

AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Preschool Program

General Information

- In **2016-17**, the Avon Public Schools Preschool Program will be in its **20th** year of operation.
- Our Preschool Program serves students, ages 3 through 5, with and without disabilities. Preschoolers requiring special education services due to disabilities are eligible based on specific criteria established by the district in keeping with federal and state requirements. **Peer Model** students refer to those “typically developing” students who are included in the integrated classroom settings.
- The term “**integrated setting**” refers to an environment that blends children with and without disabilities for learning experiences and building social relationships. This is the model that the Preschool Program utilizes in order to follow **best practice** for providing preschool special education programming within the public school setting.
- The Preschool Program strives to maintain a **50/50 ratio or lower** of special education students to peer model students within each class, but that may vary throughout the course of the year. Students who are determined to be eligible for special education services may be recommended to join the program at any time during the school year, thereby increasing the class size and potentially altering the ratio. Class sizes typically range from 8-14 students throughout the course of the school year.
- **Three Year Olds** attend half-day sessions for three days per week – from 9:00 -11:30 a.m. or from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.
- **Four Year Olds** will attend school on a full-day basis. Both in-district and students enrolling in the Avon Public Schools through the CHOICE Program will be in attendance from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. – Monday through Friday.
- Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Preschool Program was located at Roaring Brook School, 30 Old Wheeler Lane in Avon.
- The Preschool Program staff is comprised of the following professionals: Special Education and Early Childhood Teachers; Speech and Language Pathologist; Occupational Therapist; Physical Therapist; and in-class Paraprofessional staff. Services from a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCABA) are also provided as mandated by student Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs).
- The Preschool Program follows the **CT Preschool Assessment Frameworks** and **CT Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS)** to guide its curriculum, into which other methodologies and strategies are woven in order to provide optimal learning experiences and kindergarten readiness for all students. The program also maintains a **developmentally-appropriate** philosophy that meets students where they are and sets goals to support the individual’s progress across cognitive, social, and motor domains.

- The program uses a **total language approach** which incorporates verbal language, sign language, pictures/photographs and assistive technology (e.g. buttons, switches, etc...) to foster improved communication skills for **all** students.
- Children with disabilities may be eligible to attend our program as “**special education**” students if they have been evaluated, determined to be eligible for, and require special education services. Recommendations for placement in the program are made by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT).
- Dependent upon identified needs and IEP provisions, students requiring special education and “**related services**” may receive: Specialized instruction related to the establishment of pre-academic skills; speech therapy; occupational therapy; physical therapy, and/or positive behavioral supports. Sometimes these services are provided within the integrated classroom and, at other times, they are delivered within smaller settings.
- Opportunities to participate in music, art, and gross-motor activities will be woven into the school day. Adult staff members shall participate in these activities in order to elicit and support students’ full participation and active learning.
- Preschool classes will use the **school playground and blacktop areas** for outdoor play (recess).
- While our program does not rely upon parents to serve as volunteers in the classrooms, various opportunities are provided for parents to come in and/or contribute to their child’s classroom within some capacity.
- The Preschool Program follows the **Avon Public Schools calendar**.
- **Parent-school communication** is key to student success and is provided by way of daily report sheets and monthly curriculum packets. These ensure that families are kept informed about general daily news, learning themes, curricular goals and important school-related information. Telephone and email contact is also utilized to share specific communication about your child, as needed.
- **Parent-Teacher conferences** are held twice yearly in order to discuss observations and progress. Written documents (reports, checklists, etc...) will also be provided at those times.
- Annual **tuition rates for peer model students** are set by the Avon Public Schools. Parents are informed of the cost at the time of registration.
- The Avon Board of Education business office handles the financial aspects of the Preschool Program and is available to answer any questions parents may have about tuition payments.

Tuition fees for the 2016-2017 school year have been established as follows:

3’s - \$1,610/year (3 half days per week)

4’s - \$3,610/year (5 full days per week)