



Preschool Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Rahway Families,

The Rahway Office of Early Childhood Education receives several calls regarding our preschool program. In order to address some of the questions that you may have, please see the information below.

Q: What is the cost?

A: Our preschool program is free to Rahway residents.

Q: What are the hours?

A: The hours vary, depending on the school placement. Please check our website at <https://www.rahway.net/> for individual school websites and school hours.

Q: Is the program full day?

A: Yes, we offer full day preschool care and education services to 3 and 4 year old children. Full day is considered 6 hours of care and education, per day.

Q: Is part-day attendance an option?

A: Only full-day options are available.

Q: Do you offer transportation?

A: We **DO NOT** offer transportation.

Q: What are the services for my bilingual child?

A: We have the option of a bilingual classroom placement for families who indicate a need for their child. In addition, we provide bilingual support services for all of our classroom teachers and children.

Q: Does my child need to be toilet trained to attend?

A: No. It is not required for children to be toilet trained in order to attend.

Q: Which Rahway school will my three-year-old child be attending for the PreK 3 program?

A: The three-year-old preschool classrooms are **NOT** located within the district elementary school buildings. The district has one district managed, off-site located at the St. Thomas the Apostle education annex where we have limited space to provide care and education services to three-year-old children. In addition, the district has collaborated with two local privately owned and operated childcare programs who will provide care and education services to three-year-old preschool children. The two collaboration sites are Rahway Daycare and the Rahway Community Action Organization, formerly JFK Helping Hands Learning Academy.

Q: Are the PreK 3 classrooms district classrooms?

A: The classrooms located at the St. Thomas the Apostle education annex are district managed and operated classrooms. The provider locations (Rahway Daycare and Rahway Community Action Organization/JFK) are owned and managed by the providers, and are **NOT** district classrooms. Providers must follow stringent state regulations and standards in order to contract with the district.

Q: What makes the provider classrooms high quality?

A: Providers are required to be licensed by the New Jersey Office of Licensing in order to enter into a contract with the district. Provider classrooms also have certified teachers in each classroom and paraprofessionals who have obtained at least an Associates degree. In addition, all classrooms follow the district's chosen preschool curriculum (HighScope), are observed and supported by district specialists and Master Teachers regularly, are assessed by district staff for high quality implementation, and the staff are observed by district administrators.

Q: What will arrival and dismissal times be?

A: The arrival and dismissal times are identified by the individual facility administrators. Elementary school and Academy preschool arrival and dismissal times vary. Please access the district website for individual school hours and information. The St. Thomas location operates from 8:10am-2:27pm. Providers are required to operate for at least six hours, and they determine these hours. Families can contact their enrolled provider to confirm these times.

Q: What are the requirements to register my child?

A: Children must be three or four years old by October 1st, families must reside in Rahway and provide multiple confirmations of residency, and families are required to submit both a physical and an immunization record in order for the application to be approved.

Q: Is before and after care available?

A: Our elementary school and the Academy preschool locations have before and aftercare available, provided by the YMCA. The St. Thomas location does **NOT** provide before or after care. The provider locations both provide before and after care are available. Please contact the YMCA and the provider locations for details about before and after care. For a list of known before and after care programs [click here](#).

Q: Will breakfast, lunch and snack be served?

A: Both breakfast and lunch are available for purchase at all of our district locations, including the St. Thomas location. Snack is **NOT** provided at any of our district locations and families must send a snack with their child each day, as it is a required component of our daily routine. Provider locations also provide school meal options. Please check with the provider regarding their school meal services. Please be sure to observe any program food restrictions due to food allergies.

Q: How can I reach my child's teacher during the school day?

A: District locations each have office staff. Please view our district website for individual district school contact information. All staff members have district email addresses and this is the best way to contact classroom staff. Please note that staff are only available to review email messages during prep times. If you have immediate questions or concerns, please contact school office staff. Both provider locations are staffed with Center Directors. You may contact the centers individually to speak with your child's teacher.

Q: When should I register my child?

A: Registration begins by or around the month of February each year. Spaces are limited, for both 3 and 4 year old children. Children are placed on a first come, first served basis so be sure to refer to the district website and registration portal often to ensure timely registration and submission of your completed application. Lastly, only children with completed applications will be placed on classroom rosters.

If you should have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the district Office of Early Childhood Education @ (732) 396-2968.
