

## Youth Services Preschool Program FAQ's

### *When can my child attend?*

**P.A.L. Preschool** (Preschool for Active Learning): a traditional preschool program. Classes are designed for a specific age level.

- Children who are four years old by December 1 of the current school year and children who are three years old by December 1 of the current school year may attend P.A.L. preschool.
- Four Year Old classes meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (3 days/week). Classes meet 2.5 hours either in the morning or afternoon.
- Three Year Old classes meet Tuesday & Thursday (2 days/week). Classes meet 2 hours either in the morning or afternoon.

Parents who choose this program want to introduce their children to the school environment and to prepare them for kindergarten success, but do not need a full day with child care.

**T.O.T.S. Preschool** (Tots of Troy Schools): a full day, full year preschool program.

- Children must be between the ages of 3-5 years old by the first day of attendance.
- T.O.T.S. is open from 7 am – 6 pm, Monday-Friday
- The program is open most days with the exception of some days (holidays, some school breaks)
- T.O.T.S. also has a summer program for children ages 3-5.
- T.O.T.S. is currently located at the Niles Center. (locations subject to change)

Parents who choose this program are usually working parents who require a safe and nurturing environment where children are prepared for kindergarten success.

**Building Blocks Preschool:** meets daily and follows the school calendar for attendance.

- Children must be four years old by December 1 of the current school year.
- Children attend a full school day-seven hours.
- Building Blocks is currently located at Hamilton Elementary.
- It is closed during school breaks, including summer.
- Before and after school child care is available for an additional fee.

Parents who choose this program want a longer school day/week in a program with more focus on academic preparation.

### *What is the curriculum?*

All programs follow the Troy School District preschool curriculum.

- The curriculum was developed by a team of Troy kindergarten and preschool teachers.
- It is based on research in early learning strategies and current educational practices in early childhood education.
- This curriculum is based on ten areas of learning: language and literacy, math, science, social studies, technology, social experiences, physical, visual arts, music and movement, and dramatic play.

- It is designed to prepare children for entry in the Troy School District kindergarten program.

The main difference lies in the amount of time children spend in the school environment where they are exposed to all areas of learning.

***What are the staff qualifications?***

- All Troy preschool teachers have degrees in early childhood education or elementary education.
- Knowledge and training in the principles of child development and developmentally appropriate practices for the ages and stages of the children they teach.

The preschool assistants are selected on the basis of their knowledge, experience and ability to interact with young children in a caring and appropriate manner.

***Are programs licensed?***

- All preschool programs are licensed by the State of Michigan.
- All preschool programs meet or exceed national standards for preschool accreditation.

The State of Michigan requires the following child/adult ratios:

- Programs for children 3-4 years old maintain a child to adult ratio of 1:10 or less.
- Programs for children 4-5 years old maintain a child to adult ratio of 1:12 or less.