

Lil' Learner's Pre-K Program

Here are some frequently asked questions about the 5-class Pre-K Program

My child is going to be entering Kindergarten the following year. Do they need to be in the 5-class program?

No, the multiage program is designed with Kindergarten readiness in mind. Many children have entered Kindergarten very successfully directly from our 3-day Mon/Tues/Wed multiage program.

What are the benefits of enrolling in the 5-class Pre-K Program?

The Pre-K 5-class Program, is designed as an addition to the preschool curriculum. In the Pre-K class, I have only children entering Kindergarten the following year. This allows me to design an environment that is structured more like a typical Kindergarten classroom. In these classes, I spend additional time on print concepts, phonemic awareness, phonics skills. I also spend a much time on correct number/letter formation, and writing, as many schools no longer teach these skills. I go into greater depth on the mathematic concepts taught in the multiage program. and expose the children to additional mathematical concepts that they would not be working with in the 3-day program. Because the class is structured more like a typical Kindergarten classroom, your child's teamwork and independent skills are developed. Considering most Kindergarten classrooms have a higher student to teacher ratio, these skills are very helpful in preparing them for success in Kindergarten.

The Pre-K class consists of both a **morning and afternoon class on Thursday**. By having 2 classes on the same day, this gives them the opportunity to have both additional learning time and experience the longer day like they will have in Kindergarten.

I would like to participate in the Pre-K program but it seems like a long day.

The Thursday Pre-K class will only have children that will be going to Kindergarten the following year. This class is designed with **preschool children** in mind to begin to get them ready for the extended day that they will experience in Kindergarten. Our heavier curriculum will be placed in the earlier part of the day when they are fresh with the latter part of the day reserved for games and centers designed to review concepts taught. The day will be broken up with a snack, lunch, rest time, and recesses. We will begin the year with an easy fun atmosphere in the latter part of the day and progress to longer durations of learning and activity as the year progresses

How does their lunch and rest time work?

You will need to send a small lunch (with an ice pack) for your child along with a **small blanket** and small pillow (optional). Please put the blanket and pillow in a pillowcase with your child's name on the outside of the pillow case. These will be sent home at the end of the day.

Children love their independence at this age. Part of our routine is to pack up our blanket and put it away. Help your child's success by ensuring that you send a small light blanket. Send a small pillow or make sure there is enough room left in the pillow case for them to pack up their blanket. (Mini Pillow Pets are the favorite, regular ones are a little too big) We put everything into our pillow case and carry it out. They love this it makes them feel soooo big, so our goal is to keep it a small and manageable as possible

Please ensure you send a small lunch and bottle of water with your child.

The State of Arizona requires children to be served lunch with one serving of each food group. Therefore, we encourage you to provide a well-balanced lunch. We have found that children like a variety of items to eat, so sending a **small amount** of each food group is best. This helps to eliminate wasted food.

Over the years we have found that more often than not too much food is sent in and it is wasted. I try to have the children re-pack what is not eaten so you can see what is left. If you are always seeing a lot of food please send in a little less. **Sweets, juice boxes, soda etc. are not allowed at school in lunches. Please save those special treats for home.**