

RAYMONDVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION



2019 - 2020 PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Raymondville Independent School District Prekindergarten Program provides parents of preschool age children, who are educationally disadvantaged and residing within the boundaries of Raymondville ISD, with an alternative setting to day-care for quality, full day instruction in a school setting.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Prekindergarten Program is to provide high-quality preschool instruction, delivered by highly-qualified, State certified Early Childhood teachers, to preschool children who do meet the federal and/or state qualification guidelines in order to qualify for the current prekindergarten program.

The Prekindergarten Program is available to children in the Raymondville ISD attendance zones who will be three (3) or four (4) years of age **on** or **before** September 1 of the current school year. Children must be toilet trained and must not display any consistent disruptive behaviors that would interfere with the classroom instruction.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PHILOSOPHY

Preschool age children learn best through play and developmentally appropriate, multi-sensory activities which are intentionally and purposefully planned. By providing a literacy-rich, safe learning environment, enriched with positive interactions, the students freely interact with peers and teachers as they develop and enrich their language, expand their social /self-help skills, emotional intelligence, and pre-reading and cognitive skills.

CURRICULUM

The prekindergarten program is child centered and focuses on the implementation of the research-based ***Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines*** through a variety of research-based curricula adopted through Raymondville ISD. The differentiated, multi-sensory instruction is used to introduce concepts in a culturally responsive manner. Small and large group activities are designed to promote growth and increase participation in all areas of early childhood development. The activities are developed and cooperatively implemented by both the prekindergarten teacher and the classroom educational paraprofessional. Curriculum resource adoptions may be enhanced from year to year.

Big Day for PreK is a proven-effective comprehensive early learning program that embraces children's natural curiosity and encourages them to explore and connect to the world around them.

Big Day for PreK includes five BIG elements of success:

1. **Big Experiences:** each day is organized around three big experiences—whole group, circle time and story time lessons—that provide an anchor for conversation, play and learning.
2. **Meaningful Conversations:** oral language is at the heart of Big Day instruction and the program provides opportunities for children to hear language modeled and use language in rich and varied contexts.
3. **The Best Children's Literature and Nonfiction Texts:** the program surrounds children with a diverse collection of authentic literature and nonfiction: big books, lap books, little books, eBooks, video storybooks, audiobooks, take-home books, and downloadable books.
4. **Innovative Technology:** the program features a robust collection of online preschool resources and tools that support teachers and extend early learning into the home and community. Teacher Space supports the teacher by providing anytime, anywhere access to innovative resources that simplify planning and managing the PreK classroom. BookFlix is an online literacy resource that pairs video storybooks with nonfiction eBooks in English and Spanish. Family Space is a bilingual website that enables families to extend early learning at home.
5. The program offers integration of all curriculum areas to meet state standards.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for enrollment, a child **must**:

- be three (3) years or four (4) years of age by September 1 of the current school year of enrollment
- have met the eligibility criteria as set forth by the state
- be toilet trained
 - A conference between the teacher and parents of a child that continues to have excessive accidents during the first 6 weeks of school will be scheduled, continued incontinence may lead to dismissal in the Prekindergarten program
- designate a parent or another adult that can sign their children out each day
- not display any consistent disruptive behaviors or excessive self-help needs, such as incontinence issues, that would interfere with the classroom rules and procedures
- be able to function in the program within the preschool teacher-child ratio
- adhere to the rules and regulations set forth In the RISD Student Code of Conduct

Parents must be aware and keep in mind **that** in the event that troublesome behaviors persist, the campus administration has specific guidelines they must follow in order to determine if the prekindergarten program is the most appropriate setting for the child.

DISCIPLINE/ BEHAVIOR

Good behavior on the part of each prekindergarten child is essential. The student's behavior contributes to the safety, health and well-being and academic success of the child and that of others in the classroom.

The Prekindergarten Program will adhere to the District's Code of Conduct and will follow the District's discipline policy with respect to defining and categorizing infractions. In addition, the student must adhere to the campus' defined P.B.I.S. discipline policies on direct behavior expectations during the instructional day under the campus administrator's guidance.

Students who are unable to follow District school rules will be disciplined in accordance with the severity of the offense and the options available to the campus administration during the instructional day and in the after school setting, up to and including dismissal from the Program. Parents will be notified of any discipline issues with their children by the appropriate staff and will be advised of consequences that may result if the behavior recurs. The campus Principal may recommend dismissal as an appropriate course of disciplinary action.

ATTENDANCE CALENDAR

All Prekindergarten Program students enrolled will follow the Board approved Raymondville ISD's school calendar adopted for the current school year and will be subject to the established, Board approved attendance guidelines. Attendance and instruction begin on the first day of school designated by Raymondville ISD whereby all teachers are required to report to work. **Parent will need to make arrangements for their child.**

- The instructional day begins at 8:00 am and ends at 11:30 am for PK 3 Morning students.
- The instructional day begins at 12:00 pm and ends at 3:35 pm for PK 3 Afternoon students.
- The instructional day begins at 8:00 am and ends at 3:35 pm. for PK 4 students.
- The established hours will be strictly followed.
- In the event of an "Inclement Weather Day", the prekindergarten classroom will follow the established RISD campus start time.

- Parents are strongly encouraged to have their child at school by 7:30 am each day in order to participate in the Universal Feeding Program. Keep in mind that, children who consistently show up late every day are missing out on valuable instructional time. Children who are consistently being picked up late, depending on their age, go through feelings of abandonment and may resist coming to school the following day. Once again, the dismissal time is contingent upon enrollment in a campus with regular dismissal time of 3:35 p.m. PK 3 student dismissal times are as follows: Morning session at 12:00 pm and Afternoon session at 3:35 pm.
- Chronic absenteeism may lead to dismissal based on attendance committee review

PARENT VISIT TO THE PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM

During the instructional school day, parents are required to follow campus safety procedures regarding checking into the school through the front office. Parents are asked to honor the prekindergarten classroom routines and to visit the prekindergarten classroom respectfully and not excessively. The Principal reserves the right to limit visits, if visits become too frequent during instructional time.

During or after school hours, parents are highly encouraged to schedule a parent conference with the classroom teacher. A scheduled conference will avoid loss of instructional time, and will not interrupt or interfere with the teachers' morning or dismissal duties.

Parents whose child participates in the Prekindergarten Program are always invited to participate in programs and events that are held at the campus sites. Each site will periodically host special events. Parents will be notified of these events at each site on the campus marquee, classroom communication board, through email messages, fliers, and the School Messenger System. In the event a parent wants to participate or observe the event, it is essential that she/he check in with the staff and follow all RISD and campus regulations on visitors to the classroom. This will require a photo ID and the wearing of a name badge as necessary. The individual visiting must be authorized as a person eligible to pick up the child on the registration document.

While visitors are always welcome, the security of all children is of the utmost importance in operations. Therefore, we ascertain that it is the responsibility of the RISD campus staff to manage student behavior. The visiting parent/guardian is not allowed to discipline or manage the children that are not his/her own.

TRANSPORTATION

The district provides bus transportation for eligible students before and after school. Parents may also drop off and pick up their children in their own vehicles.

SIBLINGS

Only children participating/enrolled in the Prekindergarten Program are allowed into the classroom. Siblings **may not** come into the classroom unless accompanied by a parent at any time, including *before* and *after* school and on professional development and teacher work days.