



**KickStart** is a program that is designed to expand upon Derry Preschool's school wide curriculum. While the program has a focus of early literacy (letter id, phonics comprehension, etc.), we also incorporate math and science lessons within our day! KickStart is a great way to prepare your child for the full day Kindergarten program that many surrounding school districts are shifting to. Our curriculum will be focusing on teaching and practicing skills that will help your child be successful during the transition in to a full day Kindergarten program.

KickStart is offered to children ages 3 to 5 years old. To make the program successful we use small student to teacher ratios along with differentiation to ensure that each child is challenged during each activity. Because of the program's unique structure, we are able to incorporate many small group activities that allow your child to receive individualized instruction.

Each day at KickStart, we start our day with a learning circle which allows us to talk about our 'Daily Focus' or what we plan on learning that day. Then, we break into small groups enabling us to successfully differentiate our activities and games to meet these goals.

During the small group time, we focus on learning phonics through both sports, such as basketball, hockey, soccer and archery, as well as games, such as bingo, musical chairs, scavenger hunts and board games. During this time, we also use your child's creative side by using art to practice comprehension and sequencing skills. We even use our small group time to cook and do experiments!

During KickStart we also have a focus on handwriting. We use the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum to guide our daily journal time. Every child receives a journal they are able to take home at the end of the year.

We also realize that most of the students who are coming have already been in school that morning so getting some energy and exercise and fresh air is a part of the afternoon which allows each student to adjust to the longer day.

Each day brings a different group of children with different interests. We really enjoy getting to know each child so we can make learning a fun and positive experience and one that each child achieves success and positive reinforcement!

### **What are other families are saying about KickStart?**

*When I first started sending my 4-year-old son to KS, it was because I needed the extra time to get things done at home and I knew he would enjoy socializing with friends and making fun crafts. Not only did he love being with his teachers and friends, but he learned SO much! It truly helped him go from being unable to hold a pencil correctly, to being able to write every letter of the alphabet - and actually ENJOY doing it! I love all of the enrichment programs at Derry Preschool, but KickStart is definitely my favorite!"*

Jamie Havens, Parent

*"Our daughter regularly participated in KS during her past three years at Derry Preschool and absolutely loved it! The extended days offered by this program definitely prepared her for full day kindergarten. The social interactions with classmates of differing ages was invaluable, as were as her additional reading and writing exercises, which expanded upon her daily class lessons. We will definitely be sending our son to KS during the next few years. I would recommend this program to any parent looking for additional opportunities for socio-emotional growth, supplemental reading and writing experiences, or as a gradual way to introduce your preschooler to a longer day in preparation for kindergarten."* [Sarah Langelo, Parent](#)

*"My family feels very fortunate to have found such a wonderful preschool that also offers optional afternoon care. My daughter loves exploring different classrooms, creating adorable projects, and making new friends. I am grateful for Kickstart because not only is she having fun while learning, she is able to slowly transition to a full day school setting."* [Becky Levenick, Parent](#)

**KickStart is offered to children 3 to 5 years old, Mon. - Fri. from 12:45 pm to 3:15 pm. Your child does not need to be enrolled at Derry Preschool to attend. We do request that you sign your child up at least one day in advance. Please contact our office ([derrypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:derrypreschool@gmail.com)) for more info.**