



Concord Integrated Preschool Common Questions and Answers

“What is an integrated preschool program?”

An integrated preschool classroom is comprised of both children who are developing within age expectations and children who are in need of specialized services such as speech/language therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Up to half the class can be on Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) for specialized services. The remaining students in the class are chosen through an open application process.

Children on IEPs have been placed in the program based upon an evaluation and recommendations by the Concord Public Schools Special Educational TEAM.

“What advantages does an integrated preschool have to offer?”

An integrated preschool is part of the public school system. Our program offers a typical preschool experience with the distinct advantage of an exceptional curriculum that targets each child's specific learning style and diverse learning needs. Language, readiness skills, social skills, science and literature are embedded within and are key components to a thematic curriculum. Activities are age appropriate, fun and exciting, and follow the *Massachusetts Guideline for Preschool Curriculum Experiences*. Teachers and support staff are highly trained in early childhood education and special education so that we can provide children with a variety of teaching techniques and strategies.

“Does my child have to be toilet trained?”

We recommend that children enrolled in our programs be toilet trained and capable of independent self-care in the bathroom (including wiping), however, this is not an enrollment requirement. While we do not toilet train children in preschool, we are happy to support your home toilet training practices.

“My child was enrolled in the program as a three year old. What happens next year?”

If your child enters the program as a three year old and is not eligible to go to kindergarten the following year, he/she has priority to return to the program for the next school year without having to reapply and go through the lottery process. You are welcome to change sessions if you like for the following year.

“Do you offer multiple child discounts?”

No. Each child is considered a separate enrollment.

“Are siblings of children previously in the program given enrollment priority?”

No, as we follow the non-discrimination policy set by Massachusetts Public Law. Each child applying for available slots during the open application period has equal opportunity for acceptance into the program. When the number of applications exceeds the number of available slots, a lottery determines the class enrollment and waiting list.

“Do you have a summer program?”

Yes, but only for children on IEPs who are determined eligible by the Preschool Special Education TEAM.

“My child is age eligible for kindergarten, but I don’t feel he/she is ready.”

Unfortunately, it is a state regulation that we cannot accept children who are kindergarten age-eligible even if you are choosing to keep your child out of kindergarten for a year. The large age span would be unfair to all the children as there would be children who just turned three year olds in the same classroom with children who would be turning six!

“Do you have snack time and do you provide the snack?”

Yes, we do have snack each day. We do not supply snacks due to allergies and individual food preferences. Children need to bring in a small healthy snack and drink each day. Refrigeration is not available. We are an allergy aware program and will make accommodations for children with food allergies as needed, so it is possible that there may be food restrictions for all children.

“Are parents allowed to participate in the program?”

Absolutely! We highly value and appreciate parent participation and encourage parent volunteers to observe and take part in class days throughout the year. We welcome moms and dads, grandparents, etc... We also love to encourage parents to share with the kids special family traditions, careers, crafts or cooking activities. Parents are also welcome to read the daily story to the kids!

“Who can I contact if I have questions about the program?”

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