

SPF Preschool Program

www.spfk12.org/preschool

A Peek into Preschool

Preschool programs play an increasingly important role in child development and school readiness.

The SPF Preschool Program is a half-day program offering both morning (8:35-11:20am) and afternoon (12:20-3:10pm) classes that meet 5 days per week. Each class has approximately 15 children and is comprised of general education students and students with special needs, as determined by a district evaluation. Children who turn 3- or 4-years-old on or before October 1, 2019 and reside in Scotch Plains or Fanwood are eligible to participate.

Each class is supervised by a teacher certified in Early Childhood Education and is assisted by a full-time instructional aide. Teachers have specialized knowledge of the typical 3- and 4-year-olds' developmental patterns and are familiar with the district's kindergarten program. Instructional aides are an integral part of the classroom and provide an added measure of nurturing attention for the young children in their care. Each classroom is well-equipped with developmentally appropriate materials that support children's growing skills.

The *Creative Curriculum* has been used in the district's comprehensive preschool program for many years with great success. It is one of several research-based curricula promoted by the New Jersey Department of Education because of its proven results in promoting literacy, mathematics and critical-thinking skills. The curriculum is aligned with the *Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards* and provides children with opportunities to build skills, knowledge, and confidence. Staff receive professional development training on a variety of topics related to child development, implementing instruction and monitoring children's progress.

1

APPLICATION (FEB)

Mail a completed application form and \$50 fee to the Preschool Office.

2

PLACEMENT (MAY)

Receive a placement letter for your child, specifying the school and session (AM / PM) for the fall.

3

REGISTRATION (JUNE)

Submit a completed registration packet and tuition deposit in person at the Preschool Office.

DAY AT A GLANCE

Large Group

Whole group time to discuss shared experiences and study-related topics, listen to stories, sing songs, build community, rehearse number & letter skills.

Small Group

The teacher and instructional aide work closely with children to support and extend skills and knowledge.

Choice Time

Children navigate between centers, engaging in hands-on experiences and learning through play. Centers often include: dramatic play, blocks, manipulatives, art, computer, discovery, drawing/writing, and classroom library.

Specials

Children also receive instruction in Art, Media Center, Music and Physical Education from teachers certified in those "special" areas.

Daily Activities

Each daily session is organized to include both large and small group activities, which provide a wide range of active learning experiences. Some lessons help young children build physical strength and coordination in large muscles; others support the development of small muscles in their fingers and hands. A variety of language, mathematics and cognitive skills are also emphasized throughout the day as well as social skills, forming relationships and building confidence.

Assessment

Teachers refer to widely-held expectations of child development to monitor and support children's progress in many areas. Weekly newsletters provide parents with general information about these widely-held expectations for this age group and give suggestions on how to support these skills at home.

Feedback about an individual child's progress is provided through parent-teacher conferences held in the late fall and again in the early spring. Progress reports showing what children know and are able to do are provided to parents in February and again in June. In addition, parents will receive a collection of work samples from throughout the year showing how much their child has grown and developed.

Family Involvement

Parents of preschool children are encouraged to get involved with the district's Early Childhood Advisory Council. This organization helps support strong ties between home and school by providing valuable feedback on children's experiences and also helping to plan special events for all preschool families.

Tuition

Annual tuition is \$3,300 per year (\$330/month). Parents of multiples will receive a 10% tuition discount for each additional sibling(s). Tuition may be provided at no cost to families that qualify for the Free and Reduced School Meals Program per federal guidelines. Please contact the Preschool Office directly for additional information.

Enrollment Process

Enrollment will be ongoing until the program reaches capacity. Students found eligible as a preschool child with a disability will be enrolled throughout the school year. Application forms will be available starting **February 4, 2019** in the main office of each elementary school, at www.spfk12.org/preschool, or by contacting the Preschool Office by phone or email (see below).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kate Rosander, Supervisor

Preschool Office

SPFHS

667 Westfield Road

Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

preschool@spfk12.org

(908) 889-8600 ext. 3302



If you are concerned that your preschool child is developing or learning differently, you can request an evaluation for preschool special education and related services. For more information, please call the Department of Special Services at (908) 889-0100.