



**Hastings  
Public Schools**

# Tilden Early Childhood

The First Step Into Hastings Public Schools

*Students are the heart*



*of all we do*



# Why Early Childhood Matters

The first five years build the foundation for school and life



## Natural Learning

Young children learn through relationships, routines, and play



## Foundational Skills

Early experiences shape confidence, communication, and problem-solving



## School Readiness

Strong early learning helps children feel comfortable in school



## Family Support

Families benefit from support before kindergarten begins



# Early Childhood Learning in Hastings

- Tilden Preschool for ages 3 to 5
- Includes Voluntary PreKindergarten, VPK
- Early Childhood Family Education, ECFE
- Early Childhood Special Education, ECSE
- Early Childhood Screening
- Home visiting and family support
- Partnerships that help connect families to resources

# What Makes Tilden Unique

- Only preschool in Hastings connected to Hastings Public Schools
- Conveniently located at Tilden Community Center, 310 River Street
- Parent Aware 4-Star-rated program
- Licensed early childhood teachers
- Flexible class options: 2, 3, or 5 days per week, morning or afternoon

**Tilden is not just a preschool, it is the first step into Hastings Public Schools.**



# A Day at Tilden Preschool

- Open play and choice time
- Meeting time and group connection
- Guided curriculum work with teachers
- Arts, crafts, music, and creative expression
- Story time, literacy, math, and science activities
- Dramatic play and social interaction
- Gym and playground large muscle time





# Play With a Purpose

- Building with blocks develops problem-solving and early math
- Dramatic play builds language and cooperation
- Art and music support creativity and fine motor skills
- Outdoor and gym time develop large muscle skills and self-control
- Teacher questions turn play into deeper learning

**It might look like play, but it is structured, intentional learning.**

# Curriculum & Learning Approach

- Creative Curriculum, approved by the Minnesota Department of Education
- Hands-on, project-based learning
- Whole-child focus: language, thinking, movement, and social skills
- Integrated literacy, math, science, art, and music
- Family engagement resources that support learning at home





# How We Know Children Are Growing

- Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system
- Teachers observe children during everyday classroom activities
- Tracks progress in language, physical development, thinking, literacy, math, science, and the arts
- Helps teachers personalize instruction
- Supports clear communication with families

# Confidence, Connection, and Routines

- **Conscious Discipline supports classroom routines and connection**
- **Children learn how to name feelings and solve problems**
- **Teachers model calm responses and positive choices**
- **Predictable routines help children feel safe and ready to learn**
- **Students build independence and classroom confidence**





# Teacher in Action

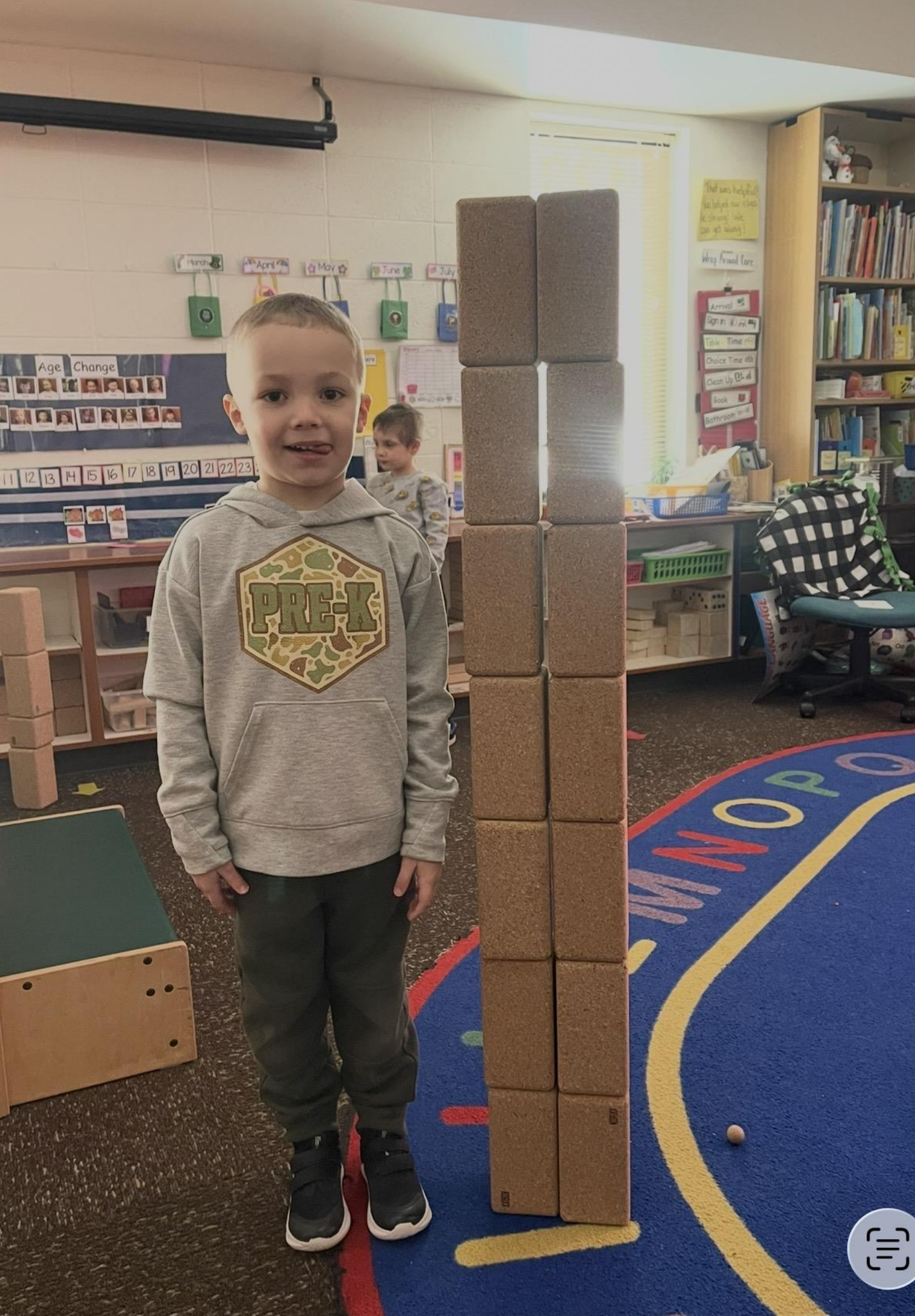
A real look at what makes Tilden special.

As you watch, notice how the teacher is guiding, supporting, and building confidence with students.

Watch for the  
teacher  
connection



This is what high-quality preschool looks like in Hastings.



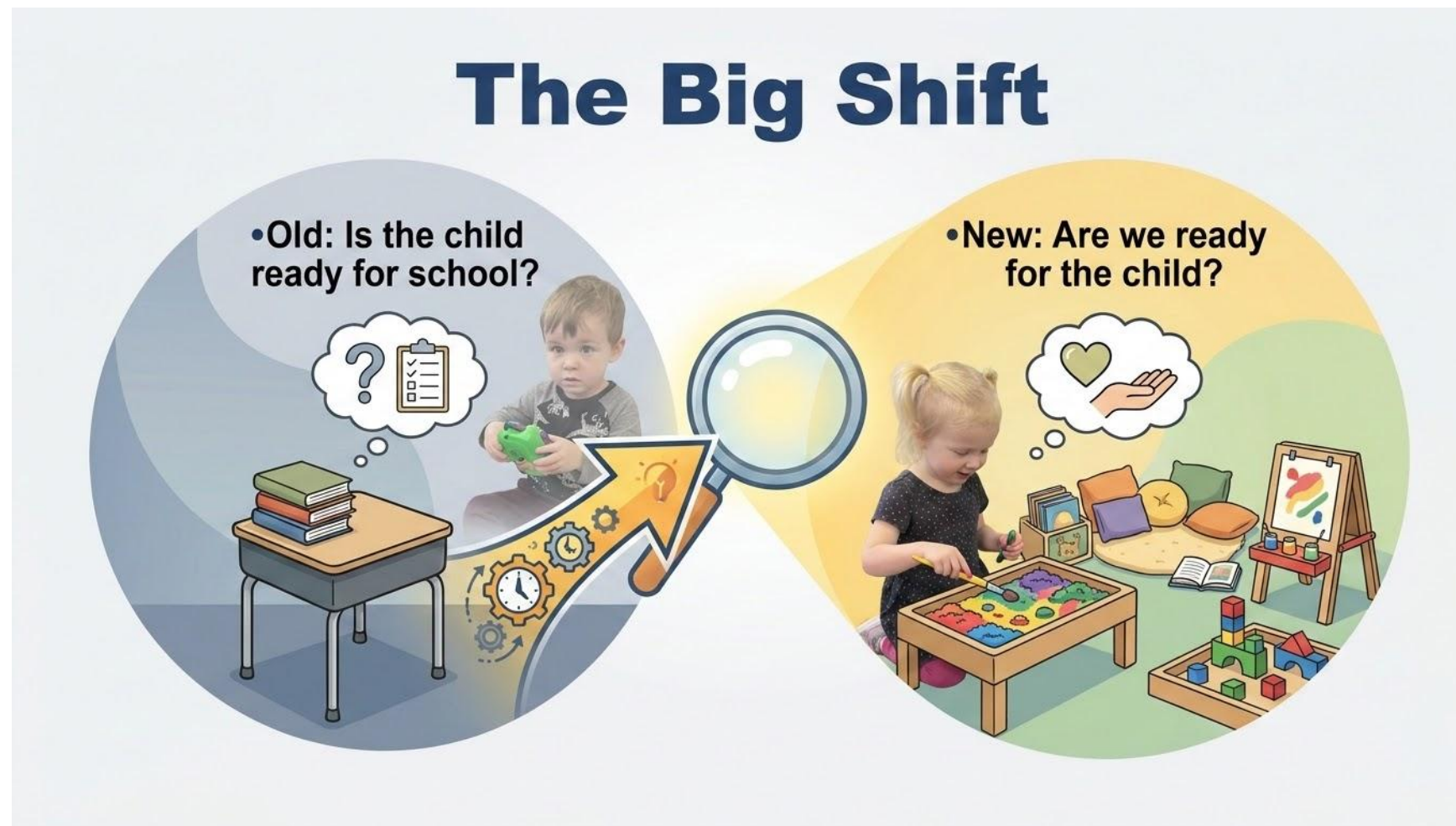
# The Kindergarten Connection

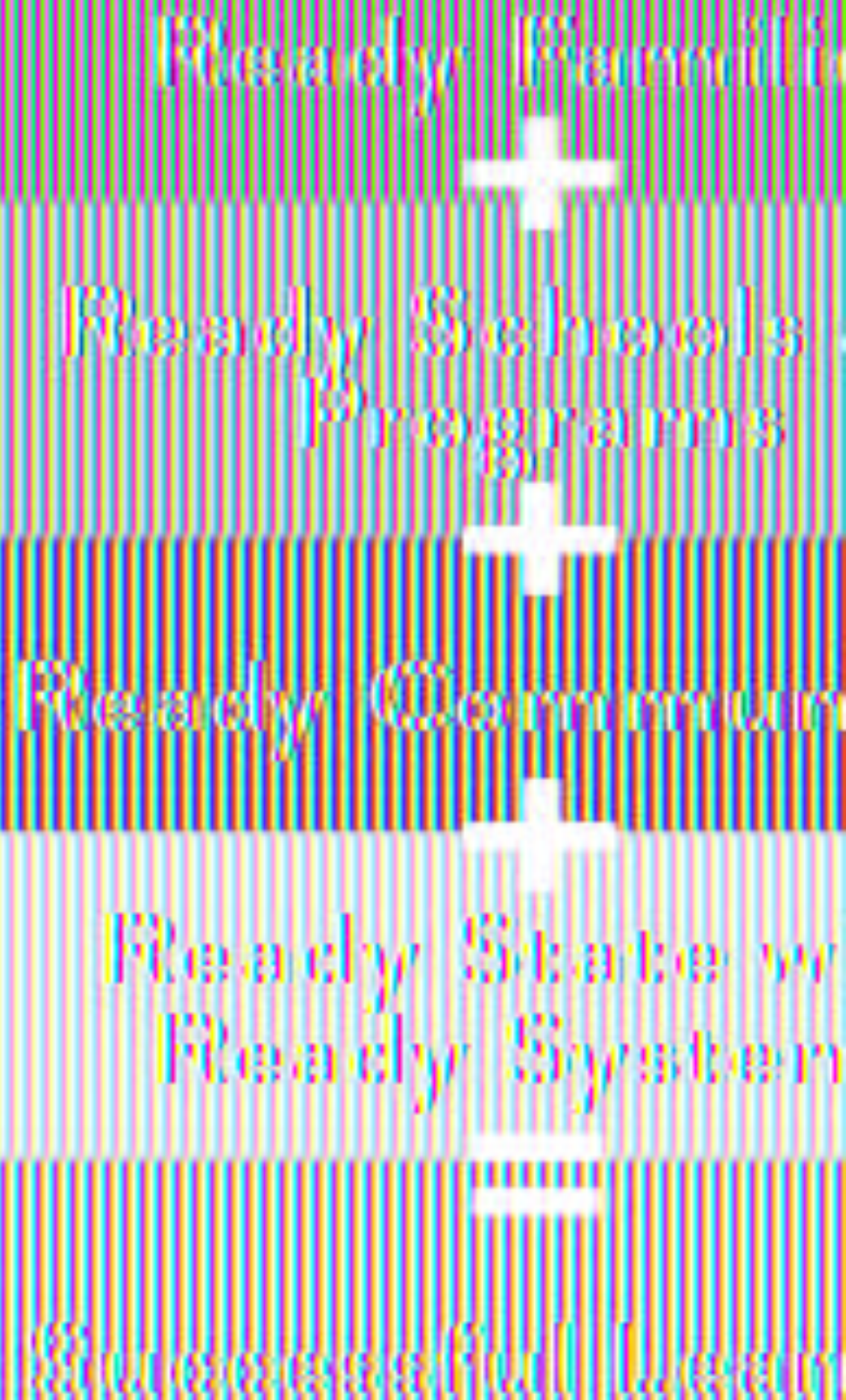
- Children learn school routines before kindergarten begins
- Students build friendships with future classmates
- Families become familiar with Hastings Public Schools
- Teachers support independence, communication, and confidence
- The transition to kindergarten feels smoother and more familiar

**Tilden gives families a strong first connection to our district.**

# The Big Shift

- Old: Is the child ready for school?
- New: Are we ready for the child?

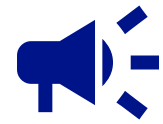




# Successful Learner Equation

- Ready families
- Ready schools & programs
- Ready communities
- Ready systems
- Successful learners

# What Success Looks Like



## Proactive Engagement

Start messaging earlier  
Ensure consistent messaging



## Stronger Alignment

Align across programs  
Clear understanding of K



## Family Confidence

Welcomed families  
Build family confidence



## Successful Outcomes

More on-time enrollment  
Stronger transitions





**Tilden is more than a preschool.  
It is the first step into Hastings Public Schools.**

High-quality early learning. Licensed teachers. Strong routines. Confident children. A smoother transition to kindergarten.

