

Program Details

- School bus transportation is provided for children attending the program in their neighborhood school.
- The program operates during the regular elementary school day and follows the ACPS' calendar.
- Classroom teachers are licensed and endorsed by the Virginia Department of Education.
- Each classroom has a teacher and teaching assistant with a maximum of 18 children.
- Applications are available in mid-January for the following school year.
- Families are notified about placement decisions the first week of May.
- Applications are accepted year-round to fill vacancies as they occur.

Applications available at www.k12albemarle.org and www.albemarle.org

For more information contact:

Bright Stars Program Coordinator

434-972-4010 ext. 3332 or

One of these schools with a Bright Stars classroom:

Agnor-Hurt Elementary School | 434-973-5211

Cale Elementary School | 434-293-7455

Greer Elementary School | 434-973-8371

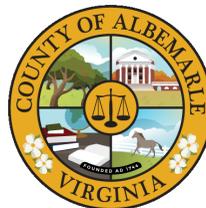
Red Hill Elementary School | 434-293-5332

Scottsville Elementary School | 434-974-8040

Stone-Robinson Elementary School | 434-296-3754

*Also serves Stony Point Elementary children

Woodbrook Elementary School 434-973-6600



The Bright Stars Program

Albemarle County Department of Social Services
1600 5th Street, Suite C Charlottesville, VA
22902

434-972-4010 x 3332

FAX: 434-972-4080

The Bright Stars Program

A comprehensive preschool experience for 4-year-old children and their families.

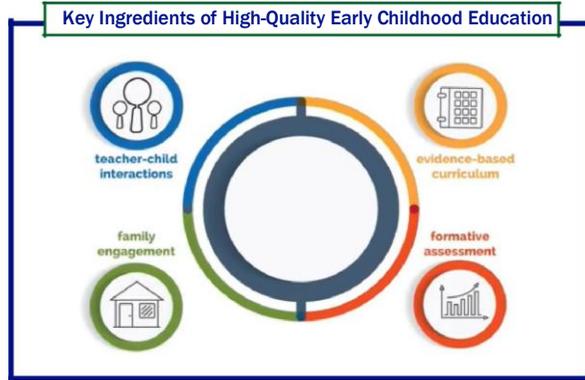


The Bright Stars Program

The Bright Stars Program began in 1995 with the first preschool class for 4-year-old children at Stone-Robinson Elementary School. Since then, additional preschool classes have opened across Albemarle County.

This early intervention and prevention program is a collaboration between the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Social Services and the public schools. This high-quality and engaging preschool experience provides children with skills that promote school and life success. The students' families partner with a Bright Stars Family Coordinator to receive support during these early and formative years.

Children in the Bright Stars Program have daily opportunities to learn through a variety of play experiences and structured activities. Engaging and active learning experiences support each child's personal, social, physical and cognitive development.



The Bright Stars Program provides children with opportunities to:

- ★ *Learn and practice critical thinking and problem-solving skills*
- ★ *Communicate and cooperate with other children and adults*
- ★ *Explore and create during many kinds of play*
- ★ *Learn kindergarten readiness skills including pre-literacy and math*

The Bright Stars students participate in field trips such as visits to the local apple orchard, a farm, a fire station, the library and museums.

Eligibility Requirements

Children must be 4-years-old by September 30th and live in Albemarle County.

One or more risk factors:

- Low or limited family income (verification required)
- Homelessness or “Shared Housing”
- Limited parent education
- Identified disability
- Single-parent families, military deployment, unemployment or other risk factors

Once accepted, children must:

- Register with Albemarle County Public Schools
- Have a school physical examination and the required vaccinations before starting school

Family Engagement

Parents are their child's first and most important teacher. Parental involvement is a key factor for children to be successful in school.

The Bright Stars Family Coordinators serve as liaisons between the schools and families enrolled in the program. The Family Coordinators and the classroom teachers work closely with each family to support them in identifying needs and accessing community services and supports.

Bright Stars Parents commit to:

- Partnering with the Family Coordinator, classroom teacher and school
- Attending parent-teacher conferences
- Participating in class field trips, school events and family events



“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.” -Mr. Rogers