

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Preschool 3 Fact Sheet for Parents

What is the preschool 3 program?

Baltimore County Public Schools' preschool 3 programs provide learning experiences that address the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical needs of young children. All sessions are half-day and follow the same school year calendar as other grades.

How old must a child be to attend the preschool 3 program?

For the **2011-2012** school year, **and each school year thereafter**, a child must be three (3) years old on September 1 of the school year in which the child applies for entrance. For the **2011-2012** school year, a child's birth date must fall between 9/2/2007 and 9/1/2008.

Who is eligible for the preschool 3 program?

The preschool 3 program is offered in a limited number of Baltimore County Public Schools and serves children living within the boundaries of each school offering the program. Eligibility for a preschool 3 program will occur **when a child meets the age of entry guidelines and is at least** one of the following:

- From an economically disadvantaged background, (i.e., eligible for free or reduced price meal program as established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture).
- Has been identified through the IEP team process with the development of an IEP as necessitating special education classroom instruction within a general education setting and been placed in the program by the Baltimore County Public Schools' Office of Special Education.

Enrollment is offered to eligible children on a first-come, first-served basis. Children who are not offered enrollment may be placed on a waiting list.

When do schools screen for the preschool 3 program?

Each school selects a date in the spring of each school year to conduct a preschool 3 screening.

How many children are served and what is the staffing in a preschool 3 program?

Fifteen children are accepted for each session. Each session is staffed by a certified classroom teacher and a paid classroom assistant.

Is transportation provided for children enrolled in the preschool 3 program?

Transportation is provided **mid-day only**. Parents/guardians must provide transportation to school for the morning session **or** home from school for the afternoon session.

Where can I get more information about prekindergarten programs?

Additional information can be obtained from your local elementary school, from the Baltimore County Public Schools' website at http://www.bcps.org/offices/early_childhood/ or from the Baltimore County Public Schools', Office of Elementary Language Arts at 410-887-4313.