

Early Childhood Program Staff

Foskett Ranch Elementary Staff (916-434-5255):

Special Day Class Teacher: Hope Gothard
hgothard@wpusd.org

Autism Specific Teachers: Anja Shandrew
ashandrew@wpusd.org;
Morgan Cook mcook@wpusd.org

Julia Reid, SLP
jreid@wpusd.org

Gina Domenici-Robinson, OT
gdomenici@wpusd.org

Scott M. Leaman Elementary Staff (916-409-2401):

Special Day Class Teacher:
Marilyn Sanchez-Okusako
msanchez-okusako@wpusd.org

Julia Reid, SLP
jreid@wpusd.org

Trish Derepentigny, OT
tderepentigny@wpusd.org

First Street School Staff (916-645-6330):

Phonology Group
Nina Sandhu, SLP
nsandu@wpusd.org

Language Intervention Preschool Program (LIPP)
Barbara Matiska, SLP
bmatiska@wpusd.org

School Psychologist:
Monica Carroll
mcarroll@wpusd.org

Program Specialist (916-645-4078):
McKenzie Courtney
mcourtney@wpusd.org

SPED Director
Ellie Martinez
emartinez@wpusd.org

Program Overview

Our Early Childhood Special Education programs support young children, ages 3-5, who require specialized instruction or related services in order to access the educational environment.

- Child must meet educationally-based special education criteria under Title 1 of CA Code of Regulations to be eligible for any early childhood special education (ECSE) services
- Services take place in a classroom setting at one of our school sites
- Services are individualized and determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team which includes the child's parents/guardians
- Our programs use a developmental approach aligned with the California Preschool Learning Foundations to support growth in communication, social-emotional, early academic, independence, motor development, and school readiness skills.
- Child need not be toilet-trained to receive services
- Transportation to and from services may be provided if deemed necessary by the IEP team. Transportation is provided within WPUSD district boundaries if the school of attendance differs from the school of residence.

Early Childhood Assessment Team

810 J Street, Suite #100
Lincoln, CA 95648

Special Education Clerk:
Christina Vasquez (916) 645-4078
cvasquez@wpusd.org

Program Specialist:
McKenzie Courtney (916) 645-4078
mcourtney@wpusd.org

School Psychologist:
Monica Carroll
mcarroll@wpusd.org

Speech and Language Pathologist:
Megan Strong
mstrong@wpusd.org

Occupational Therapist:
Gina Domenici-Robinson
gdomenici@wpusd.org

Early Childhood Special Education Programs



WESTERN PLACER
Unified School District

**WPUSD District Office
Special Education
Department
600 Sixth Street, Suite #400
Lincoln, CA 95648
Phone: 916-645-4078
Fax: 916-645-9267
Website: www.wpusd.org**

Updated in August 2026

Speech & Language

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Phonology Group:

- Speech therapy to address articulation/phonology related needs in a small group setting (3-4 students).
- Service provided by a Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) or Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA)
- Once per week at First Street School (different days/times available throughout the school day)

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Language Intervention Preschool Program (LIPP):

- Language-focused preschool small group classroom setting for students with receptive, expressive, and/or pragmatic language delays with/without articulation needs
- Two 90-minute small group sessions of classroom time per week taught by a Speech Language Pathologist with aide assistance at First Street School
- Sessions meet Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday at different times available throughout the day)
- Related services (e.g., OT, PT) can be provided based on child's needs

Special Day Class (SDC)

- Specialized Academic Instruction for children with mild-moderate developmental delays in a preschool small group setting.
- Each class is staffed with an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (ECSE) and at least 1 Instructional Aide. Level of aide support is determined by the needs of the children.
- Related services (e.g., SL, OT, PT), if applicable, are provided during the instructional day.
- Two different school sites locations. Placement is determined by the IEP team based on the child's individual needs.

Scott M. Leaman Elementary (2 Classes)

- 4 days a week (Tuesday-Friday)
- 3 hours per day
- AM Class: 8:00-11:00 am
- PM Class: 11:40 am-2:40 pm

Foskett Ranch Elementary (2 Classes)

- 4 days a week (Tuesday-Friday)
- 3 hours per day
- AM Class: 8:00-11:00 am
- PM Class: 11:40 am-2:40 pm

Autism-Specific Special Day Class

- Designed to serve students exhibiting characteristics of autism based on educational criteria (diagnosis is not required)
- Preschool setting utilizing evidence based practices shown to be effective with students exhibiting characteristics associated with autism.
- Highly structured program with embedded functional communication and behavioral supports.
- Class is staffed with a highly trained Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Teacher and Aides to ensure a low adult:child ratio.
- Related services (e.g., SL, OT, PT), if applicable, are provided during instructional day.

Foskett Ranch Elementary (2 Classes)

- 5 days a week (Monday-Friday)
- 3 hours & 20 minutes per day
- AM Class: 8:00-11:20 am
- PM Class: 11:20 am-2:40 pm

**All assessments and
services are conducted
during the school day:
8:00 am - 2:40 pm**