

Hopatcong Borough Schools

Preschool

Information Night

February 2026





Preschool Education Aid

- Funded by the NJ Department of Education
- Free Preschool to Hopatcong residents
- High-Quality programs
- 15 students per classroom
- One teacher and one paraprofessional
- Multiple Locations to meet the needs of the community

Preschool Vision Statement

The Hopatcong School District general education preschool program strives to provide a high quality preschool education for each child through responsive care and developing relationships with families. Students will build a foundation for lifelong learning through exploration in a supportive environment.





Creative Curriculum



- Aligned with the NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards
- Positive interactions with adults provide a critical foundation for learning
- Social-Emotional competence is a significant factor in school success
- Constructive, purposeful play supports essential learning
- Physical environment affects the quality and type of learning
- Teacher-family partnerships promote development and learning

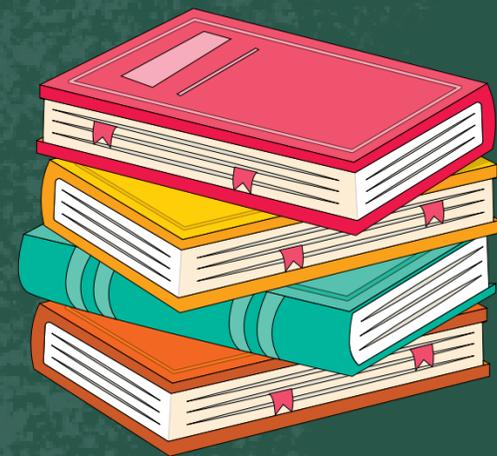


A Typical Preschool Day

- Arrival
- Group Time
- Choice Time/Snack
- Read Aloud
- Small Group
- Outdoor Choice
- Lunch
- Read Aloud
- Rest
- Choice Time
- Read Aloud
- Outdoor Choice
- Group Time
- Departure

Areas of Development

- Social Emotional Skills
- Communication Skills
- Math
- Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies
- Fine Motor
- Gross Motor
- The Arts



Student Progress



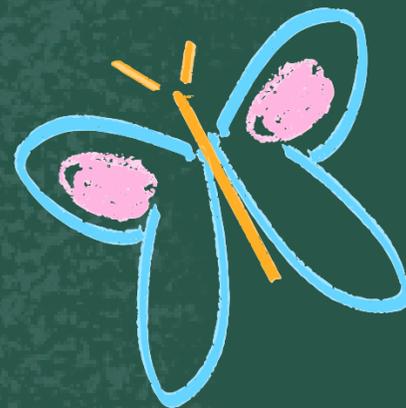
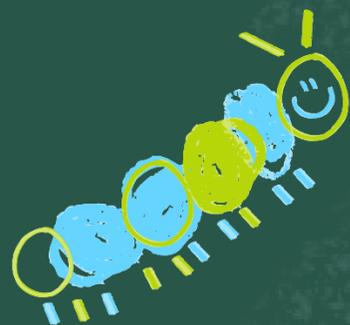
- Formal and informal student assessment
- Preschool progress reports
- Teacher/parent conferences
- Frequent ongoing communication between school and home

Preschool Intervention and Referral Team (PIRT)



PIRT is a team of school staff that provides support for students who exhibit challenging behaviors, have difficulty with communication, or struggle with classroom routines and/or academics.

- Meetings are scheduled to develop a plan which includes strategies to support the student's needs.
- The student is monitored closely with ongoing updates for further strategies when needed.



Early Childhood Advisory Council

Early childhood advisory council or "ECAC" means an advisory group of community stakeholders interested in the education and welfare of children in preschool through grade three that is convened by the school district (N.J.A.C.6A:13A-1.2)

Its purpose is to review preschool program implementation of high-quality programs, serve as advisory support for the local school district's preschool program, and support transition as children move from preschool through grade three.





Registration Process



- Anticipated Openings: 61 (limited availability at Durban)
- Child must be at least 3 years old on or before October 1, 2026
- Child must not be eligible for Kindergarten
- Lottery format for the 26-27 school year
- Click on the Registration tab on the district website
www.hopatcongschools.org



Registration Process



- Online registration must be completed, and all paperwork (Original Birth Certificate, 2 Proofs of Residency, Physical Form, Immunization Records) must be verified to be entered into the lottery
- The window for online registration for the 2026-2027 school year will open at 12:00 AM on Monday, March 2, 2026 and will close at 11:59 PM on March 9, 2026
- After online registration is entered paperwork can be dropped off between March 2, 2026 and March 9, 2026 by appointment to Mrs. Michelle Zammito at the Hopatcong Borough Schools District Office.



Registration Process



- Once a child is fully registered and all paperwork is verified, parents will receive a lottery number via email. The lottery will be livestreamed on Monday, March 16, 2026, and a link for the stream will be sent to families.
- Regardless of whether or not you are available to watch the lottery, you will be informed of your child's placement in Pre-K by Friday, March 27, 2026.

Registration Tips

- **First Impressions Special Notice:**
 - After you have received notification of placement, additional paperwork will need to be completed.
 - Calendar independent of Hopatcong Borough Schools
- **Head Start Special Notice:**
 - Head Start policy mandates that selection criteria is established annually based on a community needs assessment.
 - Factors include:
 - Family income
 - Homelessness
 - Foster Care
 - Age
 - Other Risk Factors





Preschool Locations

- Durban Avenue School
 - 8:40 am - 3:10 pm
- First Impressions Lake Hopatcong
 - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
- First Impressions Linden Avenue
 - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- First Impressions Stanhope
 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Head Start
 - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm



Let's Keep in Touch...

- **Preschool Information:**
 - Email Mr. Matthew Robinson, Acting Director of Special Services
 - mrobinson@hopatcongschools.org
- **Registration Information:**
 - Call Mrs. Michelle Zammito
 - 973-770-8822
 - mzammito@hopatcongschools.org



Questions?

