



# Young Fives

## Early Kindergarten Program

### 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 classroom instruction with frequent movement, learning through play and a focus on social development.

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

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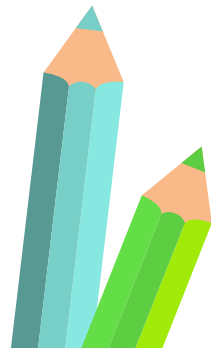
Lakeview School District is located in Battle Creek, Michigan. Our highly qualified educators and staff serve 3,800 students in grades kindergarten through 12th at:

Lakeview High School  
Lakeview Middle School  
Minges Brook Elementary School  
Prairieview Elementary School  
Riverside Elementary School  
Westlake Elementary School

Learn more online:

[www.lakeviewspartans.org](http://www.lakeviewspartans.org)

[www.facebook.com/LakeviewSpartans](https://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 will be located at one or more elementary buildings depending on need and available space.*

**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 aloud to 20
- Recognize the number of items in sets of 5 or 6
- Identify numbers from 0-10
- Write some numbers between 0-10
- Compare sets of objects using the terms more, less, same and equal
- Add and subtract small quantities using concrete objects
- Copy and create simple repeating patterns
- Compare and sort objects by color, shape, size and other attributes
- Recognize and name shapes
- Put shapes together to make designs, pictures, and larger shapes

### Motor 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

### Literacy

- Share and listen for information
- Answer questions about stories
- Hear rhymes
- Identify all uppercase and lowercase letters
- Identify all 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)

### Social Skills

- Work and play cooperatively with others
- Participate in individual, small-group, and large group classroom activities
- Ask for help when needed
- Follow classroom rules and directions
- Take responsibility for personal belongings
- Attend to self-care (bathroom, hand-washing and dressing)