



Louisiana's Prekindergarten Programs: The Road to the Future

Research indicates a strong connection between high quality early childhood programs and later success in school. Louisiana's prekindergarten programs are providing the fundamental experiences to help children become successful lifelong learners.

Louisiana's Standards for Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children Promote:

- A safe, nurturing environment that reflects children's needs and interests
- Healthy development and safety
- Certified staff who understand child development
- Adequate nutrition and good eating habits
- Support for families
- Respect through positive interaction with teachers and classmates
- An appropriate well-balanced curriculum that helps students master the *Prekindergarten Grade-Level Expectations* in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies
- Collaboration between agencies serving children and their families
- Ongoing, age-appropriate assessment to support children's learning



What do children do in a prekindergarten class?

The casual observer may see a group of children simply playing. What they are really seeing is learning in action. In whole groups, small groups, or individually, children are exposed to a wide variety of experiences through activity centers such as:

- **Blocks**- where math and science concepts are learned
- **Dramatic play**- where important social skills are developed
- **Sand and water**- where science and problem solving skills are sharpened
- **Music and listening**- where music and stories can be appreciated
- **Library**- where early reading skills and a love for books can develop
- **Writing**- where ideas can be expressed in written form
- **Art**- where creative expression and exploration are encouraged
- **Physical/Motor**- where large and small muscles develop and strengthen

Louisiana's prekindergarten programs provide children with opportunities to make meaningful choices, practice skills, ask questions, solve problems, express creativity and develop confidence as learners, preparing them to become productive, successful citizens.

Why should a child be enrolled in a prekindergarten class?

Louisiana's prekindergarten programs provide experiences to build a child's:

- Cognitive development (mathematical, scientific, social study skills)
- Creative arts development (music, art, drama)
- Health and physical development
- Language and literacy development (listening, speaking, writing, thinking, reading)
- Social and emotional development

This public document was printed at a cost of \$888.00. Ten thousand copies (10,000) of this document were printed in this first printing at a cost of \$888.00. The total cost for the printing of this document, including reprints was \$888.00. This document was printed by the Louisiana Department of Education, Office of Student and School Performance; P.O. Box 94064; Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by State Agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of the education programs or activities that it operates, including employment and admission related to such programs and activities. The LDE is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulations not to engage in such discrimination. LDE's Title IX Coord. is J. J. Guilbeau, Deputy Undersecretary, LDE, Exec. Office of the Supt.; PO Box 94064, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064; 877-453-2721 or customerservice@la.gov. All inquiries pertaining to LDE's policy prohibiting discrimination based on sex or to the requirements of Title IX and its implementing regulations can be directed to J.J. Guilbeau or to the USDE, Asst. Sec. for Civil Rights.

Fall 2004

Cecil J. Picard, State Superintendent of Education

