



# Lebanon City Schools Preschool Program

Bowman Primary School  
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## Preschool Curriculum

Everything we do in preschool is centered around the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards. The Early Learning Standards are milestones organized by age, for children who are typically developing. Access to the curriculum can be found here:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Early-Learning-Content-Standards/The-Standards> .

Our preschool day is BUSY! We embed learning and skill building throughout the entire day in an active and exciting way. Often the children do not even realize they are learning! Lesson plans and activities are thoughtfully planned to ensure they are meaningful. Activities are adapted and modified to meet the needs of all students within the classroom, thus the reason we do a lot of small group learning!

### **The Creative Curriculum:**

To assist in creating purposeful lessons, we use a highly regarded, research based curriculum: The Creative Curriculum. The philosophy of this curriculum is that children in preschool learn best by *doing*. There are several themes within the curriculum and each encourage exploration, experimentation, and discussion. There is a lot of room for teachers to add their own creative spin to activities and make modifications for their students. The Creative Curriculum emphasizes the physical environment within a classroom and provides great strategies to set up materials in a way where children can construct their own learning experiences.

### **Zaner Bloser:**

The curriculum we use to teach handwriting is Zaner Bloser. ZB provides activities to teach children proper letter formation in a way that is developmentally appropriate. The children use wikki stix and play-dough to form letters. There are specific strokes that are practiced daily in order to create muscle memory and allow students to write more efficiently in later grades.

### **Assessments:**

Students within the classroom are informally assessed every day. We note student's strengths and we also determine if there are any areas of need. If there are certain areas of weakness, we create activities to practice the particular skill(s).

**Classroom Screener** - The preschool intervention specialists utilize a preschool screener that measures students' kindergarten readiness skills (number identification, counting, letters identification, letter sound knowledge, color/shape identification, and handwriting). This assessment is given multiple times throughout the year to measure progress and determine if there is a need to create extra learning opportunities for specific areas.

**Ohio's Early Learning Assessment (ELA)** - This is a tool for teachers of all Ohio preschool age children to learn about the current level of each child's skills, knowledge, and behaviors in the areas of Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Well-Being, and Motor-Development, as well as the Fine Arts. This assessment requires teachers to observe children during the natural course of the child's day. The ELA is a continuous process of gathering information about the child's learning as the learning is happening throughout the year. This process allows the teacher to form an understanding of the child's development that will assist them in planning future learning opportunities.

**Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)** - This is a developmental screening tool given at the beginning of the school year to measure age appropriate skills in the areas of speech, physical ability, social skills, and problem-solving skills. The data for the assessment is based on parent reporting.



## Preschool Enrichment Opportunities

One of the benefits of being part of the Lebanon School district is that we have access to a wide variety of school and community resources. Because of this, we have been able to add a number of wonderful and engaging enrichment programs. Below is a description of some of the programs that we have been able to offer students:

### **Romp and Stomp**

This is a monthly gross motor session with two of our school physical therapists and our occupational therapists. They plan fun age-appropriate activities to encourage your child's gross motor development.

### **Dental Health Program**

A pediatric dentist visits the school annually to teach students about proper dental hygiene practices.

### **Reading Buddies**

Students from other grades at Bowman visit bi-weekly to read to the preschoolers, fostering a love of literacy and sense of school community!

### **Resources from Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, and Physical Therapists**

Therapists collaborate with the preschool teachers on ways to incorporate age-appropriate fine motor, gross motor, and communication development activities.

### **Lebanon Librarian Visit**

The children's librarian from the Lebanon Public Library visits the preschool classes monthly to share stories, songs, and fingerplays.

### **Visits from Community Members**

Various community members visit the classroom to discuss topics that align with our units of study. Some previous speakers have been a naturalist, police officers, firefighters, nurses, and a visit from the Cincinnati Museum Center.

### **School Assemblies and Programs**

When our schedule allows, we participate in school assemblies and programs. This year, we went to assemblies that featured the Cincinnati Zoo, Lebanon High School Choir, and a Madcap Puppet Show!



## Preparing for Preschool

The first day can be full of jitters as your child embarks on their first school experience. There are ways that you can help ease your child's transition into the classroom. Here are some ways that you can help prepare your child for preschool:

### 1. Read, read, read!

- Make reading together a daily reading habit. Talk about the things your child sees in the text and help them to make connections to their own world.
- Book ideas to learn more about preschool:
  - What to Expect at Preschool* by Heidi Murkoff
  - The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
  - Preschool Day Hooray* by Linda Leopold Strauss
  - Llama Llama Time to Share* by Anna Dewdney
- Visit the Library- The Lebanon Library has a great story and craft time on Mondays (10:30, 1:00, & 6:30) and Thursdays (1:00)

### 2. Establish routines/ responsibilities for your child at home.

- Put away laundry
- Set the dinner table
- Clean up toys

3. Let your child interact with same-aged friends. Go on playdates, visit the playground, etc. Let your child experience what it's like to have to share toys, compromise, and cooperate with others. Talk to them about how to be a good friend to others.

4. Encourage your child to use their words and expand sentences to communicate their wants and needs.

5. Work with your child on using school tools. Color with crayons, paint, cut with scissors, use a glue stick, etc.

6. Practice writing their name and learning the letters in their name. Have your child make/sign cards for their loved ones.

### 7. Encourage self-help skills

- Putting on clothing/ coats/ shoes
- Handwashing
- Independence in toileting skills
- Packing up their backpack by zipping and putting items in/ taking items out