Hoboken Public Schools
Early Childhood Education

Preschool Information Session for 2020-2021

Mile Square Early Learning Center

HOBOKEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
ESTABLISHED 1850

HOPES

What does it mean to be a former-Abbott district?

As a former-Abbott district, Hoboken receives funding from the State of New Jersey to provide age-eligible 3 and 4-year olds with a full-day of high quality preschool programming (N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-2.1)

2012 - 2013 School Year:

38 Preschool Classrooms

2019 - 2020 School Year:

66 Preschool Classrooms

Classroom Requirements & Support Staff

Each classroom has:

- ➔ One P-3 (Preschool-3rd grade) certified teacher
- ➔ 1 Teacher Assistant / Paraprofessional
- ➔ Maximum of 15 students

And is supported by:

- ➔ Master Teachers

  Master Teachers coach other teachers on the development of pedagogy and practice to affect student outcomes.

- ➔ Preschool Intervention & Referral Team (PIRT)

  PIRT members coach teachers on the development of social-emotional practice to affect student outcomes.

Additional Support Staff Include

- Supervisor of Early Childhood Learning
- Program Directors
- Family Advocates
- Community and Parent Involvement Specialist
- School Nurses

Program Operating Hours

8:30 am - 2:30 pm.

- The Hoboken Early Childhood Program is a full-time, 6 hour-per-day program (as mandated by the NJDOE-DECE).

- The program follows the district calendar as much as possible, and operates when the public schools do.

  –This includes snow days

Before- & After- School Care

- Before and after school care is offered at all preschool locations.
- Once your child is assigned a classroom the provider will contact you, during the summer, to fill out the paperwork and set up the care that you need.
- There may be a fee depending upon your income level and amount of time you wish your child to participate. (Please inquire with the provider for the 2020-2021 school year fee).
- Childcare is **not** offered during the weeks that school is not in session.

Attendance Counts and Matters!

Students are expected to attend school daily, unless they are ill.

It is recommended that a doctor's note accompany their return if applicable.

- NJDOE defines Chronic Absenteeism as being absent 10% of the total expected days of school. This equals 18 days and amounts to 108 hours of instruction lost.
- **If a child is absent for 10 consecutive school days or has 36 absences your child will be removed from the program's enrollment.**
- As your child nears certain milestones you will receive notices to discuss attendance from the preschool leadership.
- Lack of attendance will jeopardize your ability to participate in our program.

Vacations:

Please be cognizant of school calendar when planning vacations. These will be logged as absences and will be reflected on the students and school record. **This will be an unexcused absence.**

Meals

- All programs accommodate for allergies and/or food restrictions due to health or religious reasons.
- We try to maintain a **nut-aware** environment in all buildings.

Mile Square Early Learning Center and ECLC at Calabro

- Students have the option of bringing home lunch or ordering school lunch
- The Mile Square program at the **Rue Site** does not allow outside food.

HOPES CAP, Inc.

- Does not allow any outside food.
- Meals are provided to all students.

The meals offered vary by provider and building.

Program Curriculum: Tools of the Mind

Research-based program

One of the four approved curricula recommended by the NJDOE-DECE

Differentiated instruction model allows teachers to provide challenges and/or support where needed to ensure classroom success for students of all learning abilities.

Central Focus:

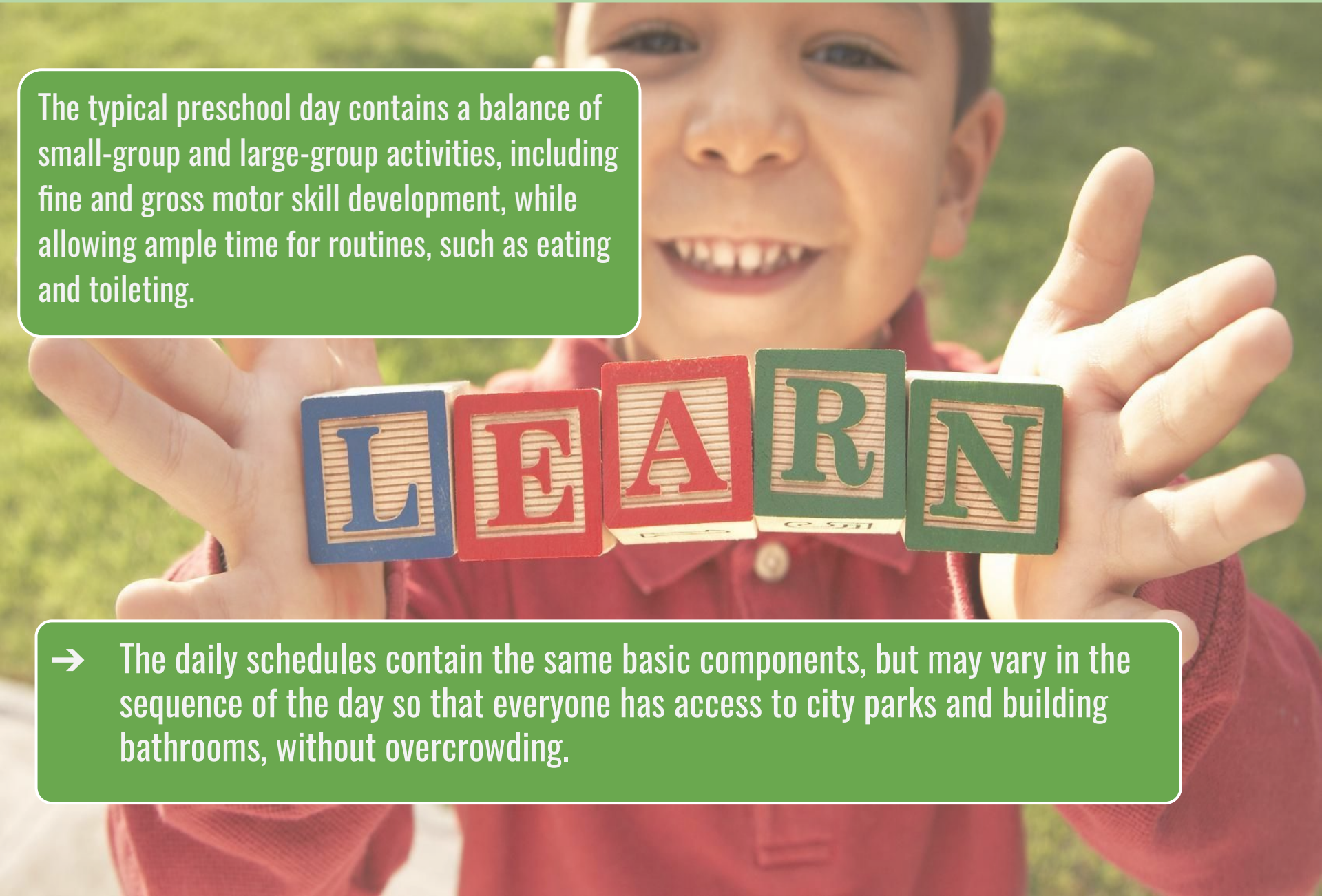
The development of cognition and social-emotional self-regulation.

Curriculum Goal:

To help students acquire a set of mental tools that foster school readiness and enhance academic success by using small-group instruction to promote:

- ➔ Self-regulation
- ➔ Focused attention
- ➔ Deliberate memory
- ➔ Symbolic thinking
- ➔ Early literacy
- ➔ Early numeracy

What does a typical day look like?



The typical preschool day contains a balance of small-group and large-group activities, including fine and gross motor skill development, while allowing ample time for routines, such as eating and toileting.

➔ The daily schedules contain the same basic components, but may vary in the sequence of the day so that everyone has access to city parks and building bathrooms, without overcrowding.

Sample Daily Schedule

Morning

8:30	Arrival/Free Choice Play
8:45	Opening Group
9:00	AM Snack/ Breakfast
9:30	Play Planning & Make Believe Play
10:30	Gross Motor (outdoor play)
11:30	Small Group Math/Science
11:45	Large Group Read Aloud
12:00	Lunch

Afternoon

12:30	Chapter Book Read Aloud/ Rest Time
1:30	Free Choice Play
2:15	Small Group Literacy
2:30	Dismissal

Monitoring Program Quality

Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-3rd Edition (ECERS-3)

- Comprehensively measures classroom quality in the following areas:
  - Space and Furnishing
  - Personal Care Routines
  - Language and Literacy
  - Learning Activities
  - Interactions
  - Program Structure
- Used by Master Teachers to help teacher identify potential areas of improvement
  - This information is used in the planning of future Professional Development and coaching for all teachers.

Screenings and Assessments

Early Screening Inventory - Revised

- Children are screened with the ESI-R upon entering the program and by the classroom teacher.
- This screening gauges several developmental domains and assists in identifying children in need of additional assistance.

Teaching Strategies - GOLD

- We utilize Teaching Strategies-GOLD in assessing, via the collection of anecdotal evidence, for 38 research-based objectives which include predictors of school success.

How are parents informed of their child's progress?

- Screening information is shared with parents at **Parent/Teacher Conferences**, held 3 times per year.
- Parents may ask their child's teacher for information regarding the child's performance in the classroom at any time.
- As part of our effort to promote the home-school connection, 4 out of 5 Play Plans are sent home at the end of the week.

Do the students go outside?

It is very important for children at this age to be physically active and to develop their gross motor skills.

In accordance with the *Early Childhood Licensing* requirements, children go outside daily, unless there is active precipitation, extreme cold or extreme heat.

In the event the children do not get the opportunity to go outside, the teachers will conduct gross motor activities in the building's gym (if accessible), or in the classroom.

How can parents be involved in the program?

Parents are highly encouraged to volunteer in their child's preschool classroom, or participate in special activities like reading a story, sharing their culture, or arts & craft activities.

Parents can also serve on the Hoboken Early Childhood Advisory Council (HECAC) and/or site parent groups.

Parent workshops are provided throughout the school year.

Program Application Requirements

In order to apply for the Hoboken Early Childhood Education Program for the 2020-2021 school year:

- You must be a resident of Hoboken.
- Your child must turn three or four years old on or before September 30, 2020.

Preschool Registration

Preschool Registration will take place during the third week in April. This date is correlated to the timing of the district's receipt of the Award Letter, which shares the number of approved seats for the program.

Monday, April 20, 2020	8:30 am- 2:30 pm
Tuesday, April 21, 2020	8:30 am- 2:30 pm
Wednesday, April 22, 2020*	8:30 am- 2:30 pm
	5:00 pm- 7:30 pm
Thursday, April 23, 2020	8:30 am- 2:30 pm
Friday, April 24, 2020	8:30 am- 2:30 pm

April 20-24, 2020
David E. Rue School
Gymnasium
301 Garden Street, Hoboken,
NJ 07030

* Please note, there will be two registration sessions held on Wednesday April 22nd.

Preschool Registration

Eligibility Requirements

- ➔ **Applicants must reside in Hoboken.**
- ➔ Each applicant's proof of residency will be checked by a Board of Education **residency verification officer**.
- ➔ Child must turn 3 or 4 years old by September 30, 2020.

Documentation Requirements

- 1 copy of current lease, deed, mortgage statement.
- 1 copy of current cable, phone, PSEG bill, bank, tax bill or credit card statement.
- Copy of your child's immunization records **AND** updated physical
- Copy of your child's birth certificate or passport *(foreign copy must be translated in English)*
- Photo identification of parent/guardian

Priority Placement

Priority Placement will be given to:

- Children with special needs as confirmed by the Office of Special Services and student's IEP. (State regulation)

- Children who are **Head Start Eligible** or considered **Homeless.** (State regulation)

- Children with siblings already enrolled in the Hoboken Public School District in **grades 1-12** for school year 2020-2021. **Please note charter schools are not part of the Hoboken Public School District. They are independent schools.** (District accommodation)

Preschool seats will be filled through the tri-pronged priority process, followed by a random lottery selection, and are based on the number of projected/approved seats shared with NJDOE-DECE

Frequently Asked Questions

- Do preschool students currently enrolled in the program need to register?

No, students already enrolled do NOT need to register again. A transition survey will be distributed to gather data regarding rising PK4 students. If you respond 'yes,' your child will be automatically rolled over to the next grade.

- When will I find out where my child was placed?

Placement letters will be mailed during the early part of June. You will receive an invitation to tour your assigned location at that time. Family advocates will reach out to families over the summer months to arrange an intake interview. Lastly, prior to the beginning of school in late August/early September there will be a Meet and Greet.

Frequently Asked Questions

- What happens if my child does not get placed right away?

If the number of preschool applicants exceed the amount of available Pre-K seats then a lottery will occur.

Children who do not meet any of the Priority Placement criteria will participate in the lottery. Students not drawn for a spot will be placed on a pending placement list in the order their name was drawn. If a spot opens up in any classroom, the next student on the pending placement list will be called and offered a seat in the location with the vacancy. Families on the pending placement list have three (3) business days to reply after receiving notification of an available spot.

All families will be notified by mail in early June. The preschool lottery will be held in May 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Does the Hoboken Preschool Program encourage Mixed-Aged Classrooms?

If we find that there are available seats in Pre-K classrooms then we will begin to place students using the Mixed-Aged Classroom Model. This model will take into account the date of birth of the four year olds in relationship to those of the incoming three year olds. The Mixed-Aged Classroom Model is an approved and highly encouraged by NJDOE-DECE.

In alignment with NJDOE-DECE regulations we are only responsible for offering a seat in one of our locations. We cannot accomodate special request or consider transfers requests.

Current Preschool Locations

Joseph F. Brandt School
215 9th Street

David E. Rue School
301 Garden St.

Thomas G. Connors School
201 Monroe St.

Wallace School
1100 Willow Ave.

A.J. Demarest School
158 4th Street

St. Francis/ECE
310 Jefferson St.

Early Childhood Learning Center
at Calabro
524 Park Avenue

Preschool placement in any of the above locations, does not dictate Kindergarten placement.

For Additional Information

Mrs Lauren Eakin, *Supervisor of Early Childhood Education*
201-356-3695 leakin@hoboken.k12.nj.us

Ms. Nory Rojas, *Community & Parent Involvement Specialist*
201-356-3698 nrojas@hoboken.k12.nj.us

Ms. Judy Barmak, *Executive Director, Mile Square Early Learning*
201-659-0779 jbbarmak@mselc1979.org

Mrs. Joselyn Estevez-Vargas, *Vice President of Early Childhood Programs, HOPES*
201-795-3432 ext 1111 jestevez@hopes.org