

## **Our PreK and Kindergarten Teachers Talk About the Benefits of PreK**

### **Kindergarten Teachers**

Students who have had PreK are able to:

- ✓ Sit longer
- ✓ Know how to line up
- ✓ Interact with other children readily
- ✓ Recognize what a rule is and verbalize what school rules are
- ✓ Work well in a group
- ✓ Understand taking turns
- ✓ Communicate with peers
- ✓ Listen to peers' thoughts
- ✓ Be flexible if there is a change in schedule
- ✓ Be less intimidated by whole school activities
- ✓ Exhibit signs of being more self-assured/confident
- ✓ Show a sense of purpose
- ✓ Exhibit increased stamina

### **PreK Teachers**

Students learn to:

- ✓ Use self-control
- ✓ Express feelings, needs, and opinions in difficult situations and conflicts without harming the selves or others
- ✓ Follow routines and rules
- ✓ Use materials and equipment purposefully, safely, and respectfully
- ✓ Recognize how their actions affect others
- ✓ Accept the consequences of their own behavior
- ✓ Accept responsibility
- ✓ Interact with one or more children as well as adults
- ✓ Participate successfully as a member of a group
- ✓ Listen with interest and understanding to directions and in conversations
- ✓ Use compromise and discussion in play and in the resolution of conflicts

## Researched Benefits of Students attending a Pre-K Program

Improved academic readiness for school/closing the achievement gap

Enhanced early learning and development (increased executive function):

- Increase of vocabulary scores (vocabulary measure is predictive of later success in reading and general cognitive abilities)
- Gains in literacy (greater knowledge in areas such as print concepts and phonological awareness)
- Increase of early math scores (greater success in addition, subtraction, telling time)

Increased high school graduation rate/decreased drop-out rate

Positive effects on social behaviors

Positive net cost benefits:

- Reduced grade repetition
- Less welfare dependency
- 3 to 7 dollars saved for every dollar spent
- Reduced special education identifications
- Decreased social services costs
- Decreased health care costs due to reduced teen pregnancy rates and smoking rates

Increased achievement test scores

Increased educational success

Increased development in the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed for school success including rich vocabulary, complex sentence structure, self regulations, and cooperative play

Increased enrollment in 4-year colleges

Reduced depression

Reduced number of juvenile arrests/crime and delinquency

Increased earnings from employment

“The evidence reviewed above leaves little doubt that preschool can be a remarkable investment with high returns and important impacts on the educational, social, and economic success of children” (p. 7, S. Barnett: *Maximizing Returns from PreKindergarten Education*).

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S. Barnett, Phd., *Expanding Access to Quality Pre-K is Sound Public Policy*, National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Dec. 2013.

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E. Frede, *What's New in Pre-K Research?*, National Institute for Early Education Research [www.niewer.org](http://www.niewer.org).

H. Yoshikawa, C. Weiland, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, M. Burchinal, L. Espinosa, W. Gormley, J. Ludwig, K. Magnuson, D. Phillips, M. Zaslow, *Investing in Our Futures: the evidence base on preschool education*, <http://fcd-us.org/resources/evidence-base-preschool>.  
<http://www.srdc.org/policy-updates/meetings-briefings/investing-our-future-evidence-base-preschool>