

**Wachusett Regional School District
Early Childhood Center
1745 Main Street
Jefferson, MA 01522
(508) 829-4766, Fax (508) 829-7576**

Frequently Asked Questions

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 therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Up to half the class can be on Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) for specialized services. The additional 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 Wachusett Regional School District Special Education Team.

What advantages does an integrated preschool have to offer?

An integrated preschool is part of the public school system that is designed to be a typical preschool setting that specialized in targeting children's specific learning styles and diverse learning needs. Teachers and support staff are highly trained in early childhood education and utilize a variety of teaching techniques and strategies. Language, readiness skills, social skills, science and literature are embedded within and are key components to the curriculum. Activities are age appropriate, fun and exciting, and follow the *Massachusetts Guideline for Preschool Curriculum Experiences*.

Does my child have to be toilet trained?

We recommend that children enrolled in our program be toilet trained and capable of independent self-care in the bathroom, however, this is not an enrollment requirement.

My child was enrolled 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. You are welcome to change sessions or the number of days your child attends 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?

Yes, siblings of students currently attending the program have priority. All other slots are chosen by lottery.

Do you have a summer program?

Yes, but only for children on IEPs who are determined eligible by the Preschool Educational Team.

My child is age eligible for kindergarten, but I don't feel that 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.

Do you have snack time and do you provide snacks?

Yes, we do provide snack each day. A small charge of .25 cents per day is requested.

Are parents allowed to participate in the program?

Absolutely! We highly value and appreciate parent participation and encourage parent volunteers. We welcome parents to share special traditions, careers, and crafts. Parents are also welcome to read to the children.

What is the daily schedule?

The WRSD Early Childhood Center's Integrated Preschool Program has morning sessions from 9:00-11:20 and afternoon sessions from 12:30-2:50. The daily schedule includes indoor and outdoor play, circle time, small/large group activities, snack, story, music, and movement. The pre-kindergarten children participate in Second Step, a violence prevention program.

How is my child's progress reported?

Progress is reported in November, February and in June of each school year. A detailed report will be sent home with your child.

Required documents/records

Registration

Physical form

Birth Certificate

Emergency medical card

Permission to photograph

Home Language Survey

Tuition

The program tuition for the 2012-2013 school year is \$15.00 per day. The tuition is divided into ten monthly payments, payable September to June. Payments are due on the first of each month.