

Preschool Directory

for Western Suburbs



WEST DES MOINES
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The West Des Moines Community Schools (WDMCS) Preschool Directory provides general information about choosing and enrolling in a preschool, as well as a list of WDMCS Tiger Cubs and community partner preschools.

Age Guidelines

Most programs use state of Iowa age guidelines (birthday on or before Sept. 15) to determine which class a child will attend. Some programs require children ages 3 years and older to be potty-trained. The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP) provides funding for children who are 4 years old on or before Sept. 15, but not yet age eligible for kindergarten.



Types of Preschools

The western suburbs have a variety of preschools. Most are considered “traditional” programs – the teacher provides the curriculum and directs a variety of activities during the day. Traditional preschools focus on early learning experiences and socialization.

SVPP programs provide 10+ hours of non-religious instruction and must follow Iowa Department of Education criteria. There are also several Montessori programs in the area. These programs are considered child-directed with hands-on learning.

WDMCS Programs

The following programs are available through WDMCS:

Tiger Cubs Preschools

The WDMCS offers preschool at Clive Learning Academy, Crestview School of Inquiry, Fairmeadows Elementary, Hillside Elementary, Jordan Creek Elementary, Western Hills Elementary, and Westridge Elementary, as well as the Learning Resource Center.

Heartland Education Agency

If you have concerns about your child’s development, please visit www.heartlandaea.org or call 515-270-9030.

Head Start

Drake University Head Start operates a program at Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Des Moines. Call 515-271-1854 for placement and financial information.

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP)

The WDMCS offers funded 4-year-old programs through Tiger Cubs Preschool and in three partnering community preschools. Two full-time child care centers also offer SVPP programming: Cadence Academy Preschools on Grand Avenue (515-225-1837) and Ashworth (515-226-9791).

Enrollment and Health Information

Families will fill out health information and provide immunization records when they enroll. Depending on the funding source for the child, fees to families will vary.

Things to look for when choosing a preschool:

- Safe, clean, and orderly learning environment
- Variety of learning materials in the room
- Well-rounded curriculum with art, music, literature, science, and math
- Indoor and outdoor play areas
- Quality teachers and staff
- “The right fit” – settings, teachers, and philosophies vary

Quality Standards

Many preschools participate in a quality rating or assessment process. These standards may give you additional information when choosing a preschool and are available from individual centers, if applicable.

Most importantly, call to ask questions and set up a visit with the preschools that interest you.

GO TO PRESCHOOL LISTING >

PRESCHOOLS	CONTACT INFORMATION	REGISTRATION	CLASSES	SEPT. 15 CUT-OFF	RELIGIOUS CONTENT	ABOUT THE PROGRAM
Ashworth Road Preschool 5300 Ashworth Road, WDM www.ashworthroadpreschool.com	515-223-0914, ext. 104 wendy@ashworthroad.com	January	2s: 2-day AM 3s: 3-day AM or PM 4s: 3-day AM or PM	Yes	Yes	Christian curriculum; Pre-K readiness
The Larick Early Learning Center 2700 Elm St., WDM www.larickelc.com	515-249-5783 larickelc@outlook.com	Ongoing See Website	3s-5s: 5-day full day	No	No	Certified early childhood teacher; low teacher/ child ratio
Little Friends Preschool 2180 NW 142nd St., Clive www.clivechurch.com	515-556-5576 sandy.littlefriends@gmail.com	February/ Ongoing	2s: 2- or 3-day 3s: 2- or 3-day 4s: 2- or 3- day PK: 5-day	Yes	Yes	Classes are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Pre-K is for older 4s; Christian curriculum
Montessori Children's House 1505 42nd St., WDM	515-225-1073 director@themonessori childrenshouse.net	January	18 mos-3 yrs, 2-3 yrs, 3-6 yrs, 5-7 yrs: half day and full day	Yes	No	Child-directed, prepared environment, Spanish immersion
Al Razi Academy 1119 5th St., WDM www.alraziacademy.com	515-255-0220 mynewhorizonsacademy04 @gmail.com	Ongoing	0-24 months: part- and full-time 2s-3s: part- and full-time 4s-5s: part- and full-time	No	Yes, Optional	Optional Islamic curriculum setting, Literature-rich, child- centered curriculum, Creative Curriculum
Hope West Des Moines Preschool 925 Jordan Creek Pkwy., WDM	515-422-9122 jody.hufford@hopewdm.org	January	3s: 2-day AM or PM 4s: 4-day AM or PM 5s: 4-day T-K	Yes	Yes	Traditional
Sacred Heart Preschool* 1601 Grand Ave., WDM www.sacredheart.wdm.org	515-226-2146 515-223-1284 jane.kinney@ sacredheartwdm.org	January	3s: 2-day AM 4s: 4-day AM or PM 5s: 5-day PM (transitional kindergarten for young 5's)	Yes	Yes**	Creative Curriculum based, certified early childhood teacher for 4s, extended care options.
Seeds of Faith Early Learning Center 10395 University Ave., Clive www.faithlc.org	515-689-8334 seedsoffaith@faithlc.org	January	2s: 1- or 2-day AM 3s: 2-day AM or PM 3s: 3-day AM 4s: 4-day AM or PM	Yes	Yes	Child-centered Christian program utilizing Creative Curriculum, project-based learning, lead teachers certified
Shepherd's Flock Early Learning Center 3900 Ashworth Road, WDM www.shepherd-valley.org	515-225-1952 diane@sotv-wdm.org	January Call anytime after birth.	3s: 2-day AM; 3-day AM or PM 4s: 3-day AM; 4-day AM or PM 4s and 5s PK: 5-day PM Kindergarten: 5 day AM or PM	Yes	Yes	Traditional; Christian program; low teacher/child ratio
St. Francis of Assisi Preschool 7075 Ashworth Road, WDM	515-223-4577, ext. 116 tmyers@saintfrancischurch.org	January	2s: 2-day AM only 3s: 3-day AM or PM 4s: 4-day AM or PM	Jan. 1 Sept. 15 Sept. 15	Yes	Teacher-directed and self- selection times, faith based.
Tiger Cubs Preschools* Clive Learning Academy 1600 73rd St., Windsor Heights Crestview School of Inquiry 8355 Franklin Ave., Clive Fairmeadows Elementary 807 23rd St., WDM Hillside Elementary 713 Eighth St., WDM Jordan Creek Elementary 4105 Fuller Road, WDM Western Hills Elementary 600 39th St., WDM Westridge Elementary 5500 E.P. True Parkway, WDM Learning Resource Center (LRC) 3550 Mills Civic Parkway, WDM	Clive 515-633-5800 Crestview 515-633-5700 Fairmeadows 515-633-6500 Hillside 515-633-6200 Jordan Creek 515-633-5200 Western Hills 515-633-5900 Westridge 515-633-5400 LRC 515-633-5000 discover.wdmcs.org/tiger-cubs	Begins in early January Ongoing See website for more information.	4s: 4-day AM or PM	Yes	No	Traditional, Creative Curriculum-based, certified early childhood teacher through WDMCS
West Des Moines United Methodist Early Learning Preschool* 720 Grand Ave., WDM	515-279-8897 nsetchell@wdmumc.org	New families in December Current families anytime	18 months-2s: 2-day AM 2s: 3-day AM 3s: 2-day AM; 3-day AM or PM 4s: 4-day AM or PM	No Yes Yes Yes	Yes**	Child-centered program utilizing Creative Curriculum, project- based learning, certified teachers; low teacher/child ratio

Updated 8/2022

*SVPP — Offer Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs (see reverse).

**No religious content during Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs
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