



"Our task is to help children become highly sensitive to the world about them... Give them freedom...Let them try... Let them fail... Let them succeed... Encourage them...Rejoice with them!!!

I Can Make A Rainbow
Marjorie Frank

Dear Parents:

Thank you for your interest in the Northwest High School Early Child Development Preschool Laboratory Program (Preschool Lab Program). This unique program provides a quality education for 4-year-old children and high school students/teachers who are eager to work and learn together.

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Early Child Development Laboratory Program is designed to support the competencies of the curriculum provided for high school students enrolled in the Early Child Development Program of Study. Under professional supervision, the high school students plan and lead developmentally appropriate activities for preschool children in preparation for postsecondary education and future careers as teachers, childcare providers, and other related professions.

The Northwest Lab School Application Procedures

1. Children participating in our program will be selected according to the criteria stated in the MCPS Early Child Development Laboratory Policies and Procedures. Please read the forms carefully.
2. Children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2023 are eligible to participate in the Preschool Lab program during the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Children are selected on a first come first serve basis. Attention given to having an equal amount of males and females, as well as serving our cluster area and those living in a cluster without a Child Development Program in their High Schools
5. Please complete the attached application and forward the application along with a \$100.00 non-refundable deposit to: (Checks should be made payable to Northwest High School)
Northwest High School
Attn: Priya Bhalla and Jennifer Fischer
Address: 13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown MD 20874
Email address: Priya_Bhalla@mcpsmd.org

Applications may be mailed to the school or emailed to the Child Development teacher. If emailed, the Child Development teacher needs to receive the \$100.00 deposit within one week to keep the child's spot on the list. Emailed applications with no deposit will receive an email reminder. If no deposit is received within one week, the spot will be open to another child.

6. You are invited to visit the Early Child development Preschool Lab Program. Visitation will run from the last week in February through the first week of May. Please email the Child Development teacher to make arrangements. We can also send you a handbook for the current school year so families can anticipate what to expect.

7. The preschool program runs from mid-October through mid-May. The anticipated time for the Northwest preschool program is Monday through Thursday, 7:50am - 11:10am. The cost is \$300 per semester/\$600 a year (\$75/class period)

8. The final time and cost of the program will be determined in April/May when the high school schedule is finalized. Applicants to the Early Child Development Preschool Lab Program will then be notified about enrollment information and procedures. If you submit an application and deposit, and are unable to attend due to a change in the scheduled time of the program, your deposit will be returned to you. You must let us know by June 1, 2023.

Sincerely,
Priya Bhalla
Child Development Teacher
Priya_Bhalla@mcpsmd.org



Montgomery County Public Schools Early Child Development Preschool Laboratory Program Procedures

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Early Child Development Laboratory Program is designed to support the competencies of the curriculum provided for high school students enrolled in the Early Child Development Program of Study. Under professional supervision, the high school students plan and lead developmentally appropriate activities for preschool children in preparation for postsecondary education and future careers as teachers, childcare providers, and other related professions.

Most Early Child Development Laboratory programs operate four days a week, from October through May. The majority of high schools that offer the program provide either a morning or afternoon session for the preschool children. A few schools have two daily sessions. The high school students enrolled in the Early Child Development classes receive in-depth training in September, followed by weekly seminar classes.

Early Child Development teachers administer each high school's program. Applications, enrollment information, and program details are available from the teachers. The teachers are available to provide information September 1 through June 15. Arrangements to visit programs should be made with the Early Child Development teacher.

The following countywide procedures are in effect for the Early Child Development Laboratory Program:

1. The program's curriculum is appropriate for the year before a child enters kindergarten. **Children must be toilet trained.** The Maryland Mandatory Kindergarten Law includes specific guidelines for dates of kindergarten enrollment for students with fifth birthdays. Please refer to the information at the bottom of this letter for the start dates.
2. Since many different high school students will be teaching the preschoolers, **the program is designed for the pre-kindergarten child who can cope with daily changes and flexible scheduling.** Special education services are not provided through this program, however, children with special needs are accepted, and greatly enrich our program. Parents of preschoolers who may have special needs should call MCPS Child Find, 240-740-2170, for a free preschool screening clinic and to determine the most suitable program and services for their child.
3. Applications for preschoolers are accepted on an annual basis. A list of participating children is kept by the Early Child Development teacher. Children may not attend one Early Child Development Laboratory program in the morning and another in the afternoon. This will help to ensure that the program serves as many Montgomery County children as possible. Applications will be marked with the date they are returned to the Early Child Development teacher.
4. First time applicants will take priority over returning student applications until October when the Early Child Development Laboratory Program opens for the preschoolers. Occasionally, a vacancy will occur during the school year. The Early Child Development teacher will maintain a wait list.
5. Applications will be marked with the date they are returned to the Early Child Development teacher. The completed [Early Child Development School Application](#) and associated forms must be returned to the Early Child Development teacher.
6. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit will be charged. The deposit will be applied to the tuition for the first semester.
7. To cover the costs of snacks, instructional materials, and supplies, there will be a tuition fee of \$300 per semester or \$600 per year. The tuition may vary from school to school depending upon the number of high school class periods in the preschool laboratory program session. Tuition is to be paid at the beginning of each semester. Alternative payment arrangements should be discussed with

the Early Child Development teacher. Balances due must be paid by the date that is agreed upon by the parent and the Early Child Development teacher.

8. Early Child Development teachers and their high school students **will not** provide parents or school staff members any documentation, verbal or written, of the preschooler's Kindergarten readiness.

UPON ACCEPTANCE:

9. Once a parent is notified of his/her preschooler's acceptance into the program, enrollment must take place within 30 days to ensure that a place will be held.
10. Children are expected to attend the complete Early Child Development Laboratory Program session from October through May.
11. Per the Early Child Development Application, if your child is accepted, you will be required to complete the following MCPS enrollment forms:
 - [Maryland Schools Record of Physical Examination](#)
 - [Immunizations](#): This document must be completed by a physician, and returned to the high school Early Child Development teacher, before the first day of the Early Childhood Development laboratory. Required immunizations include: 4 doses of DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus), 3 doses of polio, and 3 doses of Hepatitis B; required on or after the child's first birthday are 1 dose of varicella* (chicken pox), 1 dose of rubella, 1 dose of measles, 1 dose of mumps, 1 dose of HIB (haemophilus influenza type b) and Prevnar (PCV) vaccine. Preschool children who turn five while in the program will be required to have a second MMR by their fifth birthday to remain in immunization compliance. *Physician documented history of chickenpox disease is acceptable in lieu of vaccine history. Freedom from tuberculosis, documented by a negative skin test or chest x-ray is recommended for children entering our county from any country outside of the United States, or for those children who have been out of the country for a year or more. All health forms and certificates will be treated with confidentiality and will only be shared with the school community health nurse, school security staff, and/or a school administrator if deemed necessary.
12. A child displaying symptoms of potential illness (such as runny nose, red eyes, rash, sore throat, fever, etc.) should be kept at home. These are often initial symptoms of contagious diseases. If a child becomes ill during the school day, his/her parents will be called and asked to make provisions for picking up the child as soon as possible. If a child has been exposed to a disease, which is communicable in a school setting, the Early Child Development teacher must be notified at once, and the child should remain at home until all danger of contagion has passed.
13. Parents must provide reliable and consistent transportation, bring their child to the Early Child Development Laboratory Program sessions on time, and pick their child up from the sessions on time, or we may ask that the child be withdrawn from the program.

General questions about the Early Child Development program should be directed to the high school Early Child Development teacher at Northwest High School or the MCPS College Career Readiness and Districtwide Programs Instructional Specialist Andrea Buckley at andrea_s_baick@mcpsmd.org.

Kindergarten Start Dates

2023 - 2024 Child must be 5 years old by September 1

Preschool Start Dates

2023 - 2024 Child must be 4 years old by September 1

Office Use Only
Date of Application: _____
Deposit: _____

Child Development Lab School Application

Child's Name _____
Last First Middle

Prefers To Be Called _____ Gender _____

Birth Date _____ Age on September 1st 2023: _____ years, _____ months

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone _____

Elementary School Child Will Attend _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Occupation _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Occupation _____

The Child Lives With (both parents, Mom, Dad, etc.) _____

Siblings (names and ages in October 2023)

Ethnic or Cultural Background _____

Holidays Celebrated _____

Language

Primary Language Spoken _____

Other Language(s) Spoken _____

Previous School Experiences _____

Special Health Problems _____

Food Restrictions _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

What makes your child happy and what does him or her like?

Sad/Dislike?

Describe the student's special interests and what he or she does well.

Is there any additional Information that you feel would be helpful?

Signature _____ **Date** _____