

APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2017.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

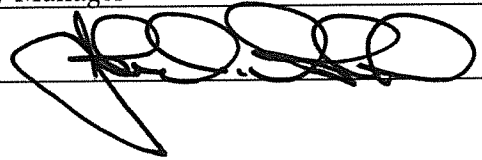
PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico
Program Title: Springer Preschool Academy: Summer With Friends
Program Category: Health & Human Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Holly Zinn
Title: Management Specialist
Department: County Manager's Office
Complete Mailing Address: 4301 E. Parham Road, Third Floor, Henrico, VA 23228
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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: John Vithoukas
Title: County Manager
Signature: 

1. Program Overview

Springer Preschool Academy is a high quality, full-day preschool laboratory operated in conjunction with the Early Childhood Education program at Highland Springs Technical Center within Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS). The Early Childhood Education program is designed for high school juniors and seniors interested in careers working with young children. The Springer Preschool Academy opened its doors for the first time during the 2007-08 school year to care for children of HCPS employees. HCPS employees can choose to enroll their preschooler in this academy just as they would any other local preschool program.

The “Summer with Friends” program began in the summer of 2013, as a way to provide HCPS employees an option for extended summer care for their children. The Summer with Friends program was developed so that current preschool clients could receive child care for an additional four weeks after the regular school year while parents worked summer school positions. Parents appreciate this program because they are relieved of the pressure to find child care for only four weeks and because the program is a trusted, familiar place where their children can enjoy spending an extra month with their preschool friends.

2. Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Summer with Friends is a program that meets three major needs:

1. It provides a worry-free, safe, and familiar environment for preschool children of HCPS employees, while their parents complete extended contracts by working through summer school, with little to no interruption of the school-year schedule;
2. It provides additional hours for students who desire to earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) certification, which qualifies an individual to work with young children. The certification requires 480 hours of supervised field work, which is a tall order for students

and is almost impossible to complete in the two-year program attendance. Summer with Friends provides additional field work hours for students who wish to reach this goal. The program teachers are present to document the hours for the students' portfolios.

3. Finally, Summer with Friends serves as a lab environment for middle and high school students enrolled in the new summer school course, Early Childhood Education, and wish to earn 0.5 credit-hours.

3. How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This is an innovative solution that uses collaboration and cooperation to address multiple needs. The HCPS Early Childhood Education program meets the needs of HCPS employees who are parents and wish to work in summer school. The program provides continued, high-quality child care in a familiar environment to the children. It also provides the opportunity for additional experience and lab time for students enrolled in childhood education classes or working toward CDA certification.

4. How Program Was Carried Out

Springer Preschool Academy parents have enjoyed a popular program held throughout the year called, "Parent Night Out." Students stay at school on a Friday evening and provide child care until 10:30 p.m., while the child's parents enjoy a date night, shop, or run errands. The feedback from this program prompted us to look at other ways we could extend our services.

Springer Preschool Academy is a full-day preschool lab operating in conjunction with the Early Childhood Education program at the Advanced Career Education Center (ACE) at Highland Springs High School in Henrico County, Virginia. The daily center hours are 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays, from September until June. However, because of numerous

inquiries from our families needing summer care for their children, we have extended our operations for an additional four weeks after the regular school year. The Summer with Friends program operates from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays during the summer school session, as county school employees work four, ten-hour days during the summer months.

Springer Preschool Academy's Summer with Friends offers two preschool classrooms. One classroom is comprised of two- and three-year-olds, and the other classroom is comprised of four- and five-year-olds. Participating preschoolers enjoy a program focusing on the positive development of the young child in a quality-learning environment. Activities include: arts and crafts, science experiments, games, weekly field trips, breakfast, and snacks.

High school students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program attend daily classes onsite, where they learn about concepts like child development, creating a safe and healthy learning environment, curriculum planning, and promoting positive and productive relationships with families. In addition to the traditional classroom instruction, students interact daily with preschoolers to apply the concepts taught in the classroom and gain real-world experience. Our students plan future careers in child care, teaching, child psychology, pediatrics, and many other child-related professions. Being a part of Springer Preschool Academy provides students with a better understanding of both the challenges and rewards of working with young children.

Springer Preschool Academy's Summer with Friends serves students already enrolled in the preschool during the academic year. However, registration would be considered for new families slated to enroll in the fall if too few preschoolers were enrolled to provide a proper experience for the students taking the class for summer school credit.

The program was developed as a collaborative effort between our parents and Springer Preschool staff members. Springer Preschool Academy is operated and funded through the HCPS Career and Technical Education. Six of the center's eight staff members are under the supervision of the principal at the Highland Springs' ACE Center, which is one of two HCPS technical centers. The county's family and consumer sciences educational specialist, an HCPS administrator, serves as the center's program director. The specialist provides support with curriculum, day-to-day administrative operations, and development and organization of the Summer with Friends program.

5. Financing and Staffing

There is very little cost to run the Summer with Friends program. The teachers who normally work during the academic year with the preschool program are still under contract, so their contractual hours help the students reach their required hours to be eligible for the CDA certification. These teachers are also on staff for the 0.5-credit summer session.

Registration opens in late spring as parents are figuring out summer care plans for their children. Admission for a preschooler is guaranteed after a registration form is complete and accompanied by a \$75 one-time program fee, which covers four weeks of activities, food, and field trips for each child.

6. Program Results

The success of our Parent Night Out program was the springboard to the additional services we offer to the families we serve. In summer 2014, we extended services into the summer by offering the four-week Summer with Friends program. The first-year enrollment numbers were lower

because our hours were not conducive to the summer school work hours. The following year, we increased our hours, and our enrollment increased.

The program has been successful in meeting the needs of the parents we serve throughout the year, and feedback has been positive. Kim Hodges, a parent of 4-year-old twins stated, "I look forward to Summer with Friends because I can have them continue in their normal child care environment while I work summer school at Highland Springs."

Parent-participant Yaa Akinfoljimi stated, "I enjoy having my girls stay at Springer Preschool Academy through the summer to play with their friends. They never wanted to leave at normal pickup time and were so excited to come for the summer. They were a little confused that we had graduation and were still able to go to school. I love it because you can't beat the rate for two kids."

Students who are enrolled in the Early Childhood Education summer school course through the ACE Center at Highland Springs are granted immediate practical experience by working with preschool-aged children. Upon successful completion of the class, they receive a half-credit for an elective.

Students seeking hours to work toward their CDA certificates also earn extra hours to meet the requirements.

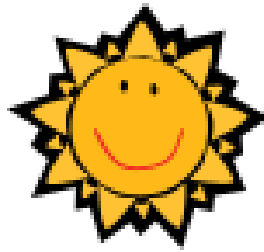
7. Brief Summary

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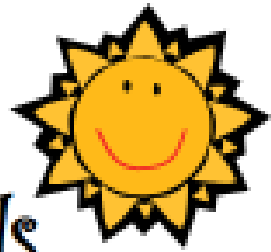
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Summer with Friends meets three major needs by providing a worry-free, safe, and familiar environment for preschoolers; by providing students an opportunity to earn additional hours toward the Child Development Associate (CDA) certification; and by serving as a lab environment for middle and high school students who are enrolled in the new summer school course, Early Childhood Education, and wish to earn 0.5 credit-hours.



Springer Preschool Summer with Friends



We are pleased to announce that we will offer a day program for summer 2016!!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!

- Begins Tuesday, June 21 thru Thursday, July 14
 - Runs Monday –Thursday (No Friday's)

New Hours of operation: 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

All preschoolers must be picked up by 2:00 p.m.

- One time payment of \$75 per child
- Limited space due to summer staffing
 - Breakfast and Lunch included
 - Field Trips

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!

Please print and fill out the attached registration form.

Your registration is not complete until a payment has been made.

Any questions please contact LaRhonda Mason,
lfmason@henrico.k12.va.us (804)328-6254

