



# 2025 2026 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

The mission of the WBL Schools Early Childhood Programs, a nurturing community of educators, young learners, families and caregivers, is to build a foundation for all children to reach their greatest potential by providing dynamic environments that foster a love for learning and strengthen 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

**Kristen Nelson** ..... 651-653-3102  
kristen.nelson@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.



# WBLAS Early Learning Philosophy



## 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 Parent Advisory Council (PAC). For more information, visit [earlychildhood.isd624.org/families/pta](http://earlychildhood.isd624.org/families/pta)

## 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 Thursday evenings and 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, 2025

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.

**Dates:** September 8, 2025-June 5, 2026  
(follows the WBL preschool calendar)

**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 (free breakfast and lunch at all elementary sites), and Extended Day offered at these locations

**Cost:** \$1010/month (Sept 1-May 1)

## \*Otter Lake Elementary Specialty Classes

We're thrilled to offer two fun speciality classes as a part of our Full Day program! If you're looking for outdoor adventures or a chance for your child to explore Spanish, our Otter Lake location is the perfect place for you.

**Outdoor Classroom:** This classroom will be spending 2 hours outdoors each morning, focusing on outdoor exploration and activities.

### ¡Hola Ositos! (Hello Little Bears) - Spanish Exposure **NEW!**

This Spanish Exposure class is designed to serve both Spanish speaking and non-Spanish speaking children supporting first languages while also exposing children to a second language. This class provides a welcoming space to explore a new language, engaging in interactive activities and peer learning, and a wonderful foundation should you consider our Spanish Immersion program in kindergarten.

**Transportation will be provided for families in the ¡Hola Ositos! - Spanish Exposure class based on the Otter Lake Elementary Dual Spanish Immersion routing. More information will be available when routes have been established.**

*Scholarships available to students who meet certain qualifications (i.e. low family income, dual language learners, children in foster care, or other types of needs). Call the early childhood office for more information, 651-653-3100.*



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

Age 4 by Sept 1, 2025

### Oneka Elementary & Birch Lake Elementary

**Dates:** September 8, 2025-June 5, 2026  
(follows the WBL preschool calendar)

**Program Hours at Elementary Sites:**  
Mon/Wed/Fri, 7:45 am-2:15 pm

#### Program Sites:

Oneka Elementary: 4888 Heritage Parkway, Hugo

Birch Lake Elementary: 1616 Birch Lake Ave., White Bear Lake

**Additional Options:** May qualify for transportation, Access to Nutrition Services (free breakfast and lunch), and Extended Day offered at these locations

**Cost:** \$604/month (Sept 1 - May 1)



# Half Day Preschool / Tamarack Nature Preschool



## Half Day 3 Year Old Classes

Age 3 by Sept 1, 2025

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.

M/W	8:30-11:00 am	NP
T/Th	8:30-11:00 am	NP
T/Th	12:30-3:00 pm	NP
T/Th	7:45-10:15 am	OE

Cost: \$252

## Half Day 4-5 Year Old Classes

Age 4 by Sept 1, 2025

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	7:45-10:15 am	OE
T/W/Th	11:45 am-2:15 pm	OE
T/W/Th	8:30-11:00 am	NP
M/W/F	8:30-11:00 am	NP
M/W/F	12:30-3:00 pm	NP
M-Th	12:30-3:00 pm	NP

Cost: 3 days a week \$389/month, 4 days \$499/month

## Tamarack Nature Preschool

For 3-5 year olds

The preschool classes at Tamarack Nature Center revolve around nature - learning from it, about it, and within it. Classes include the implementation of all program curriculum and assessment. Our classes are led by a team of both a White Bear Lake licensed teacher and a skilled Tamarack naturalist, providing a unique blend of educational expertise and hands-on nature exploration to inspire and nurture young learners. **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.**

**3 years old** (Age 3 by Sept 1, 2025)

### Hoppers

T/Th 8:30-11:00 am

### Jumpers

M/W 8:30-11:00 am

### Rompers **NEW!**

Our afternoon preschool class at Tamarack begins with lunch brought from home followed by fun-filled nature exploration, creating a perfect balance of friendship, learning and play.

M/W 12:30-3:00 pm

Cost: \$330/month

**4-5 years old** (Age 4 by Sept 1, 2025)

Students attending partial days will get all curriculum activities and instruction during their time at school. Partial day students will have the option to build to full day as the year progresses. Full day afternoon time will include lunch, rest, and additional exploration time both indoors and outdoors.

### Leapers **NEW!**

T/Th partial day 8:30-12:00 pm

T/Th full day 8:30-3:00 pm

Cost: partial day \$355/month, full day \$475/month

### Bounders

M/W/F partial day 8:30-12:00 pm

M/W/F full day 8:30-3:00 pm

Cost: partial day \$525/month, full day \$700/month

**Location:** Tamarack Nature Center, 5287 Otter Lake Rd, White Bear Township

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.



# 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 & Second Step* framework & curriculum 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 Tamarack and elementary sites children must be independent with toileting without the use of a pull-up or a diaper to attend preschool classes.

## 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 or Tamarack.

## 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 2025-2026 school year for Extended Day opens April 1. 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](http://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 Tamarack will need to bring lunch from home each day and eat breakfast before arriving at school.

Preschool Starts the week of September 8th  
and runs through the week of June 1st.



## 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

### 2025-2026 Registration

The ECFE brochure with class descriptions, registration information, and materials will be available in mid to late April.

**ECFE registration begins Thursday, May 1.**

[whitebear.ce.eleyo.com](http://whitebear.ce.eleyo.com)

## 2025-2026 Registration

Registration begins February 13 at 8:00 am

- Registrations will be accepted online at [www.whitebear.ce.eleyo.com](http://www.whitebear.ce.eleyo.com)

**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](http://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. Sibling discounts are available for families that have multiple children in our early childhood programs. Call our main office for more details.

## Payment Options

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

## Tuition Assistance

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

Applications are available on our website or by emailing [ec@isd624.org](mailto:ec@isd624.org).

Half Day Preschool 9 - Monthly Payments by Building		
Days	Building	Payment
2 days/week	NP/OE	\$252
3 days/week	NP/OE	\$389
4 days/week	NP	\$499

Full Day Preschool 9 - Monthly Payments by Building		
Days	Building	Payment
3 days/week	OE/BL	\$604
5 days/week	BL/LK/OT/OE/ VH/WL	\$1010

Tamarack Preschool 9 - Monthly Payments <i>Additional \$100 registration fee for out of district families</i>	
Days	Payment
3-year-olds: 2 days/week (T/TH or M/W)	\$330
4-year-olds: T/TH partial day	\$355
4-year-olds: T/TH full day	\$475
4-year-olds: M/W/F partial day	\$525
4-year-olds: M/W/F full day	\$700





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

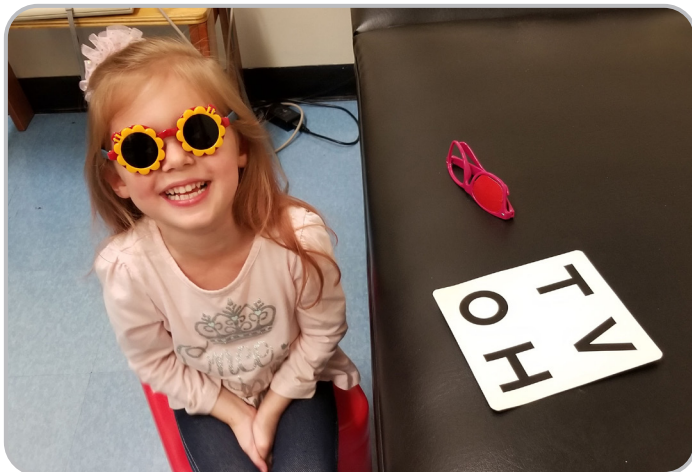
Early Childhood Screening is required by the state of Minnesota for all children prior to entering kindergarten. White Bear Lake Area School District provides this screening at no charge.

#### 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](http://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 being screened and ask that siblings do not attend the appointment.

## Upcoming Screening Dates

### March 2025

- 7 8:30 am-2:15 pm
- 20 3:00 pm-6:00 pm
- 21 8:30 am-2:15 pm
- 28 8:30 am-2:15 pm

### April 2025

- 4 8:30 am-2:15 pm
- 24 3:00 pm-6:00 pm
- 25 8:30 am-2:15 pm

### May 2025

- 2 8:30 am-2:15 pm
- 9 8:30 am-2:15 pm
- 15 3:00 pm-6:00 pm
- 16 8:30 am-2:15 pm

### June 2025

- 10 8:30 am-2:15 pm
- 11 8:30 am-2:15 pm
- 12 8:30 am-2:15 pm
- 13 8:30 am-2:15 pm

Register online at [whitebear.ce.eleyo.com](http://whitebear.ce.eleyo.com)  
 or call 651-653-3100