

YOUNG FIVES

IS YOUNG FIVES RIGHT FOR MY CHILD?

Young Fives serves as a bridge to kindergarten by providing students time and support to develop core academic and social skills under the care and guidance of professional educators.

Young Fives is the **first year of a two-year kindergarten experience** and is designed for children who are age-eligible for kindergarten but would benefit from an additional year focused on foundational learning.

WHO IS YOUNG FIVES DESIGNED FOR?

Young Fives may be a good fit for children who:

- Will turn **5 years old between July 1 and December 1**
- Would benefit from classroom instruction with:
 - Frequent movement
 - Learning through play
 - A strong focus on social and emotional development

Young Fives is a **full-day program** that follows the regular Caledonia Community Schools calendar.

YOUNG FIVES & KINDERGARTEN BOTH OFFER:

- Full day programming
- Transportation to and from school
- Highly qualified classroom teachers
- Rigorous curriculum in Literacy, Core Knowledge Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Social Emotional Learning
- Physical Education, Art, Music, and Spanish classes

THE DIFFERENCE

Young Fives

- Pacing is more gradual than in kindergarten
- Provides more opportunities for play to promote social interactions
- Focuses on early foundational skills to support success in kindergarten academics

NEW FOR THE 2026–27 SCHOOL YEAR

Young Fives in Every Elementary School

Beginning in the **2026–2027 school year**, Caledonia Community Schools will offer **Young Fives classrooms at each elementary school across the district.**

This allows students to:

- Attend their **zoned elementary school**
- Build early relationships with peers and staff
- Experience a smooth transition into kindergarten within their school community



CONTACT

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Enrollment Department**

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ? **Is Young Fives mandatory for children with birthdays between July 1 and December 1?**
Young Fives enrollment is voluntary.
- ? **How is Young Fives different from preschool?**
Young Fives follows Michigan kindergarten standards and is taught by certified elementary teachers. It builds upon preschool learning to prepare students for kindergarten.
- ? **How is Young Fives different from traditional kindergarten?**
The curriculum is aligned to kindergarten standards but taught at a slower, developmentally appropriate pace with additional support for social and emotional growth.
- ? **What is the length of the Young Fives school day?**
Young Fives is a full-day program that follows the regular school calendar.
- ? **Where is Young Fives located?**
Beginning in 2026–2027, Young Fives is located in each elementary school across the district.

- ? **Does Young Fives support children who do not speak English?**
English learners in Young Fives have the same level of services as those in kindergarten.
- ? **Is there a charge to attend Young Fives?**
No. Young Fives is free for age-eligible students who reside in Caledonia Community Schools or enroll through School of Choice, based on space availability.
- ? **What kinds of qualifications do Young Five teachers have?**
Young Fives teachers hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate, just like kindergarten teachers.
- ? **What grade will children go into after Young Fives?**
Students who complete Young Fives move on to kindergarten the following school year at their zoned elementary school.

Caledonia



PARENT SUPPORT

Parent support and involvement are critical for student success. There are a number of simple ways to impact your child's preparedness for and success in school.



- Read to your child every day
- Encourage play, discovery, and movement
- Establish consistent routines, including bedtime, mealtime, and reading time
- Give your child responsibilities at home
- Set firm and consistent guidelines