

Is Early Kindergarten Right For My Child?

Early Kindergarten (EK) serves as a bridge to traditional kindergarten by providing students time and support to develop core academic and social skills under the care and guidance of professional educators.

Early Kindergarten is designed for children who:

- Will turn 5 years old between September 1 and December 1;
- Will turn 5 years old between June 1 and September 1 and are developmentally young.

EK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. It is a full day program that follows the regular school calendar.

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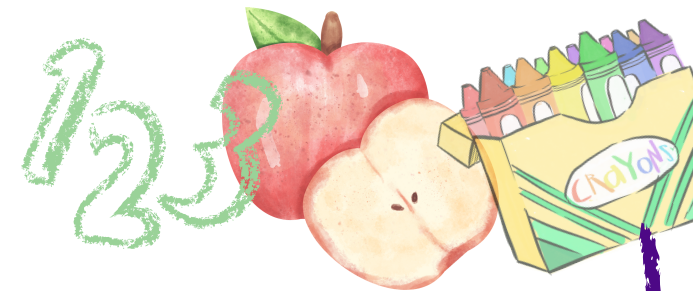
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Lakeview School District is located in Battle Creek, Michigan. Our highly qualified educators and staff serve 4,000 students in grades kindergarten through 12th at:

Lakeview High School
Lakeview Middle 5/6 Academy
Lakeview Middle 7/8 Academy
Minges Brook Elementary
Prairieview Elementary
Riverside Elementary
Westlake Elementary



Early Kindergarten Program



Learn more online:

www.lakeviewspartans.org
www.facebook.com/LakeviewSpartans



Benefits of Early Kindergarten

Early Kindergarten provides younger students with a strong foundation for school success offering:

- Guided growth provided by professional educators experienced in early childhood development
- Early exposure to kindergarten curriculum
- Full day programming
- Familiarity with school routine to help build confidence
- A learning environment tailored to meet developing academic and/or social needs
- An opportunity to start school with same age children

Whether your child is entering kindergarten or Early Kindergarten, you can be assured that Lakeview's highly qualified kindergarten staff recognize each student as an individual with unique academic and social strengths. Students thrive in a nurturing environment that prepares them for school success in kindergarten and beyond.

Frequently Asked Questions - early Kindergarten

At what age do children attend kindergarten?

In the State of Michigan, children who turn five on/before September 1 are eligible for kindergarten. Students who turn 5 between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1 may attend Lakeview's EK program.

Is Early Kindergarten mandatory for children with birthdays between September 2 and December 1?

EK enrollment is voluntary.

How is Early Kindergarten different from preschool?

The standards, curriculum and teaching requirements in EK is different from preschool. EK is based on the Michigan Department of Education kindergarten standards. The program builds on the skills children may have learned in preschool to ensure they will be able to begin kindergarten with confidence.

How is Early Kindergarten different from traditional kindergarten?

The EK curriculum is based on kindergarten standards modified to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of younger children. The EK environment includes more opportunities for social, emotional, language development, and communication through dramatic play; small group instruction; and intentional teaching through hands-on activities.

What is the length of the Early Kindergarten school day?

EK is a full-day program that follows the regular school calendar.

Where is Early Kindergarten located?

EK classrooms are located at Prairieview and Minges Brook Elementaries. Generally, Riverside students attend EK at Minges Brook. Westlake students attend the program at Prairieview.

Is there a charge to attend Early Kindergarten?

EK is free and open to all age-eligible children residing in Lakeview School District or entering through School of Choice.

What kinds of qualifications do Early Kindergarten teachers have?

EK teachers are required to have a professional teaching certificate, just like kindergarten teachers.

What grade will children go into after Early Kindergarten?

EK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience. Children will go to kindergarten after completing Early Kindergarten.



Supporting School Readiness & Success

Parent support and involvement are critical for student success. There are a number of simple ways to impact your child's preparedness for and success in school.

- Read to your child every day
- Encourage play, discovery, and movement
- Give your child responsibilities at home
- Set firm and consistent guidelines
- Support daily school attendance
- Check your child's backpack daily and review the teacher's informational notes
- Talk with your child about what they are learning

What Will My Child Learn in Early Kindergarten?

Lakeview's Early Kindergarten program is based on the kindergarten curriculum with focus placed on math and literacy instruction and the development of social and motor skills. Classroom instruction is designed to provide children an opportunity to learn in a hands-on, interactive environment that supports their development while maintaining the rigor and high standards of kindergarten. Key areas of learning include:

Math

- Count verbally forward to 20 or beyond and backward from 10
- Identify numbers from 0-10 and write some of them
- Match sets and numerals to 10
- Count structured arrangements of objects to 10 with 1-to-1 correspondence
- Compare sets of objects using the terms more, less, same and equal
- Add and subtract small quantities by using concrete objects, fingers, or pictures
- Copy and create simple repeating patterns
- Sort objects by color, shape, and size and other attributes
- Recognize and name basic shapes
- Put shapes together to make larger designs pictures, and larger shapes

Social Emotional Skills

- Play cooperatively with others
- Participate in individual, small group and large group activities
- Follow schoolwide and classroom expectations
- Engage in games with simple directions
- Begin to express emotions
- Communicate wants and needs
- Begin to show independence

Literacy

- Share and listen for information
- Answer questions about stories
- Hear rhymes
- Identify uppercase and lowercase letters
- Identify letter sounds
- Express self in dramatic play
- Write using pictures and symbols
- Increase vocabulary
- Recognize first name in print
- Print first name with a capital letter at the beginning, followed by lower case letter(s)
- Understand concepts of print (front of book, back of book, read left to right)

Developmental Skills

- Strengthen hand muscles through cutting, coloring, drawing, and painting
- Develop hand-eye coordination
- Show control in jumping, hopping, catching, running, and balancing.
- Grip writing utensils correctly
- Take responsibility for personal belongings
- Attend to self-care (bathroom, hand-washing and dressing)