



Early Childhood Programs

Inspire Learning. Unlock Potential. Empower Achievement.

HOW CHILDREN GROW AND LEARN

Children begin to learn as soon as they are born, and they keep learning every day. Although children develop at different rates, every part of development is important and contributes to learning. All areas of development are connected and influence children's success in school and life.

Birth date or chronological age is no guarantee of readiness for school. Your child's physical, social, and emotional developments are key pieces in determining school readiness and success.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

The Linn-Mar Community School District offers programs for three, four and five year old children. The number of sections, the location sites, and daily schedules for these programs will be determined by the district after schools have collected the data needed for making these decisions.



Three Year Olds

Children will have the opportunity to participate in a year of half-day, four day a week, school-based experience with a focus on social, emotional, behavioral growth while still supporting academics. This tuition-based program utilizes Creative Curriculum, which aligns with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. Three and four year olds will learn together in the same classroom.

Four Year Olds

Children will have the opportunity to participate in a year of half-day, four day a week, school-based experience with a focus on social, emotional, behavioral growth while still supporting academics. This program utilizes Creative Curriculum, which aligns with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. Four year old children will be served in a blended classroom with either three year olds or five year olds.

Five Year Olds

Five year olds may be served in one of two program models:



KINDERGARTEN

A full-day, every day standard kindergarten program is available in all buildings and follows the regular school day schedule for each building. Our district's grade level expectations describe concepts, knowledge and/or skills that will be instructed and regularly assessed. This includes: language arts, math, science, social studies, health, art, music and physical education.

EARLY CHILDHOOD BLENDED PROGRAM

Children not yet ready for our standard kindergarten program will be offered daily programming, for six hours per day. The first Wednesday of each month will be Professional Development time for staff and children will not attend. The morning will be devoted to a blended classroom that includes four year olds and will focus on social, emotional, and behavioral growth, while still supporting academics. The afternoon will have a literacy and math focus with only five year olds attending. Enrollment in this program will be determined by data collected from parents and through a screening process to help identify how we can best meet your child's needs. To help us with this process, parents are asked to fill out the Linn-Mar Kindergarten Information Sheet. Parents know their child best, therefore this information will be used, along with information gleaned during the screening process. The five main areas that will be considered include: social readiness (e.g. separates easily, follows directions), fine motor skills (e.g. cutting, prints name), gross motor skills (e.g. bounce ball, skip), pre-reading skills (e.g. letter identification, rhyming), and pre-math skills (e.g. number recognition, sorting). Please contact Celia McAfee (447-3015), at the Learning Resource Center, to set up an appointment. Screening dates are February 21st and March 4th at the Learning Resource Center.

Within all programming options, the developmental needs of the child will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure the current placement is appropriate for the child. Teacher and parent communication is important during the first several months of school so that the educational experience of the child is successful.