

# Quality Counts!

When parents are looking for a preschool program for their four-year-old child, they want the best place possible. They want their child safe, happy, and learning. All three of those items are part of a quality program and quality counts when teaching young children. Children should be given the chance to explore, and try new things. A quality preschool program has that embedded in its curriculum. Walking into a preschool classroom, a parent should feel a sense of children being busy. There is some noise, but the whole group of children is engaged with the materials in the classroom. There are several activities going on at the same time. The staff is moving throughout the classroom talking with children about their activities. Children look like they are playing, and that's what we want. This is how young children learn! The teaching staff offers activities children show an interest in. The teacher and aide then try to engage children in those activities with a purpose to see children's current skills and teach new ones. Other items to look for in a quality preschool program are teacher training, and parent involvement. Teachers who are trained to work with young children are the most important factor in a quality program. They guide the instruction, provide the security for being away from home, and try to have children happy. Parents are an integral part of any early childhood program. Parents know their children best, and can share that information with the teacher. This is most helpful when determining what a child's interests are. Parents can also reinforce new skills at home. Quality programs make parents feel welcome and a part of their child's education.

Wyoming County Schools wants you to take advantage of WV Pre-K. There are classrooms available in every part of the county. We offer a quality service to young children at no cost to families. The only requirement is to be four-years-old before Sept. 1. Children who are three-years-old may qualify for the service if they have a developmental delay. Please contact us for more information at 304-732-6262, ext. 1201 or 1203.