



## NC Pre-K and Three School Frequently Asked Questions

**What is NC Pre-Kindergarten?** NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) is a program of the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) and funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. The program is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-olds. Children that are 4 by August 31st of the program year are encouraged to apply.

**What is Three School?** Three School is a program of One Place, funded by Smart Start. The program is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible three-year-olds. Children that are 3 by August 31st of the program year and whose parents are working or enrolled in school are encouraged to apply.

**Do I have to complete the application from a computer?**

No. The Onslow County Online Preschool Application may be completed from a computer or any mobile device. If using auto-fill to complete the application, please be sure to verify all fields contain the correct information.

**Once I begin the Application, can I start an application and finish later?**

No. Once you begin an application in ChildPlus you will need to complete it.

**How long will it take to complete the application?**

The application will take approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. Remember, you cannot start and begin again later. Following the initial application, a One Place staff member will contact you to complete a Family Interview to collect additional information.

**What documents do I need to complete the application?**

Documents required to complete your online application include: all sources of family income for the last 12 months, child's birth certificate, child's immunization record, proof of residence (current month utility bill), parent/guardian proof of identity, parent/guardian school schedule, and/or custody documentation. For more information about documentation, visit the One Place website at:

<https://www.oneplaceonslow.org>.

**What if I do not have a scanner so that I can upload documents?**

The Onslow County Online Preschool Application allows attachments to be in many formats, including PDF, DOC, DOCX, PNG, JPG, JPEG, and GIF.

**If I do not have documents at the time I complete the application can I still apply?**

Yes. You may still submit an application without uploading documents, but your application will be incomplete. Applications will not be processed until all documents have been submitted.

**What if my documents will not upload?**

If you have trouble uploading documents or completing the application, contact Tapresha Cummings, PreK Program Assistant at [tapresha.cummings@oneplaceonslow.org](mailto:tapresha.cummings@oneplaceonslow.org). One of our staff members will contact you and work to assist you in completing your application.



**If I completed an online application with OCS do I need to complete one with One Place as well?**

No. OCS and One Place collaborate to provide Preschool Services to families in Onslow County. You should only complete one application.

**After submitting an application what are the next steps?**

A One Place staff member will contact you within 30 days to complete a Family Interview.

**How can I check the status of my application?**

To find out the status of your application, contact Tapresha Cummings, PreK Program Assistant at [Tapresha.cummings@oneplaceonslow.org](mailto:Tapresha.cummings@oneplaceonslow.org).

**How do I know if my child is eligible?** Eligibility is based on age and income requirements. Children must be 3 or 4 years of age on or before August 31st of the program year. All age-eligible children are welcome to apply.

**Are children of military families eligible?** Yes, Eligible 4-year-old children who are the dependent of a member of the United States Armed Forces, that was active duty within the past 18 months, injured while serving, or killed while serving, are eligible without regard to income. Determination of child eligibility does not guarantee placement in the NC Pre-K Program. \*Three School does not provide an income exception for military families due to funding requirements.

**I don't meet the income requirement, are there other eligibility criteria?** Yes, a 4-year-old child that has one or more of the following risk factors may be eligible without regard to income:

- Identified developmental disability
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- An education need indicated from an approved developmental screening or an existing Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- A chronic health condition as indicated by the diagnosis from a professional health care provider.

\*Three School does not provide an income exception for additional risk factors due to the funding requirements.

**What are the placement criteria?** Participation in NC Pre-K and Three School is based on the allocation of spaces and the child's priority for placement. Priority is determined for each child based on several criteria; children who are identified to be at greater risk receive higher priority for placement. Children who have received no prior early education services outside the home are higher priority than children who are currently served in early education settings.

**Where are NC Pre-K and Three School classes held?** NC Pre-K and Three School classes are in approved four and five star child care centers and elementary schools in Onslow County.

**Are NC Pre-K and Three School teachers qualified?** NC Pre-K and Three School teachers are professionals with degrees in early education or a related area of study. NC Pre-K teachers are required to hold a NC Teaching License.



**When do NC Pre-K and Three School start?** The NC Pre-K and Three School year begins with staggered entry. Staggered entry days are opportunities for smaller groups of children and teachers to attend the classroom, and to get to know one another and the environment. Your child’s teacher will notify you of your child’s staggered entry date. Please refer to the Pre-K Calendar for exact dates.

**What if I need before and after school care?** Some NC Pre-K and Three School sites also provide before and after school care for a fee. More information can be obtained directly from the NC Pre-K or Three School site or One Place Resource and Referral at (910) 938-0336.

**Is transportation provided?** Transportation is provided to eligible children in classrooms located in public school sites. If transportation is a barrier for your family please contact Courtney Wandishin at (910) 938-0336 or your child’s NC Pre-K or Three School site.

**What is the daily schedule like?** All NC Pre-K and Three School classes are 6.5 hours per day. The daily schedule consists of child-initiated and teacher-directed activities, individual, small group, and large group instruction, active exploration of the indoor and outdoor learning environments, opportunities for social interaction, quiet and active periods of play and rest, and access to a wide variety of toys and educational materials that provide opportunities for exploration and learning.

**What curriculum is used in NC Pre-K and Three School?** Creative Curriculum is a comprehensive research-based and research-proven curriculum that offers developmentally appropriate programs that extend children’s learning. Teachers use their knowledge and assessment of individual children to plan the environment and activities to meet the needs of young children. Teachers conduct regular and ongoing assessment using Teaching Strategies Gold. The NC Pre-K and Three School requirements are built upon the North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development.

**Family Engagement** is encouraged, and families should feel welcome to visit and participate in different activities throughout the year. Conferences are held three times throughout the year to provide opportunities to share and learn about your child’s development. Teachers conduct ongoing assessments and collect samples of children’s work to show evidence of child progress towards developmental goals and objectives.

A **Home Visit** from your child’s teacher will occur prior to your child’s first day in the classroom. A home visit is an opportunity for the entire family to meet the teachers, learn more about each other, and ease the child’s transition from home to school. Your child’s teacher will notify you of your child’s home visit date.

**Who Regulates NC Pre-K and Three School Programs?** Programs must meet NC DCDEE Licensing Requirements and maintain either 4 or 5 Stars on their licensing status. In addition, NC Pre-K sites must comply with NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance. To learn more, visit:

<https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Home/DCDEE-Sections/North-Carolina-Pre-Kindergarten-NC-Pre-K>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Courtney Wandishin, PreK Coordinator, at (910) 938-0336

Revised 3.28.2022