

# YOUNG FIVES

## IS YOUNG FIVES RIGHT FOR MY CHILD?

Young Fives serves as a bridge to kindergarten by providing students time and support to develop core academic and social skills under the care and guidance of professional educators.

- Will turn 5 years old between May 1 - December 1
- Will benefit from classroom instruction with frequent movement, learning through play, and focus on social development.
- Young Fives is the first year of a two-year Kindergarten program. It is a full-day program that follows the regular school calendar.

## THE DIFFERENCE

### Young Fives & Kindergarten both offer:

- Full day programming
- Transportation to and from school
- Highly qualified classroom teachers
- Rigorous curriculum in Literacy, Core Knowledge Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Social Emotional Learning
- Physical Education, Art, Music, and Spanish classes

### Young Fives

- Pacing is more gradual than kindergarten
- Provides more opportunities for play to promote social interactions
- Focuses on early foundational skills to support success in kindergarten academics



## CONTACT

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ? Is Young Fives mandatory for children with birthdays between July 1 and December 1?**  
Young Fives enrollment is voluntary.
- ? How is Young Fives different from preschool?**  
The standards, curriculum and teaching requirements in Young Fives is different from preschool. Young Fives is based on the Michigan Department of Education kindergarten standards. The program builds on the skills children may have learned in preschool to ensure they will be able to begin kindergarten with confidence.
- ? How is Young Fives different from traditional kindergarten?**  
The Young Fives curriculum is based on kindergarten standards modified to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of students.
- Instruction is provided at a slower rate and pace than traditional kindergarten, ensuring students will still have room for growth in their second year.
- ? What is the length of the Young Fives school day?**  
Young Fives is a full-day program that follows the regular school calendar.

- ? Where is Young Fives located?**  
Young Fives is located at Caledonia Elementary.
- ? Does Young Fives support children who do not speak English?**  
English learners in Young Fives have the same level of services as those in kindergarten.
- ? Is there a charge to attend Young Fives?**  
Young Fives is free and open to all age-eligible children residing in Caledonia Community Schools or entering through School of Choice, dependent on space.
- ? What kinds of qualifications do Young Fives teachers have?**  
Young Fives teachers are required to have a professional teaching certificate, just like kindergarten teachers.
- ? What grade will children go into after Young Fives?**  
Young Fives is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. Children will go to kindergarten at their zoned elementary school following Young Fives.



## PARENT SUPPORT

Parent support and involvement are critical for student success. There are a number of simple ways to impact your child's preparedness for and success in school.

- Read to your child every day
- Encourage play, discovery, and movement
- Establish routines including bedtime, mealtime, and reading time
- Give your child responsibilities at home
- Set firm and consistent guidelines



# WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN IN KINDERGARTEN & YOUNG FIVES?

Caledonia's Kindergarten and Young Fives programs are tailored to the kindergarten curriculum, emphasizing both math and literacy instruction alongside the nurturing of social and motor skills. These programs offer a supportive environment where students can engage with the curriculum at a pace suited to their developmental stage. Learning is facilitated through hands-on interactive experiences, fostering a well-rounded educational foundation for both Kindergarten and Young Fives students.

## KEY AREAS OF LEARNING

Students typically develop these skills as they progress through their Kindergarten and Young Fives experience.

### Language and Literacy

- Identify letters and letter sounds
- Rhyme and identify rhyming patterns
- Understand syllabication
- Identify beginning sounds
- Recall sight words
- Listen to a story and answer questions about it
- Understand the concepts of print
- Sequence the events of a story
- Independently write name, draw, and attempt to write about pictures
- Begin to use letter combinations in writing

### Social-Emotional

- Demonstrate emotional regulation
- Listen attentively during instruction
- Follow 2-3 step directions
- Ask for help when needed
- Participate in small and large groups
- Demonstrate stamina during instruction and while completing tasks
- Engage cooperatively with peers
- Demonstrate positive social behaviors and problem-solving skills
- Practice appropriate play skills

### Mathematics

- Identify numbers 0-20
- Count the number of objects up to 30
- Count 1-100
- Compare quantities of objects
- Understand basic math concepts
- Copy, complete, and extend a pattern
- Interpret graphs

