



LITTLE BOOTS

CHILD CARE
AGE 1-3



We are excited to launch *Little Boots*, a full-day child care program exclusively for full-time employees of the DeSoto County School District. Located at West Elementary School, this nurturing, play-based environment is designed specifically for children ages 1 to 3 years old.

Little Boots will operate on our 10-month calendar, with the potential to expand to 12 months pending interest and enrollment. Children will benefit from a structured schedule that includes academics, play, and enrichment activities, ensuring a fun and productive experience each day.

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:**
 - \$175/week per child age 1-2 years old,
 - \$160/week per child ages 2-3 years old.

The tuition rate is 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.

Program Location & Hours

- Location: West Elementary School
- Hours of Operation: 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Calendar: Follows the same schedule as 10-month school employees
- Calendar Extension: A determination to extend to 11- or 12-months will be made based on interest, staffing availability, and enrollment demand

Staffing & Ratios

We will maintain staffing ratios in accordance with Florida state guidelines to ensure a safe and nurturing environment:

- Ages 1–2: 1 staff per 6 children
- Ages 2–3: 1 staff per 11 children
- Ages 3–4: 1 staff per 15 children

Note: In mixed-age groups, the staff-to-child ratio must meet the requirement for the largest age group represented.

What to Bring:

To ensure your child is comfortable and well cared for, families are asked to provide the following items:

- Daily lunch and snacks
- A labeled change of clothes
- Naptime essentials (e.g., blanket, sheet, small pillow)
- A pack-n-play, if your child requires one for naptime

Classroom Donations Welcome:

We are currently seeking donations of age-appropriate toys, books, and classroom materials to help outfit the space. Your support is greatly appreciated as we build a welcoming and engaging environment for our youngest learners.

Payroll Deduction Option:

For convenience, we are working to offer a payroll deduction option for DeSoto County Schools employees. More details will be provided once this feature is available.

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** must be paid by **August 4, 2025**. Payments can be made by check or credit card at West Elementary or the Family Service Center.

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 **4:30 PM**.

- **Late pick-up fee:** \$1 per minute after 4:30 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

At Little Boots, we believe the earliest years are the most important for learning, exploration, and connection. That's why our program offers more than just care—we provide a warm, stimulating environment filled with age-appropriate activities designed to support the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive growth of toddlers.

Movement & Motor Skill Activities

- Outdoor Play & Nature Walks: Children enjoy fresh air, sensory-rich environments, and opportunities to move and explore safely on our school campus.
 - Push & Pull Toys: Great for walkers and early movers to build balance and gross motor confidence.
 - Soft Ball Rolling & Catching: Encourages hand-eye coordination and turn-taking.
 - Dance & Movement Songs: Daily music time with actions helps develop rhythm, coordination, and joyful self-expression.
 - Ride-on Toys & Obstacle Courses: Children build motor skills and confidence as they navigate simple, safe challenges indoors and out.
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Enrichment Activities

- Sensory Play: Water tables, kinetic sand, and finger painting let children explore textures and cause-and-effect in safe, supervised fun.
 - Creative Art Projects: Toddlers will dabble in painting, stamping, and collage-making with easy-to-use materials to express their creativity.
 - Storytime & Puppets: Daily reading routines foster language development, imagination, and listening skills.
 - Music & Instruments: Shakers, drums, and bells help little ones experience rhythm and sound while promoting coordination.
 - Play & Pretend: Pretend kitchens, baby dolls, and cowboy hats offer children opportunities for imitation, imagination, and social interaction.
 - Gardening with Caregivers: Age-appropriate gardening experiences like digging, watering, and touching plants support sensory growth and curiosity about nature.
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Social-Emotional Growth

- Circle Time & Group Songs: Help children feel part of a group and learn simple routines.
- Caregiver Modeling & Gentle Guidance: Teachers help toddlers express emotions, use words to solve problems, and build early friendships.
- Parallel & Cooperative Play Opportunities: Toddlers learn how to play alongside others and, with guidance, begin interacting through shared toys and simple group activities.

At Little Boots, we focus on building independence, joy, and school readiness, one nurturing moment at a time. Whether it's a child's first finger painting, first friendship, or first time riding a push toy, every day is full of discovery and delight. We're honored to support your child's early learning journey.

Example of a Daily Schedule

7:00–8:00 Morning Play, Table Activities, Breakfast, and Announcements

8:00–8:30 Morning Circle Time

8:30–9:15 Center Time

9:15–9:45 Outside Time

9:45–10:00 Restroom / Water Break

10:00–10:30 Small Groups

10:30–11:00 Music & Movement

11:00–11:30 Lunch

11:30–12:00 Restroom & Story Time

12:00–1:00 Rest

1:00–1:30 Snack

1:30–2:00 Outside Time

2:00–2:30 Read Aloud / Pack Up

2:30 -4:30 Group Activities & Dismissal

Important Application Information

An electronic application is available online at 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.

Contact Information

District Administrative Contacts:

Kathy Severson, Director of Family Service Center
kathy.severson@desotoschools.com

Dr. Jake Reynolds, Deputy Superintendent
jake.reynolds@desotoschools.com

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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.

Select Class	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-year-olds	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-3 year olds	
Child Name		DOB	
Street Address			
City		Zip	
Medical/Allergy Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If yes, please explain in the box below.</i>
School Employee Name			
Parent/Guardian 2		Phone	
Email		Place of Employment	
Names of those NOT allowed to pick up the child:			
Authorized Pick Up Contacts			
Contact Name		Phone	
Contact Name		Phone	
Please share any additional information you would like us to know about your child.			

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Parent/Guardian Child Care Program Agreement

1. I am responsible for program payments. Delinquent accounts may result in immediate suspension from the program.

2. Late pick-up fee: \$1 per minute after 4:30 PM, required with the next tuition payment. Three late pick-ups will result in dismissal from the program

Parent/Guardian Printed Name	
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Parent/Guardian Signature		Date	
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