

## Positive Peer Models for Inclusion in Special Education Preschool Programs

*(Applications must be submitted to the Department of Exceptional Children, Bartlett City Schools Board of Education, by **May 15, 2020.**)*

Sites	Program Times
Altruria Elementary	8:00-3:00
Bartlett Elementary	8:00-3:00
Bon Lin Elementary	9:00-4:00
Oak Elementary	8:00-3:00
Rivercrest Elementary	8:00-3:00

### Program Details

The Bartlett City Schools Special Education Preschool program is an excellent program that offers preschoolers, with and without disabilities, enriching and challenging experiences through a language-based curriculum.

Bartlett City Schools **cannot provide positive peer models** in the **includes speech therapy**.\* The process is not intended for special or for students who have been services. This program may not be have not previously participated in



**any special education services to** preschool program. \*This positive peer model application needs students with a current IEP referred for special education appropriate for children who any type of childcare program.

Hours: These are determined according to each school's schedule. Times for lunch, snacks and naps will be part of your child's daily schedule. The child's parents are responsible for transportation to and from the program. **Please note: Your child must always be picked up on time at the designated time. " After school care" is not available for Positive Peer Models.**

Bartlett City Schools has eight (8) special education preschool classrooms located across the district. These classes are **special education classes** for children ages 3-5.

Two to three positive peer models are placed in each class to serve as role models and peer helpers to children with special needs. The special education preschool classroom is a structured teaching environment where special needs children and positive peer models learn together in a classroom that is staffed with one special education teacher and up to two special education assistants. The curriculum is a language-based program emphasizing age-appropriate developmental skills and kindergarten readiness skills. Emphasis is placed on transitioning from one activity to another, listening to and following directions, building social skills, taking turns and learning independent self-help skills.

**To be accepted as a positive peer model, the following criteria must be met:**

- Children **must be** a Bartlett resident or meet Priority One requirements in BCS transfer procedures.
- Children **must be 4 years of age** (but not yet 5) by August 15, 2020. Children who are 5 by August 15, 2020 are eligible for kindergarten but are not appropriate for the special education preschool class.
- Children **must be completely toilet trained** to be considered as a positive peer model.
- Children **must speak clearly** and be easily understood in order to model appropriate speech and language as a positive peer model peer.

All positive peer models **must score in the average range** on the developmental screening conducted by our staff. Children are screened for age-appropriate development and school readiness skills, speech and language, and behavior. This screening will take place by appointment only. You may schedule a screening appointment by calling Michele Johnson at 202-0855 ext. 2262.

**Screenings will be held:**

**Where: Bartlett City Schools Central Office**

**Date: May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Times: and 8:00-11:30 and 1:00-3:00**

**Your completed application must be turned in or emailed to Michele Johnson at the Department of Exceptional Children, Central Office, 5705 Stage Road by May 15, 2020.** Michele Johnson's email is [rjohnson2@bartlettschools.org](mailto:rjohnson2@bartlettschools.org).

You may want to confirm the receipt of emailed applications by calling (901) 202-0855, ext. 2262. The application packet consists of five pages and includes a developmental checklist that the parent must complete. **\*All five (5) pages must be completed.\***

**Guidelines for the Preschool Program:**

- Daily attendance is required. Daily attendance is defined as 7 hours a day, 5 days a week. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Failure to follow the above procedure is grounds for dismissal.
- Parents must have their children at the program on time and pick them up at the designated time. "After school care" is not provided.
- The Tennessee Health Record Form is required in order to document the immunization history of a participating child. A copy of a certified birth certificate is also required.

- It is important to note that after a child is enrolled as a positive peer, administration reserves the right to revoke enrollment if the child continually displays behaviors that impede learning or adversely interrupts the dynamics of the classroom. Parents will be notified if concerns arise, and the teacher will work with the parent and child to attempt to remediate areas of concern prior to excusing the child from the program.
- After an initial adjustment period of two weeks, a positive peer model may be excused from the program for demonstrating a pattern of inappropriate behaviors. Inappropriate behaviors may include the following:

Tantruming	Verbal or physical aggression toward peers or adults
Screaming	Derogatory language toward peers or adults
Excessive crying	Refusal to interact with another child
Hitting	Refusal to participate in required activities
Biting	Refusal to go to time-out without assistance
Pushing	Non-compliance with adult directives
Throwing items	

#### **Costs of participation:**

- Parents are responsible for paying for their child's breakfast and/or lunch each day (or the child can bring his/her own breakfast/lunch).
- Parents are responsible for sending in a daily snack.
- Parents are responsible for any fees for special field trips or activities as they occur throughout the year.
- \*Bartlett City Schools requires a tuition fee of \$500.00 per semester for positive peers. This fee will be used for educational resources. Tuition will be due prior to the start of each semester.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Haney at (901) 202-0855, ext. 2241.

***Applications will not be considered if all five pages of the application are not completed and returned by May 15, 2020 and your child does not participate in the screening on May 20 or May 21 as outlined previously.***