

Is Young Fives Right For My Child?

Young Fives serves as a bridge to kindergarten by providing students time and support to develop core academic and social skills under the care and guidance of professional educators.

Young Fives is designed for children who:

- Will turn 5 years old between September 1 and December 1;
- Will turn 5 years old by September 1 and are developmentally young;
- Will benefit from daily opportunities for play that encourage social engagement and learning.

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

Contact Us

Heather Fausey Riley, Principal
Minges Brook Elementary
hfausey@lakeviewspartans.org
(269) 565-4590

Shelley Riegle, Principal
Prairieview Elementary
sriegle@lakeviewspartans.org
(269)-565-4690

Stacy Helmboldt
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
shelmboldt@lakeviewspartans.org
(269) 565-2403



Young Fives

Early Kindergarten Program

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

Learn more online:
www.lakeviewspartans.org
www.facebook.com/LakeviewSpartans



Benefits of Young Fives

Young Fives 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 Young Fives, 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 - Young Fives

At what age do children attend kindergarten?

In the State of Michigan, children who turn five by September 1 are eligible for kindergarten.

Children who turn five by December 1 may attend kindergarten with a waiver.

Is Young Fives mandatory for children with birthdays between September 2 and December 1? *Young Fives enrollment is voluntary.*

How is Young Fives different from preschool?

The standards, curriculum and teaching requirements in Young Fives is different from preschool. Young Fives 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 Young Fives different from traditional kindergarten? *The Young Fives curriculum is based on kindergarten standards modified to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of younger children. The Young Fives 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 Young Fives school day? *Young Fives is a full-day program that follows the regular school calendar.*

Where is Young Fives located? *Young Fives classrooms are located at Prairieview and Minges Brook Elementaries. Riverside students attend Young Fives at Minges Brook. Westlake students attend the program at Prairieview.*

Does Young Fives support children who do not speak English? *English learners in Young Fives have the same level of services as those in kindergarten.*

Is there a charge to attend Young Fives? *Young Fives 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 Young Fives teachers have? *Young Fives teachers are required to have a professional teaching certificate, just like kindergarten teachers.*

What grade will children go into after Young Fives? *Young Fives is the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience. Children will go to kindergarten after completing Young Fives.*



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 he/she is learning

What Will My Child Learn in Young Fives?

Lakeview's Young Fives 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)