

Play and Learn Preschool & Little Chargers Childcare

Dassel-Cokato Play and Learn Preschool and Little Chargers Childcare partner with families to nurture each child's growth through developmentally appropriate, play-based learning experiences. Together, we create an engaging and consistent environment where children feel safe, supported, and inspired to explore, discover, and build the foundational skills needed for lifelong learning.

New for 2026–2027 Preschool

We are adjusting class schedules and enhancing childcare programming to better support student learning and provide families with more flexible options, including 3 and 4-day preschool schedules, as well as an all-day option that combines preschool and wrap-around childcare to intentionally support learning.

Does my child need to be toilet-trained?

We do ask that children be able to use the restroom independently and manage their clothing with minimal adult assistance. If your young child is still working on these skills, we still recommend securing a preschool spot now. Please reach out if you need to discuss your child's progress or readiness.

What options are available for Ages 3/4 preschool?

Ages 3/4 classes (age as of Sept. 1, 2026) are offered at the Early Childhood Center.

- Monday/Thursday 8:00–11:00 am
- Tuesday/Friday, 8:00–11:00 am

What options are available for Ages 4/5 preschool?

Ages 4/5 classes (age as of Sept. 1, 2026) are offered at both Cokato Elementary and the Early Childhood Center (hosting Dassel preschoolers).

- 3-day option: Mon/Tues/Wed
- 4-day option: Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs
- Morning: 8:00–11:00 am
- Afternoon:
 - Early Childhood Center 12:00–3:00 pm
 - Cokato Elementary 12:15–3:15 pm
- All-Day Option: Preschool+Childcare

Which class should I choose for my 4-year-old?

It is good to consider when you expect your child to start kindergarten.

If your child will start kindergarten in 2028–2029

→ Choose Ages 3/4 Preschool: Designed for children attending preschool for two years, focusing on growth, routines, and foundational skills.

If your child will start kindergarten in 2027–2028

→ Choose Ages 4/5 Preschool: Designed for children entering kindergarten the following year. Focusing on academic development by building social skills, independence, and attention while embedding foundational literacy, math, and critical thinking into daily activities.

What is the All-Day Option?

The all-day option combines Play and Learn Preschool and Little Chargers Wraparound Childcare to provide full-day care with consistent routines, childcare, and a seamless experience. Outside of preschool time, children spend the remainder of the day in childcare, supporting learning, friendships, rest, lunch, and large motor play. Families can select schedules aligned with their preschool schedule.

What is Little Chargers Childcare?

Little Chargers Wraparound Childcare provides care for children enrolled in Play and Learn Preschool when they are not in a preschool class, including before and after preschool and on district non school days.

How does Little Chargers Childcare support my child's preschool experience?

Little Chargers Childcare provides purposeful activities that support and extend preschool learning. Children engage in hands-on experiences aligned with classroom themes, supporting social skills, early literacy, math, and play-based learning, while still enjoying play, rest, and social time.

Is bus transportation available?

Limited transportation an option for the Ages 4/5 morning preschool class arrival and the Ages 4/5 afternoon preschool departure.

• MORNING Ages 4/5 Classes:

Students may ride the PreK–Grade 12 bus TO preschool. Parents transport home.

• AFTERNOON Ages 4/5 Classes:

Parent transport TO school.

Students may ride the PreK–Grade 12 bus Home.

NOTE: If your address is in the school walk zone, bus transportation is NOT available.

Ages 3/4 preschool classes - parent must transport both directions.

Is a midday bus available for Ages 4/5 classes?

NO - Midday transportation is NOT available.

Parents must transport midday.

How do I decide which option is best for my child?

When choosing a preschool option, think about your child's age, readiness, daily routine (including if your child will continue to nap), and your family's schedule. If you're unsure, our staff are happy to talk through the options with you and help you find the best fit.

Some benefits of choosing an additional preschool day include:

- A more consistent routine for young learners
- More time for learning and hands-on exploration
- Stronger friendships and social connections
- Extra practice that builds confidence, learning retention, and kindergarten readiness

Angela Smith- Early Childhood Coordinator

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Where is Little Chargers Childcare located?

- Early Childhood Center
- Cokato Elementary

Can families choose childcare full-time OR preschool days only?

Yes. Families may choose childcare that fits their schedule, including care on preschool days only or full-time both preschool and non-preschool days.

- Early Childhood Center Hours 6:30 am–5:30 pm
- Cokato Elementary 6:30 am–5:30 pm

Summer Childcare is also available!

Are scholarships or reduced tuition available for Play and Learn Preschool?

Yes. Families who qualify under the Educational Benefits / Free or Reduced Lunch guidelines qualify for reduced tuition. Additional scholarship opportunities are available. Please connect with us to discuss further, we are happy to help!

What is your staffing structure?

→ Preschool: Licensed teachers lead preschool programming with support from paraprofessionals.

→ Little Chargers Childcare: All staff are directed by the Chargers Childcare Coordinator and work closely with the preschool staff to ensure consistent routines and supportive learning throughout the day.

How do I enroll?

Visit www.isd466.arux.app

Jennifer Todnem- Childcare Coordinator

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320-286-4100 Ext. 1334

We are here to support families as they prepare for preschool!

If you have questions or would like to discuss what option is right for your child, please connect with us.

320-286-4120 | community.education@dc.k12.mn.us | www.isd466.org/community-ed