



Peer Models in Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Sites

Program Times

Dogwood Elementary

8:45-3:45

Farmington Elementary

8:30-3:30

Riverdale Elementary

8:30-3:30

Forest Hill Elementary

8:45-3:45

***Please read the following packet carefully.**

Applications are due back into the GMSD Exceptional Student Education Office by February 15, 2021.

Program Details

The Germantown Municipal Schools Early Childhood Preschool program is an excellent learning environment that offers preschoolers, with and without disabilities, challenging instructional experiences to provide maximum growth in all developmental areas.

The Peer Model Program provides an opportunity for typically developing children to be integrated into our Early Childhood classrooms to serve as role models for our children with disabilities.

Peer models provide positive peer interactions, demonstrate play skills, and model appropriate language and behavior for children with disabilities while in the classroom setting.

Germantown Municipal Schools has six early childhood preschool programs located in the four elementary schools who serve students identified with disabilities, ages 3-5.

All GMSD preschool classrooms currently have seven to ten peer models selected to serve as role models for students with disabilities. These spots are first set aside as a perk for GMSD employees. Each of the six programs offers intentional learning activities in small and large groups that is facilitated by a special education teacher, general educator and educational assistants. Our goal is to provide our students with a strong foundation of core skills to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.

The following procedure details the current practice when selecting students for GMSD preschool classrooms. For the 2021-2022 school year, the district will be accepting applications and screening children utilizing the following procedure. Children three to four years old are eligible for application if their parent is a GMSD employee. All other interested Germantown residents are encouraged to apply for their four-year-old children only. Spots will be filled in the following order: employee's children then the community four-year-old children. If all of the spots are not filled in the first screening, an additional screening will be held in March for three-year-old children from the community. Screenings will be held one day at Forest Hill Elementary. Please see screening information in the application. For additional questions or information, please email: erin.rhodes@gmsdk12.org.

***Number of classrooms, classroom design, and peers needed are fluid based on annual district and student need.**

To apply to be a positive peer model, the following criteria must be met

- Children must be a Germantown resident or a child of a GMSD employee
- Children must be 4 years of age (or 3 if a child of an employee), but not yet 5 by August 15, 2021. Children who are 5 by August 15, 2021 are eligible for kindergarten and are not appropriate for the early childhood preschool class.
- Children must speak clearly and be easily understood in order to model appropriate speech and language. Positive peers model appropriate peer interactions, demonstrate play skills, and appropriate language and behavior for children with disabilities while in the classroom setting.

Screening Process

The screening process includes one play-based session.

This session will take place in the Forest Hill Elementary Play-based Classroom. The staff will provide developmentally appropriate activities that will enable the child to show his/her abilities in the following areas: readiness, problem solving, language, communication, social skills, and motor. All peer models must display age appropriate skills on the rubric.

All of the rubrics will be totaled and the children who score the highest will be offered a spot. Therefore, some selected students may not be offered a spot at his/her zoned school.

Screenings will be held:

Where: Forest Hill Elementary Play-based Room

When: March 3, 4, 8, or 9

What time: 9:30-11:30 or 12:30-2:30

Additional details will be shared with you about the date and time.

Guidelines for the Preschool Program:

- Daily attendance is required as the children serve as models. Daily attendance is defined as 7 hours a day, 5 days a week.
- Parents must have their children at the program on time and pick them up at the designated time. Before and after school care is not provided.
- Tennessee Health Record Form is required for all children documenting their immunization history. A copy of a certified birth certificate and social security card is also required.
- Peer models are selected based on the screening results. If the match does not prove to be what is in the best interest for the children with disabilities or the model, the child will be dismissed from the program.

Cost:

- Parents are responsible for paying a fee of \$550.00 per semester (\$1100.00 per year).
- Parents are responsible for providing lunch for the student.
- Fees for special field trips or activities will be requested as they occur throughout the year.

Your completed application must be turned in to Felicia Coleman at the Central Office by February 15, 2021. Faxed and scanned applications will be accepted. The fax number is 901-757-6479 and must be sent to the attention of **Felicia Coleman** or by email to Felicia.coleman@gmsdk12.org.

Application consists of:

Demographic Information and Basic Development completed by parent

Preschool Checklist completed by parent

Preschool Checklist completed by teacher or childcare provider

Signature Page that indicates understanding of process completed by parent

Your application will be considered complete when the four to five page application is received no later than February 15, 2021.

**GERMANTOWN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS
PEER MODEL APPLICATION 2021-2022**

Child's full name _____

Date of birth _____ (Must be 4 by 8/15/21 or 3 if GMSD employee's child)

What does your child like to be called? _____

FAMILY:

Parent 1 name _____ Parent 2 name _____

Street Address _____ Street Address _____

City/Zip _____ City/Zip _____

Where Employed _____ Where Employed _____

Home Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

Other children in the family:

Name	School
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

TRANSPORTATION:

To ensure the safety of your child, please list other adults to whom your child may be released or who are authorized to provide transportation for your child.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

Person authorized to act for the parent in an emergency? _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Cell phone _____

Name of physician _____ Office phone _____

EATING HABITS:

Favorite Foods:

Disliked Foods:

Food Allergies:

SPEECH AND PHYSICAL GROWTH:

At what age did your child speak in complete sentences? _____

Crawl? _____

Walk? _____

Do others understand the English your child speaks easily? _____

Is your child on any medications? _____

If so, please list: _____

SOCIAL/PREVOCAIONAL:

Does your child play with toys independently? _____

How long do they play on their own? _____

How does your child react to redirection or constructive feedback? _____

How many sets of directions can your child follow? _____

Would you describe your child as:

Under Active?

Overly Active?

Give other information you think we should know about your child:

PRESCHOOL CHECKLIST

This form should be completed by both the parent and the preschool or childcare provider (ie Kindermusic Teacher, swimming teacher, Little Gym teacher)

Completed by: _____

Date: _____

	Please check how often		
	Never	Sometimes	Very Often
Follows direction from peers			
Follows directions given by adults			
Participates in organized group activities			
Asks permission before using other's toys			
Responds appropriately when hit or pushed by other children			
Responds appropriately when solving conflict with others			
Follows rules when playing with others			
Shows interest in a variety of things			
Makes friends easily			
Puts away toys when asked			
Waits turns in games or other activities			
Joins group activities without being asked			
Communicates problems to you			
Speaks in an appropriate tone of voice			
Speech is easily understood by others			
Eats with a spoon and fork			
Indicates the need to use the restroom			
Uses toilet independently			
Uses toilet paper			
Washes hands			
Pulls up garments			
Easily adapts to new situations			
Easily accepts separation from caregiver or parents			

I have read the Preschool Program Summary and understand I will be notified when openings occur. I understand this application does not guarantee a slot as a Positive Peer Model in the Germantown Municipal Schools Special Education Program

Signature

Date

For office use only:

Date application received:

Date Screened: