Educational entities serving preschool and school age children enrolled in learning environments are issued a license based upon evidence that the site is in full compliance with applicable state rules. A copy of the compliance report may be obtained by going to ode.state.oh.us.
OUR FOCUS ON EDUCATION

...is designed to meet the individual needs of your child.

Regardless of cultural background or special needs, each child is offered a variety of learning experiences and opportunities through our five-star rated Early Childhood Program. Your child will participate in a structured day that will enable him/her to share indoor and outdoor activities that are academic focused and play-based in nature. In addition, we will assist your child in expressing their feelings appropriately, practicing self-confidence and discipline, and developing the ability to get along with others.

The Canton City School District is a Comprehensive Preschool Program for children age 3 with special needs, and age 4 for both typical and students with special needs. We take great pride in engaging students in Creative Curriculum, which is rich in play-based activities that are specifically designed to enhance each child’s individual learning process.

Ohio’s Early Learning and Development Standards in All Essential Domains of School Readiness (Birth – Age 5) will be aligned with our curriculum to guide assessment and instructional practices for our preschool students.

Our goal is to provide a safe, welcoming and student-centered educational experience to help in preparing our preschoolers to successfully enter Kindergarten.

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If children live with CRITICISM, they learn to CONDEMN.
If children live with HOSTILITY, they learn to FIGHT.
If children live with RIDICULE, they learn to be SHY.
If children live with SHAME, they learn to feel GUILTY.
If children live with TOLERANCE, they learn to be PATIENT.
If children live with ENCOURAGEMENT, they learn CONFIDENCE.
If children live with PRAISE, they learn to APPRECIATE.
If children live with FAIRNESS, they learn JUSTICE.
If children live with SECURITY, they learn to have FAITH.
If children live with APPROVAL, they learn to LIKE THEMSELVES.
If children live with ACCEPTANCE and FRIENDSHIP, they learn to find LOVE in the world.
# PROGRAM MISSION

We Believe In... Kindergarten readiness for all children. Each of our lives are largely influenced by our experiences in the formative early childhood years. We are committed to ensuring that every child, ages birth through six years of age, in the Canton City School District, can participate and flourish in well-coordinated, comprehensive, high quality early childhood programs. Through effective leadership and support, we will serve as a catalyst for systematic change, successful collaboration, and program development to best meet the needs of young children and families in our city.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Program Mission</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Educational Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important Information</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies and Procedures</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness and Medication/Food Supplement/ Modified Diet/Fluoride Supplement</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diapering, Topical Ointments and Creams</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/Tornado/Other Procedures</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Program and Allergies</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunizations</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicable Diseases</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthchek Services for Children Younger Than Age 21</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of Communicable Diseases</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screenings</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Conduct Code and Dress Code</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Services</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPARK Services</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent and Family Involvement</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Teacher Conferences</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services for Children with Disabilities</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Alignment</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>13-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Activities</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio’s Learning and Development Standards</td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akron Zoo</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artful Living and Learning</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Compliance/Concerns Process</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important Dates to Remember</td>
<td>18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton City School District Information</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The first five years of a child's life sets the foundation for and influences future success in school and life. The Canton City Schools' Early Childhood Program provides a comprehensive pre-kindergarten education with a variety of experiences and materials to enhance physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth. Children's learning occurs in a widely diverse and interactive way.

A basic ingredient to future educational success is a positive self-image which is developed to a great degree during this developmental period. Multicultural, non-bias experiences and materials are provided for students to develop their self-esteem and encourage their acceptance of others. Adults model behavior based on respect for others to be observed and emulated by the children.

Language development is another very important key ingredient to success. Active learning involves language activities such as putting actions, experiences, thoughts and feelings into words. Individual and small group interactions are the most effective ways to promote the development of effective communication skills between children and adults.

Activities that are concrete, real and relevant to the child's cognitive development enhance the lives of young children. Learning takes place as young children investigate, manipulate and experiment with supplies, materials and resources.

This prepared and intriguing physical environment, offering opportunities for both indoor and outdoor exploration, is designed to provide intellectual stimulation to encourage physical development, both fine and gross motor. Above all, the experiences are to be developmentally appropriate, fun, thought-provoking and open-ended.

Acquisition of these skills and concepts will be taking place gradually and according to each individual child's own timetable for growth. The process will be guided and encouraged, rather than rushed. Concepts will be introduced, defined, extended and reinforced throughout the child's experience in the Early Childhood Education Program in ways that will enhance individual growth and promote self-esteem.

An appraisal of each child's progress will be implemented so that individual needs can be addressed and intervention can be provided when necessary. The instructional process will enable all children to develop and integrate their skills, concepts and values into a framework of creative decision making and problem solving – the result being a competent, responsible, well-rounded, functioning citizen of the world.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Absences and Tardies
Our preschool slots are limited, so it is important that students come to school each day, especially since others are on a waiting list. If a child is signed up for preschool, it is the responsibility of the parent to see that he/she attends school each day and is punctual with attendance. Teachers have prepared lessons and materials for the day, and we are counting on students to be present. The following are the expectations we have in place:

● If a child is going to be absent or tardy, the parent is required to call their child's school and report the child's absence prior to 9:00am.
Parents should provide “medical verification” for absences of two (2) consecutive school days and/or five (5) cumulative days within a nine-week period.

- After three (3) consecutive days of unexcused absences, your child’s name may be removed from the class roster and placed on a waiting list for the Preschool Program. If this happens, you must contact the Community Outreach Worker before your child will be able to return to school. That number is 330-580-3033.
- Your child is tardy if he/she arrives after the scheduled beginning time of preschool. Guardians must escort their child into the school, sign them in and provide a verbal explanation to clarify why the child is late. Consistent tardiness could result in the removal of your child from the program.

**Family Eligibility:** Our program services four year old students, and their families, who are considered disadvantaged and fall at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. We also service 3 year olds who are identified with a disability, as well as students who are court-ordered. Student slots are limited, and there is typically a waiting list, so your child’s attendance is monitored.

**Changes in Phone Number, Address and/or Emergency Contacts**
It is important that you notify the Center of any change in phone number, address or emergency contacts. This information is vital to the safety of your child, specifically in emergency situations.

**Communication**
We believe that communication between home and school is important. Information from the Center and your child’s teacher will be sent home regularly and may also be accessed through ClassDojo. You can connect with us on our Canton City Schools Early Childhood Program Facebook page where you will find important information, announcements and pictures! Feel free to contact us at any time. Again, we value our families and welcome the communication and partnership!

**Nap Blanket**
If your child is in our full day program, they will have a time designated for nap/rest. Please send in a blanket and small pillow (optional) for your child. A clean mat, that is washed off each day, will be provided. Blankets will need to be washed regularly, so if you send in another blanket, we will know to send home the used blanket in its place.

**Play Clothes**
Please be aware that our preschool children do many messy activities. Some of the tempera paint we use is very difficult to remove from clothing. It is not possible for us to inform you ahead of time when these activities occur. Therefore, we are encouraging you to dress your child in play clothes for school. Please do not dress them in something you don’t want ruined.

**Diaper Change**
If your child requires their diaper to be changed throughout the day, you are responsible for providing diapers and wipes.

**Withdrawal/Transfer**
If your family is moving, be sure to notify the school and staff of your new address. However, if you are planning to move out of the Canton City School District, you will need to notify the Center and your child’s teacher. When you register your child in another school district, you will be asked to sign a form that will allow us to forward your child’s records to the new school.

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**CHILD INFORMATION**

**Rule 3301-37-08**
(A) The parent shall provide, prior to the date of admission or not later than thirty days after date of admission, and every thirteen months from the date of examination thereafter, a medical statement affirming that the child is in suitable condition for enrollment in the program. "Prior to the date of admission" means:
(1) For children younger than three years old at the time of admission, the examination shall occur within six months prior to the date of admission;
(2) For children three years old or older at the time of admission, the examination shall occur within twelve months prior to the date of admission.
(3) A preschool child with a disability shall not be excluded from the program for lack of a medical statement until the team responsible for the individualized education plan (IEP) established pursuant to Chapter 3301-51 of the Administrative Code reconvenes; exclusion from the program until the IEP is revised may be a denial of a free, appropriate public education.
(4) The medical statement shall be provided by a physician, physician's assistant, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse.
(B) The program shall secure and have on file all required information no later than the first day of attendance unless otherwise required.
(1) The cumulative record of each child shall include but not be limited to:
   (a) Name and date of birth;
   (b) Name, address (home and/or business), and telephone number of parent(s);
   (c) Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of two persons to contact in an emergency if the parent cannot be located;
   (d) Name of persons(s) to whom the child can be released; and
   (e) Parent authorization for transportation related to the program.
(2) The health record of each child shall include but not be limited to:
   (a) A statement signed by a licensed physician as required by paragraph (A) of this rule;
   (b) Physician's and dentist's authorization and written instructions to administer prescription medication to a child enrolled in the program;
   (c) Immunization record as required by section 3313.67 of the Revised Code, which record shall include immunizations required by section 3313.671 of the Revised Code;
   (d) A list of any allergies and treatment for said allergies;
   (e) A list of any medications, food supplements, modified diets, or fluoride supplements currently being administered to the child;
   (f) A list of any chronic physical problems and any history of hospitalization;
   (g) A list of any diseases the child has had;
   (h) Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of physician and dentist in case of emergency;
   (i) Permission of parent for emergency medical and dental care as required by section 3313.712 of the Revised Code; and
   (j) Permission of parent for emergency transportation.
The program shall maintain daily attendance records including admission and withdrawal.
(D) The program shall notify parents when a child is injured and maintain a log of injury reports.

Rule 3301-37-04 of the Ohio Rules for Preschool stipulates:
● No child shall ever be left alone or unsupervised
● In each program, the maximum number of children per preschool staff member and the maximum group size staff member the maximum group size by age category of children shall be as follows:
   ○ 3 year olds = 1:12 (Staff Member/Child Ratio); 24 maximum group size
   ○ 4 & 5 year olds = 1:14 (Staff Member/Child Ratio); 28 maximum group size
● Preschool special education programs shall meet the child/staff ratio requirements of 1:6 (Staff Member/Child Ratio) and a second adult when seven or more children are enrolled; 16 maximum group size. Waivers are required when a group of more than eight preschool children with disabilities are served in accordance with rule and 3301-51-11 of the Administrative Code

ILLNESS AND MEDICATION/FOOD SUPPLEMENT/MODIFIED DIET/FLUORIDE SUPPLEMENT
1. When a child becomes ill at school, he/she is isolated from the other children and made as comfortable as possible until a parent arrives.
2. To return to preschool after an illness, a child should be 24 hours free of:
   - fever
   - diarrhea
   - vomiting

3. Rule 3301-37-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code specifies the requirements for administering a medication, food supplement, modified diet or fluoride supplement to children in preschool programs, in public school or chartered non-public schools:
   A. The principal and his/her designee are authorized to administer the medication, food supplement, modified diet, or fluoride supplement at school when deemed necessary.
   B. Written instructions and orders must be obtained from a physician or licensed dentist detailing the name, dosage, date and the time interval the medication, food supplement, modified diet, or fluoride supplement is to be taken. A copy shall be on file in the Main Office or the Nurse’s Office. Each time medication is administered, a written record or log including dosage, date and time shall be made. That record or log shall be kept on file for one year.
   C. Written permission must be received from the parent or guardian of the pupil requesting that the school comply with the doctor’s orders, with a statement clearly stating that the school or its personnel will not be held responsible for administering any of the prescribed drugs.
   D. Medication must be brought to school in a labeled container, and preferably, only enough medicine for one day’s dosage. Medication must be brought to school by an adult.
   E. Liquid medication shall be the responsibility of the parent and will be administered only at the principal’s discretion.
   F. The Board of Education shall provide secure, lockable storage facilities in each building.
   G. The school nurse will inform school personnel of potential benefits and side effects of the drug being administered.
   H. Teachers should make a note in their daily lesson plans which pupils are to take medication and might accept the responsibility to remind the child should he/she forget to administer the medication.
   I. The employee responsible for administering the medication shall keep a daily record.

   Schools may not administer over-the-counter medicines unless the Physician’s Order for Prescribed Oral Medication form is completed and signed by the physician and parent.

**DIAPERING, TOPICAL OINTMENTS AND CREAMS**

If your child requires diaper changes throughout the day, it will be the parent’s responsibility to provide diapers and wipes. For the purpose of diapering, topical ointments and creams provided by parents shall include written instructions. Such instructions shall include the name of the ointment, cream or lotion; name of the child; birth date of the child; date; and signature. Written instructions shall be valid for no longer than three months. Authorization for administration of the ointment, cream, or lotion may be cancelled by written request of the parent at any time.

**FIRE/TORNADO/OTHER PROCEDURES**

Rule 3301-37-05
- Emergency Procedures: Each classroom has procedures for fire, tornado, and other such named emergencies posted. Written documentation of fire inspection and approval of the facility are required for the program.
- The Annual Fire Inspection Report is housed in each classroom for review. The Record of Emergency Evacuation Drills is housed in the Center office.
FOOD PROGRAM AND ALLERGIES

Rule 3301-37-09
The program provides breakfast and lunch that are of quantity/quality to supplement food served at home so that the daily nutritional needs of the child are met in accordance with required daily allowances as prescribed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture meal patterns.

If your child has a food allergy or cannot eat a particular food for religious or personal reasons, please notify your child’s teacher. Provisions will be made to accommodate your child’s special needs.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Ohio law requires all children to be immunized or in the process of receiving immunization before they enroll in school. Local Health Departments are responsible for inoculating children whose parents cannot afford to have vaccinations administered by a private physician. The following vaccinations are required for preschool children:

1. 4 doses of combination Diphtheria, Tetanus and Acellular Pertussis (DPT or DTAP)
2. 3 doses of Polio vaccine
3. 1 dose of Measles vaccine (after the 1st birthday)
4. 1 dose of Rubella vaccine (after the 1st birthday)
5. 1 dose of Mumps vaccine (after the 1st birthday)
6. 1 dose of HIB (given after 15 months of age; given after 12 months if series of 4)
7. 3 dose series of Hepatitis B
8. Chicken Pox (recommended, but not required)
9. Lead and Hematocrit Testing (see Medical Form)

Parents may contact the Canton City Health Department to make arrangements for the necessary immunizations.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

All students with signs or symptoms of diseases suspected as being communicable to others are given immediate attention and sent home if such action is indicated.

Any student suspected or reported to have a communicable disease is excluded according to the Ohio Department of Health Guidelines.

Parents are informed when a communicable disease occurs in their child’s classroom or on the bus that may pose a serious health risk to other students so that early signs or symptoms can be observed and appropriate preventive measures can be instituted. Canton City Schools works in collaboration with the Canton City Health Department when a communicable disease incident occurs.

The exception to parents being informed when a communicable disease occurs in their child’s classroom is in the case of HIV/AIDS. Information regarding a student or staff member infected with HIV is classified, by law, as confidential. All policies and practices support confidentiality.

LEGAL REFS: ORC 3313.67; 3313.68; 3313.71; 3319.321; 3707.04; 3707.06; 3707.08; 3707.20; 3707.21; 3707.26
CROSS REF: JEG, Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
HEALTHCHEK SERVICES FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN AGE 21

Healthchek is Ohio’s Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program. It is a service package for babies, kids, and young adults younger than age 21 who are enrolled on Ohio Medicaid.

The purpose of Healthchek is to discover and treat health problems early. If a potential health problem is found, further diagnosis and treatment are covered by Medicaid.

Healthchek covers ten check-ups in the first two years of life and annual check-ups thereafter and offers a comprehensive physical examination that includes:

- medical history
- complete unclothed exam (with parent approval)
- developmental screening (to assess if child's physical and mental abilities are age appropriate)
- vision screening
- dental screening
- hearing assessment
- immunization assessment (making sure child receives them on time)
- lead screening; and
- other services or screenings as needed

If your children are enrolled on Ohio Medicaid, Healthchek services are available to them. If you are younger than age 21 and are also enrolled, you can receive Healthchek services, too. For more information, visit: https://medicaid.ohio.gov/FOR-OHIOANS/Programs/Healthchek.

MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

(A) A person trained to recognize the common signs of communicable disease or other illness shall observe each child daily as he enters a group. A “person trained to recognize the common signs of communicable disease” means any person trained in prevention, recognition and management of communicable diseases as required by paragraph (D) of Rule 3301-37-07 of the Administrative Code.

(B) The following precautions shall be taken for children suspected of having a communicable disease:

1) The program shall immediately notify parents or guardians of the child’s condition when a child has been observed with signs or symptoms of illness.
2) A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be immediately isolated and discharged to his parent or guardian:
   a) diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool within a 24-hour period);
   b) severe coughing, causing the child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound;
   c) difficult or rapid breathing;
   d) yellowish skin or eyes;
   e) conjunctivitis;
   f) temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit taken by the auxiliary method when in combination with other signs of illness;
   g) untreated infected skin patch(es);
   h) unusually dark urine and/or grey or white stool;
   i) stiff neck; and/or
   j) evidence of lice, scabies or other parasitic infestation.
3) A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness shall be immediately isolated from other children. Decisions regarding whether the child should be discharged immediately or at some other time during the day shall be determined by the Director and the parent or guardian. The child,
while isolated at the program, shall be carefully watched for symptoms listed above, as well as the following:

a) unusual spots or rashes;

b) sore throat or difficulty in swallowing;

c) elevated temperature; and/or

d) vomiting

4) Programs shall follow the Department of Health “child day care communicable disease chart” for appropriate management of suspected illnesses.

5) A child isolated due to suspected communicable disease can be:

a) cared for in the Nurse’s Office;

b) within sight and hearing of an adult at all times. No child shall ever be left alone or unsupervised;

c) made comfortable and provided with a cot. All linen and blankets used by the ill child shall be laundered before being used by another child. After use, the cots shall be disinfected with an appropriate germicidal agent, or if soiled with blood, feces, vomitus or other body fluids, the cots shall be cleaned with soap and water and then disinfected with an appropriate germicidal agent;

d) observed carefully for worsening condition; and

5) discharged to the parent, guardian or person designated by the parent or guardian as soon as practical.

(C) Each program shall have a written policy concerning the management of communicable diseases. The policy shall include, at a minimum:

1) the program’s means of training all preschool staff in signs and symptoms of illness, hand washing and disinfection procedures;

2) procedures for isolating and discharging an ill child and policy for readmitting such child;

3) procedures for notifying the parent or guardian immediately when a child is exhibiting signs or symptoms of illness or has been exposed to a communicable disease; and

4) procedures regarding the care of a mildly ill child. “Mildly ill child” means a child who is experiencing minor common cold symptoms, but who is not exhibiting any of the symptoms specified in paragraph (B) of this Rule or a child who does not feel well enough to participate in activities, but who is not exhibiting any of the symptoms specified in paragraph (B) of this Rule.

Rule 3301.37.11 (C) (4) The “mildly ill” child who is experiencing minor common cold symptoms will have his/her temperature checked and be allowed to rest for 15-20 minutes. If symptoms subside and the child is feeling better, he/she will return to the classroom. If symptoms persist and the child continues to complain of not feeling well, parent will be notified and the child may go home.

5) procedures for notifying all parents of enrolled children when children are exposed to a diagnosed communicable disease such as pink eye, ringworm, chicken pox, or lice.

Rule 3301.37.11 (C) (5) When children are exposed to a diagnosed communicable disease such as pinkeye, ringworm, or lice, the classroom is checked by the school nurse. If multiple cases are discovered, letters of information and treatment are sent home to all parents.

**SCREENINGS**

There are early and periodic screening and diagnosis and treatment as well as developmental screening services available under section 619 and Part C of IDEA.
STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND DRESS CODE

Preschool children must adhere to the Canton City School District Student Conduct Code and Dress Code at all times. Both are published in the District Calendar and available in each school building. A copy may be provided upon parent request by contacting the Center. Here are a few basic reminders:

● Play Clothes - Please be aware that our preschool children do many messy activities. Some of the tempera paint we use is very difficult to remove from clothing. It is not possible for us to inform you ahead of time when these activities occur. Therefore, we are encouraging you to dress your child in play clothes for school. Please do not dress them in something you don’t want ruined.

● Spaghetti Strapped Tanks/Dresses - These are not permitted to be worn at school.

● Shoes - Please know that flip flops or any other open-toed shoe should not be worn to preschool. Students go outside and are active throughout the day. For safety reasons, open-toed shoes should not be worn.

● Seasonal Clothing - Please keep in mind that students do go outside to play on a daily basis, weather permitting. Again, open-toed shoes are not appropriate. In addition, Ohio weather changes daily. Please make sure your child has a coat, hat and gloves during the colder months.

All preschool children need to have a complete change of clothes at school, including the following:

● pants
● shirt
● underwear
● socks
● shoes (if available)

Please place these items in a bag, labeled with your child’s name.

TRANSPORTATION

Student Drop Off and Pick Up
Check with your child’s teacher for accurate drop off and pick up times and locations. Preschool students can be picked up by persons over 18 years of age and who are listed on the Pickup Authorization Form.

IMPORTANT

● It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up his/her child PROMPTLY at dismissal.

● In the event that a student is repetitively not picked up on time, it may be considered abandonment and the matter will be reported to law officials to handle accordingly, with possible removal from the Preschool Program.

Special Needs Bussing
Parent, guardian or designated adult must be with the child while awaiting bus pick-up. Also, this adult must meet the bus when your child is dropped off after school. If your child is required to cross a road to get to his/her bus, the parent must cross the road with the child. This is in place for the safety of the child.

If an adult is not there to meet the bus, the child will be returned to the school or to the bus garage. This may be considered abandonment and can be reported to the local police department, as well as Children’s Social Services.

OUTREACH SERVICES

A Community Outreach Worker is available to assist children and families enrolled in the Canton City School District Early Childhood Program. Services provided include, but are not limited to:

● Attendance
• Assistance with completing forms (i.e. Registration, Referral, etc.)
• Emergency assistance such as food, clothing and shelter
• Referral to community agencies

For more information about Outreach Services, please contact the Early Childhood Center.

SPARK SERVICES
In partnership with Canton City Schools, the SPARK program is a free service to families. SPARK services families with children between the ages of 3 and 4. The program is based on a home visitation model. Trained home visitors called parent partners conduct prescribed lessons, based on Ohio’s Early Learning and Development Standards, with preschool-age children and their parents. They educate parents on how to get children ready for kindergarten, evaluate children’s skill levels, and enhance parents’ abilities to be their child’s first and most important teacher.

SPARK also conducts developmental screenings, provides referrals and linkages to community resources, and offers home- and group-based learning opportunities, with the goal of increasing children’s success in school and life. The SPARK team includes professionals in the fields of early childhood education, mental health, and speech and language development.

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity by contacting SPARK at (330) 491-3272 or visiting their website at http://www.ecresourcemcenter.org/spark-ohio.

PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT
Parent and family involvement is extremely important and helps make your child’s experience in preschool a positive one. Becoming involved in your child’s education helps promote the importance of education, as well as the home/school partnership that Canton City Schools believes is very important. Ways that you can get involved include, but are not limited to:

• Ask your child to describe his/her day when they come home to you (this also promotes language, which is very important at the preschool age)
  ○ “What was your favorite part of your day?”
  ○ “What is something fun you did today?”
  ○ “Who did you play with today?”
• Look over any papers or handouts that are sent home (this allows you to be informed and see what your child is working on during the school day)
• Like us on social media, specifically Canton City’s Early Childhood Program Facebook page (here you will see pictures of students, activities, etc. – it will help you stay connected)
• Attend Parent/Teacher Conferences (this is where you will meet with your child’s teacher and discuss the progress your child is making in preschool)

NOTE: ClassDojo will also be used as a primary source of communication.

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.”

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
Two Parent/Teacher Conferences are held each school year (Fall and Spring). A notification will be sent home with your child to schedule a time and day prior to each conference.
Preschool students, moving on to Kindergarten the following year, will be engaged in Kindergarten Pup Camp. These days are planned and organized at your child’s home school building, and information will be sent home ahead of time so you can plan accordingly. One of the most critical priorities of Preschool is preparing students to be Kindergarten ready!

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Services are available to meet the needs of children who qualify as pre-school students with disabilities. These children have a written INDIVIDUAL EDUCATIONAL PLAN (IEP) that is developed by a team that includes the parent to meet their specific needs within the classroom.

Referral:
If you suspect a delay in your child’s development in the areas of speech and language, behavior, motor, mental development, hearing, vision or self-help skills, you may want to have your child assessed. Around the time a child turns age 3, he may be assessed. If he meets qualification requirements, he may receive special support services. Parents or legal guardians may call the Early Childhood Office at (330) 580-3033 and request an early childhood assessment.

Assessment:
The play-based assessment team consists of at least a preschool teacher, intervention specialist, psychologist, related service personnel, a district representative and the child’s parent(s) or guardian(s). The parent or guardian may share the child’s history with the team, interact with the child at play and provide whatever support is needed to help the child feel comfortable during assessment. Through play activities, interview and formal assessments such as speech and language evaluation activities, eligibility for special education services is determined. The child’s play at a variety of activities, as observed by the team, combined with the child’s history, and formal assessment results are indicators that the child may need special supports at the pre-kindergarten level. Parents frequently have many questions regarding their rights and responsibilities when their child has special learning needs. A Parent Mentor is available to help parents understand the process and answer questions as the assessment and service delivery take place. Parent Mentors are parents of children with disabilities who have had the experience of working with the schools and others to obtain services for their children. They share their experiences, provide information and offer support to other parents. A Parent Mentor may, at your request, be part of the assessment team.

BEHAVIOR

Each classroom teacher has a specific behavior plan that is shared with parents at the beginning of the year. The Ohio Department of Education has established basic guidelines in the Preschool Licensing Rules. The following section is the Behavioral Management/Discipline section of the rules.

Behavior Management
(A) A preschool staff member in charge of a child or a group shall be responsible for their discipline.
(B) The center shall have a written discipline policy describing the center’s philosophy of discipline and the specific methods of discipline used at the center. This written policy shall be on file at the center for review. Constructive, developmentally appropriate child guidance and management techniques are to be used at all times and shall include such measures as redirection, separation from problem situations, talking with the child about the situation and praise for appropriate behavior.
The center’s actual methods of discipline shall apply to all persons on the premises and shall be restricted as follows:

1. There shall be no cruel, harsh, corporal punishment or any unusual punishments such as, but not limited to, punching, pinching, shaking, and spanking or biting.
2. No discipline shall be delegated to any other child.
3. No physical restraints shall be used to confine a child by any means other than holding a child for a short period of time, such as in a protective hug, so the child may regain control.
4. No child shall be placed in a locked room or confined in an enclosed area such as a closet, a box or a similar cubicle.
5. No child shall be subjected to profane language, threats, derogatory remarks about himself or his family or other verbal abuse.
6. Discipline shall not be imposed on a child for failure to eat, failure to sleep, or for toileting accidents.
7. Techniques of discipline shall not humiliate shame or frighten a child.
8. Discipline shall not include withholding food, rest or toilet use.
9. Separation, when used as discipline shall be brief in duration and appropriate to the child’s age and developmental ability and the child shall be within sight and hearing of a preschool staff member in a safe, lighted and well-ventilated space.
10. The center shall not abuse or neglect children and shall protect children from abuse and neglect while in attendance in the preschool program.

D) The parent of a child enrolled in a center shall receive the center’s written discipline policy.
E) All preschool staff members shall receive a copy of the center’s discipline policy for review upon Employment.

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

Canton City School District’s Early Childhood Program implements a written, board-adopted, research-based curriculum. The curriculum uses developmentally appropriate activities, the learning environment, and approaches which meet the individual needs of the children, and is aligned to the early content standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

Our classroom teachers participate in Professional Development opportunities to expand their core knowledge and skills to implement Ohio’s early learning content standards. The following are used as resources: Ohio’s Early Learning Content Standards; Guidance for Early Learning Content Standards Implementation; Preparing for Kindergarten Success: A Guide for Families. It can be found on the ODE website: ode.state.oh.us and search: Early Learning

Assessments are selected and used to make, adjust and refine instructional decisions and to evaluate child progress. The Early Childhood Program uses the subsequent assessments: ASQ3, Authentic Assessments, and Curriculum-Based Assessments.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
Your child is ready for kindergarten when...

When you and your child read a variety of books, your child is ready to...

Listen to a story and explain what happened
Connect personal experiences to stories
Use language to describe events and express feelings
Recognize sounds
Recognize syllables
Recognize some upper and lower-case letters
Recognize rhymes
Develop new words
Communicate with others
Understand print has meaning
Make predictions

Develop the love of books and select favorite books
Read from front to back, top to bottom, left to right
Hold a book right side up
Learn new words from stories
Understand the difference between real and pretend play
Pay attention to the speaker, story or poem
Point to and discuss pictures within the book
Select and “read” favorite books to share with others
Act out favorite books while playing

When you and your child listen to music, your child is ready to...
Recognize sounds
Repeat rhythms and patterns (i.e. clapping)
Repeat songs and fingerplays
Pay attention to the speaker, story or poem
Share songs with family and friends
Develop oral vocabulary
Pay attention to the music and musician

When you and your child play games (word, letter, picture, puzzles, and computer), your child is ready to...
Identify matching sounds
Recognize and identify some upper and lower-case letters
Think creatively to solve problems
Recognize beginning sounds of words
Begin writing
Use pictures to understand picture clues (logos, icons)
Understand print has meaning
Sort objects into categories
Retell stories
Start and carry on conversation through turn taking
Follow simple oral directions
Speak clearly and understandably

When you and your child use creative materials (such as markers, crayons, play dough, pencils, paint, and paper), your child will be ready to...
Identify their name in print
Recognize that letters make up words
“Read” familiar words in print
Use print in their surroundings
Draw and write for a purpose
Create a picture or story
Express their thoughts in pictures or writing
Share stories and pictures with others
Name and label objects with adult help
Imitate writing top to bottom, left to right
Copy name
Scribble or write familiar words

MATHEMATICS ACTIVITIES
Your child is ready for kindergarten when...

When you and your child read a variety of books...
Counting books
Shape books
Color books
Concept books - opposites, size, position words
Picture book – animals, transportation, food, etc.
Books about daily routines (i.e. Goodnight Moon)
Books about seasons

Your child is ready to...
Recognize and name numbers
Recognize and name shapes
Recognize and name colors
Sequence what happens during a child’s day
Put numbers in order
Count to 10
Sequence how to read a book
Understand/Use math words (i.e. up/down, more/less)

When you and your child...
Play games such as Hi Ho Cherry-O, Chutes and Ladders, card games, Number Memory, and Hungry Hippo

Your child is ready to...
Learn to count identify numbers
Match objects
Name numbers
Sort, order and classify objects (i.e. size, color and shapes)
Recognize, identify, make shapes
Compare objects
Sequence events - before, after and next
Understand position words (i.e. up, down, beside, etc.)

When you and your child use creative materials (such as markers, crayons, play dough, pencils, paint and paper), your child will begin writing numbers by scribbling, reversing numbers, tracing and copying, and then will be ready to...
Write numbers
Learn to sort
Draw and make shapes
Learn position words (i.e. top/bottom, up/down, in/out)
Understand differences (i.e. bigger/smaller)
Create simple graphs which show comparisons
Learn to count
Create simple patterns (i.e. circle, square, circle, square)

When you and your child do household chores together, such as:
Sort laundry
Grocery shop
Set the table
Clean bedroom
Prepare meals (cooking)
Take care of pets
Follow a recipe
Wash/dry/put away dishes
Put things away where they belong

Your child will be ready to...
Recognize numbers
Sort common objects into categories (i.e. clothes, toys, food)
Understand math words: equal (same as), more, and fewer
Recognize what happens during a certain time of the day
Count to 10
Measure in a variety of activities
Recognize coins: penny, dime, quarter
Sequence/order events in context of daily activities
Count to 10 while pointing to object and saying number

AN INTRODUCTION TO OHIO’S EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS IN ALL ESSENTIAL DOMAINS OF SCHOOL READINESS (BIRTH – AGE 5)

In December 2011, Ohio was awarded the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. To be awarded the funding, Ohio was required to have *Early Learning and Development Standards in all Essential Domains of School Readiness, Birth to Age 5.* These five domains include:

1. Social and Emotional Development
2. Physical Well-being and Motor Development
3. Approaches Toward Learning
4. Language and Literacy Development
5. Cognition and General Knowledge

Ohio’s Early Learning and Development Standards describe key concepts and skills that young children develop during the birth-to-five-year period. Their purpose is to support the development and well-being of young children and to foster their learning. The standards promote the understanding of early learning and development, provide a comprehensive and coherent set of expectations for children’s development and learning, and guide the design and implementation of curriculum, assessment and instructional practices with young children.

The standards present a continuum of learning and development from birth to age five in each of the domains. Because the infant/toddler years are marked by rapid developmental change, the standards are divided into three meaningful transitional periods: Infants (birth to around 8 months), Young Toddlers (6 to around 18 months), and Older Toddlers (16 to around 36 months). The standards during the preschool years describe
those developmental skills and concepts children should know and be able to do at the end of their preschool experience.

**Overview of the Domains**

1. **Social and Emotional Development:** The standards for Social and Emotional development involve behaviors that reflect children’s emotional growth and their growing ability to successfully navigate their social worlds through interactions with teachers and peers.
2. **Physical Well-Being and Motor Development:** Physical well-being and Motor Development standards address motor skills and health practices that are essential for children’s overall development.
3. **Approaches Toward Learning:** Toward Learning centers around the foundational behaviors, dispositions, and attitudes that children bring to social interactions and learning experiences.
4. **Language and Literacy:** the standards for language and literacy reflect knowledge and skills fundamental to children’s learning of language, reading and writing.
5. **Cognition and General Knowledge:** the domain of Cognition and General Knowledge encompasses children’s knowledge of their physical and social worlds. It includes content knowledge, concepts and skills in the areas of mathematics, social studies and science. It also covers cognitive processes and skills fundamental to learning in different domains. The domain of Cognition and General Knowledge consists of the following sub-domains:
   - **Mathematics:** this sub-domain encompasses the mathematical concepts and skills that children develop during the birth-to-five-year period, including children’s developing understanding of number and quantity, number relationships, and basic algebraic concepts.
   - **Social Studies:** this sub-domain includes basic skills and competencies that set the foundation for learning about concepts of social science.
   - **Science:** this sub-domain focuses on children’s curiosity to explore and learn about their environment.
   - **Processes and Skills:** this sub-domain refers to the underlying cognitive mechanisms, skills and processes that support learning and reasoning in different domains, including the development of memory, symbolic thought, reasoning and problem-solving.

If you would like more information, you can visit the Ohio Department of Education website [http://ode.state.oh.us](http://ode.state.oh.us) and select Early Learning.

**AKRON ZOO PARTNERSHIP**

Students in the CCSD Preschool Program get to participate in an AMAZING experience with the Akron Zoo. Three times per year, a representative from the Zoo comes in and presents a lesson, using live animals, focused on the following 3 topics:

1. Animal sizes
2. Animal movement
3. Animal feelings

The lessons focus on social emotional learning and early literacy skills while teaching basic skills such as size, movement and feelings. Toward the end of the school year, students, and their parents, will have the opportunity to visit the Akron Zoo ~ Free transportation, food and fun for all, is sponsored by PNC Foundation.

**ARTFUL LIVING AND LEARNING**

Preschoolers will be engaged in four arts throughout the school year:

1. Dance
2. Drama
3. Music
4. Visual

This amazing opportunity is provided by Artful Living and Learning, who strive to help improve academic achievement and creativity through arts immersion, beginning in preschool. Each class is 20 solid minutes filled with fun, creativity and learning that is standards-based. The following are components of this program:

- Professionally trained artists who teach the lessons
- Lessons that follow state educational standards and support daily instruction
- Period of 25 weeks of instruction
- Weekly lesson updates for parents to stay connected to their child’s learning

PROGRAM LICENSING

Educational entities serving preschool and school age children enrolled in early learning environments are issued a license based upon evidence that the site is in full compliance with applicable state rules.

IF YOU WISH TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE COMPLIANCE REPORT PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER or go online to ode.state.oh.us and search for preschool rules.

If you have questions or concerns or wish to file a complaint concerning the Preschool Program, please contact the Coordinator:

Mrs. Linnea Olbon, Director
330-580-3033
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Preschool Pup Camp/Orientation
August 19-25, 2021 (you will be contacted to schedule your child’s day)

Preschool Open House (6-8:00pm)
August 24, 2021

First Day of Preschool
August 26, 2021

Professional Development (no school for students)
September 3, 2021

Labor Day (no school for students and staff)
September 6, 2021

Professional Development for Preschool Only (no preschool students)
September 27, 2021

Columbus Day (no school for students and staff)
October 11, 2021

End of 1st Grading Period/Teacher Work Day (no school for students)
October 22, 2021

Teacher Work Day (no school for students)
October 25, 2021

Professional Development (no school for students)
October 29, 2021

Professional Development for Preschool Only (no preschool students)

Virtual Learning Day for K-12 Students - Election Day
November 2, 2021

Fall Recess (no school for students and staff)
November 25-26 and November 29, 2021
Parent/Teacher Comp Day (no school for students and staff)
December 3, 2021

Winter Recess (no school for students and staff)
December 20-31, 2021
(return to school on January 3, 2022)

End of 2nd Grading Period
January 14, 2022

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no school for students and staff)
January 17, 2022

Professional Development for Preschool Only (no preschool students)
February 17, 2022

Professional Development (no school for students)
February 18, 2022

Presidents Day (no school for students or staff)
February 21, 2022

Parent/Teacher Comp Day (no school for students or staff)
February 25, 2022

End of 3rd Grading Period/Teacher Work Day (no school for students)
March 18, 2022

Spring Recess (no school for students or staff)
March 21 - March 25, 2022
(return to school on March 28, 2022)

Professional Development for Preschool Only (no preschool students)
April 14, 2022

Spring Holiday (no school for students or staff)
April 15, 2022

Virtual Learning Day for all Students
May 3, 2022

End of 4th Grading Period/Last Day of School for Students
May 27, 2022
EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Board of Education, Canton City School District, is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate with regard to its employment policies, personnel practices or education programs, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, sex, ancestry or age.

Canton City Schools Board of Education Policy:

Principle

The Board supports equal educational opportunity for all students, free from limitations based upon gender, ethnicity, race, religion, handicap, marital, economic or social condition.

Procedure

This commitment to equal educational opportunity shall serve as a guide for the Board and the staff in making decisions relating to school facilities, employment and assignment of personnel, selection of educational materials, equipment, curriculum and regulations affecting students.

LEGAL REF: Ohio Revised Code, Sections; 3313.48
                        3313.486
                        3313.64
                        T-91.14
                        T-91.17

P.L. 94-142 Educational Amendments of 1972, Title IX
Canton City School District