

Upper Township School

District

Preschool Open House



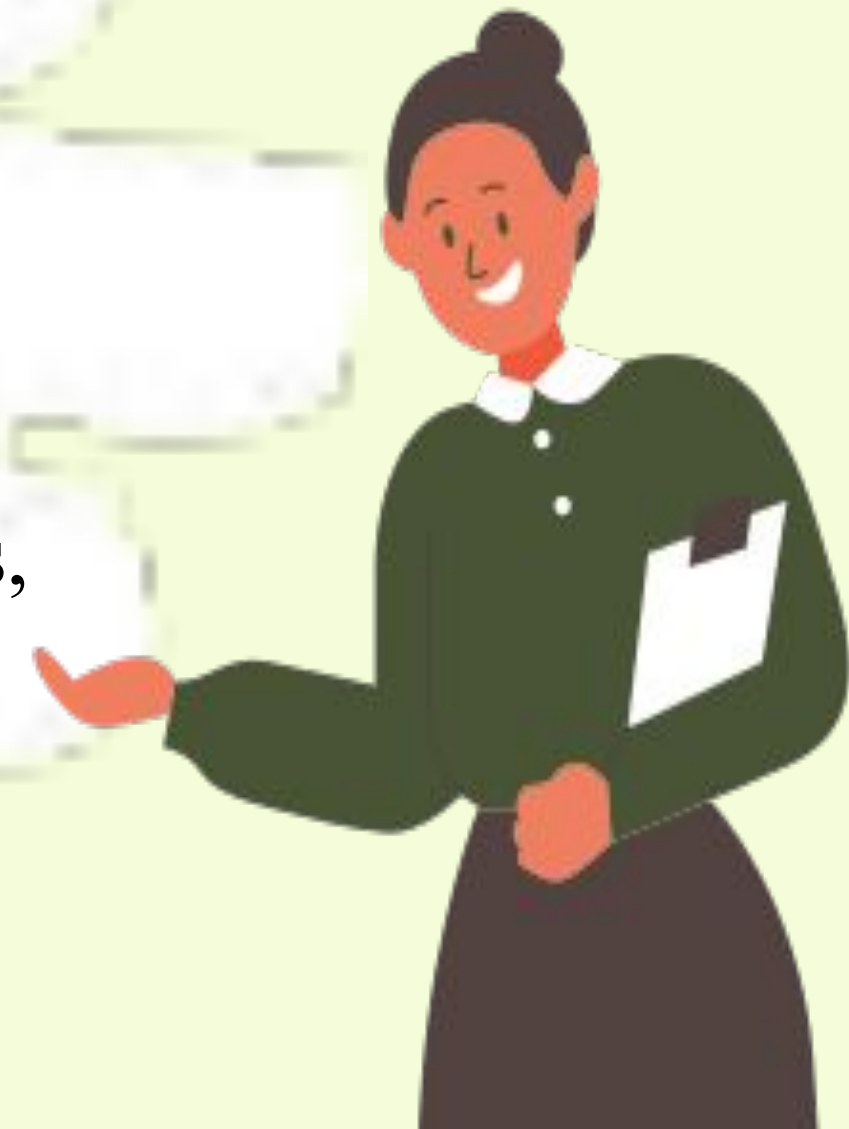
# Agenda

- What is Preschool Expansion Aid?
  - Preschool Requirements and Components
    - Curriculum Information
    - Sample Preschool Schedule
- Registration, Lottery, Waiting List
  - Question/Answer Session
    - Classroom Visits



# What is Preschool Expansion Aid?

- State aid provided via application- once a district receives it, it will always have it
- Allows districts to provide free, full-day preschool to 3 and 4 year olds
- Purpose is to expand to full preschool “universe” over 5 years (universe = 2 x # students in 1st grade)
- Lots of requirements come along with receiving the aid
  - What does this mean in UTSD?
    - For 2024-25, we will have 3 or 4 inclusion classrooms, which meas anywhere from 33-44 spaces for regular education students



# Preschool Classroom Requirements

## Each Classroom Has:

1 P-3 Certified Classroom Teacher

1 Classroom Aide

Maximum of 15 students (mix of general education and special education)



## And is supported by:

Preschool Instructional Coach (shared)

- The PIC coaches teachers on the development of pedagogy and practice to affect student outcomes

Preschool Intervention Referral Team (PIRT)

- PIRT team members coach teachers on the development of social-emotional practice to affect student outcomes.



# Preschool Day and Curriculum

## Requirements:

- 6 hour day
- Transportation provided
- Follows school district calendar

## Attendance Counts!

- Students are expected to attend every day, unless they are ill.
- Research shows that missing 10% or more of school, even during preschool years, can impact students' skills for reading readiness and academic performance in later years.



## Sample Daily Schedule

- |                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| • Arrival and choice activities: | 30 Minutes |
| • Group Meeting:                 | 20 Minutes |
| • Choice Time:                   | 60 Minutes |
| • Clean Up, Hand-washing, Snack: | 20 Minutes |
| • Small Groups:                  | 20 Minutes |
| • Outdoor Choice Time:           | 40 Minutes |
| • Read Aloud:                    | 15 minutes |
| • Lunch:                         | 40 Minutes |
| • Rest/Quiet Activities:         | 45 minutes |
| • Outdoor Choice Time:           | 30 minutes |
| • Read Aloud:                    | 15 Minutes |
| • Limited Choice/Small Groups:   | 30 Minutes |
| • Group Meeting/Departures:      | 20 Minutes |

A typical preschool day contains a balance of small and large group activities including fine and gross motor skill development, student choice work, and ample time for daily routines



# The Creative Curriculum

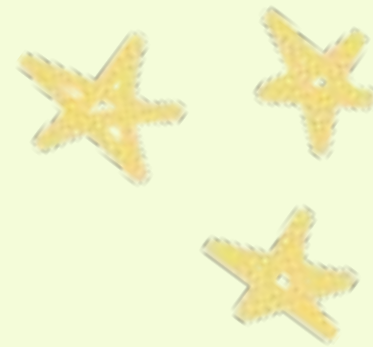
## Research- Based Program

- One of four state-approved preschool curriculum
- Children learn through “studies”: hands-on, project-based investigations



## Central Focus

Learning through exploration and discovery



## Curriculum Goal

To help children acquire a set of skills in 10 key areas of development which set a pathway of learning across the childhood years:

- Social-emotional
- language
- literacy
- physical
- the arts
- English language acquisition
- mathematics
- cognitive
- science and technology
- social studies

# Registration Process

## Application

- In-person (only option) application for the lottery will take place from 3/11 - 3/15
- Forms available in Primary School lobby from 8:45am - 4:15 pm, daily
- Any applications completed after 4:15 pm on March 15 will automatically go on the waitlist

## Lottery

- In-person lottery Monday, March 25, 6:30 PM in the Primary School
- A representative for the child must be present
- A lottery will be held for 3 year old slots, 4 year old slots and the waiting list.

## Registration

- Once lottery is complete and we know which students have been accepted, you will then receive registration instructions.
- If your child is selected for an open spot and you decide you do not want them to attend for the 24-25 school year, please notify us ASAP so we can contact the first person on the waiting list





# Requirements for Application/Registration



- Children **MUST** be three years old but not five years old by 10/1/2024
- Children will need to be up-to-date on immunizations
- Children will be expected to attend full-day, every day unless sick
  - There is no half day option
  - Students whose attendance is not satisfactory will be removed from the program to open a spot for another student



# Special Considerations



- Twin siblings will be given priority- however twins must have been picked in lottery by the second-to-last draw in order for both to be accepted
- If one of a set of twins is chosen as the last available spot, only that sibling will be offered a spot
- Siblings who are 3 and 4 (both in preschool) will be given priority- same as twins
- If a 4-year-old student is currently enrolled in preschool and has a 3-year-old sibling, the 3-year -old sibling will be given priority.
- No other sibling priority given (i.e. a child of any other age/grade level enrolled in district)

Questions?



Thank You

For Your Attention!

