

# CARROLL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PHILOSOPHY AND VISION



Department of  
Special Programs



## AS DRAGONS, WE VALUE...

- EXCELLENCE
- RELATIONSHIPS
- CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY
- INNOVATION
- OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION

### VISION

Creating an environment that fosters excellence

### MISSION

To provide a caring and creative learning environment that promotes excellence, fosters integrity and encourages each student to reach his or her academic, extracurricular and social potential.

### Department of Special Programs Mission

The Department of Special Programs ensures that all students with special needs are provided an educational environment that supports them in their learning to become thriving, valued and contributing members of our society. Students with special needs have opportunities to learn with others and to establish relationships with their peers.

## LETTER TO PARENTS:

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the CISD Preschool Program. We hope you will find the information in this brochure helpful. We are aware, however, that you may have questions or concerns that are not addressed, so we ask that you please contact Debby Neal, Preschool Program Specialist at (817) 949-8400 in order for us to address your concerns or to direct you to the person who may be more helpful.

We are fortunate to have preschool programs located on four exemplary elementary school campuses. Our teachers are highly qualified and our staff members are highly trained in order to meet the needs of your preschool child. We hope you will find the program a wonderful learning experience for your little dragon!

Sincerely,

***Debby Neal, M.Ed.***  
**Early Childhood Diagnostician**  
**Preschool Program Specialist**

## **PROGRAM HISTORY**

The CISD Tuition-based Preschool Program welcomed its first three, four and five year old students in August of 2003. The planning for the "Preschool" program began in September 2003, when the Early Childhood Task Force was formed. At that time, CISD had an Early Childhood Program for students who were three to five years of age and who qualified under special education guidelines.

While an extremely effective program, one major limitation was that the students in the Early Childhood Program could not interact and learn with non-disabled peers, as no such CISD Preschool program was available.

The primary goal of the Early Childhood Task Force was to build an exemplary preschool program that would effectively blend disabled and non-disabled preschool populations. The Early Childhood Task Force was comprised of parents, teachers, a private preschool administrator and CISD administrators.

During the year that the Early Childhood Task Force met, many programs were visited and a variety of options were considered. These included forming a partnership with a private preschool program as well as the option of developing a CISD tuition-based program. After the pros and cons of each option were considered, to include projected costs and potential revenue, the Task Force recommended the development of a CISD "Blended Preschool" program. Once approved by the administration in the spring of 2003, four classrooms at Johnson Elementary School were designated to house the program, at least for one year, and the recruitment of students began.

### **AGE LIMITS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

Students entering the tuition-based program must be 3 years of age by September 1st. Students who turn 6 years of age by September 1 are not eligible. Children who meet the age guidelines and who live in Carroll School District or whose parents are employees of Carroll School District are eligible. Parents of children who do not reside in the district (i.e. employees, those initiating contracts on homes, etc.) must meet with Ms. Barbara Yelton, Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, at 817-949-7053 (email [yeltonb@cisdmail.com](mailto:yeltonb@cisdmail.com)) to complete residency information.

### **"BLENDED PRESCHOOL" DEFINITION**

Simply put, the goal of the program is to educate preschoolers with disabilities with preschoolers who do not have disabilities, thereby providing those with disabilities appropriate language and social peer models and providing those preschoolers who do not have a disability the opportunity to interact with peers of different needs. The tuition-based preschool program "blends" the disabled and non-disabled students within the same classroom. In all cases, the objective of the program is to ensure that **ALL** of the students are ready for kindergarten when they turn five.

### **CLASS PLACEMENT:**

Typically, younger students will be assigned to one class and older students to another. While parents will be asked their preference as to campus location, the CISD administration will make the final decision regarding the campus/class each student will attend. Parents must notify Debby Neal, Program Specialist, by July 15, 2009 if the family declines placement in order to receive return of the \$100 deposit paid during registration.

### **CONTACTS:**

Please contact Preschool Program Specialist, Debby Neal, ([neald@cisdmail.com](mailto:neald@cisdmail.com)) or Secretary, Cindy Miller, ([millercc@cisdmail.com](mailto:millercc@cisdmail.com)) if you have general questions about the CISD Preschool Program. The phone number is 817-949-8400.

**CURRICULUM:**

All parents will be provided with an overview of the preschool curriculum during "Curriculum Night" at the beginning of the school year. The curriculum is based on the Texas Education Agency's Preschool Guidelines. The guidelines describe specific goals for children in a number of content areas: Language and Early Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Health and Safety, Personal and Social Development, Physical Development and Technology Applications. All special classes such as art, music and P.E. are incorporated into the preschool program. Recess is a part of each school day.

Due to the differing needs of the preschoolers, some students will be at the beginning of the learning continuum while others may be further along. Students with disabilities will also have an Individual Education Plan that provides specific goals and objectives that drive their instruction. **ALL** students, however, will be provided instruction that is differentiated in order to ensure they master their appropriate learning objectives as set forth by our Preschool curriculum.

**FIELD TRIPS:**

The campus administrator will determine the number of chaperones to accompany students on school sponsored field trips. Chaperones will be asked to pay for their tickets. Chaperones will provide their own transportation. Parents may also be asked to accompany their child on field trips and outings, depending on the locations. Siblings are not allowed to attend the event. All students must ride the bus which will be provided by Carroll ISD at no cost to the parents.

**HEALTH and MEDICATION:**

All four campuses have full time school nurses. Please contact the nurse if your child has any health or medical issues or if you have questions about health services.

**LOCATIONS OF PROGRAMS:**

For the 2009 – 2010 school year, the ten classes that comprise the program will be located on four (4) CISD campuses:

Carroll Elementary School  
1705 W. Continental Avenue

Rockenbaugh Elementary School  
301 Byron Nelson Parkway

Old Union Elementary School  
1050 South Carroll Avenue

Durham Elementary School  
801 Shady Oaks Drive

**LUNCH:**

Lunch is available at each campus. Parents will be notified prior to the first day of school regarding the cost of the school lunch. Parents are asked to provide a daily healthy, nutritious snack.

**POTTY TRAINING:**

All students paying tuition must be potty trained prior to admission into a class placement.

**SCHOOL DAY AND CALENDAR:**

The preschool program will follow the CISD school calendar. Hours for all preschool programs will be from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please note that the first few days of school are usually designated as early release (11:00 a.m.) days for all elementary students, including preschoolers. This allows teachers time to do individual assessments. Preschool teachers will schedule a time with you for your child's assessment.

**STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO:**

The district attempts to maintain as small a ratio as possible, however the number of students in attendance on any given day may vary based on the student's age and needs; typically no more than 10-15 students are in a class, with most classes at even lower numbers of students. One certified teacher and at least one paraprofessional, if not two, are also assigned to each class.

**SUPPLIES:**

While most supplies will be provided within the program, parents will receive a small supply list prior to the first day of school. Additionally, teachers may occasionally request specific items.

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Parents of students in the tuition-paying program will provide transportation both to and from school. Each campus will designate a specific drop-off/pick-up location, which will be supervised by preschool staff members.

**TUITION:**

Tuition for the 2009 - 2010 school year will be \$5,000. Tuition is subject to change with Board approval. Tuition will be due the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month starting August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. You may pay this amount in full or in 10 monthly payments of \$500. Parents are asked to please mail a check or money order (no cash, please) each month to:

Carroll ISD  
Attn: Preschool Program  
3051 Dove Road  
Grapevine, TX 76051

**Please DO NOT send/take your check to the school office.** Tuition must be paid each month for the child to attend preschool.

**TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM:**

- ❖ The Texas Education Agency requires educational services for eligible 4 year olds if there are 15 eligible students who reside in the district. (*Placement of eligible students is a District decision and could change to a half-day program.*)

A child must be 4 years of age on September 1 of the current school year and must:

1. be unable to speak and comprehend the English language (*as determined by prescribed tests administered in August*); or
2. be educationally disadvantaged (eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program [NSLP]; or
3. be homeless; or
4. be the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or
5. be the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserved component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
6. have ever been in the conservatorship (foster care) of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) following an adversary hearing.

Contact Ms. Cynthia Miller or Ms. Debra Neal at 817-949-8400 if you believe your child meets any of the above guidelines.