

Wadsworth City Schools
JUMP START PRESCHOOL
2017-2018



- ***What is the Jump Start Preschool?***
 - The Wadsworth City Schools' Jump Start preschool is an integrated preschool where children with disabilities attend with typically developing peers. Children ages three through five attend this program four days per week for two and a half hours of instructional time. Research shows that children with disabilities learn how to use their existing skills by imitating peer models. They are also provided opportunities to develop friendships with their typically developing peers. While increasing social and language skills, peers learn tolerance of differences and altruistic behavior. They are provided with models of individuals who successfully achieve despite their challenges, and learn to accept and appreciate individual differences.

- ***Who may attend the Jump Start Preschool program?***
 - Typical peer screenings are held in February/March each year. Participants will be invited to attend our program based on established criteria such as independence, sharing, and social development. Peers must be potty-trained by their start date and be three years old by the first day of school.
 - Eligibility for students with special needs is determined through an early identification screening and evaluation process. Parents who feel their child may have an area of need are encouraged to contact the Department of Student Services at 330-335-1316 to schedule a screening date. Screening dates are typically held the first Friday of each month.

- ***What happens during peer screening?***
 - Our peer screening is a play-based screening which allows us to see how students separate from caregivers, interact with others and follow directions within a small group.
 - Screening takes place in our preschool classrooms and your children are interacting with our preschool staff.
 - Teachers will be observing pre-academic, communication, fine motor and social skills.

- ***What is the cost for typical peers to attend?***
 - Tuition for typical peers is \$326.25/quarter (\$1,305/year). For the 2017-18 school year payments will be due by: September 8, November 10, January 12, March 9.
 - There is also a \$50 enrollment fee to secure your child's spot for next school year. If you choose to pay the full tuition amount by the first payment, the \$50 enrollment fee will be credited toward that amount.

- ***Is transportation available for peers?***
 - Transportation is not available for our typical peers. Students must be dropped off and picked up by a parent or caregiver. Drop off and pick up for PM students will be 12:40 and 3:20.

- ***Who will be working with my child on a daily basis and what will be the basis for their learning?***
 - Our Jump Start preschool is taught by certified teachers. Our teachers are dual certified in Early Childhood Education, PK-3 and Early Childhood Intervention Specialists, PK-3.
 - Our program follows Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards. These standards provide the guidance required to ensure that our youngest children enter kindergarten ready for success. These standards describe the knowledge and skills that serve as the foundation for meaningful early learning experiences. They are aligned with our kindergarten through grade twelve standards and thus provide a framework for preschool through primary grade connections, teaching strategies and transition practices. The Early Learning Content Standards can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website www.ode.state.oh.us.

- ***What is the student to teacher ratio in the classroom?***
 - Each classroom is staffed with one certified teacher and one adult aide. Within each classroom there is a maximum of sixteen students. In addition, we have an aide who rotates between all classrooms to support student learning.
 - We try to group our students by age ranges (3-4 and 4-5) as much as openings allow, and when attending more than one year we will try to expose them to multiple teachers and environments. The instruction in all classrooms is based on the same standards, so everyone will be learning all that they need to know in each class.
 - Our younger classrooms typically have 4 peers in each classroom, where our older classes have anywhere from 6 - 8.

- ***How will I know how my child is progressing?***
 - Your child's teacher will meet with you to discuss your child's progress on one of our four conference nights. Formal assessment reports are sent home two times per year and are designed to report progress according to developmental milestones.
 - Our staff also communicates learning skills and activities

- ***When will I be notified if my child has been identified as a peer model and offered a spot in the program?***
 - If offered a spot, registration paperwork will be included in the packet. We ask that you notify us by Friday, August 11, 2017 as to whether you are accepting the spot for your child. The \$50 enrollment fee and registration paperwork can either be mailed to Overlook School, 650 Broad St. or dropped off by August 14.

- ***How are morning and afternoon placements decided upon?***
 - Our preschool team is committed to balancing our classrooms to meet student needs. While we take into consideration your requests, placements are determined by needs, which at times includes balancing by gender and age.
 - For the 2017-18 school year the remaining spots are only in the PM.

- ***If my child is not identified as a peer model for the upcoming school year, is he/she eligible to participate in screening next year?***
 - Just as children are different from day to day and year to year, our program and classroom needs are different each year. Depending on the number of students we have transitioning to kindergarten each year we may have several spots available or very few. We certainly encourage you to return next year if you feel the program is a good fit for your child.

- ***Where is the Jump Start Preschool located?***
 - Our Jump Start Preschool program is currently housed at Overlook Elementary, 650 Broad St.
 - Overlook Elementary serves approximately 450 students in grades preschool through fourth grade.
 - Our Jump Start Preschool program is housed on the first floor with kindergarten and one first grade classroom.

- ***Who can I contact if I have additional questions?***
 - Please contact Erin Simpson, Overlook Principal at 330-335-1420 or esimpson@wadsworthschools.org with any questions or to learn more about our program.