

“We must build a system of education in North Carolina that gives every child every opportunity to succeed, regardless of geographic location or economic condition. If we are to eliminate the achievement gap and give all children a chance to succeed, then we must provide high-quality pre-k opportunities to our four-year-olds who need them the most.”

– Governor Michael F. Easley



The More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program is supported by the Office of School Readiness, NC Department of Public Instruction. The mission of the Office of School Readiness is to prepare children for school success through high-quality early education. The office supports preschool programs throughout North Carolina, in public schools and licensed child care centers, and includes the following programs:

- Even Start Family Literacy
- Head Start-State Collaboration Office
- More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program
- Preschool Exceptional Children
- Title I Preschool

For More Information, Contact:

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Pre-kindergarten Prepares Children for School Success

North Carolina is investing in the educational success of young children through the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program. Pre-kindergarten is a research-proven strategy for school readiness.

The program is available to children who are four years old by August 31 of the program year, will be entering kindergarten the following year, and are at risk for poor school outcomes. Factors that put children at risk for poor school outcomes include low income, limited English proficiency, identified disability, chronic health condition and developmental or educational need. Children of Active Duty military families are also eligible. Priority is given to eligible children who have not been served in any other preschool or child care program.

Children attend a full school day, full school year program that meets high-quality state standards.

More at Four is community-based and available in all counties in North Carolina. The program is integrated with other early childhood programs in the community and administered at the county or regional level. More at Four classrooms are located in public schools, licensed child care centers or Head Start programs.

Children’s Language, Literacy, Math and Social Skills Are Improving Substantially

Independent evaluation findings by FPG Child Development Institute show that children who participate in More at Four exhibit substantial growth in key skill areas including language, literacy, math, general knowledge and social skills, from the beginning of the pre-kindergarten year through the end of kindergarten, setting these children on the path to school success. The program is especially beneficial for those children most at risk of school failure. (www.fpg.unc.edu/~mafeval/)

A Commitment to High Quality

North Carolina is among the top two states nationally for state pre-kindergarten quality standards, according to the National Institute for Early Education Research.

More at Four provides:

- well-educated teachers with specialized training
- small class size and low teacher-child ratios
- comprehensive curricula
- focus on the whole child and family

Children’s experiences in More at Four are rooted in North Carolina’s early learning standards for preschoolers, called *Foundations*. These standards incorporate the five domains of development and learning fundamental to school readiness:

- approaches to learning
- emotional and social development
- health and physical development
- language development and communication
- cognitive development



More at Four teachers engage children in active learning with a focus on each domain. Children in More at Four:

- Learn about letters, colors, shapes and numbers
- Learn to develop positive relationships with peers and teachers
- Listen to stories and learn about books
- Explore math, science, art and music
- Expand language skills
- Develop a positive sense of self and an enthusiasm for learning
- Explore and play outside daily

More at Four staff value the diversity of children and their families and are responsive to the needs of individual children.



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