

Paths to Kindergarten

Chart created by ZCS

This is the traditional path that many families have chosen for their children.



Threeschool is a great opportunity for children to learn how to "do school" before they begin the kindergarten readiness structure of preschool. Our teachers have found that children who complete threeschool are very well prepared for preschool.



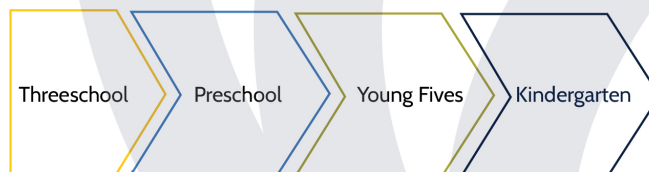
This is a good option for children who have birthdays between September 1 and December 1. If you think your child will benefit from a year of Young Fives (5 mornings a week), give your child a year of preschool before beginning Young Fives.



If your child has a fall birthday but you are not ready to start them in Young Fives, start your child in threeschool and then work with the classroom teacher to determine if preschool or Young Fives is the best option for your child for the next year.



This option includes three years of schooling before kindergarten, but it may be a great option for a child with a summer birthday who enters threeschool as a young three-year-old. Even after the year of preschool is finished, Young Fives is an option to give the "gift of a year" to a child who still needs time to grow and develop skills before entering kindergarten.



If your child has had good educational experiences outside of a school setting, he/she may do well with a year of Young Fives and then kindergarten.



There are varying paths to choose from for a child's journey to kindergarten. Parents make choices based on their child's birth date, time at home vs. time at preschool/in childcare, family schedules, and more. **There isn't a right or wrong choice--the best choice is whatever is best for your child.**

The state of Michigan requires that a child turns five by September 1 of the year he/she enters kindergarten. This means that all children should be five, turning six, during their kindergarten year. (Some children with late summer birthdays start kindergarten as six-year-olds.)