



White Bear Lake Area Schools

2023
2024

Preschool Registration Guide



★★★★
Four-Star Rated
Parent Aware Program
Proudly Using
Best Practices for
Preparing Children
for Kindergarten



Early Childhood
Where BEARS Begin



General Information

WBL Early Childhood Mission Statement

Helping all children reach their greatest potential by providing the best possible environment for growth and development and strengthening families and communities.

Contact Information

Registration, Questions and Scholarships

Normandy Park Education Center

2482 County Road F East White Bear Lake, MN 55110, Phone: 651-653-3100

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SUPERVISOR

Darcy Rodriguez 651-653-3102
darcy.rodriguez@isd624.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPERVISOR

Angela Drange 651-653-3101
angela.drange@isd624.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Nicole Mersch 651-653-3118
nicole.mersch@isd624.org

Preschool Sites

Birch Lake Elementary (BL)

1616 Birch Lake Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2776

Lakeaires Elementary (LK)

3963 Van Dyke St
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2809

Normandy Park Education Center (NP)

2482 County Road F East
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-3100

Oneka Elementary School (OE)

4888 Heritage Parkway North
Hugo, MN 55038
651-288-1800

Otter Lake Elementary (OT)

1401 County Road H2
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2831

Tamarack Nature Center (TAM)

5287 Otter Lake Road
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-3100

Vadnais Heights Elementary (VH)

3645 Centerville Road
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
651-653-2858

Willow Lane Elementary (WL)

3375 Willow Ave
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-773-6170

Bienvenidos! Un Lugar para Aprender, Crecer y Prepararnos para el Kinder

La escuela Preescolar de White Bear Lake provee un ambiente seguro y maternal para la primera experiencia de los estudiantes fuera de su hogar. Las actividades, apropiadas para la edad de los niños, proveen la oportunidad para aprendizaje significativo en las áreas de preparación para el Kinder: en las matemáticas, lectura, ciencias naturales y sociales, arte, música, juego dramático, y educación física. Esta experiencia positiva de preescolar apoye una transición exitosa al Kinder para los niños que participen.

Ib Qhov Chaw Kawm, Txhawb nqa, Thiab Pab Rau Qib Kindergarten

White Bear Lake Area Preschool muaj txoj kev nyab xeeb thiab txhawb nqa pab rau menyuum txoj kev kawm rau lub sij hawm thaum menyuum tsis nyob hauv vaj hauv tsev.

Muaj yam qhia raws li tus menyuum hnuv nyoog thiaj pab kawm yam paub nyob raws li nyeem ntawv thiab ua lej, science thiab social studies, kos duab thiab yam pom thiab saib tau, suab paj nruag, ua yeeb yam, dhia ua si, suab lus thiab kev siv lus. Kev kawm preschool muab thiab txhawb nqa menyuum txoj kev kawm kom menyuum kawm ntawv keej thaum mus kawm qib kindergarten.

White Bear Lake Area Preschool txoj kev qhia ntawv yog muaj raws li lub tuam ntawv White Bear Lake Area School District cov ntaub ntawv kawm nyob qib kindergarten.





A Place to Learn and Grow

White Bear Lake Area Preschool provides a safe and nurturing environment for a child's first school experience. Daily activities help children develop social and emotional skills that are a key for future school success. Licensed teachers provide a variety of meaningful hands-on learning experiences in the areas of reading and math readiness, science and social studies, art and sensory, music, and dramatic play. Our language arts curriculum is aligned with the district's kindergarten curriculum so our preschoolers will be well prepared for learning to read and write.

Play Based Learning

Play is the foundation upon which all preschool learning is built. As such, free-choice play times are incorporated into our preschool day, as well as guided play-based learning activities that are designed to teach children a specific skill. Children will experience hands-on and creative activities that will stimulate their learning while allowing the freedom to explore their environment and express their creativity. This play-based learning philosophy is supported by our guiding curriculum: the Creative Curriculum for Preschool.

Conscious Discipline

White Bear Lake Early Childhood uses Conscious Discipline, which is an innovative social-emotional learning and classroom management framework. Conscious Discipline teaches children self regulation skills for everyday life. This is taught by helping children to identify and name their feelings, and use breathing and calming strategies to regulate.

Parent Aware Rated

WBLAS Preschool Program is a four-star Parent Aware rated Program. Parent Aware is a statewide quality rating system for programs that demonstrate best practice for early education. Programs that receive a four-star rating are the highest quality programs in the state.

Serving All Children

We are an inclusive community. Our commitment to diversity and inclusion creates a culture of equity for children and families. We celebrate our differences and we recognize that children bring their own unique cultural strengths to our classrooms.

Special Education

Special education services are provided for children on IEPs within our program. Preschool teachers, Special Education teachers and Specialists work together to support all students.

Family Engagement

Meaningful family engagement in children's learning supports school readiness and later academic success. Here are some ways for you to support you student:

- Attend your child's preschool orientation meeting at the beginning of the year
- Ensure your child's regular attendance at school
- Attend conferences twice a year with your child's teacher
- Read the communication that comes from your child's teacher, and reach out if your child needs support
- Attend school events throughout the year
- Consider joining our White Bear Lake Area Schools Early Childhood PTA. For more information, visit littlebears.memberhub.com

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is required by the state of Minnesota for all children prior to entering kindergarten. Screening offers a snapshot of each child's health and development and provides families with valuable information about their child. Screening children between ages three and four, allows time for intervention (if needed) before the start of Kindergarten. For this reason, we require Early Childhood screening within the first 90 days of the start of the preschool year. White Bear Lake School District provides the screening at no charge to families. Screenings are held at Normandy Park on Fridays throughout the school year. Please contact our main office at 651-653-3100, if you have any questions regarding screening.



Full Day Preschool

Full Day Preschool: 5 Days (M-F)

Age 4 by Sept 1, 2023

This full day, year-before-kindergarten program is designed to help children prepare to enter kindergarten with the skills and behaviors necessary to be successful. Children who are four years old on or before September 1 of the current school year and are bathroom independent are eligible to enroll.

Otter Lake will have one classroom that spends 2 hours outside every morning. Families will have the choice between this nature based option or a more traditional classroom option.

Program Hours at Elementary Sites:

Mon - Fri, 7:45 am - 2:15 pm

Program Sites: Birch, Lakeaires, Oneka, Otter, Willow*, and Vadnais*

Additional Options: May qualify for transportation, Access to Nutrition Services, and Extended Day offered at this location

Dates: September 11, 2023 - June 6, 2024
(follows the WBL preschool calendar)

Cost: \$920 per month (Sept 1 - May 1)

**Willow and Vadnais are School Readiness Plus sites. Priority is given to students who meet certain qualifications (i.e. low family income, dual language learners, children in foster care, or other types of needs). To register for these locations you must come to Normandy Park and register in person. Please call 651-653-3100 to see if you qualify.*

Full Day Preschool: 3 Days (M/W/F)

Age 4 by Sept 1, 2023

This preschool program is offered at Oneka Elementary and Normandy Park Education Center.

Oneka Elementary

Dates: September 11, 2023 - June 6, 2024
(follows the WBL preschool calendar)

Days & Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri, 7:45 am - 2:15 pm

Additional Options: May qualify for transportation, Access to Nutrition Services, and Extended Day offered at this location

Cost: \$550 per month (Sept 1 - May 1)

Location: 4888 Heritage Parkway, Hugo

Normandy Park Education Center

Dates: September 11, 2023 - June 6, 2024
(follows the WBL preschool calendar)

Days & Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Additional Options: *Students must bring their own lunch everyday* No Extended Day offered at this location

*No bus to this location

Cost: \$550 per month (Sept 1 - May 1)

Location: 2482 County Road F East, White Bear Lake





Half Day 3 Year Old Classes

Age 3 by Sept 1, 2023

This preschool opportunity will allow children time to practice social skills as they begin to interact, cooperate, and develop their first friendships. Classroom activities will include a focus on turn-taking, sharing, playing games, pretend play, small and large group learning.

| | | |
|------|-----------------|----|
| T/TH | 8:30 - 11 am | NP |
| T/TH | 12:30 - 3 pm | NP |
| T/TH | 7:45 - 10:15 am | OE |

Half Day 4-5 Year Old Classes

Age 4 by Sept 1, 2023

Classes are focused on helping children become independent learners and giving them the skills necessary to be successful in kindergarten. Curriculum is designed to address all areas of development and reinforce mastery of skills required for kindergarten readiness.

| | | |
|--------|--------------------|----|
| T/W/TH | 8:30 - 11 am | NP |
| M-TH | 8:30 - 11 am | NP |
| M-TH | 12:30 - 3 pm | NP |
| T/W/TH | 7:45 - 10:15 am | OE |
| M-TH | 11:45 am - 2:15 pm | OE |

Half Day Tamarack Nature Preschool

For 3-5 year olds

The program at Tamarack Nature Center revolves around nature - learning from it, about it and within it. Classes include the implementation of our Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold assessment in their daily outdoor experiences. A Tamarack Naturalist is an integral and collaborative member of the teaching team. **Tamarack offers a gear check out program for families who may need financial help with the cost of appropriate outdoor clothing for cold or wet weather.**

Hoppers - 3-4 year olds (Age 3 by Sept 1, 2023)

T/TH 8:30 - 11 am TAM

Jumpers - 3-4 year olds (Age 3 by Sept 1, 2023)

T/TH 8:30 - 11 am TAM

Leapers - 3½-5 year olds (Age 3½ by Sept 1, 2023)

M/W/F 8:30 - 11 am TAM

Skippers - 3-4 year olds (Age 3 by Sept 1, 2023)

T/TH 12:30 - 3 pm TAM

Rompers - 3-4 year olds (Age 3 by Sept 1, 2023)

M/W 8:30 - 11 am TAM

Bounders - 3½-5 year olds (Age 3½ by Sept 1, 2023)

M/W/F 12:30 - 3 pm TAM

Tamarack Nature Center, 5287 Otter Lake Rd,
White Bear Township



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

In Every Classroom Our Program Provides:

- Minnesota licensed teachers and trained assistants
- *Creative Curriculum* used as the guiding instructional framework
- *Handwriting Without Tears* curriculum
- *Conscious Discipline* framework for social emotional learning
- Literacy framework that aligns to the district's kindergarten standards
- Ongoing assessment using *Teaching Strategies Gold* to measure student growth

Toileting

All preschool students should be mostly bathroom independent, knowing when they need to use the bathroom and having few accidents. For elementary sites children must be independent with toileting without the use of a pull-up or a diaper to attend preschool classes.

**Special circumstances are accommodated for children with an IEP or 504 plan*

Transportation

For full day preschool students at elementary sites, busing may be provided if space permits and you live within the school attendance boundary. There is no transportation for half day preschool classes or full day preschool at Normandy Park.

Extended Day

Families who are registered for full day preschool at elementary buildings, can register for Extended Day at those school sites. Registration for the 2023-2024 school year for Extended Day opens April 1, 2023. Registration is first come, first served and slots fill quickly. Please plan to register your child right away. For more information about Extended Day hours and rates, call 651-407-7511 or visit communityservices.isd624.org

Preschool Meals

Students attending full day classes at elementary sites will have access to school meals, and will be issued a food service PIN to use when eating school breakfast and lunch. This number will stay with your child throughout their school years in White Bear Lake. Students attending full day classes at Normandy Park will need to bring lunch from home each day and eat breakfast before arriving at school.



Outdoor Play

Outdoor time is an important part of the school day for our children. Our preschool classes go outside everyday, weather permitting.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for those who are eligible. Please contact the main preschool office for information at 651-653-3100.

ECFE Parent-Child Classes

2023-2024 Registration

The ECFE brochure with class descriptions, registration information, and materials will be available in late April or early May.

ECFE registration begins Tuesday, May 3.

whitebear.ce.eleyo.com

2023-2024 Registration

Registration begins March 1 at 8 am

- Registrations will be accepted online at www.whitebear.ce.eleyo.com or in-person at Normandy Park Education Center

Registrations MUST include the following items or your enrollment will not be accepted

- A non-refundable \$75 registration fee
- Copy of birth certificate (*new families only*)
- Current immunization record ***required every year**
Fax: 651-653-3155
- A completed Early Childhood Screening or an appointment made. Screening must be completed before beginning preschool.
- If you have any questions, call 651-653-3100

How To Register for Preschool

To register for preschool, visit the White Bear Lake Area Schools Early Childhood registration website at earlychildhood.isd624.org/registration. A confirmation email will be sent when your student has been placed in their class and your payment account will be charged.

(This process can take up to 15 business days)



Class Fees

Class fees are based on the program costs for the entire year. Parents will be invoiced a monthly fee based on these costs. Payments are due the first day of each month. Tamarack Nature Preschool fees are higher to cover the costs of a Ramsey County Naturalist.

Payment Options

We offer payment options to assist families with payments. Payments are due the first of each month.

Students outside of the White Bear Lake Area School District boundary attending Tamarack Nature Preschool, will be charged an additional non-refundable \$100.00 fee.

| Half Day Preschool 9- Monthly Payments by Building | | |
|---|----------|---------|
| Days | Building | Payment |
| 2 days/week | NP/OE | \$230 |
| 2 days/week | TAM | \$310 |
| 3 days/week | NP/OE | \$350 |
| 3 days/week | TAM | \$425 |
| 4 days/week | NP/OE | \$450 |

| Full Day Preschool 9- Monthly Payments by Building | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------|
| Days | Building | Payment |
| 3 days/week | NP/OE | \$550 |
| 5 days/week | BL/LK/NS/OT/ OE/VH/WL | \$920 |

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance is available for families who need help paying for preschool.

Scholarship Applications are available at our main Early Childhood office at:

Normandy Park Education Center
2482 County Road F East
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-3100



White Bear Lake Area Schools
 Early Childhood Program
 Normandy Park Education Center
 2482 County Road F East
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Non-Profit
 Organization
 US Postage
 PAID
 Twin Cities, MN
 Permit No. 3363

Early Childhood Screening

Screen at Three

Early Childhood Screening is required by the state of Minnesota for all children prior to entering kindergarten. White Bear Lake Area School District provides this screening at no charge.

3 reasons to screen at age 3

- Screening can help ensure school success
- If health or developmental concerns are identified, educational services are readily available
- It is fun for children and provides caregivers with valuable information regarding child development

Register online at whitebear.ce.eleyo.com or call 651-653-3100 with your child's name, date of birth, your name, and phone number.

Early Childhood Screenings are held at:
 Normandy Park Education Center
 2482 County Road F East, White Bear Lake, MN 55110



Screening Procedure

Screening is being done in a one-on-one format. We suggest one parent accompany the child and no siblings at screening appointments.

- Plexiglass screens and masks are used by screening staff.
- All materials are cleaned in between appointments.
- Masks are required for adults and children.

If you have questions about our current screening procedures, please call Darcy at 651-653-3102 for more information.

Upcoming Screening Dates

March 2023

3 8:30 am - 2:15 pm
 17 8:30 am - 2:15 pm
 24 8:30 am - 2:15 pm

April 2023

1 8:30 - 10:30 am (Saturday)
 21 8:30 am - 2:15 pm
 28 8:30 am - 2:15 pm

May 2023

12 8:30 am - 2:15 pm
 18 3 - 7 pm
 19 8:30 am - 2:15 pm (Saturday)

Register online at whitebear.ce.eleyo.com
 or call 651-653-3100