

# Preschool Developmental Screening Information

## 2015-2016 School Year

### What is a Screening?

"Child-Find", or actively trying to locate children in the community who may be delayed developmentally, is mandated by federal government. One of the ways Mansfield "finds" children who need services is to run a screening once a year. The screening lasts about 45 minutes and includes the following:

- An observation of play skills, social interactions and language skills.
- A parent interview

### How are children chosen for Preschool?

- Children with special needs are enrolled first.
- A lottery will be held for peers (that were screened) based on gender ratio, age, and existing enrollment of children with special needs.
- A lottery for 4 year olds will be held first. Remaining slots will be offered through a lottery for 3 year olds.
- Children selected for Pre-K program: Parents are required to have the school registration packet completed and returned to the school by June 22, 2015. If not, child will be placed on waiting list.

### Eligibility for Screening

- Child must be 3 years old by August 27, 2015 (first day of Preschool)
- Any child turning 3 years old after August 27, 2015 will be eligible for the 2016-2017 screening.
- Any child who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2015 is eligible for Kindergarten, and ineligible for Preschool screening.
- No exceptions will be made to eligibility requirements.
- Please bring birth certificate to screening.
- Must provide proof of current Mansfield residency at time of screening.

### Screening dates and location

- Screening will take place at the end of May.
- Parents will be contacted in April to set up an appointment.
- Screenings are held at the Mansfield Public Library, Buchanan Auditorium on Rt. 89, Warrenville Rd.
- Only children who attend the screening process will be considered for preschool.

### Waiting List

- Only children who have gone through the current screening process will be placed on the waiting list.
- Children turning 3 after the school year begins will need to wait for the next spring screening.
- There are times during the school year when we do call children on the waiting lists.

(over)

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## **Odds and Ends**

- *There is no fee for the program at this time.*
- *Must be toilet trained, meaning children independently know when they need to go and can go on their own.*
- *Children need to attend Pre-K in underwear (no pull-ups).*
- *Attendance: due to the waiting lists, children who enroll but have sparse attendance will give up their slot to a child on the waiting list.*
- *AM/PM slots will be determined by the student's home address.*

*If you have any other questions or concerns regarding Preschool Screening, please contact:*

*Rachel D. Leclerc, Ed.D  
Director of Special Education and  
Student Support Services  
860-429-3353*

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## **If your child is not chosen for our preschool program-**

***Information on other early care and educational programs for young children is available through Mansfield Advocates for Children.***

Mansfield Advocates for Children, formerly Mansfield School Readiness Council, is a voluntary group of Mansfield citizens appointed by the Mayor and Town Council to maintain high quality early care and education for young children. We do this by supporting family literacy activities, developing programs and opportunities for teachers of early childcare and education centers and public school teachers to come together to make smoother the transition for children from centers to school.

Mansfield Advocates for Children follows up-to-date research on early care and education and Kindergarten transition issues. We publish a regularly updated directory of all of the licensed early childcare and education centers, home care providers, and before and after school programs in Mansfield; which can be found on the Mansfield Town website. A MAC volunteer publishes and updates a calendar of fun events for families in the Mansfield area.

For more information please contact Kathleen Krider 860-429-3338 or email at: [Kriderk@mansfieldct.org](mailto:Kriderk@mansfieldct.org).

Mansfield Town Website: [www.mansfieldct.gov](http://www.mansfieldct.gov)