

# BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Preschool 3 Fact Sheet for Parents

### *What is the preschool 3 program?*

The Baltimore County Public Schools preschool 3 program provides learning experiences that address the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical needs of young children. All sessions are half-day and follow the same schedule for the school year as other grades. The preschool 3 program is offered in a limited number of schools.

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

For the **2009-2010** 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 **2009-10** school year, the child's birth date must fall between 9/2/2005 and 9/1/2006.

### *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 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.

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.

Age-eligible children, who do not meet the criteria for eligibility, will be considered for enrollment based upon availability of space or 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 preschool 3 programs?*

Additional information can be obtained from your local elementary school, from the Baltimore County Public School website at [http://www.bcps.org/offices/early\\_childhood/](http://www.bcps.org/offices/early_childhood/) or from the Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Language Arts PreK - 12 at 410-887-4313.