



# CHILD CARE PROGRAMS 2025-2026

- Mustang Care
- Cowboy Care

We are #OneDeSoto, all for kids.

## Parents/Guardians,

We are thrilled to introduce two new Child Care programs created in direct response to the needs of our community! We understand the importance of providing a safe, engaging, and structured environment for children after school, and we are excited to launch this initiative to support our families.

To begin, we are proud to offer two child care programs for elementary students:

- **Cowboy Care** at West Elementary School
- **Mustang Care** at Nocatee Elementary School

Both programs will operate Monday through Friday, **after school until 5:30 PM**. Children will benefit from a structured schedule that includes homework support, enrichment activities, and sports, ensuring a fun and productive experience each day.

**Submitting an application does not guarantee enrollment.** Families will be notified by email if they have been "**Approved - Pending Payment**" for the program by May 23, 2025. Final approval and acceptance into the program will be confirmed once the **enrollment fee and first week's tuition** are received.

### Program Enrollment & Fees:

- **Enrollment Fee:** \$30 (one-time, non-refundable). There is a \$10 discount on the enrollment fee for each additional child (e.g. Child 1 enrollment fee = \$30, Child 2 = \$20).
- **Tuition Rate:** \$50/week per child, regardless of attendance or number of school days in the week. This tuition reserves your child's spot in the program and supports consistent staffing.
- **Holiday Breaks:** The \$50/week tuition will not be charged for Thanksgiving Break, Spring Break, and Christmas Break, unless your child plans to attend half-day or full-day child care. See half-day and full-day child care rates below.
- **Half-day & Full-day Child Care:** A \$30 daily rate will be charged for full day child care services (7:30 - 5:30 PM). A \$20 daily rate will be charged for half-day child care services (11:15 AM - 5:30 PM). Parents/Guardians will be required to sign-up and pay in advance for half-day and full-day child care. Space may be limited due to staffing availability. **Half-day and Full-day Child Care is only available for students enrolled in Mustang Care or Cowboy Care.** These dates are indicated in BLUE on the [2025-2026 Child Care Calendar](#).

## Payment Policy

- All fees must be paid in advance by the Friday prior to the week of service. A \$10 late fee will be applied to accounts not paid on time.
- **Payment Deadline:** To secure your child's spot for the 2025-2026 school year, the **enrollment fee and first week's tuition (\$80 total)** must be paid by **July 24, 2025**. If payment is not received by this date, the spot will be offered to the next child on the waitlist. Payments can be made by check or credit card at the school location or the Family Service Center. We hope to have an online payment system soon.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please **print and return the application form to the Family Service Center**, or complete the electronic application under the **Applications** tab of the Family Service Center website: <https://fsc.desotoschools.com/applications>. Applications are reviewed on a **first-come, first-served**, and spaces are limited.

## Strict Pick-Up Policy:

We understand that life gets busy, but to ensure a smooth operation, we ask that all students be picked up by **5:30 PM**.

- **Late pick-up fee:** \$1 per minute after 5:30 PM, required with the next tuition payment.
- **Three late pick-ups** will result in dismissal from the program

## Discipline Policy

Our program aims to provide a positive and respectful environment for all children. Students are expected to follow all program rules and exhibit appropriate behavior while in the care program.

- **Discipline:** Students who display disruptive or unsafe behavior may be subject to disciplinary action.
- **Dismissal from Program:** In cases of severe or repeated behavioral issues, students may be **dismissed from the program**. This includes, but is not limited to, actions such as disrespectful behavior toward staff or peers.

## Program Opportunities & Example Activities

We are dedicated to providing an enriching experience that goes beyond traditional child care. In addition to homework support, your child will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of exciting activities designed to foster personal growth, teamwork, and creativity. Here's a glimpse of the diverse offerings available:

## **Sports & Physical Activities** (All equipment will be provided)

- **Soccer:** Learn the basics of teamwork, coordination, and fitness in a fun and supportive environment.
  - **Basketball:** Develop skills in dribbling, passing, and shooting, all while encouraging sportsmanship.
  - **Capture the Flag & Kickball:** Enjoy outdoor games that promote physical activity and group interaction.
  - **Team Building Games:** Focus on collaboration, trust, and problem-solving through group challenges.
  - **Riding a Bike:** For those who are ready, children can learn to ride a bike or practice their biking skills in a safe, supervised environment. This encourages physical activity, coordination, and confidence.
- Enrichment Activities**
- **Greenhouse Gardening:** Students can participate in planting, maintaining, and harvesting fruits and vegetables in our greenhouse. This activity will teach children about the life cycle of plants, organic gardening, and the importance of sustainable agriculture.
  - **Arts & Crafts:** Foster creativity through painting, drawing, sculpture, and other hands-on activities.
  - **STEM:** Participate in fun, hands-on experiments that inspire curiosity in science and technology.
  - **Guest Readers & Storytelling:** Enjoy visits from guest readers, who bring stories to life and spark children's imaginations.
  - **Camp-like Activities:** Engage in team-building challenges, nature walks, and outdoor adventures that simulate a summer camp experience.
  - **Leadership Training:** For older children, we offer age-appropriate leadership activities designed to build confidence and leadership skills.
  - **Community Service Projects:** Encourage empathy and social responsibility through volunteer opportunities and charity-driven initiatives.
  - **Board Games, Legos, & Puzzles:** Build strategic thinking, patience, and social skills.
  - **Seasonal Activities:** Celebrate the holidays and seasons with themed crafts, events, and games.

## **Homework Support & Learning Opportunities**

- **Homework Help:** Dedicated time and staff to assist with homework, ensuring that students can complete assignments and reinforce what they're learning in school.
- **Literacy and Reading Time:** Promote literacy through quiet reading sessions, book discussions, and interactive storytelling.
- **Mathematics Tutoring:** Students will have access to focused mathematics tutoring to help reinforce math concepts, improve problem-solving skills, and build confidence in this critical subject.

Our goal is to create a balanced program that keeps your child engaged, learning, and active while fostering personal growth and development. Each day will be filled with exciting opportunities to explore new hobbies, make lasting friendships, and gain valuable life skills.

This program is not just about child care—it’s about providing a nurturing space where students can learn, grow, and thrive. We are excited to partner with our families to make **Cowboy Care** and **Mustang Care** a meaningful part of your child’s daily routine.

## **Important Application Information**

An electronic application is available online at [fsc.desotoschools.com/applications](https://fsc.desotoschools.com/applications). A PDF application can also be printed and submitted in person at the Family Service Center.

- Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis and limited to available spots.
- Once a program reaches capacity, children will be placed on a waiting list. We strongly encourage families to seek alternative childcare options in case the program fills up before the new school year begins.
- If additional spots become available later, we will contact families from the waitlist via email.

## **Financial Assistance**

We are actively exploring ways to support families with financial need. If assistance becomes available, we will provide detailed information prior to the July payment deadline. If you believe you may qualify for financial assistance, please indicate this in your application. We will share any available resources and assistance options accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact the Family Service Center at (863) 993-1333.

## **Contact Information**

### **District Administrative Contacts:**

Kathy Severson, Director of Family Service Center  
[kathy.severson@desotoschools.com](mailto:kathy.severson@desotoschools.com)

Dr. Jake Reynolds, Deputy Superintendent  
[jake.reynolds@desotoschools.com](mailto:jake.reynolds@desotoschools.com)

**2025-2026 School Year**  
**Child Care Program Application Form, Page 1**

Instructions: Parent/Guardian completes the form and submits it to the **Family Service Center**. The parent/guardian registering the child is the person responsible for payments. Names and phone numbers of at least two other people authorized to pick up the child must be provided. All persons picking up children are required to show ID.

<b>Select a Childcare Program</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cowboy Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Mustang Care	
<b>Child Name</b>		<b>DOB</b>	
<b>Grade-Level</b>		<b>Current School</b>	
<b>Street Address</b>			
<b>City</b>		<b>Zip</b>	
<b>Medical/Allergy Information</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If yes, please explain in the box below.</i>
<b>Child lives with</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian
<b>Parent/Guardian 1</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Street Address</b>			
<b>Email</b>		<b>Place of Employment</b>	
<b>Parent/Guardian 2</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Street Address</b>			
<b>Email</b>		<b>Place of Employment</b>	
<b>Names of those NOT allowed to pick up the child:</b>			
<b>Authorized Pick Up Contacts</b>			
<b>Contact Name</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Contact Name</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Do you believe you may qualify for financial assistance?</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Please share any additional information you would like us to know about your child.</b>			

**Child Care Program Application Form, Page 2**  
**Parent/Guardian Child Care Program Agreement**

I understand that:

1. **Enrollment Fee:** \$30 (one-time, non-refundable).
2. **Tuition Rate:** \$50/week per child, regardless of attendance or number of school days in the week. This tuition reserves your child’s spot in the program and supports consistent staffing.
3. **Holiday Breaks:** The \$50/week tuition will not be charged for Thanksgiving Break, Spring Break, and Christmas Break, unless your child plans to attend half-day or full-day child care. See half-day and full-day child care rates below.
4. **Half-day & Full-day Child Care:** A \$30 daily rate will be charged for full day child care services (7:30 - 5:30 PM). A \$20 daily rate will be charged for half-day child care services (11:15 AM - 5:30 PM). Parents/Guardians will be required to sign-up and pay in advance for half-day and full-day child care. Space may be limited due to staffing availability. These dates are indicated in BLUE on the [2025-2026 Child Care Calendar](#).
5. **Payment Deadline:** To secure your child’s spot for the 2025-2026 school year, the enrollment fee and first week's tuition must be paid **by July 24, 2025**. If payment is not received by this date, the spot will be offered to the next child on the waitlist. Payments can be made by check or credit card at the school location or the Family Service Center.
6. I am responsible for program payments. Delinquent accounts may result in immediate suspension from the program. Further program payments may be required to be paid in cash or credit card in advance.
7. Late pick-up fee: \$1 per minute after 5:30 PM, required with the next tuition payment. Three late pick-ups will result in dismissal from the program
8. All children are expected to behave in a respectful manner toward staff and peers. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the program.
9. My child(ren) must be able to use the restroom facilities without assistance from staff. If they have an accident while at childcare, they must be able to fully change and clean themselves in the restroom. I will provide a change of clothes to the staff. If my child(ren) has an accident without a change of clothes, I will be called for immediate pick up.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name	
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Parent/Guardian Signature		Date	
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**2025-2026 School Year**  
**Full Tuition Assistance Scholarship Form** *Limited Availability*

Select a Childcare Program

Cowboy Care

Mustang Care

Child Name

Grade

PK K 1 2 3 4 5

Parent/Guardian

**Financial OR Academic Support Need - Please check at least ONE of the following.**

- Demonstrates economic hardship - ***please attach all relevant documentation.***
  - Receive assistance from public benefit programs (e.g., SNAP, TANF, Medicaid).
  - Live in transitional housing, are experiencing homelessness, or are in foster care.
  - Have experienced a recent job loss, medical crisis, or financial instability, documented through a *hardship letter* or referral by a school social worker, counselor, or administrator.
  - Eligible for McKinney-Vento Program
- OR identified for support by school administration as needing additional academic support in one or more of the following areas:
  - Reading (e.g., phonics, fluency, or vocabulary development)
  - Mathematics (e.g., number sense or reasoning skills)

### Acknowledgment of Scholarship Terms

I understand and agree that in order to continue receiving tuition assistance, the following terms must be met:

- **School Attendance** : Student must maintain a 96% or higher school attendance rate, measured cumulatively twice a quarter
- **Family Commitment**: Parents/guardians will participate in at least one family event per semester
- **School Enrollment**: Student must be enrolled at West Elementary or Nocatee Elementary

By signing below, I acknowledge these conditions and agree to support my child in meeting each requirement.

Signature, Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Completed by Central Office Staff

- Qualifies for tuition assistance.
- Does NOT qualify for tuition assistance.
- Waitlisted for tuition assistance.

1st Week of Scholarship Assistance: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature, Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Año Escolar 2025–2026**

**Formulario de Beca de Matrícula Completa – Espacios Limitados**

Seleccione un programa

Cowboy Care

Mustang Care

Nombre

Grado

PK K 1 2 3 4 5

Padre/Madre

**Necesidad de Apoyo Financiero O Académico – Marque al menos UNA de las siguientes opciones:**

- Demuestra dificultades económicas – adjunte toda la documentación relevante.
  - Recibe asistencia de programas públicos (por ejemplo: SNAP, TANF, Medicaid).
  - Vive en vivienda transitoria, está en situación de calle o en cuidado de crianza temporal.
  - Ha experimentado una pérdida de empleo reciente, crisis médica o inestabilidad financiera, documentado mediante una carta de dificultad o referencia de un trabajador social, consejero o administrador escolar.
  - Es elegible para el Programa McKinney-Vento.
- O Identificado por la administración escolar como necesitado de apoyo académico adicional en una o más de las siguientes áreas:
  - Lectura (por ejemplo: fonética, fluidez o desarrollo de vocabulario)
  - Matemáticas (por ejemplo: sentido numérico o razonamiento lógico)

**Reconocimiento de los Términos de la Beca**

Entiendo y acepto que para seguir recibiendo asistencia con la matrícula, se deben cumplir los siguientes términos:

- **Asistencia Escolar:** El estudiante debe mantener una tasa de asistencia escolar del 96% o más, medida dos veces por trimestre.
- Los padres/tutores participarán en al menos un evento familiar por semestre.
- El estudiante debe estar matriculado en West Elementary o Nocatee Elementary.

Al firmar a continuación, reconozco estas condiciones y me comprometo a apoyar a mi hijo(a) para cumplir con cada requisito.

Firma del padre/madre: \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Para uso del personal de la oficina central)**

- Qualifies for tuition assistance.
- Does NOT qualify for tuition assistance.
- Waitlisted for tuition assistance.

1st Week of Scholarship Assistance: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature, Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_