



Early Childhood Developmental Preschool
Peer Friend Program

Dear Parents,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Peer Friend Program at MSD Pike Township. Your child may be a perfect fit for us!

The public schools have classes for 3 to 5 year olds who have been found eligible for special educational services through an evaluation assessment. All eligibility areas are included in our developmental preschool classrooms, including communication disorders, physical impairments, vision or hearing impairments, Autism, mild, moderate or severe mental impairments and general developmental delays.

We like to include 2 or 3 typically developing students in each developmental preschool class to serve as role models. These students are called "Peer Friends" and may participate in daily class sessions which are 2.5 hours long. Peer Friend applicants **must be residents of Pike Township or relatives of staff members.**

The program is available at the Early Learning Center, 7839 New Augusta Road. The classes follow the traditional calendar and run from 8:50-11:20 for the morning session and 1:20-3:50 for the afternoon session, September through May.

The cost for the school year is \$450 for 3-5 days per week. This is payable 9 months of the school year, September through May, at \$50/month. If a child attends only 1 or 2 days per week, the annual fee is \$180, payments being \$20/month. **Monthly payments are due by the 5th of each month.** Students who are not current in their payments are not able to attend. Some parents find it convenient to pay a semester at a time.

We like our peer students to be at least 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old, potty-trained, and a good example for language skills and behavior. Your child will receive a preschool education with circle time, songs, crafts, gross and fine motor times, choice time and many opportunities to socialize and empathize with others. These special helpers develop their own leadership skills and confidence that will make their transition to Kindergarten a smooth one as well as provide an important example to their friends with special needs. **Parents must provide transportation for peer students.** District buses **do not** transport peer friends.

Our curriculum is based on the basic and functional skills found in the Foundations (to Indiana State Standards) for Young Children. We teach pre-readiness skills such as colors, shapes, numbers, letters, name writing and listening comprehension through the course of each day. Each developmental class is designed to support approximately 10 students with special needs, with one licensed teacher and two instructional assistants.

If you would like your child to be considered for a position in our Peer Friends Program, please complete this short application. You will receive a call informing you that we have received your application. After the school year has begun, a preschool teacher will call you to set up play dates to ensure that this arrangement is mutually beneficial.

You may send the completed paper work to me at the address listed below.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to working with your family in the Pike Early Childhood Program!

Sincerely,

Audrey Kelly

Audrey Kelly
Early Childhood Coordinator
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