

Preschool Scholarships



Do you have a child that will be 3 or 4 years old
by September 15th, 2020?

Preschools in Cedar and Jones counties are currently
taking registrations and funds are available to assist
families with the cost.

WHY PRESCHOOL IS GOOD FOR CHILDREN

- *Preschool is an opportunity for growth*
- *Preschool prepares children for kindergarten*
- *Preschool promotes social & emotional development*
- *Preschool promotes language & cognitive skills*
- *Preschool teachers nurture a child's curiosity*
- *Preschool helps develop motor skills*



There are approximately **2000 Days** between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first **2000 Days** of a child's life can have a **profound** and **lifelong** impact on physical and emotional well-being, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.

Further questions, contact your local preschool or Sherri Hunt, Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Director at 319-551-3402 or sherri.hunt@co.jones.ia.us.



Preschool Scholarship Program Information & Application 2020-2021

Thank you for your interest in our Preschool Scholarship Program. State tax dollars are allocated to Cedar and Jones counties through Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa to help support children and their families when they choose high quality early education for their child. Scholarships allow for access to financial assistance to help offset costs associated with early preschool education.

To apply for a Preschool Scholarship, complete the attached 2020-2021 application and send the application and **a most recent copy of your Federal Income Tax Return or Returns for all individuals supporting the household** to the Preschool Scholarship Manager. Only the current application completed in its entirety will be accepted.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Your child will be 3, 4, or 5 years of age as of September 15th, 2020.
- Your child lives in Cedar or Jones County or within the boundaries of the Anamosa, Bennett, Durant, Midland, Monticello, North Cedar, Olin, Tipton, and West Branch School Districts.
- Your child attends or will attend a high-quality participating preschool.
- Your family meets income guidelines. Please note that this is gross income and includes salary/wages/stipends, unemployment benefits, SSI, FIP, Social Security, Child Support, Veteran's benefits, and direct student loans.
- Your child is in Foster Care warranted through the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Scholarships will only be paid to preschools within Cedar and Jones counties meeting program guidelines. The Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa Board will review exception requests to Preschool Scholarship policies upon individual requests.

If your child is awarded a scholarship, payment will be made directly to the preschool. A co-payment may be required by the preschool and will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Preschool attendance will be monitored by the school and reported to the Preschool Scholarship Program Manager monthly. At least 85% attendance will be required for participation in the scholarship program. If the child is sick and misses school, these days will not be included in the 85% attendance requirement if a written doctor's excuse is provided.

If attendance falls below 85%, one warning will be given to parents by program management. The second time attendance falls below 85%, the child may be terminated from the scholarship program and not be allowed to re-enter during the current school year. Full preschool tuition will then be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Application for Preschool Scholarships will not be considered until a completed application and a most recent copy of the family Federal Income Tax Return (or all supporting household income verification documentation) has been received.

Applications (pages 3-4) should be returned to and questions directed to:

Sherri Hunt
 Preschool Scholarship Manager
 Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa
 203 Hamilton Street
 Anamosa, IA 52205

sherri.hunt@co.jones.ia.us
 (319) 551-3402

The following table outlines 2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Requirements for Preschool Scholarships are ***200% or below*** Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Persons in family or household	100% of poverty	130% of poverty	145% of poverty	150% of poverty	185% of poverty	200% of poverty	300% of poverty
1	\$12,760	16,588	18,502	19,140	23,606	25,520	38,280
2	\$17,240	22,412	24,998	25,860	31,894	34,480	51,720
3	\$21,720	28,236	31,494	32,580	40,182	43,440	65,160
4	\$26,200	34,060	37,990	39,300	48,470	52,400	78,600
5	\$30,680	39,884	44,486	46,020	56,758	61,360	92,040
6	\$35,160	45,708	50,982	52,740	65,046	70,320	105,480
7	\$39,640	51,532	57,478	59,460	73,334	79,280	118,920
8	\$44,120	57,356	63,974	66,180	81,622	88,240	132,360
For each additional person add	\$4,480	\$5,824	\$6,496	\$6,720	\$8,288	\$8,960	\$13,440

For your information -- The following programs use the Federal Poverty Guidelines:

- 100% - Head Start; Early Head Start
- 130% - Shared Visions Preschool; National School Lunch Program (Free - at or below 130%); Medicaid (133%)
- 145% - State Child Care Assistance
- 150% - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP); Weatherization
- 185% - WIC; Title V - Maternal & Child Health Services;
 National School Lunch Program (Reduced fees - between 130% - 185%)
- 200% - ECI Low-Income Preschool Tuition Assistance; Hawk-i;

*Children at or below 100% of poverty could be eligible for Head Start and need to contact the Head Start Center nearest to their home. Preschool Scholarship funds are to avoid duplication of services and funds with other preschool programming including Head Start.



2020-2021 Preschool Scholarship Application

Date: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Child's Age: (as of September 15, 2020) 3 or 4 or 5 yrs. old (Circle One)

Male or Female (Circle One) Is the Child Hispanic/Latino: Yes No

School district in which child resides: _____

County in which child resides: _____

Preschool Name _____ Number of days per week: _____

Head of Household Name: _____

Relationship to Child: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Contact: _____

Marital Status: Married Single Widowed Partnered Divorced Separated

Education Level: Some High School HS Diploma GED 2-Year College Degree
Trade or Vocational Training 4 Year College Degree Master's Degree or Higher

Race of Head of Household: African American Asian White Multiracial
Native American/Alaskan Native Native Hawaiian/Pacific Island

List all other people who live in your home:

Name (First, Last) Relationship to child (applicant) Employer

Name (First, Last)	Relationship to child (applicant)	Employer

Number of adults living in the home: _____

Number of children living in the home: _____

Documentation of income must be included with this application (pages 3 and 4) or the application will not be processed until the necessary documentation has been received.

Documentation:

Copy of Federal Income Tax Return or Returns for all individuals supporting the household

If a Federal Income Tax Return is not available, documentation will be required for all forms of income. Please contact the Preschool Scholarship Program Manager for further information.

By signing below, you agree to the terms of participation in the Preschool Scholarship Program including attendance and co-payment requirements and release of information to Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa for program data collection and reporting. You are also stating that all above information is correct and all information relevant to the processing of this application has been disclosed. Individual personal information will be kept confidential.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date