



Williamston Community Schools

Young Fives Program

Program Description and FAQ

“Development and learning proceed at varying rates from child to child, as well as uneven rates across different areas of a child’s individual learning.”
-NAEYC

Young Fives Frequently Asked Questions....

1. What is the Young Fives program?

Williamston Community Schools recognizes that each child comes to school with unique learning experiences. Young Fives and Kindergarten offer developmentally appropriate programs to meet the varying rates of development and learning for all children. Young Fives helps to meet the needs of children who may benefit from the “gift of time” to develop emotionally, socially and academically before entering the rigorous pace of our “traditional” Kindergarten program.

*For both Young Fives and Kindergarten, students must be 5 years old by the December 1 cut-off date.

”Not all 5 year olds are developmentally ready for the rigors of an increasingly academic and demanding kindergarten curriculum. A child may already know the ABC’s or be able to count to 100, but a child also needs to be ready physically, socially, and emotionally, and exhibit behaviors that will support school success.” –Gesell Institute

2. Would my child benefit from a year in Young Fives?

Williamston’s Young Fives program is, traditionally, the first year of a two-year kindergarten track. Young Fives is an option for children who turn five by December 1st.

This program may be a desirable option for children who turn five between June and November, have had little to no prior school/daycare experience, and whose parents are concerned about social, emotional and academic development and readiness.

“If we were to follow the development of 2 infants born on the same day, it would be most unlikely that they would begin to walk at exactly the same age. It follows naturally that children become ready for learning in a school environment at different ages.”

-Unknown

3. What does the Young Fives program look like?

- The Young Fives classrooms are located at Discovery Elementary
- Young Fives is a 5 day a week program that follows the elementary school day time frame (8:20 am to 3:20 pm) and WCS calendar.





- Young Fives students may ride WCS buses to and from school, and participate in before/after school care provided by Kid's Corner.
- Young Fives literacy, math and science core curriculum is aligned to Common Core State Standards, and Michigan State Grade Level Expectations (see curriculum description for further information).
- Young Fives, in class, literacy interventions are research-based.
- Young Fives students take part in Academic Related Curriculum classes: Fit for Life, Music, Visual Arts, STEAM Lab
- Young Fives students visit the Discovery Computer Lab once a week.
- Young Fives students visit the elementary media center once a week.
- Young Fives students eat lunch in the cafeteria with the Kindergarten classrooms.
- The Young Fives program offers a smaller adult/child ratio with 2 adults (teacher and Paraprofessional) in the classroom.

Discovery Elementary Fives Curriculum Description

In Young Fives you may observe growth in your child in the following areas:

- *Social growth*
 - *Taking and waiting for turns*
 - *Resolving conflicts appropriately*
 - *Making simple decisions*
 - *Taking care of personal belongings*
 - *Offering answers, taking risks*
 - *Working as a team*
 - *Building friendships*
 - *Listening to and following directions*
- *Emotional growth*
 - *Dealing with transitions*
 - *Becoming comfortable being away from parents for the day*
 - *Expressing ideas/feelings to adults other than family members*
 - *Accepting minor disappointments or limits*
- *Academic growth*
 - *Gain confidence with core academic skills*
 - *Work independently w/o constant adult supervision*

-Gesell Institute "Ready or Not: Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?"

Williamston Community Schools is dedicated to...

providing the best programming for each and every child. Young Fives and Kindergarten offer developmentally appropriate practices that both meet children where they are, challenge them, and help them attain new goals.

Questions about our Young Fives program may be directed to....

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