Department of Education
Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

PRE-K FOR ALL

Pre-K for All Commitment to Families

Your child and family deserve **access to a free**, full-day, high-quality Pre-K for All program. Pre-K for All programs are committed to **partner with you** to support your child's learning. Each Pre-K for All program is held to rigorous quality standards and policies by the NYC Department of Education (NYCDOE). You can expect your Pre-K for All program to support your family by…

Offering your child free, full-day, high-quality pre-K

- Your child is eligible to attend a Pre-K for All program if you live in New York City, and he or she was born in 2012.
- Your child will receive a free instructional full-day of 6 hours and 20 minutes (or a weekly equivalent).
- Your family cannot be charged a fee to pre-register, enroll, or participate in Pre-K for All services.
- Your family cannot be required to participate in any other program offered by the provider. *For example, a program may not require you to enroll in their extended hours or afterschool services.*
- Your child's progress toward meeting developmental milestones (behaviors or abilities that are generally demonstrated by children of a certain age) is not used to determine eligibility for pre-K. *For example, a program may not deny your child entry if he or she does not yet use the bathroom independently or if your child does not yet dress him or herself independently.*[1]

Providing a safe and healthy learning environment for your child

- Your child's pre-K program will be in a secure and clean facility.
- Your child will be appropriately supervised at all times by staff members who have passed mandatory security and medical clearance.
- Your child will be served nutritious meals.
- Your child will receive any necessary health or medical accommodations to allow for their participation in Pre-K for All.

Creating a learning environment to support your child's development

- Your child will receive a full-day of instruction focused on developing the foundational knowledge and skills outlined in the New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core standards.
- The standards include five key areas of development: Approaches to Learning, Physical Development and Health, Social and Emotional Growth, Communication and Language Skills, and Knowledge of the World.
- Your child's teachers and program administrators will have the appropriate qualifications for their positions.
- Your child's teachers and assistants will support and encourage him or her to learn and try new things, actively explore with his or her peers, adjust to routines, solve problems, and use new vocabulary throughout the day.
- Your child will have opportunities to participate in whole group, small group and independent classroom experiences and physical activities, using a wide variety of learning materials.

[1] Programs must provide equal educational opportunities without regard to actual or perceived race, color, religion, age, creed, ethnicity, national origin, alienage, citizenship status, disability, sexual orientation, gender (sex) or weight. Some Pre-K for All programs at NYC Early Education Centers (NYCEECs) receive funding through Head Start or the NYC Administration for Children's Services. These programs have income eligibility and other requirements that families must meet in order to enroll their child. These programs are designated in the 2016 Pre-Kindergarten Directory.

Our approach to partnership with families

Each child's maximum potential can be best achieved through a proactive partnership between families and the educational community.[2]

To promote this partnership, Pre-K for All programs will:

- Provide a warm and welcoming environment that respects your family's language and culture.
- Plan with you for your child's transition into and out of pre-K.
- Communicate regularly with you to share important information about your child's learning and the program's policies and activities.
- Join you in making decisions about your child's learning experience.
- Provide activities and opportunities to extend your child's learning outside the classroom.

Families are encouraged to:

- Ensure that your child attends pre-K regularly, and notify your program when your child will be absent.
- Observe important procedures, including arranging for a responsible adult to drop off and pick up your child on time each day, and follow safety rules identified by your child's program.
- Provide required documents for enrollment and important information that will help teachers and program administrators learn about your child's needs.
- Participate in ongoing communication with program staff to support your child's learning and development, including attending meetings requested by your child's program.
- Participate in hands-on home activities and other opportunities to help extend your child's learning outside the classroom.
- Discuss any changes you may notice in your child's behavior or learning needs with your child's teacher. *If you believe that your child may have a disability or developmental delay that impacts his or her ability to learn, you should first talk to your child's program to find out if there are developmental and academic interventions to support your child within the general education setting. If strategies have been implemented and you feel your child may require special education services, your program can assist you in submitting an initial referral for an evaluation to the NYCDOE Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) to receive free special education services.*

Families are encouraged to use the guidance below in directing inquiries or concerns:

Families are encouraged to speak with your children's teachers, program support staff, or program administrators as a first step to address a question or concern.

If program staff members are unable to address a question or concern, families may reach out to the Division of Early Childhood Education at the NYC Department of Education at (212) 374-0351 or at EarlyChildhood@schools.nyc.gov.

[2]Weiss, Heather, Margaret Caspe, and M. Elena Lopez. "Family Involvement in Early Childhood Education." *Family Involvement Makes a Difference*. Harvard Family Research Project, 2006.