

Department of Early Childhood • Preschool Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Revised February 2021

We have included frequently asked questions about our Early Childhood Preschool program. Please use these as a reference when answering questions about preschool. If you have additional questions, please contact the Early Childhood Office at 402-436-1995.

What preschool services do we offer?

Lincoln Public Schools provides a high quality half-day Early Childhood Preschool program for children who reside within the Lincoln Public Schools boundaries. Our preschool program is located in many of the elementary schools across the district. Children who are at least 3 years of age on or before July 31, 2021 and who have not yet turned five as of July 31, 2021, are eligible to apply.

An application must be completed in order for the child to be considered for the program.

How do I apply for preschool?

- Visit <https://home.lps.org/earlychildhood/>, and click on Programs, then Preschool and then access the application. Download the application, complete electronically and email the application to earlychildhood@lps.org;
- Visit <https://home.lps.org/earlychildhood/>, and click on Programs, then Preschool and then access the application. Print the application and submit it at the Early Childhood office at 300 S. 48th St.
- Visit the Early Childhood office at 300 S. 48th St. to complete the application. Our hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We also have extended hours (see below).

If you are unable to access the application in either of these ways, please contact our early childhood office at 402-436-1995 for assistance. We are happy to help.

When submitting the completed application in person at the Early Childhood Office at 300 South 48th St. (enter door # 2, north side of building). In addition to the application, the items below will be collected. Copies of the documents will be made for parents.

- *Copy of the child's birth certificate;*
- *Up-to-date immunization record; and*
- *Proof of income for 2020 (2020 Income Tax Return, 2020 W-2s, ADC Statement, SSI Statement, Unemployment Benefits Statement, paycheck stubs for all 12 months of 2020).*

Applications will be accepted beginning on February 1, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, we will have extended hours on the dates listed below:

- *Thursday, March 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.*
- *Saturday, March 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

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Can we mail a preschool application to the parent?

No, we do not mail the applications. Applications may be accessed online and can also be completed at our Early Childhood Office. If you are unable to access the application in either of these ways, please contact our early childhood office at 402-436-1995 for assistance. We are happy to help.

Is the enrollment in preschool based only on income?

No, there are many factors taken into consideration for enrolling children. All questions on the application are valued through a point system.

Enrollment is based upon the information provided in the application. All applications will be placed on a priority waiting list based upon the needs of families in each school attendance area. Enrollment is not based on the date on which we receive the application. Children are enrolled based upon the availability of openings in their neighborhood school.

If your child receives special education services, enrollment is solely based on decisions made by your IFSP/IEP team. In this situation, enrollment paperwork will be completed with the family.

What is the age a child must be to qualify for Preschool?

Children who are at least 3 years of age on or before July 31, 2021 and who have not yet turned five as of July 31, 2021 are eligible to apply.

Is my child eligible to take the Early Entrance Kindergarten Exam?

Students who turn 5 between August 1, 2021 and October 15, 2021 are eligible to participate in an assessment conducted by the Lincoln Public Schools to determine possible early entrance to kindergarten. Parents can contact their neighborhood school for additional information.

Is transportation provided to LPS preschool programs?

Transportation may be requested. All transportation must be approved by the Early Childhood Office and is arranged by the Early Childhood Office in collaboration with the Transportation Department.

When do we begin taking preschool applications for the 2021-22 school year?

We begin accepting applications on February 1, 2021.

When do we stop taking preschool applications for the 2021-22 school year?

January 31, 2022 will be the last day we accept applications for the 2021-22 school year.

What do I do if I am concerned about my child's development?

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If your child is not enrolled in our Early Childhood program and you are concerned about your child's development, please contact the Early Childhood referral line at 402--436--1920.

If your child is enrolled in our early childhood program and you are concerned about your child's development, please contact your child's teacher to discuss your concerns.

Will my child be considered for next year's enrollment if the child has been on the waiting list this year?

All applicants who remain age eligible for the following school year will receive a letter in mid--January. This letter will provide information necessary in order to update the child's application for consideration for the following school year.

If my child is enrolled in the preschool program and will be returning, what do I need to complete for next year?

All children who are age eligible will be enrolled the following year. The Family Educator will provide the family with the paperwork. Please return the paperwork to your Family Educator no later than March 4, 2021.

Can I request the school I want my child to attend?

Children are placed in the neighborhood school that is based on their home or daycare address.

**If you have additional questions, please contact the Early Childhood Office at
402--436-1995 or you may send us an email at earlychildhood@lps.org**