

Enrollment procedure:

1. All kindergarten parents, including potential Young 5s, attend kindergarten roundup at their assigned neighborhood school.
2. All families complete enrollment paperwork at their assigned school.
3. Once parents say they would like to enroll in Young 5s, the following will occur:
 - a. In schools that offer a Young 5s program, the child will be placed on a Young 5s request list. Priority is given to students already assigned to that school.
 - b. In schools that do not offer a Young 5s program, office staff will tell parents of the nearest schools offering the program. If parents are willing to transport their child to the alternate site, the office staff will contact the site to place the child on a request list for that school.
4. Starting in early June, schools will reach out to parents on the request list about the child's placement in the program. If a requested school is not available, a slot at another location may be offered to parents.

Young 5s Kindergarten

* A Strong Start for Young Learners *

Young 5s locations 2025-26

Geer Park

Maples

Henry Ford

McCollough

Lindbergh

Salina Elementary

Students from other elementary school areas within Dearborn Public Schools may also attend at these locations.



Dearborn Schools Board of Education

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Introduction: Young 5s

Entering kindergarten is an exciting time for children! This new chapter sets the tone for a child's future. Kindergarten standards and curriculum have changed over the years, and many of the skills children were once taught in first grade are now expected in kindergarten. This is just one reason why states, including Michigan, have a September 1st cutoff date for school enrollment. Educators and researchers know that these few months make a huge difference in what a child is ready to learn.

The good news is that Young 5s sets children up for the opportunity to learn in a hands-on, interactive way that supports their development while still maintaining the rigor and high standards of success.

Young 5s is offered for children who need the time and opportunity to continue building their skills and abilities. Their time in Young 5s will help them succeed in kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom, and confidently navigate the school day routine.

Who attends Young 5s?

Young 5s is for any child who would benefit from having the gift of time to strengthen their confidence as a learner while promoting their individual academic development to be a successful student with the school readiness and social skills necessary for kindergarten. Young 5s is for children whose birthdays occur between June 15th and December 1st. Young 5s is encouraged for students who would benefit from an additional year of growth between preschool and kindergarten.

What is Young 5s?

Young 5s is a bridge between preschool and kindergarten. Our Young 5s program is a FREE, full-day program that gives young learners a head start and provides them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their academic and social needs. Busing is available only if the student will attend their home elementary and lives in an area where busing is provided. In most cases, parents will need to provide transportation for their child.



How does Young 5s benefit my child?

Young 5s provides children with an opportunity to learn in an enriching and academically challenging environment that nurtures their growth. Research shows that children who attend kindergarten readiness programs like Young 5s are more likely to excel in school and attend college.

Many parents who have recognized the benefits of Young 5s have been enrolling their children in similar programs, public and private, for years. This Young 5s will help all of our children get the best possible start, with a curriculum that is designed just for them.

What happens in a Young 5s classroom?

In Young 5s, teachers help children develop through a thematic, hands-on approach. They expose children to reading, writing and math in an exciting, interactive way to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting and patterns.

- * **Classroom:** Young 5s have their own classroom with their own teacher in a class setting of 19 or fewer students.
- * **Length of school day:** They attend a full day of school, five days a week.
- * **Shared activities:** They participate in all kindergarten activities including music, art, physical education, and STEAM throughout the year.
- * **Curriculum and learning:** They learn important new academic and social skills that build on previous learning that will help them adjust to the elementary school environment.
- * **Learning environment:** Children will build a strong language base by rhyming, patterning, playing with words, listening to stories, etc. Young 5s students are saturated with these concepts in a fun yet challenging way that will enhance your child's fine motor control, independent problem solving, and communication skills. Our aim is that your child develops a love of learning and a love for school!

Students that attend Dearborn Public Schools Young 5s program showed higher student achievement in kindergarten and first grade compared to similarly-aged students that did not attend Young 5s.