



Way to Grow

School District 197

*Early Learning Program For Families and
Young Children Birth to Pre-Kindergarten*

2026-27 School Year

ECFE Fall Semester Begins September 14
Información en Español en página 13

Registration Begins
August 13 (see page 10)

NEW!
Nature-Based Classes

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE...



Need more information?
Give us a call!
651-403-8390

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Early Learning Program Office

1970 Christensen Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118

651-403-8353

aleshia.leivermann@isd197.org

Hearing Impaired Assistance: Use MN Relay Service

Were you mailed this brochure? If not...

Add your children to the School District's census by calling 651-403-7009. Information requested for the census includes family name, address, phone number, children's names and children's birthdates. Once you are included in the census, we can mail you *Way to Grow* as well as other District publications. In addition, you will be notified when it's time for Early Childhood Screening (beginning at age 3 and required for kindergarten entrance), and the elementary school in your area will expect your child when it's time for kindergarten.

Use of Photos: We honor requests not to publish photos and/or videos of specific students. Submit such requests in writing to:
District 197 Early Learning and Family Resource Center, 1970 Christensen Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118

Early Learning News - Laurie Hume *Assistant Director - Early Learning*



Welcome back to another school year! This is an exciting time for our ECFE programs. We are bringing back home visiting. Michelle Smith, a licensed early childhood teacher and parent educator, will be available to visit interested families. The goal is to provide resources to families and support their parenting journey. In addition, Michelle will collaborate with community organizations, such as the library, to expand the number of families we serve. We understand how busy families are, and we hope to be able to bring ECFE to you! We will still have our traditional classes between both sites.

We are so excited to be bringing in nature-based learning opportunities into the ECFE program. This year is full of possibilities and new experiences. We hope you will join us!

Laurie Hume,
Assistant Director of Early Learning, School District 197

Early Learning Class Locations

Our Early Learning and Family Resource Center is located at 1970 Christensen Ave. West St. Paul, MN 55118. Our website is www.isd197.org/elc. Please note: Early Learning classes are also offered at Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School in Eagan at 1436 Lone Oak Rd. Eagan, MN 55121

ECFE Program Update

We offer two class semesters, Fall and Winter/Spring, with a separate registration for each. Please see the class grid on page 6 for the Fall class schedule. The Winter/Spring ECFE class schedule will be sent to families by email in December and will be available at isd197.org/schools under the Early Learning ECFE tab.



ECFE Program/Registration Updates

ECFE Online Registration Requests for Fall Classes – August 13-16, 2026

Initial ECFE registration requests will be accepted at tridistrictce.arux.app beginning on Thursday, August 13. While creating your registration request, you will be able to indicate your class preference as well as make an alternate class selection. Payment information will be required during registration, however, your payment will not be processed until your registration request is approved. Class placement (by lottery if needed) will begin on Monday, August 17. Approval email notices will be sent by Friday, August 21. Upon approval, you will receive a confirmation email and your payment will be processed. Registrations will be accepted until classes are filled.

Alternative to Online Registration

Online registration will provide you with the most efficient processing of your registration. If you do not have access online, you may contact our main office at 651-403-8390 or 651-403-8353 to register. Please note that phone-in registrations will be placed the same week, offering an equal advantage for ECFE class placement.

About ECFE

ECFE is a program that offers parents and their children from birth to pre-kindergarten opportunities to grow and learn together in a supportive, stimulating environment. ECFE also supports families in learning to find time for one another, having fun together, being proud of who they are, and knowing they are not alone. You will find fall semester classes and more information about ECFE in this section of the brochure. Information on preschool options can be found on pages 16-17.

What are ECFE classes like?

Classes are held in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. Most sessions last 1½ to 2 hours. A typical session begins with time for parents and children to enjoy classroom activities together. Then, children play and learn under the supervision of a licensed early childhood teacher, while parents share experiences and ideas with other parents and a licensed parent educator.

Early Learning Parent Advisory Council

The Early Learning Parent Advisory Council is a group of volunteer parents who assist in promoting the goals of ISD 197 Early Learning Programs. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Laurie Hume at 651-403-8350 or laurie.hume@isd197.org.



What do we know about the effectiveness of ECFE?

Participant feedback and current research show that ECFE is a major resource to families with young children. It sets the stage for parent involvement and children's success in K-12 education. It has proven effective with a variety of families, and many even believe that ECFE creates more caring communities as it brings families from diverse backgrounds together around their common goals as parents. School District 197 is serious about supporting families and children. Let us know how we can serve you better!

How do I register for ECFE?

Please see the registration instructions on pages 10-11.

Early Childhood Special Education

Early Childhood Special Education Services are provided for children birth through kindergarten. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's development please call:

- **Birth to Three Special Services Team:**
651-403-8390
- **Early Intervention Services**
For children age 3 through kindergarten:
651-403-8390



Free ECFE Time for Families

Free Parent Home Visits and Consultations

ECFE Home Visits and Parent Consultations connect parents of children ages Birth-5 with an ECFE Licensed Parent Educator who can answer questions and work together with parents to develop strategies to support their child's growth and development. Consultations are free and provided in-person, by phone, or virtually. Connect with our home visitor, Michelle Smith, for help with topics such as:

- Supporting children's emotional well-being
- Child development information
- Behavior questions
- Sleep
- Feeding and nutrition
- Connecting with community resources

Call 651-403-8362 or michelle.smith@isd197.org to schedule an appointment.



Baby and Me - Free Drop-In Class (Birth-12 Months) Non-Separating Class
Fridays, Sept 30-Oct 28 (4 weeks)
5:00-6:30 pm - Early Learning & Family Resource Center

Come and play with your baby and meet other parents and their babies. The room will be set up with toys and activities that will encourage your child's development in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Parents and babies will stay together in this class, and we will also have time for songs and stories. Parents expecting a new baby are welcome too! These sessions offer a preview of ECFE, including the upcoming Baby and Me class starting on November 4.

Library Storytimes

Storytimes are held at the Wentworth Library, 199 Wentworth Ave E, West St Paul

Our ECFE teacher and Parent Educator, Michelle Smith, will join the children's librarian for each storytime group. Michelle will also be available for conversations and playtime.

Baby Storytime

Read, play, and sing along with your young child in this interactive storytime designed for children from birth to age 2. For more information, please visit www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries and look under the Events tab.

Preschool Storytime

Read, play, sing, talk, and write together with Dakota County children's librarians. Enjoy stories and participate in activities to develop early literacy skills. The preschool storytime is for children ages 2 and older, accompanied by their caregivers. Siblings welcome. For more information, visit the www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries and look under the Events tab.

ECFE Fall 2026 Schedule

ECFE North: Early Learning and Family Resource Center (ELC)

ECFE South: Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School (PK) (sibling care is not available during ECFE)

ELC & PK	Monday Pilot Knob	Tuesday Pilot Knob	Wednesday ELC	Thursday Pilot Knob	Friday ELC
Morning	I Can Do It (24-36 mo) 12 weeks Sept 14-Jan 11 9:15-11:15	Three & More (36 mo-5yrs) 14 weeks Sept 15-Jan 19 9:15-11:15	Makers & Movers (30 mo-5yrs) 15 weeks Sept 16-Jan 20 9:15-11:15	Busy Bodies (13-24 mo) 15 Weeks Sept 17-Jan 21 9:30-11:00	Toddle Two's (20-30 mos) 15 Weeks Sept 18-Jan 22 9:30-11:00
Afternoon	Parenting Book Club- Good Inside (30 mos-5 yrs) 12 weeks Sept 14-Jan 11 12:00-1:30	Learning Through Nature (nature-based play) (24 mo-5yrs) 14 weeks 12:30-2:00 Park Dates: Sept 15, 22, 29 Oct 6, 20, 27 Nov 10, 17 Classes at PK: Dec 1, 8, 15 Jan 5, 12, 19	Connections Class- ECSE *(Upon referral from the case manager) (Birth- 3yrs) 15 weeks Sept 16-Jan 20 12:00-1:30 ----- Open Gym Time (2-5 years) 3:15-4:00 ELC Gym	Nature Sensory Play @ PK (3-5 years) 12:15-1:45 Class Meets: Sept 17 Oct 1 & 22 Nov 5 & 19 Dec 10	No Class Dates: Oct 12-16 Nov 2-3, 23-27 Dec 21-31 Jan 1, 18, 25-29
Evening			5:00-6:30 Baby & Me Drop-In (Free) (Birth-12mo) 4 weeks Sept 30-Oct 28 Baby & Me Class (Birth-12mo) 9 weeks Nov 4-Jan 20 Building Bridges Español (3-5 años) 13 weeks Sept 30-Jan 20 (véase la página 12)		

*Please contact your child's Birth to 3 case manager for more information.

The Winter/Spring ECFE class schedule will be sent to families by email in December and will be available at isd197.org/schools under the Early Learning ECFE tab. Registration will start on January 7, and classes will start the week of February 1, 2027.

Learning Through Nature: Nature-Based Play

Join us for a brand-new ECFE experience—**ECFE in the Park!** This unique class blends community connection, outdoor play-based learning, and classroom connection over 14 weeks.

The **first 8 weeks**, we'll meet **at a community park** within our school district for play dates designed to encourage exploration, creativity, and social connection. Families will experience nature-based activities that inspire curiosity and support early childhood development through outdoor play. Children will learn and grow in a welcoming, relaxed outdoor environment while caregivers build supportive relationships with one another.

The **final 6 weeks** of the semester, we'll gather **at Pilot Knob Elementary** to dive deeper into the importance of nature-based play in early childhood. Together, we'll discuss how outdoor learning supports physical development, social-emotional growth, problem-solving skills, and overall well-being—and explore simple ways to incorporate nature-based activities into everyday family life.

Come connect, play, and grow with us outdoors and beyond!

Tuesdays, September 15-Jan 19 (14 weeks), 12:15-2:00 pm

- September 15 - Mendakota Park
- September 22 - Marthaler Park
- September 29 - Friendly Hills Park
- October 06 - Harmon Park
- October 20 - Hagstrom King Park
- October 27 - Eagan Community Center
- November 10 - Southview Park
- November 17 - Quarry Park
- December 01, 08, 15, and January 05, 12, 19 classes will be at Pilot Knob



PK Outdoor Play – An ECFE Sensory Nature-Based Adventure

For children ages 3-5 years. Please email jamette.iovino@isd197.org about younger siblings.

Join us for PK Outdoor Play, a brand-new ECFE class designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and connection through meaningful outdoor experiences. Inspired by the natural beauty of PK learning spaces, this class invites families to explore, discover, and grow together in nature. Come dressed for the weather—we'll be outside! Each session may include hands-on activities in our garden, nature hikes, playground exploration, and story time in the PK outdoor nature learning area. Children will splash in puddles, plant in the garden, search for woodland treasures during scavenger hunts, and engage in open-ended play that nurtures imagination and confidence.

Nature-based play supports social-emotional growth, problem-solving skills, physical development, and overall well-being. Most importantly, it gives children the freedom to explore the world around them with wonder and joy. Breathe the fresh air, embrace a little mud, and experience the many benefits of learning and playing outdoors. We can't wait to explore with you!

Class meets every other Thursday from 12:30 to 1:45

September 17, October 01 and 22, November 05 and 19, December 10

Babies & Toddlers

ECFE Programs & Age-Specific Classes for Parents & Their Children

Baby & Me Class (Birth-12 Months)

Non-Separating Class

Infancy is an exciting and important time in the life of your child, as well as a wonderful and challenging time for you. Join other parents of infants and a parent educator to talk about your baby's development, safety, feeding, sleep, and all things baby. Parents and babies stay together while you enjoy activities that support your baby's development, with time reserved for songs and stories. This will be a relaxing and informative class where you can ask your questions, share your ideas, and meet other families.

Wednesdays, Nov 4-Jan 20 (9 weeks)

5:00-6:30 pm

Early Learning & Family Resource Center

Busy Bodies (13-24 Months)

Separating Class

Come to learn and play with your emerging little person. Learn about activities that hold a toddler's attention and thus can help your child's development. Parent discussions include topics such as: making separation easier, child-proofing your home, and your child's need for independence.

Thursdays Sept 17-Jan 21 (15 weeks)

9:30-11:00

Pilot Knob

Did You Know...

The ECFE home visit program includes children from birth through PreKindergarten! ISD 197 families can connect with a licensed educator for support on everything from infant cues to Kindergarten readiness. Visits are FREE and may be virtual or in-person. Contact our office at 651-403-8362 to schedule a time to visit.



Toddler Twos (20-30 Months)

Your little one will learn through playing with others and enjoying new activities, sights, and sounds. You will both enjoy time in the specially designed children's space and get ideas for some great activities you can do at home. Parents will separate for parent discussion time.

Fridays, Sept 18-Jan 22 (15 weeks)

9:30-11:00

Early Learning & Family Resource Center



Mixed Ages

ECFE Age-Specific Classes for Parents & Their Children

I Can Do It! (24-36 Months)

Two is the perfect age for you and your little one to be in a parent-child class! Your two-year-old benefits from learning to be around others, and you benefit from support and information that help you nurture a child of this challenging age. This class is a great way to begin exposing your child to new situations and for you to meet other parents. Come and have fun with your child while you grow as a parent! Parents separate from children for parent discussion time.

Mondays, Sept 14-Jan 11 (12 weeks)

9:15-11:15 am

Pilot Knob

Makers & Movers (30 months-5 years)

Active and curious, children in this age group are brimming with excitement and questions about their environment. Join families for sessions filled with play, songs, sensory activities, and gym activities. Your child will love the one-on-one attention during the parent-child interaction time.

Wednesdays, Sept 16-Jan 20 (7 weeks)

9:15-11:15 am

Early Learning & Family Resource Center

Good Inside Book Club (30 months - 5 years)

We invite you to join our book club discussion of *Good Inside* by Dr. Becky Kennedy. In her book, Dr. Kennedy offers insights into raising emotionally resilient, secure, connected, and confident children. We will discuss strategies for handling tantrums, emotional regulation, sibling conflicts, bedtime battles, not listening, and power struggles. Dr. Becky Kennedy offers step-by-step guidance on how to establish clear boundaries for your child with empathy and understanding. While you are in the Early Childhood Classroom, you will get to play and learn with your child. Together, you will discover new activities, art projects, play at the sensory table, sing songs during circle time, and then practice separating from your child for parenting discussion time based on the book.

Mondays, Sept 14-Jan 11 (12 weeks)

12:00-1:30 pm

Pilot Knob

Three and More (3-5 years)

Join other families for a fun class filled with songs, play, and stories. Parents will share ideas and concerns and learn about new resources during parent discussion time, which will be facilitated by a parent educator.

Tuesdays, Sept 9-Oct 28 (7 weeks)

9:15-11:15 am

Pilot Knob

Open Gym Time (2-5 years)

Join us on Wednesday afternoons for our new Open Gym Drop-In at the ELC! This special open gym time gives children the chance to get their wiggles out in our large motor space while exploring, climbing, jumping, and moving in a fun and safe environment. Parents or caregivers attend alongside their children, joining in the play and connecting with other families having children of similar ages. It's the perfect way to beat the blahs and enjoy active, engaging play together. Come ready to move and have fun!

Wednesdays, Sept 16-Jan 20 (15 weeks)

3:15-4:00 pm

Early Learning & Family Resource Center



ECFE Registration Information



ECFE Registration

Initial registrations accepted August 13-16

Initial ECFE registration requests will be accepted on our online site at tridistrictce.arux.app from Thursday, August 13 through Sunday, August 16.

While creating your account and ECFE registration request, you will be able to indicate your class preference as well as make an alternate class selection. Payment information will be required during registration, however, your payment will not be processed until your registration request is approved. Class placement (by lottery if needed) will begin on Monday, August 17.

Alternative to Online Registration

If you do not have access online, you may contact our office at 651-403-8353 or 651-403-8390 (main office) to register. Please note that phone-in registrations will be placed the same week as online registration, therefore offering an equal advantage for ECFE class placement.

Registration is for the first semester, from September 14 - January 22

- Most sections require a separate registration each semester.
- If you register online, you will receive an email confirming your class placement upon approval.
- If you register by phone, you will receive a phone confirmation by August 20. Once your registration request is approved, your payment will be processed.

Registration begins August 14 and continues until classes are filled.

Age Requirements

A child must fit within the age range specified for the class on the first day of that class

For example, to enroll in Busy Bodies (13-24 months) a child must be no younger than 13 months and no older than 24 months on the first day of class.

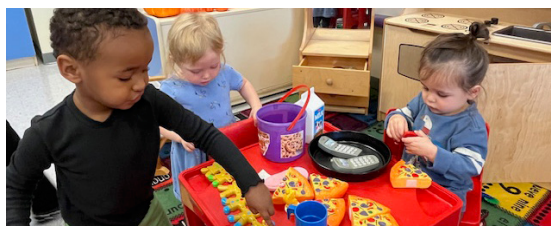
Class Cancellations & Refunds

Refunds must be requested at least two working days prior to the first class. Refunds are not issued after that time due to commitments made to instructors. Your money will be refunded if the class is cancelled due to insufficient enrollment or if the class is filled before your registration is received. Refunds are not issued for classes with registration fees of less than \$15. No refunds are made when classes are cancelled because of weather. **A processing fee of \$10 per class may be deducted from any refund made at your request.**

Immunization Requirements

Minnesota requires that all children entering child care, early childhood programs, and elementary or secondary schools (public or private), have up-to-date immunizations on file with the provider. Children enrolled in ISD 197 ECFE programs will be required to provide a copy of an immunization record for each child enrolled prior to the child attending the program. You may use the print out from your physician's office or utilize the form provided online at www.isd197.org/parent-family-hub under Student Health and Wellness.

Please email your child's immunization record to debra.lee@isd197.org, fax to 651-403-8310 or bring the immunization record on the first day of class. Any child who does not have up-to-date immunizations on the first day of class may not be allowed to attend. For immunization questions, please call the health office at 651-403-8383.



ECFE Class Fees

The sliding fee scales to the right apply to most ECFE classes described on pages 6-9. Please refer to this scale to determine your fee based on your family income, the hours per class session and the number of weeks the class you are registering for meets. **No one is turned away for inability to pay, and no financial questions are asked. Choose the family income category that best meets your family's needs. Please call 651-403-8353 with questions.**

Sibling Care Is Not Available

Infants from Birth to 6 months may attend with a parent/guardian. At 6 months, babies become more active and are no longer eligible to attend classes outside of the age range stated for the class.



ECFE Fee Scales

Family Income	15 week 1.5 hour	15 week 2 hour	14 week 1.5 hour	14 week 2 hour	13 week 1.5 hour
\$90,000 and above	\$240	\$300	\$224	\$280	\$208
\$75,000-\$89,999	\$195	\$240	\$182	\$224	\$169
\$60,000-\$74,999	\$150	\$210	\$140	\$182	\$130
\$45,000-\$59,999	\$120	\$135	\$112	\$126	\$104
\$30,000-\$44,999	\$75	\$105	\$70	\$98	\$65
\$29,999 and under	\$30	\$45	\$28	\$42	\$26

Family Income	13 week 2 hour	12 week 1.5 hour	12 week 2 hour	9 week 1.5 hour
\$90,000 and above	\$260	\$192	\$240	\$144
\$75,000-\$89,999	\$208	\$156	\$192	\$117
\$60,000-\$74,999	\$169	\$120	\$156	\$90
\$45,000-\$59,999	\$117	\$96	\$96	\$72
\$30,000-\$44,999	\$91	\$60	\$60	\$45
\$29,999 and under	\$39	\$28	\$28	\$18

Building Bridges Program

For Non-Native Spanish Speakers

For Spanish-speaking families with a child age 3-5

Building Bridges Evening Program - Wednesdays, Sept-May, 5:00-6:30 pm

Building Bridges in Espanol features parent discussions, learning activities for children ages 3-5, activities and homework help for older siblings, special events for families, and the sharing of community-resource information. Partners may include the Dakota County Library System and Dodge Nature Center. Although the program is free, pre-registration is required.

“Building Bridges” en Español presenta discusiones de padres, actividades de aprendizaje para niños de 3 a 5 años, actividades y ayuda con la tarea para hermanos mayores, eventos especiales para familias y el intercambio de información de recursos comunitarios. Los socios pueden incluir el Sistema de Bibliotecas del Condado de Dakota y Dodge Nature Center. Aunque el programa es gratuito, se requiere registro previo.

Wednesdays, September 30-May 19, 5:00-6:30 pm

Los miércoles, Septiembre 30-Mayo 19, 5:00-6:30 pm

*Transportation is available for the Building Bridges class.

**El transporte está disponible para la clase Building Bridges.

Date: ____/____/____ Home language: _____ Translator needed: _____
Fecha Lenguaje en la casa Necesitan intérprete

Parent/Guardian(s) who will attend class (*Padres que asistirán a la clase*):

Full Name: _____
Nombre completo

Phone: (Casa) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____
Teléfono (Casa) (Trabajo) (Cel)

Full Name: _____
Nombre completo

Phone: (Casa) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____
Teléfono (Casa) (Trabajo) (Cel)

Children - Please list all children who will attend class or require sibling care (*Escriba los nombres de todos los niños que van a asistir o que requieran cuidado de niños*):

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Nombre del niño/a Fecha de nacimiento

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Nombre del niño/a Fecha de nacimiento

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Nombre del niño/a Fecha de nacimiento

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Nombre del niño/a Fecha de nacimiento

Family Address (*Dirección de la familia*):

Is transportation needed? _____ Yes _____ No
¿Necesitan transporte? Sí No

Please send form to the Early Learning and Family Resource Center
Por favor envíen esta forma al programa de “Early Learning” en Centro de aprendizaje temprano y recursos familiares

Attn: Aleshia Leivermann
1970 Christensen Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118
E-mail: aleshia.leivermann@isd197.org • Phone: 651-403-8353 •

Información sobre los Programas de la Niñez Temprana del Distrito 197

Educación Familiar de la Niñez

Temprana (ECFE) es un programa para padres y sus hijos en preescolar que ofrece oportunidades para crecer y aprender juntos en un ambiente estimulante y lleno de apoyo. Estos programas también apoyan a familias a aprender a encontrar tiempo para sí mismos, divertirse juntos, y estar orgullosos de quiénes son.

¿Cómo son las clases de estos programas?

Las clases son por la mañana, tarde y noche. La mayoría de las clases duran de 1,5 a 2 horas. Una clase típica comienza con tiempo para que padres e hijos disfruten juntos de actividades en la clase. Luego, los niños juegan y aprenden bajo la supervisión de un maestro de primera infancia con maestro de primera infancia, mientras que los padres comparten experiencias e ideas con otros padres y un maestro con maestro de primera infancia sobre cómo ayudar y enseñar a los padres.

La clase "Construyendo puentes" se lleva a cabo los miércoles por la noche en el Centro de recursos familiares y aprendizaje temprano de 5 a 6:30 p. m. Hay transporte a la escuela y cuidado en edad escolar para niños desde kínder hasta sexto grado. Los niños en edad escolar disfrutarán de actividades divertidas, juegos y ayuda con la tarea. Debe tener al menos un hijo entre las edades de 3-5 para inscribirse en esta clase.

Puede inscribirse en la clase nocturna "Construyendo puentes" (en español) en el Centro de aprendizaje temprano, o en otra clase de ECFE (en inglés) ofrecida en el Centro de aprendizaje temprano o en Escuela Primaria Pilot Knob completando el formulario en la página 13 o llamando al 651 -403 -8366 para información de registro. El transporte solo está disponible para la clase Building Bridges en este momento.

Nuestros Programas Preescolares Ofrecen "un Puente para la Escuela"

Los programas de preescolare del Distrito 197 proveen "un puente para la escuela" a través de los programas de medio día. Experiencias ricas en aprendizaje en salones bien equipados están presentes todos los días con niños que crecen en un ambiente de una "escuela verdadera." Los estudiantes de preescolar usan la biblioteca y el gimnasio, se juntan con niños de kínder a cuarto grado, asisten a asambleas escolares y eventos especiales, y siguen un horario típico de un niño de kínder el que incluye actividades individuales, como grupos pequeños y grandes. Usted va a encontrar a maestras de calidad y comprensivas que tienen todas las credenciales para enseñar a los estudiantes de preescolar.

Nuestro programa Provee...

- Actividades interactivas y la alegría del descubrimiento.
- Los programas de preescolare a cuarto grado alineados con nuestro distrito.
- Instrucción apropiada para el desarrollo para asegurar que su hijo esté completamente preparado para entrar al Kínder.
- La fundación para el éxito escolar futuro animando el desarrollo personal, social, y físico; el desarrollo del lenguaje; las habilidades de pre-lectura y pre-escritura; el razonamiento matemático y científico; y el entusiasmo para las ciencias sociales, la música, y el arte.
- La colaboración exitosa con el programa de Minnesota Reading Corps el cual asegura que todos los niños lean competentemente para el tercer grado.

El Programa Preescolar Comunitario también se brinda en el Distrito 197.

Este programa ofrece programas preescolares para niños de 3 y 4 años antes de ingresar al kínder. Los niños de 3 años tienen un programa matutino de dos días a la semana, y los niños de 4 años tienen clases de 3 a 5 mañanas o tardes a la semana. Para el programa de 3 años, los niños deben tener 3 años antes del 1 de septiembre, y para el programa de 4 años, los niños deben tener 4 años antes del 1 de septiembre. Estos programas se ofrecen en Centro de aprendizaje temprano y recursos familiares y Escuela Primaria Pilot Knob. Llame al 651-403-8366 si desea recibir un folleto y materiales de inscripción por correo.

La asistencia financiera está disponible para las familias que califican.

Hay ciertos requisitos y las familias deben proporcionar prueba de ingresos. Llame al 651-403-8366 para obtener más información o visite www.isd197.org en "Aprendizaje temprano", luego "Preescolar" y luego "Becas".

Preschool Information

Visit our website at www.isd197.org/preschool under Early Learning to register for preschool.



Our Preschool Programs Provide a "Bridge to School"

School District 197's preschool programs provide rich learning experiences in well-equipped classrooms. Children thrive during motor time in our gym and playgrounds stocked with high quality equipment and play structures. Preschoolers follow a schedule typical to kindergarten. Our teachers, who are fully credentialed with a bachelor's degree or higher, provide a caring early learning environment.

Our Curriculum Provides...

Interactive activities and the joy of discovery.

- ◆ Interactive activities and the joy of discovery.
- ◆ Program alignment with the district's K-4 curriculum and programs.
- ◆ Developmentally appropriate instruction that fully prepares your child for Kindergarten.
- ◆ The foundation for future school success by encouraging personal, social and physical development; language development; pre-reading and pre-writing skills; mathematical and scientific thinking; and enthusiasm for social studies, music and art.
- ◆ Our Curriculum also helps to ensure that all children are reading proficiently by grade 3.

Community Preschool Programs

Offered at the Early Learning Center in West St.

Paul and Pilot Knob School in Eagan (Sept-May)

Visit www.isd197.org/schools for the most up to date information. Or call 651-403-8353 or 651-403-8390 (main office) with questions.

ThreeSchool

Children must be 3 by Sept 1

The focus of ThreeSchool is on social skills, exposure to a variety of learning materials and increasing language skills. **Children must be toilet trained.**

PreK

Children must be 4 by Sept 1

PreK provides a variety of experiences for 4 and 5-year-olds which promote social skills and enhance learning. Children learn and grow in a structured preschool environment that fosters school readiness skills that will help them in kindergarten. Our preschool students in the elementary schools follow a schedule typical to kindergarten that includes individual, small- and large-group activities.

Children must be toilet trained.

School Readiness

School Readiness is a program for families in need.

The program provides children with a variety of experiences which promote social skills and enhance learning. Certain eligibility requirements apply.

Financial assistance may be available to families who meet School Readiness guidelines

Visit our website at www.isd197.org/preschool and click on the Financial Assistance tab.

- ◆ Eligibility requirements apply
- ◆ Families must provide proof of income

Preschool Options

Look for the current preschool brochure at: isd197.org/preschool



EARLY LEARNING AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

1970 Christensen Avenue, West St. Paul

PreKindergarten (Age 4 or older by September 1, 2026)

Monday - Friday	5 full days (Lunch provided)	9:30 am - 3:45 pm
Monday - Friday	5 mornings	9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	3 mornings	9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	3 afternoons	1:15 pm - 3:45 pm

Mixed Age PreKindergarten (Age 3 ½ & up by Sept 1, 2026)

Monday - Friday	5 full days (Lunch Provided)	9:30 am - 3:45 pm
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ThreeSchool (Age 3 by Sept 1, 2026)

Tuesday & Thursday	2 mornings	9:30 am - 12:00 pm
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Extended Day options AT ELC ONLY

Extended day offers the opportunity for additional activities and learning opportunities. Children may be dropped off any time between 7:00-9:30 and picked up between 3:45-5:30.

Extended Day Mornings

7:00 am – 9:30 am

(Light breakfast provided)

This option is available with a morning or all day section of PreKindergarten or ThreeSchool.

PreKindergarten Extended Day Afternoons 3:45pm – 5:30pm

This option is available with an afternoon or all day section of PreKindergarten.

PILOT KNOB STEM MAGNET SCHOOL

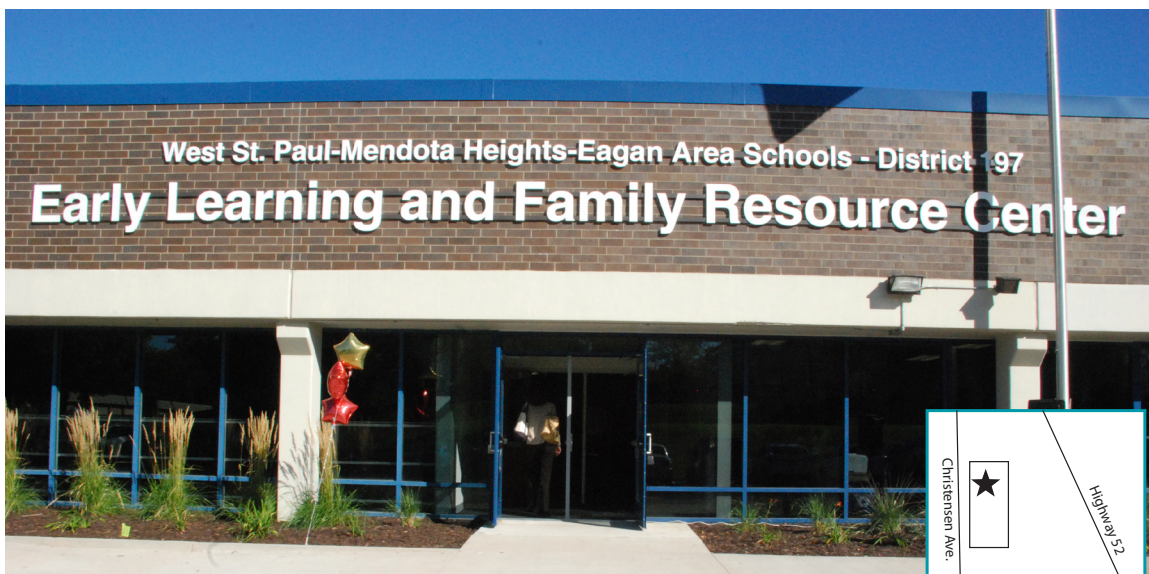
1436 Lone Oak Road, Eagan

PreKindergarten (Age 4 or older by September 1, 2026)

Monday- Friday	5 days	9:30 am - 2:15 pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	3 mornings	9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	3 afternoons	1:15 pm - 3:45 pm

ThreeSchool (Age 3 years by September 1, 2026)

Tuesday & Thursday	2 mornings	9:30 am - 12:00 pm
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The Early Learning and Family Resource Center is located at
1970 Christensen Ave West St Paul, MN 55118.

Our website is www.isd197.org/elc

Please note: Early Learning classes are also offered at Pilot Knob



1970 Christensen Ave
West St Paul

School District 197 Administrative Phone Numbers

Peter Olson-Skog	Superintendent of Schools	651-403-7002
Peter Mau	Assistant Superintendent	651-403-7004
Cari Jo Drewitz	Director of Curriculum	651-403-7003
Sara Lein	Director of Special Programs	651-403-7019
Lisa Grathen	Director of Community Education	651-403-8311
Laurie Hume	Assistant Director of Early Learning	651-403-8350
Aleshia Leivermann	Early Learning Program Manager	651-403-8353

School District 197 Elementary Schools

Garlough Environmental Magnet	1740 Charlton St., West St. Paul	651-403-8106
Mendota Elementary	1979 Summit Ln, Mendota Heights	651-403-8006
Moreland Arts & Health Sciences Magnet	217 W Moreland, West St. Paul	651-403-7806
Pilot Knob STEM Magnet	1436 Lone Oak Rd, Eagan	651-403-7906
Somerset Elementary	1355 Dodd Rd, Mendota Heights	651-403-8206

Early Childhood Screening

Recommended at age three. Required by the State of Minnesota within 90 days of school entrance and prior to kindergarten entrance. To make an appointment, call 651-403-8363.



Early Childhood Screening Minnesota Requirement for Kindergarten Entrance

Early childhood screening provides a free overview of your child's development. **The best possible time to have your child screened is about 3 years and before the 4th birthday.** During screening licensed staff will check: hearing, vision*, immunization records, cognitive and motor skills, speech/ language and communication, and social/emotional development. You will be provided with information on your child's development, and kindergarten readiness as well as other community resources. Please call our screening office at **651-403-8363** to schedule your child's appointment.

To schedule your child's screening appointment, please visit our website at isd197.org/screening or click on the QR code on this page. On the screening page, click the Red Button to see available appointment dates and times. If you need help scheduling an appointment, please call the screening office at 651-403-8363. In order for your child to start kindergarten in any Minnesota public school, you will need to provide the school with your child's Early Childhood Screening summary and updated immunization records.

**While screening helps the district identify children who may benefit from available community resources, vision screening, while helpful, is not a substitute for a comprehensive eye exam.*

Evaluación para la Niñez Temprana del Distrito Escolar 197

Requisito de Minnesota para entrar al kínder. La evaluación de la Niñez Temprana provee un examen gratis del desarrollo de su hijo. **El mejor momento para esta evaluación es cuando su hijo tenga 3 años y antes de cumplir los 4 años.** Durante esta evaluación, una enfermera revisará: la audición, la visión*, la cartilla de vacunas, las habilidades motoras y cognitivas, el lenguaje/habla y la comunicación, y el desarrollo social y emocional. Usted recibirá información sobre el desarrollo de su hijo, si es que está listo para entrar al kínder, como también otros recursos en la comunidad. Por favor llame al número 651-403-8366 para programar una cita.

Para programar la cita de evaluación de su hijo/a, por favor visite nuestro sitio web en isd197.org/screening o haga clic en el código QR de esta página. En la página de evaluación, haga clic en el Botón Rojo para ver las fechas y horas de citas disponibles. Si necesita ayuda para programar una cita, por favor llame a la oficina de evaluación al 651-403-8363.

**Esta evaluación ayuda al distrito a identificar a niños que puedan beneficiarse de recursos en la comunidad y la evaluación de la visión, y aunque es de beneficio, no sustituye a un examen comprensivo de la vista.*

Location

Early Learning and Family Resource Center
1970 Christensen Ave.
West St. Paul, MN 55118
www.isd197.org

Office Hours

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Phone

651-403-8363



Click the QR
code for screening
information.

isd197.org/elc

District Map & Early Learning Sites

Early Childhood Family Education North Early Learning and Family Resource Center

1970 Christensen Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118

651-403-8390 - Main Office

Fax: 651-403-8310

Aleshia Leivermann - Manager - Early Learning

aleshia.leivermann@isd197.org

Laurie Hume - Assistant Director - Early Learning

Laurie.hume@isd197.org

Early Childhood Family Education South Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School

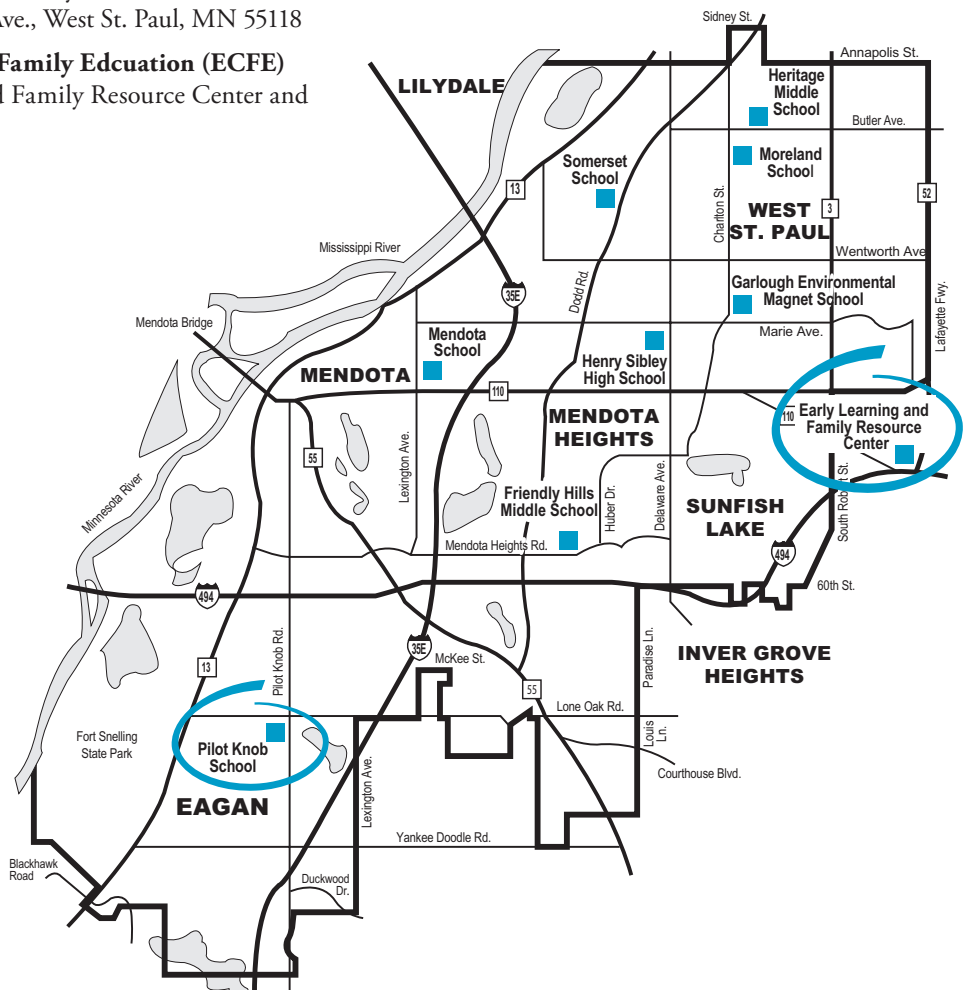
1436 Lone Oak Road, Eagan, MN 55121

Hearing Impaired Assistance:

Please use MN Relay Service

Other Early Learning Programs/Sites

- **Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)**
Early Learning and Family Resource Center, and Pilot Knob
- **Early Childhood Screening**
Early Learning and Family Resource Center
1970 Christensen Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118
- **Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)**
Early Learning and Family Resource Center and
Pilot Knob



Our Elementary Schools

In School District 197, our kindergarten classrooms are vibrant, joyful spaces where children explore, learn through play, and build strong relationships with peers and caring adults. We focus on fostering a sense of belonging for every student while supporting well-rounded growth in all developmental areas.



Kindergarten registration for the 2027-28 school year opens in January 2027! Visit isd197.org/kg.

Garlough Environmental Magnet

1740 Charlton St., West St. Paul, MN 55118
garlough.isd197.org • 651-403-8100

Mendota Elementary

1979 Summit Ln., Mendota Heights, MN 55118
mendota.isd197.org • 651-403-8000

Moreland Arts & Health Sciences Magnet

217 W. Moreland Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118
moreland.isd197.org • 651-403-7800

Pilot Knob STEM Magnet

1436 Lone Oak Rd., Eagan, MN 55121
pilotknob.isd197.org • 651-403-7900

Somerset Elementary

1355 Dodd Rd., Mendota Heights, MN 55118
somerset.isd197.org • 651-403-82000



2026-27 ISD197 School Calendar

Important Dates

Sept 8	First Day of K, 5 and 9
Sept 9	First Day 1-4, 6-8, 10-12
Sept 21	No School - Prof Dev
Oct 15-16	No School - Fall Break
Nov 2-3	No School - Prof Dev
Nov 25 - 27	No School
Dec 21 - 22	No School - Prov Dev
Dec 23-Jan 1	No School - Winter Break
Jan 18	No School - MLK Day
Jan 28 - 29	No School - End of Semester
Feb 15	No School - President's Day
Feb 16	No School - Prof Dev
March 26	No School - Prof Dev
March 29 - April 2	No School - Spring Break
May 17	No School - Prof Dev
May 31	No School - Memorial Day
June 4	Last Day for Seniors
June 6	Graduation
June 10	Last Day of School

JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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JUNE

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One Program, Two locations

ECFE North Early Learning and Family Resource Center

1970 Christensen Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118
651-403-8390
Fax: 651-403-8310

Aleshia Leivermann - Manager - Early Learning
aleshia.leivermann@isd197.org

Laurie Hume - Assistant Director - Early Learning
Laurie.hume@isd197.org



ECFE South Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School

1436 Lone Oak Road, Eagan, MN 55121

Hearing Impaired Assistance:
Please use MN Relay Service

