

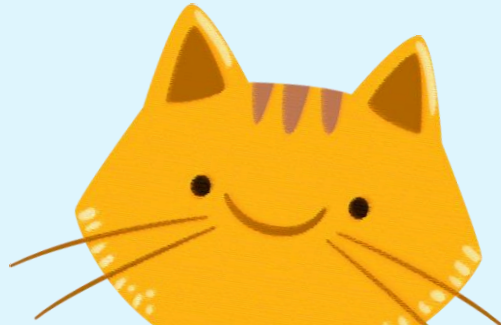
Getting Ready for Preschool

3 and 4 year olds



AGENDA

- ✓ Overview of Early Learning Programs in Dinwiddie County
- ✓ How to Apply
- ✓ Application Timeline



Overview of Early Learning Programs in Dinwiddie County

School readiness begins the moment a child enters the world. What happens in the first five years of life sets a child up for academic success throughout the rest of life. Choosing an early childhood program is one of the most important decisions a family can make. We believe every child should have access to a quality preschool experience prior to entering Kindergarten.



BRIGHT STARS

Bright Stars is Dinwiddie County Public Schools' (DCPS) high quality preschool program that serves at-risk students who live in Dinwiddie County. The program receives financial support from the state under the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) grant and addresses student's physical, academic, social, and emotional needs at no cost. DCPS works collaboratively with Head Start and other agencies such as the Department of Social Services and the Health Department to meet the needs of preschool students.

Must be 4 years old on or before September 30th



HEAD START

Head Start, led by The Improvement Association, is a preschool program that serves at-risk students who live in Dinwiddie County. This program receives federal support and promotes comprehensive education, health, nutrition, dental, mental health, social services and parental involvement opportunities at no cost.

Must be 3 or 4 years old on or before September 30th

IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

- 3 or 4 years old by September 30th
- Lives in Dinwiddie County
- At-risk factors
 - Family income
 - Homeless
 - Single family home
 - English language learner
 - Special needs or disability
 - Level of parent's/guardian's education

Note: This list includes but is not limited to all the possible at-risk factors.

GOALS

1. Our goal is to provide a healthy learning environment that addresses the needs of each child.
2. Our goal is also to ensure your child is ready for Kindergarten by being physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared.



STANDARDS

Our preschool programs follow the Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS), Birth-Five Guidelines: Areas included are:

- Approaches to Play and Learning
- Social & Emotional Development
- Communication, Language, and Literacy Development
- Health & Physical Development
- Cognitive Development
 - Science, Social Sciences: People, Community and Culture, Mathematics and Fine Arts



STAFFING

Each preschool classroom is staffed with one teacher and one paraprofessional.



The maximum number of students in our preschool classrooms ranges from 15-20:

3 year olds have 15

4 year olds have between 17-20



LOCATIONS

Southside Elementary

Sunnyside Elementary

Sutherland Elementary





TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided to and from school on DCPS' school buses. Information regarding bus stops and schedules can be found online.

SCHEDULE

Our Preschool programs follow the DCPS school calendar and hourly schedule for elementary schools. Students arrive between 8:15-8:30 a.m. and dismiss between 3:15-3:30 p.m.

The daily schedule includes time for students to play and learn independently or in groups. Their day includes breakfast, group time, story time, recess, rest, snacks, centers, and lunch. Your child's teacher will share more information about the specific schedule.



BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Your child can participate in the school meal program which provides well-balanced and well-prepared meals. Menus can be found online.

You may complete a free and reduced meal application to find out if your child qualifies for free or reduced breakfast and lunch. You only need to complete one application per family and you must complete each new school year. The Lunch Application is located on DCPS' website.





SUPPLIES

Every day school supplies are provided for students to use in the classroom.

Your child will need a student size book bag, a towel or blanket for rest time, and a change of clothes.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and consistent attendance is a must for academic success. For absences due to illness, send a written excuse note the day your child returns. Attendance is maintained and reviewed regularly. Excessive absences or tardies will result in a parent conference.



PARENTAL INVOLEMENT

Parents are expected to participate in their child's education.

Join the PTO

Volunteer

Attend field
trips

Attend parent
events

Attend classroom
events

Attend
conferences

HOW TO APPLY



Step 1

Complete the online Preschool Application

Step 2

Submit required documents

Step 3

Participate in interview

Step 4

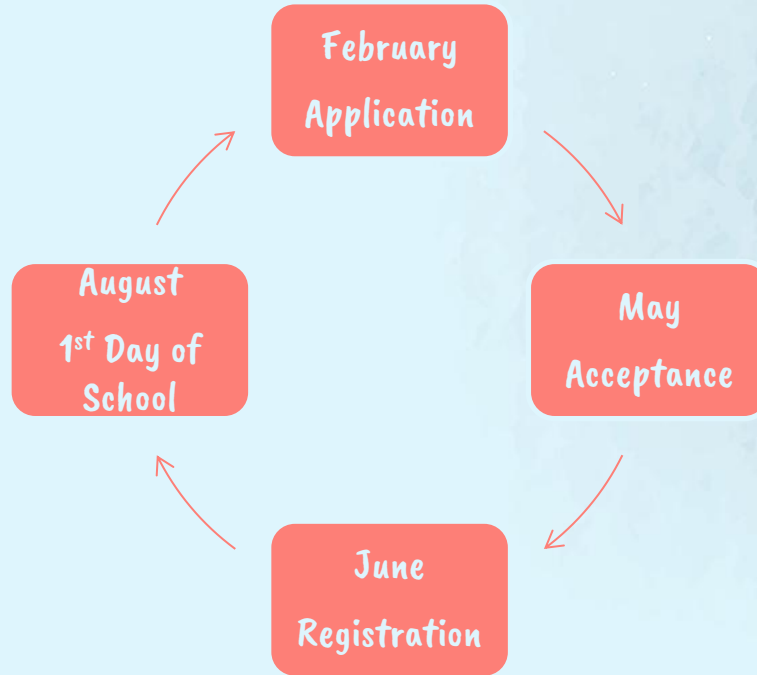
Wait for acceptance email

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- Birth Certificate
- Income Verification
- School Health Physical & Immunizations
- Proof of Dinwiddie County Residence



ENROLLMENT TIMELINE



Applications accepted ongoing



Choices in Dinwiddie County

Dinwiddie County Public Schools works collaboratively with Head Start, day care centers, and family providers throughout the county to strategically offer parents choice when searching for a quality preschool program.

Please visit the pages below if interested:

Angels at Play

Child Care, VA

CommonHelp

Stepping Stone Academy

The Greenhouse Day Care Center

Virginia Department of Social Services: Search for Child Day Care



QUESTIONS



Contact
Us!



If you have any questions about the **Bright Stars** program or the application process, please contact **Penny L. Brooks** at (804) 469-4190 or email pbrooks@dcpsnet.org

If you have any questions about the **Head Start** program or the application process, please contact **Tracey Michalek** at (804) 469-4495, ext. 209, or email at tmichalek@dcpsnet.org

THANK YOU!

