



What is pre-kindergarten?

Pre-kindergarten is a community-based, voluntary education initiative designed to prepare at-risk 4 year olds for success in school.

Union County's pre-kindergarten programs provide high quality education using Creative Curriculum which focuses on preparing children in developmentally appropriate ways to be successful students. Emphasis is placed on literacy, numbers, fine and gross motor development and problem solving.

What are the benefits of pre-kindergarten?

- Each pre-kindergarten class is limited to 18 children.
- All lead teachers have a four year college degree and licensure in birth-kindergarten classes.
- Pre-kindergarten classrooms are placed in high-quality four- or five-star licensed child care centers or public school settings within Union County.
- The program lasts 6.5 hours a day and follows the Union County Public Schools calendar, with some programs operating on a year-round schedule and others on the traditional schedule, depending on location.
- There is no charge for pre-kindergarten. However, if before- or after-school care is needed, families are responsible for the additional cost. Families may be eligible for subsidized child care.
- Family involvement is an integral part of children becoming successful students.
- Numerous studies have shown that students in high quality pre-kindergarten are more likely to succeed in grades K-12.



Who can attend?

- Children 4 years old on or before August 31 and who will be going to public kindergarten the following year are eligible.
- Income eligibility must be met for participation in this free program.
- Priority will be given to children who are not enrolled in quality child care.

How do I apply?

Applications are available at Union Smart Start's Pre-Kindergarten office, 101 Holly St. in Monroe. For more information, call (704) 282-0580.



Pre-kindergarten sites

Benton Heights Elementary School
1200 Concord Ave., Monroe

East Elementary School
515 Elizabeth Ave., Monroe

Elizabeth Baptist Learning Center
505 Maurice St., Monroe

Kids Are First Child D. Center
15000 Lawyers Rd., Matthews

Marshville Elementary School
515 N. Elm St., Marshville

Rock Rest Elementary School
814 Old Pageland-Monroe Rd.

Rocky River Elementary School
500 N. Rocky River Rd., Monroe

Tender Care Academy
750 Maurice St., Monroe

Union Elementary School
5320 White Store Rd., Wingate

Walter Bickett Education Center
501 Lancaster Ave., Monroe

Weekday Children's Ministries
801 S. Hayne St., Monroe

Wingate Baptist Church Daycare
109 E. Elm St., Wingate

Wingate Elementary School
301 Biven St., Wingate

Union County Pre-Kindergarten

is a partnership of



Union Smart Start is a non-profit organization that distributes legislature-allocated funds in Union County.

Smart Start is North Carolina's early childhood initiative designed to ensure that young children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start benefits children from birth to age 5 and their families.

This year, Union Smart Start is distributing \$2.9 million to agencies that implement 21 different programs in the areas of child care, health care and family support.

For information on other Union Smart Start programs that benefit children and their health, education and quality of life, call (704) 226-1407.

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