

### ***Who may apply for the pre-k class?***

Parents of children who are 4 years of age on or before September 30, 2010 and are zoned for Williamson County Schools. Applications will be available online on February 1, 2010.

### ***Can I apply to all of the pre-k schools to better my chances of getting a placement?***

The pre-k program is located in different areas of the district. Only one application is necessary for consideration for the program. Please do not submit more than one application. All applications will be considered for the program.

### ***What if I choose to wait and start my child in kindergarten at the age of 6? Would he/she be able to attend the pre-k class at the age of 5?***

No, the pre-kindergarten program is only for children who are 4 years of age using the birth date guidelines stated in the above question. This is a Williamson County as well as a State Department Office of Early Learning policy for all governor's voluntary pre-kindergarten programs.

### ***Is it first come, first serve on the applications?***

No, Every applicant will be considered for enrollment but all interested parents are encouraged to turn in applications as soon as possible to set up an interview and screening appointment.

### ***What is the interview/screening for?***

Due to state regulations on the ratio of child/teacher, enrollment is limited. In order to place the children who are most in need of the class, a meeting with the pre-kindergarten teacher is held to discuss individual children in a confidential setting. The screening is for the pre-k teachers to meet the children as well as to determine the current developmental level of the child in regards to readiness for school. The interviews/screenings will take place in areas around the county. This does not necessarily mean your child will attend a particular school. This is determined after all applications are reviewed.

### ***What can I expect on the interview/screening day?***

During your scheduled appointment the parent will meet with a pre-k teacher to complete the parent interview. During the interview, the child will go with other pre-k teachers to complete a developmental screening. This screening consists of language, cognitive and gross motor skills.

### ***Do I need to bring my child to the interview appointment?***

Your child does need to be present when you come to the interview in order for your child to complete the child's screening part of the application process.

### ***What do I need to bring to the interview?***

You will need to bring copies of your child's legal birth certificate, immunization record and proof of residency in Williamson County. Examples of this are utility bills, mortgage statement, insurance documents, and rental agreement.

### ***Does my child have to have "special needs" to qualify?***

The pre-k program was developed to help children prepare for kindergarten and succeed in the school environment. Williamson County Schools has a program for children 3-5 years of age with special needs and Individualized Education Plans. If you are concerned about your child's development contact Student Support Services at 615-472- 4130.

### ***What is considered "need" for the pre-k class?***

All children develop differently therefore children's needs are also defined differently. A child may need help in social areas, emotional development, academic preparation or environmental stability. There are many factors which determine a child's success in school. A confidential meeting with each parent/guardian gives the teacher insight into a child's development and experiences. This time is also an opportunity for the parents/guardians to discuss with the teacher any other information that is helpful in determining the child's placement in the program. Priority (but not guarantee) is given to children of families with financial need as well as English as a second language.

### ***What are the hours/days of the pre-k class?***

The pre-kindergarten class meets Monday thru Friday for 5 ½ hours and dismisses each day at 1:45 pm. The pre-k class follows the Williamson County Schools calendar unless otherwise noted.

### ***Since this is preschool, does my child need to attend every day?***

Attendance is very important for a successful year of learning. Your child is expected to attend school every day unless he/she has a temperature or showing other symptoms of an illness. Attendance is reported and recorded in the school's system the same for children in grades K-12.

### ***Who/what determines which children are accepted into the class?***

After **ALL** parent interviews are conducted the children are ranked from highest need to lowest need and the class is filled from the list in this order. Every effort is made to place the child at his/her zoned school but if not available then the child is placed at another school. The pre-k teacher is qualified to determine which children from the pool of applicants are enrolled in the class. The team of early childhood teachers work together to ensure the integrity of this program and the application process.

### ***Is there a cost for this program?***

No, there is not a weekly or monthly cost for this class. Before and After care are available at an additional cost. Contact the school for specific information.

***When will I know if my child is accepted into the class?***

Acceptance Letters as well as waiting list letters will be mailed the beginning of June 2010. This letter will state which school your child is selected. Every effort is made to place the child at his/her zoned school but due to availability your child may be assigned to another school. You will be able to confirm your acceptance to the class list or you may refuse to have your child participate in the program. If your child is not accepted, he/she will be placed on a waiting list in the case of a space becoming available at a later date. The acceptance letter will contain information concerning enrollment materials and procedures to ensure your child's place in the class.