Universal Prekindergarten

UPK is a full-day prekindergarten program with qualified educators, a tailored curriculum, play-based learning and family collaboration.

Interest Areas

The learning environments play a pivotal role in shaping children's learning and development and are often considered the 'third teacher,' following parents/guardians and classroom teachers. Interest areas such as blocks, dramatic play, discovery, art, and cooking offer clear choices for exploration, play, and learning.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor spaces are an extension of the learning environment. Teachers actively engage with students, leading planned activities while allowing for student choice. Outdoor learning focuses on physical development standards and provides ample opportunities to provide hands-on experiences that are essential for prekindergarten children.

Family Style Dining

Family Style Dining (FSD) improves social skills and enhances language acquisition, executive functions, nutrition knowledge, and motor development. FSD ensures that all students have a shared dining experience. Students are required to have a lunch account, and families are encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) application.

Family Partnership

Parents and families are essential to the prekindergarten program. Prekindergarten educators engage parents in various prekindergarten experiences throughout the year, such as end-of-study celebrations of learning, online resources through SmartTeach™ and ReadyRosie®, as well as home visits and conferences.

Curriculum

DoDEA has adopted The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool. Exploring high-interest topics, such as pets, clothing and roads, provides rich learning opportunities that ignite children's curiosity and build their skills and abilities. The Objectives for Development and Learning (ODLs) serve as the College and Career Ready Standards for Prekindergarten (CCRSP).

Ongoing Assessment

Prekindergarten educators use developmentally appropriate approaches to document students' progress toward widely held, research-based expectations. Prekindergarten staff measure progress, adjust and differentiate instruction, and communicate meaningfully with families about their child's progress.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All children who meet DoDEA eligibility requirements and turn four years old on or before September 1st, are eligible to register for UPK. Parents will need to complete the online registration process though the DoDEA Student Information System (DSIS). As Family Style Dining is a requirement, students must have an AAFES School Meal Program account. Contact your school registrar for more info!

Scan here for more info and FAQs about UPK!

https://www.dodea.edu/education/universal-prekindergarten-program