



East China School District Young Fives Program

Young Fives is intended to give children who need additional time to mature physically and emotionally an opportunity to do so in a safe and secure environment. Our integrated program for teacher-directed and child-initiated learning allows children many opportunities to manipulate materials, explore and discover ideas, interact with others, and develop at their own unique rate. This program fosters the development of a positive self-image and enhances children's growth toward their individual potential.

Young Fives provides learning experiences and opportunities for children similar to the kindergarten classroom, using a unique, specialized curriculum taught at a pace and intensity dependent on individual readiness. The ultimate goal is for children to become committed, caring, responsible, lifelong learners. Young Fives allows the student to be better prepared for educational success.

Ideal candidates for the Young Fives program include children who:

- Turn five (5) years old between July 1st and December 1st
- Could benefit from an extra year of social and emotional growth
- Have attended preschool (not a mandatory requirement, but strongly encouraged)
- Have a basic understanding of academic concepts: letter identification and sounds, shapes, and colors

Curriculum/Activities

Young Fives offers an adjusted kindergarten curriculum. Emphasis is placed on the following curricular areas:

Language and literacy

Math

Science

Social studies

Social experiences

Physical skills

Visual arts

Dramatic play

Because children grow and mature at different rates, grade placement following Young Fives may vary from student to student. Students who successfully complete Young Fives are typically placed in Kindergarten. However, first grade may be an option. This would be a collaborative decision by the parent, teacher and building principal.

Staff

The Young Fives program is taught by a certified teacher with an early childhood endorsement.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I know if my child should be in the Young Fives vs. Kindergarten program?

A member of our trained teaching staff will use an assessment to determine your child's school readiness. In addition to these screening results, other qualifying factors include birth date, physical and emotional readiness, and prior preschool experience. Using this information, along with your input, we will help determine the best placement for your child.

2. In which of the elementary schools will the Young Fives program be held?

Young Fives is tentatively scheduled to be offered at Palms and Pine River Elementary Schools during the 2022-23 school year. The District reserves the right to add, combine, or cancel any Young Fives location based on interest and space availability.

3. How many days a week and for how long each day does a Young Fives student attend school?

Children in the Young Fives program will attend every day that the East China School District is in session and for the length of the regular school day.

4. Is Young Fives placement "holding back" a child?

No, Young Fives is not a remedial program. It is designed as the first of a two year Kindergarten program. It offers an additional year of school to acquire skills, confidence, and maturity a child needs to succeed in school.

5. Is Young Fives a tuition based program?

No, the program is free as Young Fives is included as a K-12 state funded education. It is considered a kindergarten program.

6. Can my child attend Young Fives even if I live out of the East China School District boundaries?

Yes, but under existing School of Choice policies, resident students have first priority.

7. Is transportation provided for the Young Fives program?

Transportation for the Young Fives program is yet to be determined. Further information will be available once all students are enrolled.

8. What Special Education services are available to children in Young Fives?

All Special Education services will be made available in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

9. Where will my child go to school following their year in Young Fives?

Students from the Young Fives program will attend Kindergarten (or 1st grade, as applicable) in their home elementary school unless a school of choice application is submitted and approved.

10. Is childcare available before and after school?

The School District offers before and after school child care programs in all of our elementary buildings. For registration, call 810-676-1115. Early registration is advised.

11. Where do I find more information? Where do I enroll?

If you would like more information about the Young Fives program, please feel free to visit our website at www.ecsd.us or email lvolkman@ecsd.us. The registration process for Young Fives is the same as for Kindergarten. This can be done during our annual Kindergarten/Young Fives Round-Up scheduled for mid-March at each of our elementary buildings. The requirements are the same for both programs: an original birth certificate, two (2) proofs of residency, immunization records, and vision and hearing screening results. Enrollment packets are available from our elementary offices or on-line at www.ecsd.us/enrollment.

Additional Questions

If you have additional questions or desire further information, please contact Dawn Demick, Assistant Superintendent, at 810-676-1030 or email ddemick@ecsd.us.