

OCEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

550 West Avenue

Ocean City, NJ

0 8 2 2 6



Ocean City School District Preschool Implementation Guidelines

Overview:

The purpose of the preschool program plan is to provide a comprehensive description of how the Ocean City School District will implement all components of a high-quality preschool program for three and four year old children.

The mission of the Ocean City School District Board of Education is to provide our Early Childhood students with a high quality learning environment that fosters critical thinking, embraces an appreciation for diversity, and cultivates both enthusiasm and a love of learning. The support of the expansion aligns with this mission.

Our primary goals include teaching children to:

- Grow in understanding and appreciation of their peers
- Learn to listen and follow directions
- Enjoy creative expression through music, art, and other activities
- Have positive multicultural experiences and learn to embrace diverse backgrounds
- Develop gross motor skills along with body and space awareness
- Think and make choices for individual and small group activities
- Feel confident, secure, and loved in the school setting
- Establish healthy eating and handwashing habits
- Develop a lifelong love for learning and exploration

The curriculum in place is closely aligned with our K-12 curriculum and is inclusive of interdisciplinary content and developed in accordance with the Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards, the nationally accepted standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the objectives set forth by the Creative Curriculum. Our programming approach is designed and intended to nurture each child's intellectual, emotional, social, and

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creative development. Through goal setting, carefully planned instruction, and opportunities for hands on interactions and purposeful play our children will flourish.

GrowNJ Kids Participant School: Enrollment and acceptance into GrowNJKids works to ensure that Early Childhood Programs provide quality care in educational settings. This is possible through free professional development, program assessment, and quality assurance as necessary.

Teacher, Instructional Aide, and Administrator Participation in ECERS3 Training:

Designed to assess preschool classrooms, the ECERS-3 Scale consists of 35 items organized into 6 subscales: Space and Furnishings, Personal Care Routines, Language and Literacy, Learning Activities, Interaction, and Program Structure. The ECERS assessment is the scale in which the NJDOE utilizes to rate the effectiveness of the ECE program.

Our Program:

- Each classroom has 1:
 - P3 certified teacher
 - 1 Teacher Aide
 - Maximum of 15 students (full inclusion)
- Classrooms are supported by:
 - Master Teachers: coach other teachers on the development of pedagogy and practice to affect student outcomes.
 - Preschool Intervention & Referral Team (PIRT): PIRT members coach teachers on the development of social-emotional practice to affect student outcomes.

Program Operating Hours:

- The Ocean City Preschool Program is a full-time, 6 hour per day program (as mandated by the NJDOE-DECE).
- The program follows the Primary School calendar.

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Attendance Counts:

Students are expected to attend school daily, unless they are ill.

It is recommended that a doctor's note accompany their return if applicable. Our NJDOE partners define Chronic Absenteeism as being absent 10% of the total expected days of school. Research shows that missing more than 10% of school, even during the early childhood years, can compromise the skills needed for reading readiness and academic performance in later grades. Early childhood education is a vital first step in our students' learning, and it is something that we all must continue to prioritize.

Timeline:

1. Openhouse: Our Open house is held each Spring and affords families an opportunity to learn more about our program. Register for Openhouse on the [preschool website](#) or by calling the Primary School Main office.
2. Applications are available beginning the date of the Openhouse. Applications for preschool are accepted in an online version or paper.
3. The application period ends on the Friday before the scheduled lottery date.
4. Lottery numbers and event specifics will be emailed prior to lottery date.
5. The Lottery date is announced during Preschool Openhouse.
6. Tier 1 students are accepted as priority students as per NJDOE DECE guidelines.
7. Tier 2 students are included in the lottery.
8. Tier 2 students will be afforded seats in the lottery draw based on availability, then waitlisted accordingly.
9. Email notification will be given after the lottery event.

Preschool Preference:

Students remaining in preschool (3 year old students remaining in preschool) with a sibling entering the program as a 3 or 4 will be granted sibling preference into the program.

New families with twins or siblings (3 and 4) who enter as tier 1 will both be accepted into the program, pending seats are available. New families with siblings (3 and 4) or twins who are

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drawn in lottery will both be accepted as preference into the program, pending seats are available. There is no preference for preschool students with a sibling entering K through 12.

Registration:

Upon acceptance in the preschool program, families will complete enrollment [HERE](#).

- Proof of residency
 - Updated signed lease and utility bill
 - Or Mortgage Bill, Tax bill, or deed
- Updated Immunization Records (Your child cannot start school without record of a flu shot for the year)
- Original Birth Certificate
- Proof of Medical Insurance (If applicable)
- Custody Paperwork (If Applicable)

Meals:

Breakfast and Lunch are offered Family Style in an effort to promote language acquisition, social skills, and character education. We will make any accommodation needed for food allergies, please meet with the nurse at time of registration.

Students are encouraged to:

- Talk about their food choices
- Try new foods and acquire new tastes

Curriculum:

Research-based program. One of the four approved curricula recommended by the NJDOE-DECE. Children learn through studies; hand-on, project based investigations.

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Curriculum Goal:

- To help students acquire a set of skills in 10 key areas of developmental which set a pathway of learning across the childhood years.

How can YOU be involved:

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in our classrooms, or participate in special activities like reading a story, sharing their culture, or arts & craft activities. Parents can also serve on the Ocean City Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Contact:

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