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Parents Should Allow Children to Attend Preschool

The most critical time for a child’s development is from birth to five years old. This is when babies are trying to learn to feed themselves, crawl, walk, talk, and even try to understand what is going on around them. During this time, children are like parrots, they mock everything they see; their parents, siblings, and even what strangers say and do. For parents to be confident that their children have reached their full potential, it begins with preschool, not only kindergarten. Preschool is like putting on a helmet and knee pads before learning to skate or having training wheels on a bicycle before leaning to ride a bike. The helmet and training wheels prepare riders not to fall, so they may advance to the next level of riding a bike or going to skate. This analogy can be used when discussing whether parents should enroll their children in preschool.

Preschool is the step parents should strongly consider before kindergarten. “This is the first place children go when they are being separated from home, therefore it has to be a second home, so they feel secure and safe” (Kavshik, P. and Marwaha, R. 2014). Parents should strongly consider enrolling their children in preschool because preschool builds social skills, prepares children for the next grade level, and teaches them structure.

“Early childhood teachers share an enormous responsibility—to guide young children as they enter the world of formal education and to instill a lifelong love of learning” (NBPTS 2012). “Accomplished teachers demonstrate their deep commitment to the development and learning of young children by facilitating the transition from the world of home and family to the educational system” (NBPTS 2012). “Through manipulating materials and interacting with their peers and teachers in carefully-planned environments, accomplished teachers strategically and creatively use play as a vehicle to enhance young children’s development and learning” (NBPTS 2012). “Teachers also work to create a productive, safe, joyful, and enriching learning environment in which young children with often vastly differing backgrounds, abilities, and needs, work together successfully and help children gain the knowledge, skills, habits, and dispositions toward learning that are essential for later success in school and in life” (NBPTS 2012).

Therefore, it does not matter whether another child has a mental disability, they can only see out of one eye, or they are not able to use a limb, children should be able to interact and socialize with other children.

Early childhood teachers play major roles in children lives because they are the closest form of parents to children in addition, to the amount of time they spend with their teachers every day. Hence, teachers should be able to teach children fundamentals their parent would teach them at home. Children who attend preschool can build their social skills. Sometimes in class, there will be group work and activities that require children to socialize with each other. They will be able to interact with other children who might be on different levels, as far as their social skills, children with different styles of learning and habits. “The children are involved in oral activities like poem recitation, storytelling, role-playing, singing songs, hymns and prayers” (Kavshik, P. and Marwaha, R. 2014). “All these activities help in improving their oratory skills. They learn to speak in groups and they develop the confidence of speaking in front of small groups” (Kavshik, P. and Marwaha, R.2014). “Children who learn to interact successfully with their peers during the preschool years tend to be well accepted by their peers throughout their school career, while children who fail to learn these skills in the early grades tend to be rejected by their classmates throughout their school career” (Coie 1990). By children learning what social skills consist of, they will be able to carry what they learned with them in the future. The social skills taught by teachers to children will bring a positive attitude into the classroom which makes the teacher environments suitable to teach.

Parents should send their children to preschool, so they know what it feels like to be in a structured environment. “Co-operative learning activities provide an ideal vehicle for teachers to structure the environment for successful peer interactions and to provide children with the coaching and support they need to develop their social and emotional skills and understanding” (Ashman, A. and Gillies, R. 20). There must be structure in the classroom for it to function properly. Most of the time preschool classrooms have a teacher and an assistant teacher. The assistant is there to help the structure of the classroom flow. When the teacher is helping another student, or he/she must step out, the assistant teacher is there to take control. “Children may benefit more from multiple teachers who provide complementary interaction behaviors” (Shim 3). The classroom must have some grounded rules put into place to the children as well as the teachers. The rules of the classroom help children know the expectations of the classroom and of the teacher. Children must know when it is time to talk and when it is not time to talk. They need to know when to raise their hand when being called upon. Most classrooms have schedules and routines. They are set up for children to know what it means to be on a timed schedule. It also helps them know what is about to come up next which is another word for time management. “Time management is another important feature of pre-school. Children learn assembly time, circle time, play time, tiffin time, story time and fun time” (Kavshik, P. and Marwaha, R. 2014). Preschool teaches the basic math and literacy skills needed to advance such as simple addition and subtraction, learning to write and spell level words, or completing comprehensive checks. Everything that children learn in prepares them for preschool, whether it be physically or mentally. The overall goal that parents should have is that their children are prepared for the next level.

“Attending a preschool program and the quality of that program is a greater factor in determining a child’s readiness for school than turning 5. The focus now should be on finding out what skills a child should have, at what level of performance would the skill be considered mastered before entering kindergarten, and what are the best ways to acquire those skills” (Estes p16).

Parents should greatly consider preschool for their children. It builds their social skills, prepares them for the next level for school, and it teaches them what structure is. So, just like the training wheels and the knee pads help riders in the future, preschool prepares children for the future.

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