

PRESCHOOL

The Stepping Stone to School Readiness

Choosing a preschool can be a daunting task. Experts agree that attending a high-quality preschool program prepares children for kindergarten. Figuring out the type of preschool that best fits your child is the first step.

With so many different preschool options available, call the program and ask about staffing, curriculum, admission policy, and fees. Find out if the preschool has an open house, then plan a visit to get to know the staff.

Preschool is an important stepping stone; it builds a foundation that children need for success in school.



COMMON TYPES OF PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS IN KANSAS

Academic Programs (School District Based)

The academic preschool focuses on teaching children basic skills, such as math and reading. While there is time for play, it is done in a more structured way. Academic preschools often utilize worksheets, flash cards and other learning tools to help children understand the lessons being presented.

Faith-Based Programs

There are many different types of faith-based preschool programs, often housed in churches or religious centers. These programs focus primarily on the development of a strong moral foundation. The faith-based approach utilizes experiences from the child's own life to relate to religious concepts.

Head Start Programs

The Head Start program provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. The overall philosophy of the Head Start program is to bring about a greater degree of social competence in children of low-income families.

Montessori Programs

This play-based approach emphasizes nature, creativity, and hands-on learning with gentle guidance provided by the teachers. Children are encouraged to be independent and to engage in tasks that relate to real life.

Play-Based Programs

Play-based preschools are typically the most popular. The philosophy behind this type of preschool is that young children learn best through play-based activities. Most play-based programs offer structured activities, as well as non-structured play times. Teachers help to facilitate learning through play and interaction with other children.

Reggio Emilia Programs

This approach encourages exploration and focuses on the importance of community and self-expression. With this approach children are guided by an open-ended and child-led approach. They learn through art projects and activities that reflect their ideas and interests.

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Aware
OF KANSAS
www.ks.childcareaware.org
855-750-3343



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