

Philosophy & Curriculum

The Preschool for All Program is based on an educational philosophy that encourages learning through guided play. Our classroom environments are rich with activities that challenge students in a developmentally appropriate way in order to help them learn and grow.

Teachers use **Creative Curriculum** as the framework for environment and instruction. Creative Curriculum is aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Standards for 3 and 4 year olds, developed by the State Board of Education. In addition, like other grade levels in Dixon Public Schools, our classrooms use the social emotional curriculum **2nd Step** to help students learn how to manage emotions and to cooperate with others.

When enrolled in our program, children will exercise all of their capabilities: large and fine motor skills, problem solving, academic pre-readiness, and social-emotional skill building. When all of these components of our program come together, it allows for children to develop a strong foundation for success in not only their school



Mission Statement

Preschool for All Program's mission is to collaborate, cooperate, and communicate with parents, community resources, and staff members to create a safe and caring environment in which all students learn.

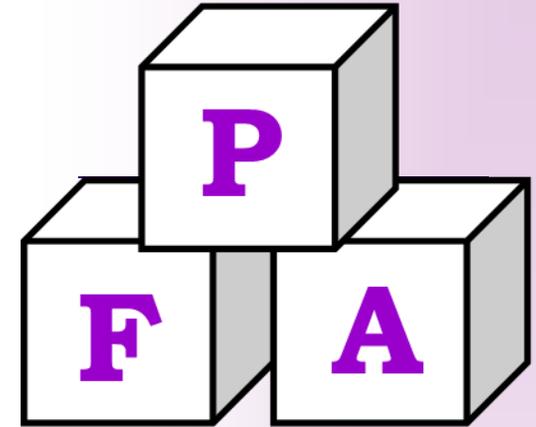
Days & Times

- Classes are Monday through Friday.
- The morning session is from 8:00-10:30
- The afternoon session is from 12:00-2:30

Preschool for All Program Dixon
Public Schools District 170

Washington School
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Dixon, IL 61021
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PRESCHOOL FOR ALL
DPS 170

*Preschool for All Program
is funded through the state
of Illinois and services
through the Dixon Public
School District 170*



DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Staff Qualifications

All teachers hold a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education as well as a current teaching license. All assistants hold a current paraprofessional certificate. Both are required to participate in ongoing professional development.

There is one teacher and one aide in each classroom, with 20 students enrolled in each section. There are currently two PFA classrooms, each of them having a morning and an afternoon session. Thus our program serves a total of 80 children.

State Recognized Quality

Our PFA Program has been awarded the **Gold Circle of Quality** through the state of Illinois' assessment program ExceleRate. ExceleRate Illinois is a statewide quality recognition and improvement system designed to make continuous quality improvement an everyday priority among early learning providers. Gold Circle programs have met the highest quality standards in three areas: learning environment and teaching quality; administrative standards; and training & education. Programs are actively engaged in continuous quality improvement. We are proud to have achieved this high level of rating, and we strive to maintain this quality every day and every school year.



Cost, Eligibility & Transportation

COST

Preschool for All Program is grant funded through the Illinois State Board of Education so there is no cost to the family. In return, parents are expected to be actively involved with their child's education and to volunteer in the classroom.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to comply with the requirements of the grant, PFA Program enrollment is made up of children determined to be at risk. Risk factors are determined by using a formal screening process and parent interview. Examples of risk factors can be, but not limited to: family income, English as a second language, single parent home, small amount of social or academic experiences, etc. Priority is given to children entering kindergarten the following year. All 3-4 year olds are eligible, the children who are not enrolled will be put on a waitlist and called if and when a spot opens up.

TRANSPORTATION

PFA Program does not provide transportation for students; it is the responsibility of the parents to get the children to and from the classroom every day.



PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

The Parent Resource Center is open to all parents of PFA students. The center is located in the PFA Coordinator's office. There are toys, games, parenting books and other resources available to assist all parents with family and parenting needs.

Home Visits & Conferences

One home visit is completed with each family. This usually occurs at the beginning of the year. This provides the child an opportunity to meet the teacher in his/her own environment. It also provides an opportunity for the parents and the teacher to discuss the child's needs, fears, habits, etc. Additional home visits are available upon request from either the teacher or the parent. In addition, parent teacher conferences are held in the fall and spring.



DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

Each student in the PFA Program completes a developmental screening called the DIAL. It is comprised of three main areas: motor, concepts, and language. There is also a parent questionnaire to screen for social-emotional & self help skills. The screenings are done throughout the school year. Call Monica @815-285-8722 to make an appointment.

SUPPORT STAFF

Also, there are multiple support staff at Washington School including a school nurse. In addition, there are specialists such as speech/language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, social workers, and others should your child need any services.