

Preschool Readiness Policy

We are so excited that you have chosen Crocus Academy for your child's preschool and prekindergarten education. All children enrolled in Crocus Academy should be three no later than December 1st of the current school year to be considered developmentally ready. We want your child to have the best experience possible, so there are a few skills that your child should already have before entering Crocus Academy.

Bathroom Independence

Children enrolled in Preschool and Prekindergarten must be potty trained before attending preschool. We do not have the facilities or supplies required to change children in these classrooms. We feel that children of these ages deserve privacy. We realize that "accidents" will happen. "Accidents" by definition are unusual incidents and should only happen infrequently. As a guideline, a child who is fully bathroom independent, should not have more than one accident a week. Please be advised that if your child's teacher and Director feel that your child does not meet these criteria, then you may be asked to withdraw until such a time that he/she does meet the standards listed below

1. Child should no longer wear diapers (disposable or cloth) or disposable underwear (pull-ups).
2. Child can tell the teacher when they need to go to the bathroom.
3. Child can attend to their own hygiene.

We understand that the initial start of school in August may see more bathroom issues, but after the first month, these should be fully resolved. A teacher will assist when needed, but your child needs to be able to attend to his/her hygiene independently as a rule. We are very careful about this, because it is a protection for your child, as well as for staff, who should never be put in a questionable situation. This is an issue which protects all concerned. If your child is not completely potty trained as described above when preschool starts, you may choose one of the following options:

1. You may withdraw your child from preschool and place their name at the top of our waiting list. Registration and supply fees are nonrefundable; however, if your child is placed in a class later, you will not need to pay additional fees.
2. You may pay ½ tuition to hold your child's spot (for up to two months) until potty training has been completed.

Personal Independence

Kids ages 3 and 4 aren't expected to do everything on their own or to solve problems all by themselves, but a little independence is key. Upon entering preschool, children are expected to play games or do projects with other kids for a short period of time (5 to 10 minutes) without needing constant redirection from an adult. It's also important that they can feed themselves and maneuver the classroom once the settling in period (1-2 weeks) has ended. In addition, many preschool programs have activity times during which students are asked to pick a learning center (such as a drawing or building-blocks area) and interact with it for a short period. Preschoolers are expected to be independent enough to select an activity center without the teacher's help.

Expression

To be ready for preschool, kids need to be able to express themselves in a way that an unfamiliar adult can understand. That doesn't mean your child needs to be speaking in full sentences, just that he/she has an appropriate way of getting their feelings and needs across. That can be with words, gestures or sign language. Kids who are expressive can understand what other people are saying. Your child may not be able to follow directions that have many steps, but understanding basic words and directional phrases like "sit down" and "follow me" is important. Preschoolers are also expected to have a basic understanding that other kids have feelings and needs.

Concentration

Most preschool-ready kids can pay attention to a short picture book being read aloud. Activities are typically limited to 10–20 minutes in a preschool classroom. Preschoolers are expected to concentrate on an activity for this amount of time. While a little distraction is typical, preschoolers need to be able to follow directions most of the time and to focus on tasks without getting overly distracted or preventing to normal routine in the classroom.

Emotional Readiness

Emotionally, there are a few things to look for when considering whether your child is preschool ready. The first is the ability to say goodbye to a parent or caregiver without too much anxiety. It's typical to be a little nervous, but if your child cries the entire day, he/she might not be ready to go to a full preschool program. That having been said, a few tears are common the first day and even through the first couple of weeks. A child who is emotionally ready is more eager to go to school and wants to make friends. He/she might not have the skills to make friends yet, but wanting to make them is a good start.

Stamina

Children need a lot of physical and mental energy for preschool. Kids who aren't used to following a routine and being actively engaged can have a harder time adjusting to preschool. One way to know if your child is ready for the demands of preschool is to look at their nap schedule. If they still take a long morning and afternoon nap, he/she might not be ready yet. Something you can do to prepare your child for preschool is to merge the morning and afternoon naps into one longer afternoon nap.

Behavioral Readiness

All preschool children must learn the fundamental skills of sharing and interacting with others. To be considered ready for the demands of a preschool classroom, children should be able to do the following:

1. Play with other children without becoming physically aggressive. Physical aggression includes, hitting, slapping, biting, spitting and throwing objects.
2. Listen to teachers and authority figures and respond appropriately. Part of this includes understanding which words are appropriate and which are not acceptable. Words that encourage bullying, lack of respect and cursing will not be tolerated.
3. Understand actions that could be dangerous or harmful to themselves and others, and/or be able to accept direction in those situations.

Please check the following items before completing your child's enrollment information.

My child will be three by December 1st of the calendar year in which we are enrolling.

My child is bathroom independent according to the guidelines listed above.

My child has the personal independence skills outlined above that indicate readiness.

My child can eat independently using appropriate utensils, and they can drink from a cup.

My child can express himself/herself in most situations, and has good listening skills.

My child can separate from his/her parents for brief periods of time.

My child can nap or rest quietly without disruption.

My child has never been expelled from a preschool or daycare.

(If your child has been expelled from an early education program, please list the details below.)

Preschool/Daycare Name: _____ Phone: _____

Contact Person: _____ Teacher: _____

Please explain the details including incidents and dates that resulted in the expulsion of your child from his/her previous program.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____