A child must be 4 years old by September 1st and be a Fall River resident to qualify for the Fall River Public Schools Preschool Program. Children are selected for the regular education spots within the integrated preschool classrooms through the use of a lottery system. Please contact our office beginning in January to make an appointment to have your child screened. We begin the screening process in March for families who are interested in having their children participate in our program. When all screenings are completed some children are selected as at-risk using the following criteria.

- Low score on the Brigance screening, and indicators identified to have the most impact on school success such as:
  - Single parent home
  - Economic stress
  - Low maternal education
  - Homelessness
  - Low-income housing
  - Parents/sibling disability
  - Premature birth
  - Limited English household
  - EI intervention
  - Limited contact with other children
  - Foster children

After the children have been selected for at-risk spots the remaining children are placed in the lottery, which takes place at the end of May. We also maintain a waitlist. All parents will be notified by mail whether their child has been chosen or not. The children that are not selected in the lottery are sent letters with information on other private preschool programs and free Play & Learn groups held weekly throughout the community by CFCE staff.

For more information please contact Mary Ellen Mitchell at 508-675-8421 Ext.55144