



What is the difference between Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten

Watertown Public Schools offers children between the ages of 3 through 5, opportunities to attend school prior to kindergarten. There is a preschool program and a pre-kindergarten program...so what's the difference?

PRESCHOOL

Our preschool is an integrated program for children ages 3 – 5. The classrooms have an enrollment of 15 children per classroom. To create the integrated model, 8 spots are for general education children and 7 spots for children requiring special education services. There are a variety of scheduling options for children. We offer 3-day mornings, 4-day mornings, 4-day afternoons, or 5-day 5 hour classes. Tuition is based on the program selected. Preschool has an open enrollment based on availability throughout the year.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Pre-kindergarten is a program designed for children ages 4 and 5. This program is designed for children that missed the kindergarten age cut off (5 years old by August 31st) and will be turning 5 during the school year. Classrooms have a total enrollment of 15 children. As an inclusionary program, we welcome students of all abilities. Each elementary school has one pre-kindergarten class. The classes follow the schedule of the elementary school. Hours of this program are Monday – Friday, from 8:15 – 2:30. This is a tuition -based program. Enrollment for the pre-kindergarten class is done on a lottery basis. The lottery is held in February.

What's the Same?

Both preschool and pre-kindergarten follow the same curriculum programs. Opening Our World of Learning (OWL) is our literacy curriculum, Building Blocks the math curriculum, and Al's Pals our social/emotional curriculum. Teachers are dual certified in Early Childhood Education and Special Education through the Massachusetts Department of Education. Classrooms have at least one full time instructional assistant.

We look forward to starting your child's school experience off to a positive start.

Any other questions about preschool and pre-kindergarten should be directed to Karen Feeney, Director of Early Childhood Education, at 617-926-7765 or

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