

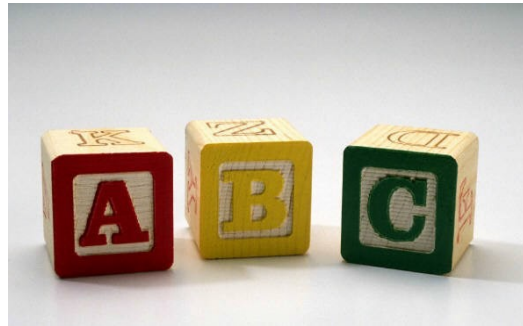


More Explicit
More Intensive
More Supportive

Great Beginnings is designed to provide more learning opportunities per day to children who are identified as needing the support. Research indicates that students who need the extra support and who do not receive it often fall into a downward spiral from which it is difficult to recover.

Location of Program

Great Beginnings is housed according to need in the District. It is possible that students may attend the program in a building other than their "home" school.



For Additional Information

Please direct questions about the Great Beginnings program to any building principal.

Christopher Pickell, Principal
Charlestown Elementary School
(610) 935-1555

Bonnie Citron, Principal
General Wayne Elementary School
(610) 647-6651

Victoria Morris, Principal
K. D. Markley Elementary School
(610) 644-1790

Kyle Hammond, Principal
Sugartown Elementary School
(610) 699-1500

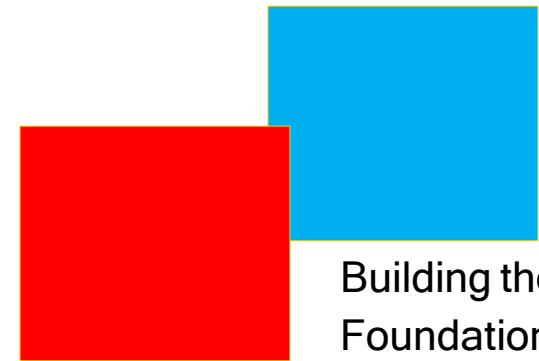


Great Valley School District
47 Church Road
Malvern, PA 19355
(610) 889-2100
www.gvsd.org

Great Valley
School District



Great Beginnings



Building the
Foundation for
Success

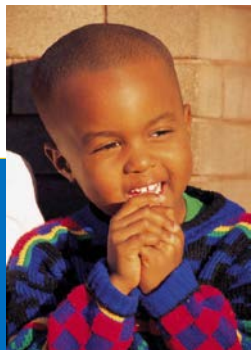
“*E*arly learning begets later learning, and early success breeds later success.”

-James J. Heckman, Ph.D., Nobel Laureate in Economic Science, 2000

Great Beginnings Start Here

Great Beginnings is a full-day kindergarten program that is based upon research. The recommendation for the Great Beginnings program came from three study groups within the Great Valley School District who examined elementary structures, the achievement of students, and the kindergarten program.

The goal of Great Beginnings is to provide additional time and support to students who come to kindergarten needing more than a half-day program can offer. Teachers in Great Beginnings provide instruction that is explicit and intensive. Like the half-day kindergarten program, Great Beginnings creates a safe and nurturing



environment that fosters curiosity, exploration, and discovery and helps build students' confidence. Great Beginnings prepares children to enter first grade performing on or above grade level.

Less Ready, Not Less Able

Students come to kindergarten at various levels of preparedness. The District works with parents to identify a child's areas of strengths and his or her areas of needed growth. But a variety of factors come together to determine how successful a child may be in school. Those factors include a child's readiness to learn, physical ability, social interaction skills, and emotional disposition.

Just because a child comes to kindergarten with greater needs, does not mean that the child is less able to learn. Great Beginnings provides the increased support that some children need to begin a successful academic experience.



Does My Child Qualify?

Our teachers will gather information about your child by conducting a skills inventory, held the spring before your child enters school. This process is designed in five to seven minute stations and lasts approximately 45 minutes. The results of the process may make your child eligible for the Great Beginnings program.

There is no cost to parents for an eligible child to participate in the Great Beginnings program. Students are expected to advance to first grade the year after their completion of the Great Beginnings Kindergarten Program.

“The skill deficit between average and below average readers can be largely erased with appropriate early intervention.” - Torgesen