

Applying for Preschool

Are you interested in your child attending the NC Pre-K program? The preschool classrooms are located at Gatesville Elementary School but they serve children from all school districts (Buckland, Gatesville, and T. S. Cooper.) To be eligible:

- your child must be 4 by August 31, 2020
- you must complete the NC Pre-K application and submit required documents
- the application will be reviewed and eligibility determined

Where do I get the application? You can get an NC Pre-K Application from:

- any elementary school
- Gates County Public Library
- Gates County Department of Social Services
- Gates County Health Department
- <http://coserver.gates.k12.nc.us/Page/536> (On this webpage you can download an application and find other information about the preschool program.)

My child will not be 4 until after August 31, 2020 but I want him/her to attend the Pre-K class. Is that possible?

- Three year old children are accepted into the preschool program if they have a documented delay that meets the criteria for placement in the Exceptional Children's Preschool Program. For three year old children, classroom placement is made through the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) process. This means the child must be evaluated, determined eligible by a committee that includes the parent, and a plan developed. Children that are 4 years old by August 31, 2020 do not have to have a documented delay.

How do I know if my child (3 or 4 year old) has a delay?

- Gates County Preschool offers a free screening that screens speech, language, hearing, vision, health (shot record review, height, weight...) social-emotional skills, cognitive skills, and motor skills. All children age 3 or 4 by August 31, 2020 are encouraged to register. If concerns are noted follow-up evaluations will be scheduled if the parent/guardian is interested in pursuing services.

How do I register for the screening? Submit the *Annual Preschool Screening Registration Form* or the *NC Pre-K Application*. You can also get this form from:

- any elementary school
- Gates County Public Library
- Gates County DSS
- Gates County Health Department
- <http://coserver.gates.k12.nc.us/Page/536> (On this webpage you can download an application and find other information about the preschool program.)

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Ward, Preschool Coordinator, at 357-4133 or loriward@gatescountyschools.net