**

MNPS Pre-K classrooms are funded in a number of different ways, including using local, state and federal funding. Each fund source has different requirements, like serving only low-income students or charging a fee.

## **Who should I contact if I have questions regarding the MNPS Pre-K Program fees or payment?**

Please contact the MNPS Prekindergarten Department at (615) 298-6766.

## **When can I apply for MNPS' Pre-K Program?**

Each year MNPS will host a Pre-K application window in the Spring. Information is provided on the MNPS.org website in February. Families who apply for Pre-K during the application window will be included in the first selection process. Families who miss the application window can still apply for Pre-K.

## **How old does my child have to be to apply for MNPS Pre-K?**

All Pre-K students must be the age of four on or before August 15th of the current year, with limited exceptions, and a resident of Davidson County.