

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Perry schools early childhood education program, including pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, is an integral part of today's total educational program. It is the foundation upon which all future education is built. An early childhood education program filled with a variety of learning activities will help the child grow socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. These years may be the most influential years in the child's formal education.

Today's children, with their diverse abilities and experiences, need a program that accepts all children where they are and that offers developmentally appropriate activities to each child. Many children today come to school having been exposed to increasingly sophisticated ideas and experiences; nevertheless, all children have varied levels of maturation and experience. The early childhood program provides the opportunity to maximize the potential of all children, regardless of their levels of maturity.

The purpose of pre-kindergarten and the kindergarten are the same. Both strive to help prepare children for future academic success.

Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

The main objective is to provide opportunities for the children to learn through play. This is accomplished by using weekly units with a focus on reading, math, writing, fine motor, large motor, and social skills. The pre-kindergarten program provides learning opportunities to maximize the potential of all children, regardless of the levels of maturity.

It is the policy of the Perry Board of Education to provide a voluntary Early Childhood Education Program for those children who are at least four years of age but not more than five years of age on or before September 1 free of charge.

The Early Childhood Education Program shall be at least two and one-half (2½) hours for half-day programs and shall be six (6) hours for full-day programs.

Children who are not residents of this district and who are at least four (4) years of age but not more than five (5) years of age on or before September 1 and have not attended kindergarten shall be enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Program upon payment of a tuition fee. The tuition fee for such nonresident children shall be based on the per capita cost of education for a similar period in the preceding year. This district may refuse to accept a nonresident child if the physical facilities or teaching personnel to accommodate the child in an early childhood education class are not available.

Any parent, guardian, person or institution, having care and custody of a child, who pays ad valorem tax on real property located in this district may enroll the child in the early childhood education program and receive tuition credit equal to the amount of the ad valorem tax paid in this district. Provided, the credit shall not exceed the total amount required for the tuition payment.

**REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §11-103.7
70 O.S. §1-114**