



# PRESCHOOL

2026-27 School Year



**Your Child Deserves the Best Start.  
Here's Where They'll Find It.**

# Why Choose Stillwater?



## A Preschool Where Your Child Belongs

Choosing the right preschool is about more than just finding a classroom; it's about finding a place where your child feels truly seen, safe, and excited to learn.

At Stillwater Schools, we offer something families can't always find in other preschool options: **a true sense of belonging and a head start into kindergarten.**

## Building Friendships and Community

From day one, your child is welcomed, valued, and instantly part of the broader Stillwater Schools Community. This means your child starts building lasting relationships with peers and teachers right from the start, nurturing that special feeling we call **Pony Pride**. Giving your child this strong sense of identity and belonging is the difference-maker.

*Families trust us because we put relationships first. When children feel cared for, learning naturally follows.*

## Trusted Teachers Who Care

Our classrooms are led by caring, **licensed teachers** and trained assistants. This is a team committed to ensuring every single child, including those with special needs, feels safe, supported, and can thrive. Our teachers don't just instruct; they cheer on every milestone, guide curiosity, and make sure your child feels proud of what they can do.

## The Smoothest Path to Kindergarten

In our classrooms, learning happens through hands-on and playful experiences—think art, music, movement, and exploration, not just worksheets. This approach is powerful, and here is why it matters: **Our curriculum is directly aligned with Stillwater Schools' kindergarten programs.**

No other preschool in the area can match this aligned learning. It builds the exact foundation, skills, and confidence your child needs for a smooth, stress-free transition into elementary school.

## Designed for Your Family

We know parents need options, not obstacles. That's why we offer:

- **Flexible Schedules:** Choose from full-day or half-day options.
- **Extended Care:** Before and after school care is available, plus fun Friday Play Days.
- **Convenient Locations:** With eight neighborhood locations across the district, there's a great fit near you.
- **Peace of Mind:** We're a Four-Star Parent Aware rated program, recognized for our quality.
- **Support:** Financial assistance and transportation are available for families who qualify.

# Locations & Community

## Two Distinct Options

Both high-quality environments connected to the Stillwater Schools family:

### Neighborhood Elementary Schools (7 locations):

This option provides **unique continuity and familiarity**. Your child starts building relationships with school staff and older students, in the same building they will attend for the next six years, allowing them to truly *grow into* their elementary school.

*Families love that their child begins building relationships in the same community they'll grow with for the next six years.*

### The Early Childhood Family Center (ECFC):

The ECFC is a wonderful, **stand-alone facility designed specifically for early learners**.

It offers bright, welcoming classrooms, indoor/outdoor playgrounds, an early childhood gym, and an on-site school nurse for peace of mind. It provides an exceptional learning start with strong connections to the Stillwater Schools curriculum.

*ECFC offers a specially designed environment where your child can thrive, play, and learn every day.*

## Eight Convenient Locations

### Afton-Lakeland Elementary

475 St. Croix Trl. South Lakeland, MN 55001

### Bayport Elementary

1003 5th Ave. North Bayport, MN 55003

### Brookview Elementary

11099 Brookview Rd. Woodbury, MN 55129

### Lake Elmo Elementary

11030 Stillwater Blvd. Lake Elmo, MN 55042

### Lily Lake Elementary

2003 West Willard St. Stillwater, MN 55082

### Rutherford Elementary

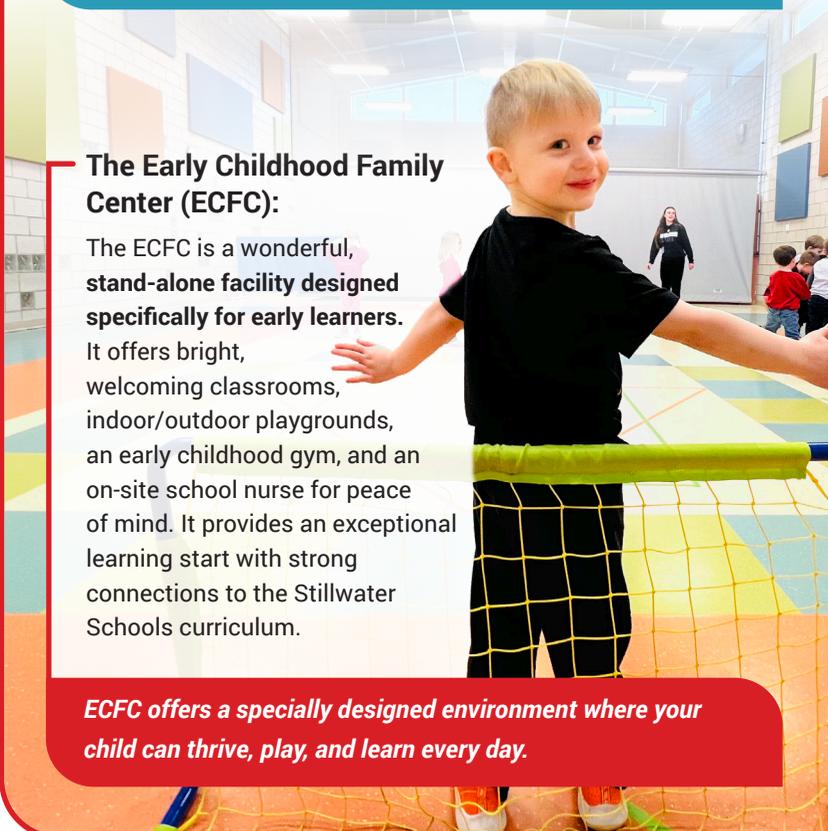
115 Rutherford Rd. Stillwater, MN 55082

### Stonebridge Elementary

900 North Owens St. Stillwater, MN 55082

### Early Childhood Family Center

1111 Holcombe St. South Stillwater, MN 55082



# Building the Foundation for Kindergarten

## Where Play, Movement, and Discovery Lead the Way

Preschoolers learn best through hands-on experiences. Our classrooms and playgrounds are full of opportunities to explore, create, imagine, and grow. This is how we build the foundation for kindergarten:

### Key Learning Highlights:

- **Social-Emotional Skills:** Make friends, learn to share, and take turns.
- **Independence:** Practice getting ready, following routines, and managing belongings.
- **Academics:** Explore early reading, math, science, and creativity through engaging activities.
- **Playful Learning:** We use songs, stories, art, building, and dramatic play to foster curiosity.
- **Movement:** Children move throughout the day in the classroom, playground, gym, and outdoors.



*"Parent Quote"*

—  
parents

# A Typical Day

## Purposeful Play and Discovery

Our daily schedule is structured to give children a mix of playful exploration and teacher-guided instruction.

- Free breakfast
- Morning meeting (community building)
- Teacher-led small groups (focused skill development)
- Student-led playful learning centers
- Playing with number, letters and sounds
- Songs, music, and dramatic play
- Outdoor recess/playground/gym time
- Snack (family-provided for full-day students)
- Free lunch, recess, and rest time (full-day students)



## Our teachers weave these key goals into every part of the day:

- Build confidence through imaginative play and hands-on learning.
- Practice independence and self-care skills.
- Explore early reading, math, science, and creativity.
- Make friends and learn key social skills.

*Our teachers understand early childhood. They know how to support big feelings, growing friendships, and busy imaginations.*

# 4-Year-Old Preschool Options

Flexible Schedules to Fit Your Family

## Schedules & Tuition (2026-2027 School Year)

Location	Schedule	Hours	Monthly Tuition
Elementary Schools	Full Days, Mon-Thu	7:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	\$870
Brookview Only	Half Day Mornings Monday-Thursday	7:45-10:15 a.m.	\$435
ECFE	Full Days, Mon-Thu	9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	\$850
	Half Day Mornings Monday-Thursday	9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	\$425



### Friday Play Days:

- An additional day of supervised play and exploration with preschool assistants.
- Elementary Schools (7:45 a.m.–2:15 p.m.)  
ECFC (9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.)
- Tuition: \$245/month

### Adventure Club:

Wrap-around care is available at elementary schools before or after preschool for an additional fee. **We've reserved 10 spots especially for preschoolers** at each location. Information about Adventure Club costs and registration will be emailed in January.

*Children must be 4 years old by Sept. 1 and potty trained. (Students with a disability that may prohibit independent toileting are exempt).*

# Registration & Open House

## Your Child's Next Big Step Starts Here

Preschool at Stillwater Schools gives children the skills, confidence, and connections they need for a happy, successful transition into kindergarten.

**Register  
Now!**

We use a lottery system to give ALL applicants an equal chance of having their child accepted in the preschool program.

### Lottery Process:

- 1. Fill out the Census Form:** Register your child with Stillwater Schools at [stillwaterschools.org/census](https://stillwaterschools.org/census)
- 2. Complete the Lottery Form:** Rank your preferred preschool location. The form is open Jan. 20, 7 a.m. - Feb. 1, 7 p.m. at [stillwaterschools.org/preschool](https://stillwaterschools.org/preschool)
- 3. Notification:** Families will be emailed the lottery results by Feb. 17, with next steps



## Want to Learn More? Join Us For a Preschool Open House

Event	Date & Time	Location	Focus
In-Person Open House	Wednesday, Jan. 14 5:30–6:30 p.m.	Your Neighborhood School	Visit classrooms, meet teachers, and learn about our curriculum.
Online Open House	Tuesday, Jan. 20 7–8 p.m.	Via Zoom	Hear directly from teachers and parents about what to expect. RSVP for link.

# Connect With Us

We're here to support you and your child as you prepare for preschool and beyond.

## Find Us Online

- [stillwaterschools.org/preschool](http://stillwaterschools.org/preschool)
- [facebook.com/834earlylearning](https://facebook.com/834earlylearning)
- [instagram.com/834earlylearning](https://instagram.com/834earlylearning)

## Questions? Give Us a Call!

Preschool..... 651-351-4020

Early Childhood

Screening..... 651-351-4022

Early Childhood Special

Education..... 651-351-4023



Scan for  
Translations



# 3-4 YEARS OLD?

*Now is the time to screen!*



Early Childhood Screening is a FREE, simple check of how your child is growing, developing and learning. State law requires children to be screened, and screening early is best so that any health or development concerns can be addressed right away.

## What to expect during screening:

Your child will complete developmental activities with a trained professional to see if they're meeting important milestones specific to their age. They'll check:

- Vision and hearing
- Height and weight
- Immunizations
- Large and small muscles
- Thinking, language and communication skills
- Social and emotional development

If any issues are identified, we'll work with you to get the support you need.

**Schedule  
your child's screening  
appointment today!**

Go online at  
[stillwaterschools.org/ec-screening](http://stillwaterschools.org/ec-screening)  
or call 651-351-4022.

**Appointments are held at the  
Early Childhood Family Center**

1111 Holcombe St. S.  
Stillwater, MN 55082