Dear parents/guardians of Minisink Valley 4-year-olds,

In anticipation of receiving our New York State Education Department Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Grant for the 2025-26 school year, we invite you to apply for your child to be part of this program.

We anticipate the grant will provide for both half-day and full day opportunities for preschool students. Selected students will be placed at one of the following six preschools of your choice:

Bright Beginnings Preschool 2051 US-6 Slate Hill	**Little Learners Preschool** Rte 284 & County Rte 62 Minisink	**Little Munchkins Preschool** 2 School St. Otisville
New Beginnings Learning Academy 33 Albert St. Middletown	**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School** 205 Wawayanda Ave. Middletown	**YMCA First Step Preschool** Liberty Street Middletown

Please note: Three of the preschools are located within our school district, with the remaining three located in Middletown.

The program runs five days a week. The full day program is for five hours a day, with the half-day program running in the mornings or afternoon for 2.5 hours. Parents are responsible for transportation. Because this program is fully funded by the grant, there's no cost to parents.

We encourage you to take time to visit the preschools you want your child to attend so that you make an informed decision.

All Minisink Valley residents with eligible 4-year-old children are invited to apply. The number of available slots will be based upon the final grant funding. **Selection will be on a lottery basis, in conformance to New York State UPK guidelines/regulations**.

If you would like your child to participate in this program, please fill out the enclosed application and mail it to our district registrar: **Diane Super P.O. Box 217, 2320 Route 6 Slate Hill, N.Y. 10973.** All applications need to be received via mail by **3 p.m. by Monday, March 10th.**

Along with your completed application, please submit proof that you are a district resident and a copy of your child's birth certificate. Examples of acceptable proof of residency are a copy of a recent utility, telephone, oil, garbage or cable bill showing service address. Please indicate your first, second, and third choice for the preschool you would like your child to attend. Do not put the same name in for each choice. If the spots for that school are already filled, you will be left without a spot in any school. It is imperative that you give 3 distinct choices.

The district is **not** responsible for any applications that may be lost in the mail or received later than Monday, March 10th. Please indicate clearly on the application if your first choice is **half-day or full day**. The lottery will determine which spot you may get.

The UPK Lottery will take place on Tuesday, March 18th. You will be notified by mail if you are selected or not, and your place on the waiting list/if applicable.

If your child is selected, please ensure that your child attends the selected preschool on a regular basis to fully prepare for kindergarten. Poor attendance will be subject to review and may result in a loss of your Universal Pre-Kindergarten spot.

It's important to stress that the selections you submit will be considered final once the lottery selection has been concluded. Parents are encouraged to gather all necessary information and make sure the chosen preschool meets their needs.

Please contact me at 845-355-3158 or at cfitzgerald@minisink.com with any additional questions you may have regarding Minisink Valley's Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program. Thank you..

Sincerely,

Colleen Fitzgerald
Universal Pre-Kindergarten Coordinator
845-355-5138
cfitzgerald@minisink.com