

MECK Pre-K Media Kit

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About MECK Pre-K

MECK Pre-K is a high-quality pre-K program 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 highly qualified assistant teachers. MECK Pre-K is administered by Smart Start of Mecklenburg County and funded by Mecklenburg County. For more information, and to apply online, visit MECKPreK.org.

Contact Information

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Social Networks

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[X](#)
[YouTube](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

Website

MeckPreK.org



Fast Facts



- MECK Pre-K classrooms are located in licensed child development centers across Mecklenburg County. Child development centers may apply to host a MECK Pre-K classroom annually. Locations may change from year to year; visit meckprek.org/meck-pre-k-site-locations for a current listing.
- MECK Pre-K students must live in Mecklenburg County and turn four on or before August 31 of that year. The application is online, and opens early each calendar year at MeckPreK.org.
- MECK Pre-K lead teachers must hold, or be continually working toward, a Birth-through-Kindergarten (B-K) licensure; learn more about MECK Pre-K teachers at meckprek.org/now-hiring-teachers.
- MECK Pre-K is administered by [Smart Start of Mecklenburg County](https://SmartStart.org) and funded by [Mecklenburg County](https://MecklenburgCounty.org).



Branding Assets

[MECK Pre-K Brand Standards and Style Guide](#)

High-Res Logos:

[Standard Logo](#)

[Logo with Seated Children](#)

Photos:

[High-Res Photos of MECK Pre-K Classrooms](#)

Video Resources:

[MECK Pre-K Overview Video](#)

[MECK Pre-K Television Commercial \(English\)](#)

[MECK Pre-K Television Commercial \(Spanish\)](#)

More assets can be found on our [Partner Toolkit](#) webpage.



Pre-K Benefits

- The return on every dollar spent on high-quality accessible pre-K is \$7-\$10, according to a policy brief from CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente. [Read More](#)
- Exposure to positive early childhood experiences was associated with higher school readiness, irrespective of relative adverse childhood experiences exposure, according to *The Journal of Pediatrics*. [Read More](#)
- Participation in early education increased income, reduced crime and improved health and healthy behaviors, according to the Becker-Friedman Institute at the University of Chicago. Researchers also found that the program generated \$9 of benefits for every \$1 that was invested in it. [Read More](#)
- Universal preschool programs that include higher-income families are more effective than those reserved for lower-income families, according to the peer-reviewed empirical microeconomics-focused *Journal of Human Resources*. [Read More](#)



History of MECK Pre-K



2025	Registration for the 2025-2026 School Year opened with 105 classrooms in 47 child development centers and capacity for 1,890 students.
2024	The total number of <i>eligible</i> applications received for the 2024-2025 school year exceeded 2,900.
2022	MECK Pre-K became an NC Beginning Teacher Support Program, allowing MPK to grow its team of highly skilled, license-holding public school teachers.
2021	MECK Pre-K expanded eligibility to include children whose families fell above the income limit of 400% of the federal poverty level.
2020	MECK Pre-K opened for in-person instruction in 2020-2021, reducing class sizes by 50% for social distancing, but keeping the same # of classrooms.
2018	MECK Pre-K launched in fall 2018 with 33 classrooms in 20 child development centers and capacity for 600 students.

Fun Fact: Children who graduated in 2019 from the first class of MECK Pre-K will complete Fifth Grade in 2025!