



School District of River Falls

www.rfsd.k12.wi.us

4 Year Old Preschool (RF4C) Readiness

“How do I know if my child is ready for RF4C?”

Experts say no single or simple factor determines whether a child “is ready” for Preschool. Instead, a child's development needs to be evaluated on several fronts and, in the end, it is the parent's decision. There is research to support many differing viewpoints about Preschool. We encourage you to read some of the articles that are out there and to think long term...what grade will my child be in when he/she is getting their driver's license? How old will they be when they graduate from high school? It is also important to emphasize that it is perfectly okay to wait a year if you are having doubts about your child's readiness. It is much easier for child, parents and teachers if a child is entering the program with a sense of confidence and readiness instead of having to backtrack or repeat. There is absolutely nothing wrong with waiting if you feel it is the best decision for your child.

There are differences in the quality of Preschools. The goal of our early childhood curriculum is to create an environment that promotes learning and social skills appropriate for our four-year-olds. Children learn by doing...they use all of their senses to explore and get information. The River Falls School District is committed to promoting a high quality preschool education for all children. Play is the important work of a four-year old.

The teachers for the River Falls 4 Children will use the Creative Curriculum and the Wisconsin State Early Learning Standards as a curriculum guide. All teachers have DPI licenses in early childhood/kindergarten and are highly qualified to work with preschool children. In addition the teachers and assistants will continue to attend conferences and workshops on early childhood education.

Each child will be given the opportunity to learn at his/her own pace and in the way preschoolers learn best...through play! Actually, what looks like play has been planned by professionals to develop specific skills that your child will need for later school years and into adult life. Your child's daily schedule will include a balance between the following types of activities:

- Active and quiet times
- Large group activities, small group activities, as well as time to play alone or with others
- Indoor and outdoor playtime
- Time for children to select activities on their own and time for the children to participate in teacher directed activities

We also want to be sure parents have accurate information:

- Any child who will be four years old by September 1 of the given school year will be eligible to participate.
- Get an up-to-date list of immunizations for your child.
- Get a copy of your child's birth certificate before registering in March.



Some Guidelines to consider for your child going into RF4C: How are you already helping your child to be ready?

- Is your child starting to have a base of self-help skills? (ie using the toilet, washing hands, dressing oneself, etc). Help them practice going to the bathroom and washing hands. Teach them the words to ask for help if they are hurt or sick.
- Can your child sit in a focused activity for at least 10 minutes? Give your child activities that hold their interest. Help them learn step by step. Making mistakes is part of learning.
- Has your child had any preschool experience prior to RF4C? Give them opportunities for play with other children and rich experiences that will help develop their language skills.
- Does your child get good food, rest, and play to have the energy to learn? Tell your child's school about special needs they might have.
- Children enter school at different levels of development. Show your child different ways to understand their world.
- Children's style of learning may vary. Give your child lots of time to figure things out.
- Does your child feel excited and comfortable about starting preschool? Let your child know *you* are excited about their starting preschool. See starting school as a big event for all of the family! We each have our own ideas and worries.



River Falls 4 Children
Caring. Community. Collaboration.