

## What is the Young Five program?

The Young Five program is a bridge between preschool and kindergarten, offering a developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to meet the needs of a child who may need one more year of social, emotional, or academic development. The program benefits students by providing an extra year to gain independence, self-esteem, problem solving skills, fine and gross motor development, and social skills to prepare children for their kindergarten experience.

Our Young Five program is a gift of time, an opportunity to empower your child to enter kindergarten with confidence and an eagerness for learning. This program does not replace Kindergarten and is a decision made in collaboration with parents, teachers, and administrators that begins with a screening process.

## Who is a candidate for the Young Five program?

- It is designed for, but not restricted to children who turn five between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A child who could benefit from an extra year of social and emotional growth.
- A child experiencing separation anxiety from his/her parent/guardian.
- A child who has made significant progress in preschool but is not yet ready for the demands of Kindergarten.
- A child having difficulty in peer group situations.
- Students are selected based on parent/guardian request and screening process.

Parents/guardians of students that are interested in the Young Five program will need to contact the Principal of your child's zoned school.

## What happens *after* the Young Five program?

The Young Five program is the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience. Children will move to a regular kindergarten program after completing the Young Five program. If a child is ready socially, emotionally, and academically for first grade, families and schools will work together to determine if Young Five students are ready to progress to first grade based on academic assessment results.

## What will my child learn in the Young Five program?

### Literacy

- Ask and answer questions about stories
- Identify upper and lowercase letters
- Identify letter sounds
- Preview and build vocabulary

### Math

- Count aloud
- Identify and write numbers
- Name shapes
- Copy and create simple patterns
- Add and subtract small quantities using concrete objects

### Motor Skills

- Strengthen hand muscles through cutting, coloring, drawing, and painting
- Develop hand-eye coordination
- Grip writing utensils correctly

### Social/Emotional Skills

- Work and play cooperatively with others
- Participate in individual, small group, and large group classroom activities
- Ask for help when needed
- Take responsibility for personal belongings
- Attend to self-care