

Kindergarten Options

There are two different options for kindergarten age students in the Iron Mountain School District.

Should my child attend Early Kindergarten or Kindergarten?

- Must be 5 years old by September 1st to attend Kindergarten
- If a child turns 5 years old between September 1st and December 1st they must sign a waiver to attend Early- Kindergarten.
- Kindergarten students will be screened through their school
 - **Screener's recommendations for K or EK are valuable!!**
- Early Kindergarten is **NOT** another year of preschool/head start.

EK/K Program Info

Early K

- Learn Letters & Sounds
- Numbers Sense to 10
- Identify Numbers to 10
- Rote Count to 31
- Learning to Write/Illustrate
- Daily Projects
- Rest/Quiet Time
- Scheduled Movement Breaks
- Focus on social emotional growth.

Both EK & K

- Full Day
- Themes Daily
- Recess Daily
- Small Class Sizes
- Learns Social Skills
- Students deliver an awareness of school structure.
- Certified Teachers
- Common Core State Standard driven.



Kindergarten

- Fast Paced
- Rigorous
- Learn to Read
- Sight Words
- Writing Sentences/Illustrations
- Number Sense to 20
- Identify & Write Numbers 0-20
- Rote count to 100
- Curriculum
- Little Down Time
- Independent Work
- Prepare for First Grade

Kindergarten Curriculum

These skills are mastered through Michigan Common Core State Standards.

Language Arts

- Beginning reading and beginning writing skills
- Knowledge of letters and sounds
- High frequency words

Math

- Counting, recognizing, and writing numbers to 100
- Patterning
- Sorting
- Comparing
- Measurement
- Addition and subtraction 0-5

Social Studies

- Knowledge of the world around us (family, friends, community, etc.)

Science

- Living and Non-living things
- Plants and their characteristics
- Animals and their characteristics
- Matter and energy
- The five senses

Early Kindergarten Curriculum

This curriculum focuses on simplifying the kindergarten curriculum.

- Social and coordination development
- Introduced to reading
- Letter/sound awareness
- Number awareness
- Math skills through hands on activities
- Fine motor skills through games
- Gross motor skills through play, dance exercises, and games
- Formation of letters
- Master name writing
- Introduced to writing

Why Choose Early Kindergarten?

- Allows the child another year to develop social/emotional skills to meet the rigorous Common Core State Standards (CCSS) expectations in Kindergarten.
- Will benefit from classroom instruction with frequent movement, learning through play, and focus on social development.
- Classroom instruction is designed to provide children with an opportunity to learn in an interactive environment that supports their development.
- Students learn **basic problem solving and social skills** with the ability to learn academics at a slower pace.
- Develop **independence and self- regulation skills** alongside academic skills.
- Familiarity with school routine to help build **confidence and friendships**.
- Provides an extra year to gain **independence, problem- solving skills, fine/gross motor skills, and social skills** to prepare children for the rigorous expectations of kindergarten both academically and socially/emotionally.
- Allows an environment to promote a healthy self - esteem and a love for learning.

Should my child attend Early 5's(EK) or Kindergarten?

Can your child...

- Be separated from you without crying?
- Dress themselves? (i.e. zip jackets, tie shoes)
- Use the bathroom independently? (i.e. no pullups, can wipe)
- Deal with a change in a schedule?
- Eat independently?
- Clean up after themselves?
- Follow a three step direction?
- Wait their turn patiently?
- Take care of their own belongings?
- Sit for a period of time and complete a task independently or listen to a story?
- Identify all uppercase letters?
- Identify almost all lowercase letters?
- Make it through the day without needing a nap?
- Respond appropriately when told no?

If your answer is **NO** to **ANY** of these questions your child would be most successful in our Early 5's(EK) program.