



METRO
NASHVILLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

WELCOME TO PRE-K

A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES



WELCOME TO THE

METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MNPS) PREKINDERGARTEN (PRE-K) PROGRAM!

We know this is an exciting time for your family, and you may have many questions about Pre-K. This guide is a resource to help your family prepare. If you have any additional questions about our Pre-K program that are not included in this guide, please contact your child's school or visit earlylearning.mnps.org.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

INFORMATION ABOUT:

- SCHOOL HOURS AND ATTENDANCE
- MEALS
- UNIFORMS AND SUPPLIES
- CURRICULUM
- REST TIME
- FIELD TRIPS
- BEFORE AND AFTERCARE
- SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
- FAMILY CONFERENCES
- AND MORE!



THE PRE-K PROGRAM AT MNPS

Pre-K can help prepare your child for success in kindergarten and beyond. In MNPS, we provide a welcoming and engaging environment for Pre-K students and their families. Our Pre-K programs prepare children for elementary school with meaningful learning experiences through purposeful and intentional play and discovery.

Pre-K is an important part of your child's academic path in MNPS. The district offers full day Pre-K programs for 4-year-olds and some preschool programs for 3-year-olds. Studies have shown that 90% of a child's brain develops by age 5. Pre-K provides the necessary lessons, activities and practice to ensure a child has the experiences that will support the development of the whole child.

Throughout the school year, your child will participate in lessons that will encourage exploring, discovering, questioning and pretending through the use of a research-based curriculum that allows Pre-K students to learn how children learn best—through meaningful and purposeful play. Teaching staff participate in ongoing training to enhance their craft and to guide a child's learning. Students learn to understand and express their emotions, solve problems and to get along with others as they advance academically, socially and emotionally.



Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning.

{ FRED ROGERS }



HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Family Information Center at 615-259-INFO(4636) or familyinfo@mnps.org.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS AND ATTENDANCE

Most MNPS Pre-K programs begin at 8 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. Starting in Pre-K, it is important to establish good attendance habits for your child, which includes arriving and leaving on time each day, having your child attend the entire program day and minimizing absences.

Please note, 10 or more unexcused absences, tardies or early dismissals could affect your child's continued enrollment in the Pre-K program. For more information on your child's schedule, please contact your child's school.

For safety reasons, the Pre-K program will require that families sign the drop-off and pick-up sign-in sheet each school day. Your child's school will provide the procedures for signing your child in and out of school.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND SUPPLIES

Please visit www.mnps.org to find your child's school and access specific information pertaining to school uniforms and supplies. If you have additional questions, you can contact your child's school or the Family Information Center at 615-259-4636.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS OF SCHOOL CLOSING OR CANCELLATIONS

If schools are closed or cancelled due to an emergency, inclement weather or any other condition that may affect the safety of children and staff, an official notice will be posted on the district website, www.mnps.org, along with notification to local television and radio stations. Depending on the situation, the district may also issue an automated call to families. If you do not have access to our website, you can call the Family Information Center at 615-259-4636 for the most current information on school openings or closings. Families may also download the free MNPS mobile app from Apple and Google Play stores to receive district and school-specific news and information.

CURRICULUM

Most Pre-K classes utilize an intentional play-based curriculum, which provides diverse learning environments where activities are driven by students, and allows the teaching staff to help children play and explore as a path to learning. A year of learning is broken into sections of six to nine weeks where different topics are explored, called studies. This provides an opportunity for your child to explore, experiment with and investigate topics in a hands-on way through activities in the classroom, during read-aloud, centers, small and large group instruction, and while exploring outdoors.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCHES

The Office of Nutrition Services offers healthy, nutritious meals for breakfast and lunch every school day. Breakfast and lunch are free to qualifying families. Information on nutrition is included in the Student-Parent Handbook and is available on the MNPS website. The MNPS Pre-K program has implemented family style dining in the classroom to decrease the amount of transitions occurring within a day and to promote conversations and discussions that would build a child's vocabulary and oral language skills. For more information on breakfast and lunch fees, please contact your child's school.

REST TIME

Pre-K students have rest time each day at school. If a child does not want to rest, 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.



HOMework

We encourage families to use everyday experiences to support literacy and math concepts to extend learning at home. For example: reading with your child at bedtime, writing letters to family members to develop literacy skills, or cooking dinner together to develop math and fine motor skills. For additional activities and ideas, please contact your child's teacher or visit the Countdown to Kindergarten website at earlylearning.mnps.org/countdown_to_kindergarten.

FAMILY CONFERENCES AND REPORT CARDS

Family conferences and report cards help keep you updated about your child's development of academic and social skills throughout the year. Family conferences, which occur in the fall and in the spring, provide an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress.

Report cards are sent home each quarter, and they will indicate whether your child's skill and abilities are below, meeting or exceeding the widely held expectations for students their age, as well as what skills they will be developing next.

FIELD TRIPS

Each school site will determine field trips based on curriculum or upcoming activities. Families can contact the school for information on parent attendance and chaperone requirements. Families may be asked to pay a fee for each field trip to cover the cost of admission and bus transportation.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Families are encouraged to work closely with their child's teacher to enhance their school experience. By attending parent teacher conferences, reviewing their child's progress report, attending parent meetings and workshops, and visiting the Countdown to Kindergarten website at earlylearning.mnps.org/countdown_to_kindergarten for news and information on how to work with your child at home, families and school staff can become partners in their child's academic career.



Play is the highest form of research.

{ ALBERT EINSTEIN }



BEFORE AND AFTERCARE SERVICES

Some Pre-K school sites have Extended Learning (before and aftercare) programs to extend your child's educational experience beyond school hours. Providers and program fees vary by school site. A complete roster of before and after care providers by location can be found on www.mnps.org in the Extended Learning section (under Students & Families).

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

In accordance with Tennessee State Law and Child Find, our schools strive to provide every child with exactly the kind of learning environment they need. Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that requires school districts to identify, locate and evaluate children ages 3 to 21 with suspected disabilities who may need special education services. For more information or to discuss your child's needs, please contact 615-687-4551, extension 665702 or visit www.mnps.org in the Exceptional Education section (under Learn).

PRE-K TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Although the majority of seats in Pre-K are not fee-based, some seats are fee-based and require a fee based on a sliding scale. Tuition assistance is available to qualifying families placed in fee-based seats. If your family experiences a hardship, family emergency or trauma and meet the eligibility criteria, you may qualify to submit a Pre-K Tuition Assistance Application with documentation to your child's school site. All applications, along with documentation, will be reviewed by early learning leadership for consideration. Tuition assistance will offer a reduced tuition rate to qualifying families accepting a Pre-K fee-based seat. For more information, go to the Pre-K Program Fees section (under Pre-Kindergarten) of earlylearning.mnps.org.



NEED MORE RESOURCES?

Visit our kindergarten readiness website for additional information and at home activities at earlylearning.mnps.org/countdown_to_kindergarten.

READING WITH YOUR CHILD

Reading aloud with your child is one of the best ways to prepare and enhance a child's school experience. Reading aloud with your child increases vocabulary, builds story understanding and encourages a love of reading.

BEFORE YOU START

- » Choose books that you and your child enjoy!
- » Read books aloud and listen for rhyming words or repeated phrases.
- » Give children time to get ready to listen.

MAKE READING ENJOYABLE

- » Share the name of the author and illustrator.
- » Read slowly and clearly.
- » Make eye contact with children.
- » Read with expression.

ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE

- » Ask questions. "What do you think the story might be about?" "What happened in the story?" "What did you like best?"
- » Invite children to join in for repeated phrases or verses.

SUGGESTED TITLES & AUTHORS

HAVE YOU SEEN MY CAT by Eric Carle

LLAMA LLAMA RED PAJAMA by Anna Dewdney

MOUSE PAINT by Ellen Walsh

NOT A BOX by Antoinette Portis

ROSE GOES TO PRESCHOOL by Karen Katz

TEN BLACK DOTS by Donald Cruz

TEN LITTLE CATERPILLARS by Bill Martin

THE NAPPING HOUSE by Audrey Wood

THE SNOWY DAY by Ezra Jack Keats

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT by Michael Rosen





METRO
NASHVILLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

MNPS.ORG | 615-259-INFO(4636)

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, color, age, and/or disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities. MNPS does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.