



ROCKWALL ISD EARLY CHILDHOOD PREKINDERGARTEN INFORMATION 2024-2025

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT
[ROCKWALLISD.COM/EARLYCHILDHOOD](https://rockwallisd.com/earlychildhood)**

RISD's Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Programs Enrollment Criteria

To be eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class, a child must be four years of age as of September 1 of the current school year and meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements: **Students that are 5 years of age as of September 1 may enroll in kindergarten.*

- Is not proficient in the English language; or
- Is educationally disadvantaged (which means a student is eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program; or
- Is homeless; or
- Is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or
- Is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
- Is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (foster care) following an adversary hearing; or
- Is the child of a person eligible for the Star of Texas Award as: a peace officer; a firefighter; or an emergency medical first responder.

Enrollment Opens March 28, 2024 on [Rockwallisd.com/EarlyChildhood](https://rockwallisd.com/EarlyChildhood) website. You will provide qualifying documentation when you enroll.

Tuition Pre-kindergarten - Registration opens Jan. 31, 2024

Tuition Pre-kindergarten is available for students that do not meet any of the above criteria. The cost is \$6,200 per year, which can be divided by 10 months (August-May) at \$620 per month. Registration link www.Rockwallisd.com/EarlyChildhood

Tuition Pre-K: 3 step process to enroll.

Step 1: Jan. 31, 2024- Pay \$150 Registration Fee

Step 2: March 28, 2024 Complete New Student Online Enrollment

Step 3: May 17, 2024 Submit all enrollment documents online or at campus to finalize enrollment.

Early Head Start - Contact Office about Enrollment

Early Head Start - Early Head Start serves pregnant women and children birth to age three as well as pregnant and parenting teens. Eligibility criteria Early Head Start includes:

- Family income within the federal poverty guidelines
- Families who are homeless
- Children in foster care
- Children with disabilities
- Recipients of public assistance: TANF or SSI
- Live within the attendance boundaries of Rockwall ISD

Apply on-line at: headstart.region10.org

For further information contact: Michelle Deleon, Site Facilitator 972-772-5790 or michelle.deleon@region10.org

Early Childhood Special Education - Enrollment is on-going

Early Childhood Special Education - To be eligible for enrollment in an Early Childhood Special Education program, a child must be three years of age, has been evaluated to meet criteria for specialized services. To learn more about RISD's Special Education see [video presentation](#).

[Texas PreK Outcomes](#) - This helps you see what a typical 3 and 4 year old should be able to do and learn.

If you have any concerns about your child please contact [RISD's Special Programs Department](#).

Bilingual/ESL Education

Rockwall ISD offers a one way dual language program at the elementary level. This program offers English Language Learners, who are native Spanish speakers, the opportunity to continue learning in their native language while acquiring English. This includes listening, speaking, reading, writing and content area skills in both languages. The program is based on a 50/50 model, in which 50% of the instruction is delivered in English and the other 50% is delivered in Spanish. The percentage of instruction in English and in Spanish may vary according to individual student performance. The program fosters a development of oral and cognitive academic language proficiency in English and Spanish while mastering grade level knowledge and skills in all content areas.

English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language (ESL) is a content-based intensive language instruction program. Instruction is offered in English only, for English Language Learners in Pre-kindergarten-12th grade, while integrating the use of second language acquisition methods. Depending on the language needs of the students, they are served in either a Pull-Out, Inclusion, Content-based, and/or Co-Teach model. The ESL program is offered at every campus in Rockwall ISD.

[Visit our website to learn more.](#)

Attendance Requirements

Pre-kindergarten is not mandatory. However, upon enrollment in prekindergarten, a child must attend school. All students are subject to compulsory school attendance rules while they are enrolled in school. If a child has not reached 6 years of age as of September 1 of the current school year, the child may be withdrawn from school without violating compulsory attendance rules.

Transportation

Students may ride the bus if they qualify and live in a zone that provides transportation. Tuition students may ride the bus only if they attend their home zoned campus. Visit our website to learn more. <https://www.rockwallisd.com/Page/251>

Locations 2024-2025

Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Locations Rockwall ISD for 2024-2025

- **Prekindergarten Locations:** visit www.Rockwallisd.com/Earlychildhood
- **Bilingual Prekindergarten** – Springer, Jones, Dobbs
- **Early Head Start** – Behind Utley Middle School (1197 T.L. Townsend Drive) 972-772-5790

PreK Curriculum

Pre-kindergarten implements a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that integrates instruction across developmental domains and early learning disciplines and is aligned to the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines. It is intentionally designed to engage students in a joyful approach to learning with high interest materials and activities and plenty of opportunities to laugh and play. Rockwall ISD pre-kindergarten curriculum includes thematic guides offering easy-to-follow lessons for whole group, small group, and center activities.

Sample PreK Schedule

| Schedule Component/Time | What is it? | Sample Activities |
|--|--|---|
| Breakfast – Doors open at 7:15 Meet and Greet – | Eating Breakfast Preparing for the day Fostering belonging | Attendance Puzzles, manipulatives Routines – washing hands, putting away backpack |
| Morning Circle 15 Minutes | Morning Message Alpha chant Events - Schedule Chores Chart Theme concepts Letter knowledge Oral Language Development | Songs Alpha Chants with Movement Counting words Poems Finger play Letter wall Sky Writing Introduce activities |
| Transition Time 2-4 Minute Intervals throughout the day | Movement is planned and purposeful with cognitive connections through the day | Songs with dance Games with gross motor Letter hunts Clapping Syllables |
| Literacy Circle & Small Groups 75 Minutes | Language development Intentional cognitive instruction as outlined in the curriculum Meeting individual needs Questioning strategies Read Aloud & Shared Reading | Letter sorting and identification Rhyming games Matching games Read aloud Acting out a story Making predictions Letter wall activities Vocabulary games |
| Writers Workshop 15 Minutes | Model writing Share writing Independent writing Independent drawing | Daily news Making a class book Create class anchor charts Sharing stories by writing and drawing Shared the pen Literature responses |
| Learning Centers 60 Minutes | Construction of knowledge Exploration and play Hands-on activities Promote independence and self-direction *can be self-selected or assigned with established routines | Conversations between peers and teacher Open-ended questions Writing Letter identification and writing Counting Vocabulary Rhyming words Comparing Reading books, poems, and environmental print |
| Read-Aloud/Snacks 15 Minutes | Interactive reading with focus on: Introductions, Comprehension/Strategies, & Vocabulary Strategies Oral language Print concepts Comprehension | using prior knowledge asking questions making predictions making connections comparing and contrasting making inferences read-aloud chart |
| Math Circle and Small Groups 60 Minutes | Numbers and operations Geometry and spatial | Number sense activities Patterns Sorting |

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|---|---|--|
| | reasoning Measurement comparisons Algebraic reasoning and patterns Displaying and analyzing data | Classifying Organizing Problem solving Reasoning |
| Lunch 30 Minutes | Students may purchase breakfast/lunch in the cafeteria or bring their own lunch. | Students will need to apply for Free or Reduced Breakfast/Lunch program online |
| Recess 40 Minutes | | |
| Science/Social Studies 30 Minutes (of which 15 minutes may be completed in center time) | Language development Vocabulary Problem solving | Language building strategies (label, describe, explain, Compare, link) Questioning Reading books Retelling stories Storytelling Songs & chants |
| Rest Time 50 Minutes (from start to finish, not the time they are asleep) | Students will bring their own blanket/nap sack to lay on Students do not have to go to sleep but will need to be still and quiet | Lights Dim Soft Music Help students with slow breathing and calming strategies |
| Closing Circle 25 Minutes | Daily reflection to solidify instruction Children discuss new information and reflect on the days learning Provides opportunity for teacher to assess each child's level of knowledge to prepare instruction for the following day | |
| Social Emotional Learning taught throughout the day | Social and emotional skills are directly taught and taught as needed helping student make friends, establish healthy routines, and get along with others | Social stories Role playing Identify feelings Self-Calming techniques |

Prekindergarten Learning Centers

Centers that focus on the practice of learning goals provide an intentional approach to instruction. They offer opportunities to individualize instruction, scaffold learning, encourage contextual use of language, and informally assess children's progress. Teachers are able to capitalize on unexpected opportunities to enhance understanding by responding to children's discoveries in a way that encourages the processing of new information. Centers provide a playful setting where children socially engage with both teacher and peers as they practice skills and reinforce new concepts.

Library Center Listening Center provides a wealth of books for children to browse and affords them the opportunity to listen independently to a story and to turn the pages of a book as the story progresses. Typically, these books change weekly and generally tie to themes or concepts being taught. Materials include tablets, headphones, magnetic story folder props, magnetic board, and books.

ABC Center encourages the naming and formation of uppercase and lowercase letters. Materials include magnetic letters, letter cards, pocket charts, play dough, puzzles, and chenille wires.

Pretend and Learn Center this center develops imagination and creativity and encourages children to practice social skills. It includes props such as dress-up clothing, puppets, mirrors, and kitchen furniture, to encourage children to play dramatically. This center can be transformed into a building supply store, grocery store, farmers market, or post office to fit the theme of the units being studied.

Technology Center helps children become familiar with the computers and tablets to develop concepts that are related to literacy, math, and science. Materials include computers, tablets, interactive software, and headphones.

Creativity Center offers opportunities for children to explore their creativity as well as develop fine motor control. Materials include easels, paints, crayons, markers, stencils, scissors, glue, paste, and collage materials. Three-dimensional activities offer opportunities for children to develop hand-eye coordination, spatial concepts, and creativity.

Writing Center children experiment with letters and writing materials. They may design a card or write a thank-you letter to a story character. Materials include magnetic letters, writing tools (markers, colored pencils, crayons), and interesting paper or cardstock.

Math/Science Center encourages children to explore patterning, one-to-one correspondence, and counting activities. Materials include counters, pattern blocks, connecting cubes, attribute buttons, pocket cube with dot cards, and stencils.

Why We Have Centers:

- Children learn by doing.
- Learning centers allow for multiple techniques and methods of exploration. All children can succeed – different levels of ability and experience can be easily accommodated.
- Learning centers provide opportunities for children to make choices. Choices allow individuals to match personal goals with instructional goals. Children develop the ability to make their own decisions.
- Learning centers support the social nature of a young child's world. Children interact with one another, learn from each other, and discuss their experiences.
- Cooperation and collaboration are practiced. Children develop and enrich their oral language and vocabulary development.
- Learning centers allow for differentiated instruction where teachers have the ability to match instruction to multiple intelligence profiles, learning styles, and developmental differences. Children apply what they have learned. They have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts, skills, and strategies learned in large and small groups.

Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides Prekindergarten Guidelines as a means to align prekindergarten programs with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines offer detailed descriptions of expected behaviors across multiple skill domains that should be observed in four- to five-year old children from the beginning to the end of their prekindergarten experience. These guidelines are organized into the following ten skills domains:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| I. Social/Emotional | II. Language & Communication |
| III. Emergent Reading | IV. Emergent Writing |
| V. Math | VI. Science |
| VII. Social Studies | VIII. Fine Arts |
| IX. Physical Development | X. Technology |

[Texas PreK Guidelines](#) - Updated in 2022

Conscious Discipline

Prekindergarten classrooms use Conscious Discipline, a classroom management and social emotional program that helps teachers create a learning environment where children will feel safe and cared for. From this foundation of safety and caring, children will begin learning how to solve conflicts, manage their emotions, and take responsibility for their actions. Conscious Discipline will help children transition from home to school each day.

Progress Monitoring

Rockwall ISD monitors student progress using the Texas Education Agency approved prekindergarten assessment instrument, CLI Engage Circle Progress Monitoring assessment. The Circle assessment is given three times a year, Wave 1 (Beginning of Year-BOY), Wave 2 (Middle of Year-MOY), and Wave 3 (End of Year-EOY). The Circle progress monitoring system is a tool that requires one-on-one assessment that enables a teacher to quickly measure a child's progress in a particular skill area. Circle allows for reliable data collection that prompts teachers to build small group instruction to focus on lessons that target the students' needs. Parent reports will be sent home with the student at the end of the testing period.

Frequently Asked Questions

[FAQ for 2024-25 School Year](#)

Don't see your question? [Ask us HERE](#).