

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Young Royals Preschool?

Young Royals (YR) Preschool is a Watertown Mayer School District public preschool. We are a 4-star Parent Aware Rated program. YR is for all 3, 4, and 5-year-old children in the school district and beyond. It is a fee-based program. Young Royals Preschool strives to meet the needs of all children and supports the District's mission of Growth through Connections and Opportunities. Our objective in YR is for all students to learn and grow through intentional play and developmentally appropriate experiences. Students gain fundamental social, emotional, academic, physical, and creative skills for school and life success. We use the COR Advantage Assessment tool to track student progress. You can think of preschool as a grade level like Kindergarten, 1st grade, etc.

Are there scholarships available for Young Royals?

Yes. Limited funds are available. When you register, select the option "I would like an application mailed to my primary address". An application will be sent after your registration is received. Scholarship funds are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Is transportation available for Young Royals?

Yes, for the 4-5 yr old classes only. There is no fee to utilize the district's regular school bus routes. When you register select the transportation option.

May I register for Young Royals Preschool only?

Yes, you may register for preschool only by choosing the class you wish to enroll in.

What is Kids' Company and Caring Hands Child Care?

Kids' Company and Caring Hands are child care programs under Community Education. The child care is open year-round and is both NAEYC accredited and 4-Star Parent Aware Rated.

Caring Hands is a licensed child care providing full-day care for infants, toddlers, and 3-year-old children.

Kids' Company is certified and provides care for children ages 4-12 full day, before and after school, nonschool days, and summer.

What is the Child Care + Preschool class?

This class allows 4-5 yr old children who enroll in full-day child care to also receive Young Royals Preschool programming with a licensed Preschool Teacher as part of their day. This will also include child care on non-school days September-May.

Summer requires a separate registration.

Can I register for preschool and add child care?

3-year-old preschool children will have the opportunity to register for wrap-around care for the 2 or 3-day class, as well as full day care on days they are not in preschool.

4-5-year-old children enrolled in preschool only will have the opportunity to register for full-day 2-3 day child care based on availability.

May I register for child care only?

Yes, 4-5-year-olds can register for 2 or 3-day full-day options, pending availability. Full-day options for Infant-3 yr olds will be available as well as before and after school for K-6 students.

What is the difference between Young Royals Preschool and Kids' Company & Caring Hands Child Care?

Staff Qualifications

- *Young Royals Preschool:* Teachers are licensed Early Childhood Educators by the MN Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board. Educational Support Paraprofessionals have earned the district's highly-qualified status.
- *Kids' Company & Caring Hands Child Care:* Staff meet state licensing requirements and complete background studies, with ongoing professional development but without a requirement for formal teaching licensure.

Purpose

- *Young Royals Preschool:* Prepares children specifically for Kindergarten through educational and developmental applicable activities.
- *Kids' Company & Caring Hands Child Care:* Provides year-round care and enrichment for a broader range of ages, supporting children's overall development and social interactions.

Program Structure

- *Young Royals Preschool:* A structured, school readiness program focusing on play-based and student-centered learning in an inclusive environment. YR uses vetted curricula for literacy, mathematics, and handwriting.
- *Kids' Company & Caring Hands Child Care:* A full-day, full-year child care program offering a safe and recreational environment. It emphasizes care, enrichment, and social interaction rather than a formal academic curriculum.

Shared Elements

- The Second Step curriculum is implemented to promote social and emotional learning.
- YR and Kids' Company & Caring Hands Child Care work collaboratively to support children's readiness for Kindergarten.

Age Range

- *Young Royals Preschool:* Designed for children ages 3-5 years by September 1.
- *Kids' Company & Caring Hands Child Care:* Serves a broader age range, from 6 weeks to 12 years.