

What is “Free Pre-K for All” (GSRP)

- GSRP stands for “Great Start Readiness Program”, and has been around for over 30 years
- It was originally only for 4-year olds from low-income families, whose children had risk factors (see below)
 - Diagnosed disability, or delayed development, or health issues
 - Severe or challenging behavior
 - Primary home language other than English
 - Parent not graduated from high school
 - Abuse/Neglect of child or parent (includes drug abuse, or neglect / abuse of child at home)
 - Environmental Risk: parental loss from death, divorce, long-term absence; sibling problems, etc
- Now Michigan is trying to offer GSRP to all 4-year olds, providing a free preschool for 30 weeks, 4 days/wk
 - Must have parental involvement (conferences, home visits, family engagement activities)
 - 4 days a week Mon-Thurs, 7 hours a day. There are also some days off for holidays, professional development as well.
 - GSRP is totally free for parents. It includes all activities during GSRP times, and meals (breakfast, lunch, snack) if parents wish to use. It would not include times outside GSRP like before/after care, Fridays, and other days not part of the GSRP calendar).
- GSRP classrooms are required to use certain tests:
 - Ages & Stages Questionnaire 3 (ASQ-3): this is a parent survey we must give out before school starts (we have in both English and Japanese)
 - COR Advantage. This evaluation is based on the High Scope school curriculum, and given 3 times a year
 - We are not High Scope curriculum, but will adapt to our curriculum
 - We will have in both English and Japanese
- All funds must be spent on the classroom needs, so there will be no funds for the rest of Himawari Preschool
 - Some things such as rent, accounting, insurance, etc. can be split proportionally.

What is “Himawari-GSRP”?

- Himawari Preschool will take all the GSRP requirements, but adapt them to our existing preschool program
 - Himawari curriculum: “Reggio-inspired”
 - Himawari activities: will interact with the other Himawari classrooms as much as possible
 - Japanese and English: although GSRP is an all-English program, Himawari will adapt:
 - Translate all parent information into Japanese as well as English
 - Do classroom activities in both Japanese and English (about 50/50)
 - Provide all required reports in both Japanese and English
 - We are looking into starting a contract with an Early Childhood consultant who has an understanding of both US and Japan early childhood educational practices.
 - We will offer all GSRP families the opportunity to also participate outside of GSRP time in Himawari activities and offer all services
- The only way Himawari Preschool can offer GSRP is if our enrollment increases overall.
 - We receive less money for each GSRP family
 - We have higher expenses per child (lower ratio, higher teaching and reporting costs)
 - All GSRP funds must be spent for the GSRP classroom, leaving nothing for Himawari Preschool.
- Benefits to families
 - Low/no cost preschool education, with specialized Japanese/English curriculum
 - We can probably set up our Himawari 3-year olds to be next in line for GSRP, almost halving the cost of their experience at Himawari Preschool
 - Best transition to Niji-Iro Kindergarten for those families interested in Japanese-English education