

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Background

The Division recognizes that all children benefit from positive early childhood experiences. Vulnerable children in particular benefit from Pre-Kindergarten programs that facilitate the development of the whole child through an integrated, holistic approach. The key components of a Pre-Kindergarten program are a responsive learning program, a caring environment, family involvement, community partnerships and integrated services.

Procedures

1. Children who are three and four years old will be eligible to attend Pre-Kindergarten.
2. An attempt will be made to balance the number of three and four year old children in the program. Whenever possible children with the greatest need will be provided with the opportunity to attend the program for two years.
3. In order to ensure that the children with the greatest need are served student selection criteria will be developed. Student selection may include but is not limited to the following criteria:
 - 3.1 Children who live in the area served by the Pre-Kindergarten program
 - 3.2 Referrals from the regional health authority, Ministry of Social Services, PECIP
 - 3.3 Socio-economic factors
 - 3.4 Indications of vulnerability
 - 3.5 Child displays developmental, social, behavioral, emotional or communication delays
 - 3.6 English is a second language for the child
 - 3.7 If necessary a prioritized waiting list may be compiled.
4. Family involvement is pivotal to an effective Pre-Kindergarten program. Pre-Kindergarten staff will actively encourage the involvement of parent and family members in the development and education of their children. In an ongoing process to support parents, staff will provide opportunities for parents to enhance their parenting and life skills.

Reference: Better Beginnings, Better Futures: Effective Practices Policy and Guidelines for Pre-Kindergarten 2004 Edition

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