

Allen Park Public Schools' Young 5's Program

Young 5's Program or Kindergarten?

Children enter kindergarten with a range of skills both physical and cognitive. Often, children who turn five years of age later than their peers will have a significantly different level of development than a child approaching their sixth birthday. For this reason, we offer a Young 5's Program. The program is designed for students who have a summer or fall birth date and could use additional time to develop readiness skills. This program does not replace kindergarten; moreover, offers an additional year as a gift of time. The development of fine motor, literacy, and math skills in preparation for kindergarten is an important part of the Young 5's Program.



Students enrolled in the Young 5's Program have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities designed to help them make the adjustment to the school environment and working in a group. It is important that children learn to function well in the classroom environment. This includes getting along with other children and cooperating with adults other than their parents. Students learn to take turns and wait without interrupting, participate in other activities that teach thinking, reasoning and decision-making skills. They also work diligently to develop their listening, social/emotional and literacy skills. Research shows that children must first have a strong base in language (rhyming, patterning, playing with words, listening to stories, retelling stories). For the entire school year, Young 5 students are saturated with these concepts in a fun yet challenging way!

Enrollment in the Young 5s Program is a decision made in collaboration between parents, teachers and administrators through a screening process. Always keep in mind what is best for the children in the long run. It is better to give a child another year to grow than to become frustrated with their development and achievement. The Young 5's Program takes a more hands-on approach to academics than kindergarten but still offers many traditional learning opportunities. The program has been mainly developed for children who turn 5 years old after July 1st. This program provides a strong foundation that children need to become successful students. The program's primary goal is to ignite a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.

