



# Developmental Kindergarten (DK)

New Lenox School District 122

## Program Description

The DK program serves kindergarten students with significant academic, social, and functional needs who require a more structured environment to make progress in the curriculum. A small class size and staff to student ratio is maintained with each classroom consisting of a certified special education teacher, classroom paraprofessional(s) and 1:1 paraprofessionals as deemed necessary on the student's IEP.

Our DK program uses elements of structured teaching and environmental supports to increase predictability of their day and to foster independence. In addition, these strategies help promote ease of transitions, increase student availability, and decrease frustrations and anxieties.

The DK curriculum is designed to integrate instruction of core kindergarten concepts with the unique instructional needs of each student. In addition, students are

provided instruction focusing on communication, language, social and self-management skills, self-help skills, and health/safety. A unique combination of modified core curriculum and alternative programs are created based on the needs of the individual learner.

Instruction is provided across multiple contexts, staff members, and settings which include whole group, small group, and structured independent work centers to facilitate generalization of skills. Students are exposed to a typical kindergarten daily schedule which includes circle time and guided reading.

We strive to help facilitate positive interactions and friendships with our students' non-disabled peers. Each DK classroom develops partnerships with general education classrooms to plan inclusive activities.



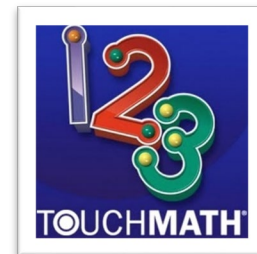
### Spencer Trail Kindergarten Center

The DK program is located at Spencer Trail Kindergarten Center. Spencer Trail is located at 1701 S. Spencer Rd. in New Lenox. Student attendance hours are 8:25-2:10.

## What curriculum is used?

Our teachers instruct from a variety of curriculum to meet the unique needs of each student. Kindergarten core curriculum is utilized at a modified level and pace. In addition, students are taught using a variety of alternative curriculum based on progress noted through assessment data.

Students also receive instruction focusing on communication, language, social skills, and self-help skills. Structured teaching methodologies and environmental supports are utilized throughout the day to maximize success and independence.



## What related services are offered?

All students within the DK program receive weekly related service groups in the areas of speech and language, social work, and occupational therapy. In addition, individual students may receive additional therapy based on the student's IEP. Service delivery for therapy is provided as a combination of within the classroom (to help instruct generalization of skills) and therapy provided within the therapeutic setting.



## How are students exposed to their non-disabled peers?

The DK classroom develops partnerships with general education classrooms to join activities including (but not limited to): snack, fine arts, recess, and special events. Each student's IEP team will help determine participation and the appropriateness of each activity for each student's unique comfort level. Ongoing collaboration between the general and special education teachers ensures a well-rounded school experience.

