

Exceptional Children's Preschool
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www.ucps.k12.nc.us

PEER PALS...CHILDREN WORKING TOGETHER
Procedures for Preschool Inclusion
2020-21 School Year

The EC Preschool Program in Union County Schools reserves a limited number of spaces in some preschool classes for typically developing children for preschool inclusion. EC Preschool classes are located at various elementary schools throughout the county. Each potential peer pal will be screened using the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III to determine if they are a good fit for the program. The screening and an observation will be provided by the EC Preschool Teacher. **You will be contacted for an appointment time for your child's screening in May.** Once all screenings are completed for applicants, you will be notified if your child is accepted into the Peer Pal program by the last teacher workday of the school year. Preference is given to UCPS employees; however, employee applicants must follow the screening/observation process and meet all Peer Pal guidelines. There is no guarantee your child will have a space at a particular school. You will not be called unless an opening becomes available. The EC Preschool classrooms serve students with a variety of challenges, including but not limited to, speech language delays, physical impairments, cognitive challenges, behavioral concerns and medical needs. Peer Pals will be learning alongside these students with disabilities.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

- Certified teachers have specialized training in Birth to Kindergarten Education.
- The Creative Curriculum and NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development will be used to plan and guide classroom instruction.
- Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will learn side by side with Peer Pals.
- An expanded pilot program for the 2020-21 school year will accept applications for children who will be 3 on or before August 31 as well as 4 year olds at all peer pal sites.
- Peer Pals must live in Union County or have a parent/guardian employed by UCPS.
- They must be fully potty trained and pass a developmental screening and behavioral observation prior to entry.
- Parents must provide transportation and no before or after school care is offered on the school campus.
- The cost is a flat rate of \$ 275.00 per month. (The tuition rate will be reviewed each school year.)
- Tuition is due on the first day of the month. Checks should be made payable to the school where your child is registered.
- Tuition is paid for each day your child is registered and the program is in operation. No credit is given if the child is absent, for observed holidays, teacher workdays or school breaks. Tuition may be prorated for the first and last months of the school year.
- If tuition is two months late, the child will be dismissed from the program.
- Most classes are in session Monday – Friday (Hours of operation vary by school). The full tuition amount is due even if a child is not present all five days each week.
- Some classes operate on a four day week, Tuesday-Friday. Tuition is prorated at the rate of \$220.00 per month.
- The Peer Pal program follows the UCPS Traditional calendar schedule.
- Upon acceptance into the program, parents of Peer Pals must complete a registration packet, provide a birth certificate, Health Assessment form and up to date immunization records.
- Students must be picked up promptly at the end of the school day. Parents arriving late for pick up three times will result in the child being dismissed from the program.
- The EC Preschool Program serves students with a variety of disabilities. For this reason, Peer Pals must be able to practice self-control and not endanger themselves or others. The teacher's primary responsibility is to create a safe and secure learning environment. A yellow discipline form will be sent home for serious discipline infractions that interfere with the teacher's ability to deliver quality instruction. **Any Peer Pal who receives three yellow discipline forms will be dismissed from the program.** The administration reserves the right to dismiss a student immediately if his/her behavior poses a danger to any child.
- Parent signature below indicates agreement to all of the above guidelines.

Student's full name: _____ Home Language _____

Parent Name (please print): _____ UCPS Employee (please circle one) Yes No

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____