

A Lifetime of Learning Starts Here!



What is MECK Pre-K?

MECK Pre-K is a high quality pre-K education open to all four-year-old children in Mecklenburg County at no cost to families. Classrooms are located in licensed child development centers and taught by licensed teachers and teacher assistants. MECK Pre-K is administered by Smart Start of Mecklenburg County and funded by Mecklenburg County.

Why should children attend pre-K?

Decades of research have shown that a pre-K education makes a difference in the lives of children and their families. The foundation created in a high-quality pre-K program prepares children for the demands of life – not just in the short-term as they succeed in school, but also in the long-term as they grow up, become employed, and contribute to the strength of the community.

Participation in MECK Pre-K fosters the development of the whole child through the following:

Mathematical and Scientific Thinking: Children build investigative and problem-solving skills through daily hands-on exploration of real materials. They are encouraged to formulate problems, ask questions, research solutions, and report findings.

Joy of Learning: Children develop a love of learning and confidence in themselves through activities such as music, art, use of engaging and age-appropriate technology, drama and role playing, and vigorous outdoor play. These all enhance the curriculum and help children become able learners.

Social & Emotional Skills: Children are nurtured and guided to develop self-regulation, effective communication techniques, positive behaviors, and the ability to successfully form and sustain social relationships with adults and other children.

Language and Literacy Abilities: Children will have daily opportunities for language and literacy development and enrichment through book readings, print-rich environments, letter and word recognition activities and games, and word play such as rhyming and identifying letter sounds.



Follow MECK Pre-K

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube and LinkedIn to keep up with the latest MECK Pre-K news and show your support!



Call or visit MECK Pre-K

Address: 601 E. 5th Street, Suite 200, Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 704-943-9585

Email: info@MECKPreK.org

Website: MECKPreK.org

MECK Pre-K is administered by:



Smart Start
of Mecklenburg County

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How to Apply for MECK Pre-K



To apply for MECK Pre-K, your child must be four years old on or before August 31 of that school year and be a resident of Mecklenburg County. An email address is required.



Apply Online

Apply online by visiting MeckPreK.org on a computer, tablet or smartphone. You can search for and select your preferred locations in the application. If you are unable to apply online, email info@MECKPreK.org or call 704-943-9585 to schedule an appointment to apply in person.

Upload Documents

MECK Pre-K requires certain documents to verify that your child is eligible. You can securely upload these to the online application. Your application will not be considered complete until you have provided all the required documentation.

Check Your Email

You will receive an email or letter notifying you that your child is officially accepted into MECK Pre-K! Be sure to share the news by posting on Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube!



Is your child not quite old enough for MECK Pre-K?

Your child could be a Future MECK Pre-K Student! If you would like to be notified when registration opens for your child's age group, scan the QR code and join our mailing list.



Required documents for MECK Pre-K Registration:

✓ Current Proof of Mecklenburg County Residency

Please provide one of the following. The name on the document must match the name of the parent submitting the application and must contain a Mecklenburg County address.

- Any one utility bill or work order dated within the past 30 days, including: gas, water, electric, telephone, or cable.
- Dated within the past 30 days: payroll stub, bank statement or credit card statement.
- Current vehicle registration.
- Copy of residential lease.
- HUD closing statement
- Dated within the past year: vehicle tax bill, property tax bill, w-2, or Medicaid card.
- Copy of residential deed or record of most recent residential mortgage statement.
- Notarized residency affidavit (download at MeckPreK.org/Meck-Pre-K-Enrollment) and a copy of mortgage statement, deed, or lease from homeowner/leaseholder affirming tenancy.

✓ Proof of Child's Age and Legal Name

Document must have the child's legal name and birth date, such as on a birth certificate or passport. Additional accepted documents can be found at MeckPreK.org/Meck-Pre-K-Enrollment or by calling the MECK Pre-K office at 704-943-9585.

✓ Proof of Parent Identity

Any form of government or state photo identification:

- State-issued driver's license or ID card
- Passport or passport card

✓ Health Information

- If your child has a diagnosed chronic health or developmental issue you will be asked to provide related documentation so your child can be fully served.
- Immunization records and a recent physical (within one year) are due within 30 days of starting school.