

The 4K Scoop

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LA CROSSE



4K Preschool

September 2026

Welcome to 4K Preschool!

PLAY

Our Learning Approach

- In 4K, children learn by playing and engaging in hands-on activities. Whether your child is at one of our schools or a community-based site, they will have fun and grow every day!

We believe:

- Play is essential. It's the best way for young children to learn.
- Support is customized. Our teachers use tools like the HighScope Curriculum and the Wisconsin Early Learning Standards to support your child's individual needs.
- Social-Emotional growth is key. We focus heavily on helping children make friends and manage their feelings, guided by the Pyramid Model
- Partnering with you! You are your child's first and best teacher. We can't wait to partner with you to make 4K Preschool a great first school experience!

Pyramid Model

We are so excited to work with your little learners this year! In our 4K classroom, we focus on helping every child grow, learn, and make friends. To do this, we use a developmentally appropriate framework called **The Pyramid Model**.

Think of it like building a strong house. We build it step-by-step so every child feels safe, happy, and ready to learn! We use Tucker the Turtle and Suri Spider social stories with puppets to support learning these skills! Every month there will be a tip from the Pyramid Model so you can use the same strategies at home that they are learning at school!



**More time to play.
More time to learn.
More time to grow.**

Did you Know? Play Develops Brains!



From research, we know that approximately 90% of our brain's development for learning, working, and social engagement occurs between the ages of Birth to Five. Research is pointing to new understandings of early brain development through creative play. As children explore and experiment during play, as well as use their imaginations they are learning language, math, science, social and emotional play skills, and so much more.

Why play? When children are actively engaged in play, the prefrontal cortex of the brain develops understanding of how the world works and how we interact with it, building connections, and neuropathways. These connections across information centers in the brain build the foundation for learning, working, and interacting that are essential for positive outcomes as children grow through school into successful adults.



Read Aloud

Research shows that reading aloud is the single most important thing you can do to help a child prepare for reading and learning. When parents read aloud they encourage a love of reading, promote language development, build early literacy skills and develop a lasting bond with their children.



Big Yellow Bus Adventures



Welcome to a very exciting time! For many of our 4K friends, this is the first time they will ever ride the big yellow bus. It is okay to feel a little nervous or very excited. Riding the bus is a big step in growing up! To stay safe, remember to look left, right, and left again before you step into the street. This helps you spot any cars that might be moving. Once the bus stops, wait for the driver to give you a big wave before you walk toward the door. When you are inside, sit "back to back and bottom to bottom" to stay tucked in safely.

Grown-ups, did you know that school buses are the safest way to get to school? Research from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that students are about 70 times more likely to get to school safely in a bus than in a car. This is because buses are built with special seats that protect children like a soft crate. You can help at home by practicing the "Left-Right-Left" rule every time you cross the sidewalk. Teaching these simple steps now helps our littlest learners stay safe for years to come!

Family Fun Activity



Nature Walk:

Take a walk around your neighborhood. Notice what you can hear, see, and smell. If you want to extend the learning, tape some masking tape around your child's wrist, with the sticky side out and encourage them to pick up sticks, leaves and rocks and make a bracelet.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NIGHTS

Fall Event:

November 11, 5:30-7:00 PM
Children's Museum



Spring Event:

April 29, 5:30-7:00
Library Night

Join us for **FREE** family fun! Watch for sign-ups as the dates get closer.

Pizza will be provided



Who to Contact

If you have questions about enrollment, district events, or bussing, contact the 4K Preschool office.

preschool@lacrossesd.org (608) 789-7006

If you need to report an absence, have questions about the school specifically, contact your child's teacher or the building administrative assistant.

We are all happy to help!

