

LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PREPPIE KINDERGARTEN

Lake Tahoe Unified School District provides a selection of educational options for students entering pre-primary levels. The District offers two distinct Kindergarten programs to meet individual students' needs. Our traditional Kindergarten program has a rigorous academic focus and addresses all of the California Department of Education Kindergarten Content Standards between September and June. A second program option, Preppie Kindergarten, is available for those children who have late birthdays (August through December 2nd) and may not be developmentally ready to tackle the accelerated pacing required to master California's Kindergarten Standards in one year. Preppie Kindergarten allows children "the gift of time"-- an additional year to grow and learn in an environment that supports differences in growth and maturity rates.

All classes are taught by fully credentialed teachers following state approved guidelines. A developmental program promotes each child's progress in all three areas of growth: physical, intellectual, and social/emotional. Much care is given to providing a rich, stimulating environment in which active learning is the hallmark--where each child develops and practices the physical and social /emotional skills that naturally accompany a four and five-year old's intellectual growth. The goals of the program are to develop each child's:

- sense of worth
- confidence his/her learning ability
- excitement for learning and for the opportunities presented at school
- positive relationships with peers.

The Preppie Kindergarten program helps children develop self-direction and assume responsibilities for themselves and their environment. Focus on vocabulary development, listening, and memory skills, and ability to follow directions will be emphasized. In addition, there will be small muscle skills development needed for eye/hand coordination and large muscle skills development needed for balance and ball skills. As the child develops emotionally, they will learn problem-solving skills and make proper decisions in social and academic situations.

Students in the Preppie Kindergarten program understand that this is their first year of a two-year kindergarten program. Some parents may prefer to enroll their child in a Preppie Kindergarten at a school other than their home school and the District will accept those open enrollment applications.

EARLY ADMISSION TO THE PREPPIE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM:

Currently, on a case by case basis, the District offers early entry into kindergarten for children who become five years old after December 2nd at any time AFTER his/her FIFTH BIRTHDAY. The District is now inviting parents whose child turns five after December 2nd and before March 1st to avail of this option (Administrative Regulation 5111).

The Superintendent shall provide parents with information as to effects, advantages, and disadvantages of early entry into kindergarten. (Education Code 48000). If space is available and if the Superintendent determines that such admittance is in the child's best interests, parents may apply to

have their child enter kindergarten as soon as they turn five anywhere between December 2nd and March 1st. These students will have the opportunity to obtain almost a half-year of age-appropriate Preppie Kindergarten curriculum, where in the past, they may have continued at pre-school or at home. March through June fifth birthdays will not be accepted.

At the end of the school year, students who have been admitted into the Preppie Kindergarten program under this option will be evaluated for social, emotional and academic progress. A conference will be held with parents to review this evaluation. In order to comply with a full year instructional program, it is the Administration's recommendation that they then enter into the academic Kindergarten program for the upcoming year.

Parents who are interested in this Early Admission to the Preppie Kindergarten option should notify the District of their intent to apply so that we can reserve a space in the program. The hours of attendance parallel the traditional kindergarten day -- 3 hours and 20 minutes in both morning and afternoon classes.

LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GUIDE TO KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

KINDERGARTEN (Age 5 by December 2)

- 1.0 Follows the California Department of Education *Kindergarten Content Standards*
- 2.0 Provides a structured academic learning environment to allow for longer periods of both large and small group formal and informal instructional time
- 3.0 Focuses instruction on the development of early reading and math skills including: decoding and word recognition (phonemic awareness, letter-sound correspondences, blending), vocabulary and concept development (identification, categorization, and description of common words and objects), reading comprehension (identification of the basic facts and ideas, in what has been heard, read or viewed), writing (the ability to write words and brief sentences legibly), number sense and problem solving
- 4.0 Requires students to follow a series of explicit instructions, to work well both independently and with others in a variety of settings, and to make good use of their time
- 5.0 Introduces homework as an important tool for developing responsibility and reinforcing the learning of new concepts.
- 6.0 Measures student progress via District standards-based assessments which reflect mastery of the CDE Kindergarten Exit Standards

PREPPIE KINDERGARTEN (Age 5 from August 1 to Dec. 2 or by parent request)

- 1.0 Offers an alternative approach for students to access the California Department of Education *Kindergarten Content Standards* over a two-year period of time
- 2.0 Provides young students "the gift of time" by moving through the curriculum at a pace that allows for extensive practice of new concepts
- 3.0 Combines formal and informal opportunities for learning with both teacher-directed and student-selected instructional activities
- 4.0 Focuses on pre-reading and math instruction that emphasizes: oral language development, phonological and phonemic awareness, vocabulary skill building, beginning phonics development, beginning writing practice, and number sense
- 5.0 Offers younger children the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of interactive learning experiences to assist in the development of positive social/emotional skills
- 6.0 Measures student progress via District standards-based assessments which reflect mastery of the CDE Kindergarten Exit Standards

EARLY ADMISSION TO THE PREPPIE KINDERGARTEN (Age 5 After December 2 and Before March 1)

On a case by case basis, the District offers early entry into kindergarten at any time after his/her fifth birthday. This is for children who become five years old after December 2nd. The Superintendent shall provide parents with information as to effects, advantages, and disadvantages of early entry into kindergarten. If space is available and if the Superintendent determines that such admittance is in the child's best interests, parents may apply to have their child enter kindergarten as soon as they turn five anywhere between December 2nd and March 1st. These students will have the opportunity to obtain almost a half-year of age-appropriate Preppie Kindergarten curriculum. March through June fifth birthdays will not be accepted. In order to comply with a full year instructional program, it is the Administration's recommendation that they then enter into the academic Kindergarten program for the upcoming year.

Parents who are interested in this Early Admission to the Preppie Kindergarten option should notify the District of their intent to apply so that we can reserve a space in the program.

Lake Tahoe Unified School District School District

Preppie Kindergarten Early Admission Program

Notice of Intention to Enroll Student

20__-20__

This program is currently open, on a case-by-case basis, to students who become five years old after December 2, 20__ and before March 1, 20__.

Students may not enter the Preppie Kindergarten Program until they reach the age of five.

Submission of all enrollment paperwork will be required prior to student attending the program.

School where you want your child to be enrolled: Bijou Community School Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School
 Sierra House Elementary School Tahoe Valley Elementary School

Home School: Bijou Community School Sierra House Elementary School Tahoe Valley Elementary School

Name of Student _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Sex _____
(Last name) (First name) (M/F)

Home Address _____
(Address and Street) (Apt,#) (City) (Zip)

Mailing Address _____
(Address and Street) (Apt,#) (City) (Zip)

Home Phone # () _____ Cell Phone # () _____ E-Mail _____

Name of Mother/Guardian _____ Work Phone # () _____ EXT. _____

Name of Father/Guardian _____ Work Phone # () _____ EXT. _____

Initial

_____ I am requesting that the District reserve a space for my child in the Preppie Kindergarten program. I understand that the District will make every effort to place my child at my preferred school, but that placement will be made according to space availability at each site and geographic considerations for all children. I also understand that in am requesting a school site that is not my home school, that I will provide transportation for my child to the Preppie Kindergarten program.

_____ I understand that Preppie Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year Kindergarten program and I acknowledge that the second year in Kindergarten will be beneficial to my child.

_____ I have been provided with information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of this early admittance (Education Code 48000)

_____ I am returning this Intention to Enroll form to reserve a space for my child in the Preppie Kindergarten Program. I understand that in do not return this form by September 30, space in the Preppie Kindergarten Program may no longer be available.

Signature of Parent / Guardian Date

Signature of Receiving School Principal Date Signature of Superintendent Date

Please submit this form to the Education Center, 1021 Al Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA