

## Preschool Education

For many students, the preschool program is their introduction to the educational environment. Preschool education programs are available in Kentucky for all 4-year-old children who are eligible for free lunch; all 3- and 4-year-old children with disabilities, regardless of income; and other 4-year-old children as placements are available. The preschool program is designed to be developmentally appropriate for young children.

“Developmentally appropriate” is defined in Kentucky law to mean that the program focuses on the child’s physical, intellectual, social and emotional development, including interpersonal, intrapersonal and socialization skills. Intellectual skills are promoted by encouraging children to solve problems, initiate activities and learn through active explorations.

The preschool curriculum addresses early-learning standards that are integrated into a variety of activities within an environment that supports optimal development for the whole child. A major focus of the preschool program is language development – listening, speaking and becoming familiar with books. As they are developmentally ready, children begin to explore and learn about writing, letters and sounds, and mathematics concepts. Teachers promote child learning and development by embedding assessment activities within the curriculum and daily schedule.

The preschool curriculum supports a daily balance of large and small group activities, indoors and outdoors, that are designed to provide individual and group instruction to meet the needs of all children. Child-initiated and teacher-supported play is encouraged through the use of a variety of learning centers and areas in the classroom that allow students to participate in art, block building, cooking, gross motor activities, dramatic play, language arts/library, using manipulative materials, mathematics/problem solving, multimedia activities, music and science/social studies.