

Questions and Answers for Newfield Central School Prekindergarten Program

Registration

Who is eligible to participate?

- Children who live in Newfield Central School district and are 4 years old by December 1.
- A child who is age-eligible to attend kindergarten is not eligible for the UPK program.

How do I register my child?

- Complete a registration packet, submit a birth certificate, an up to date physical and immunization record.

How many children can you serve?

- Each Newfield Prekindergarten classroom can serve up to 18 students.

Is there a wait list?

- A wait list can occur and is determined by when registrations are received. We encourage families to get their applications in as soon as possible. Applications are accepted for the following school year beginning April 1st .

Schedule

What are the hours of operation?

- The Prekindergarten Program is in session from 7:40am to 2:50pm

How many days is the program?

- Our Prekindergarten Program will operate 180 days and will follow the Elementary Calendar

Can I send my child for part of the day or part of the week?

- No. The NYS Education Department regulations for a full day UPK program say that Pre-K children must attend for a full day (as defined by the school district), 5 days per week.
- Alternative programs such as our district's TLC program offer a half-day option. You may contact Maria Lloyd-Jones by email (mlloydjones@newfieldschools.org) for more information.

Is there child care available before school starts and at the end of the day?

- Yes. We are very fortunate to support families by offering child care for a nominal fee. We have before school care starting at 7am and after school care until 6pm every day that school is in session.
- Newfield Central School is also able to offer child care on days that school is not in session. For child care information visit our website or contact our Child Care Coordinator Maria Lloyd-Jones at 607.564.9955 ext. 4103.

Do Prekindergarten students ride the bus?

- All children PK - 12 can ride the bus to and from school. Children who begin school under the age of 4 ride in a car seat. All students who ride the bus must wear a seatbelt.
- Prekindergarten parents can help buckle their children in for the first couple of days. A bus monitor may be provided for students that continue to need assistance.
- It is a requirement that a responsible adult meet our Prekindergarten students as they get off the bus. When this does not happen students are returned to the school and families are charged for after school care.

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Will my child be able to nap?

- Each classroom schedule will have a quiet time and those children who need to nap will be able to.

How are meals handled?

- Breakfast and lunch are provided to every student free of charge. Children may bring their own lunch. Students who remain for the entire day will receive a snack in the afternoon.
- Children who have food allergies are provided alternatives and accommodations are made.

Curriculum

How will you know what my child needs?

- Each child undergoes a screening process before the start of the year. This helps the teachers understand what your child needs to learn and be able to do in order to be successful in school.

What will my child learn?

- Opportunities for cognitive, language, literacy, social, emotional and physical growth are provided to every student.
- Our program adheres to the following guiding principles for Prekindergarten:
 - All children are capable of learning, achieving and making developmental progress.
 - Children develop at different rates and each child is unique in his/her own development, growth, and acquisition of skills. Appropriate and reasonable supports and accommodation must be provided to enable all children to succeed.
 - Children are active learners. A primary approach to learning is through purposeful play. Intentional planning promotes rich learning experiences that invite participation, involve multiple contexts, and engage the senses that help children explore their environment.
 - Early learning and development are multi-dimensional. Children's learning is integrated and occurs simultaneously across all domains, which are interrelated and interactive with one another.
 - Children learn in the context of interactions and relationships with family members, caregivers, teachers, and other children in their immediate environment and in their community.
 - The family is a significant contributor to children's lifelong learning and development. Actively engaging parents in the early education of their children is essential to children's success in the elementary classroom and later learning.

What is used for reading and math instruction?

- Our Prekindergarten Program uses the ELA and Math Modules provided by New York State as the base for reading and math instruction but also supplement with other resources and programs such as Wilson FUNdations.

Will there be specials in Prekindergarten?

- Yes. Our Prekindergarten students will have opportunities for art, music, and physical education.

Will children go outside to play?

- Yes. Our Prekindergarten students go outside daily weather permitting.

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Staffing

Are teachers certified to teach Prekindergarten?

- Yes. All teachers meet the requirements for Early Childhood Certification. We are very fortunate to have a group of teachers that have many years of Early Childhood experience.

How many adults are there per classroom?

- Each classroom has a teacher and at least one teacher's aide.

My child receives Preschool Special Education Services. Can they receive those services in school?

- Yes. We have multiple therapists that can provide Preschool Special Education services to our Prekindergarten children.

Do teachers have the opportunity to plan and collaborate during the school day?

- Yes. Our Prekindergarten teachers receive an individual and team preparation time every day. This allows for much collaboration and the sharing of students and resources.

Family Involvement

Is there a parent and student orientation?

- There will be a Prekindergarten Open House each year before the school year begins. Families will have an opportunity to visit with teachers, explore classrooms and review the schedule.

Will there be home visits?

- We no longer do home visits but do encourage parents to come in to see us and talk one-on-one about their child. Open House is another good way for us to get to know each other.

What other opportunities are available to parents and caregivers?

- Parents often volunteer for field trips and special events such as Prekindergarten Family Fun Nights.
- Parents may volunteer to help in their child's classroom
- Parenting classes are offered in the Fall and Spring through collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension.