

Early Learning

Birth - Preschool
January 6, 2025

OWATONNA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INSPIRING EXCELLENCE • EVERY LEARNER • EVERY DAY



Programming Overview

Early Intervention

Birth - 3 Years

Home and Community visits for families who qualify.

Early Childhood Family Education

Birth - 5 Years

Classes offered for families at Roosevelt school and in community based on developmental ages as well as themes.

Early Childhood Screening

3 - 5 Years

All children participate in developmental screening, preferably at age 3 or by K entrance.

Preschool

3 - 5 Years

21 Preschool classes offered across Roosevelt and Owatonna Education Center as well as one section in partnership with Associated Preschool.

District Preschool



Little Learners

Age 3 by Sept. 1

2-3 days a week class. Play and routines-based instruction aligned to Bright Beginnings.



Bright Beginnings

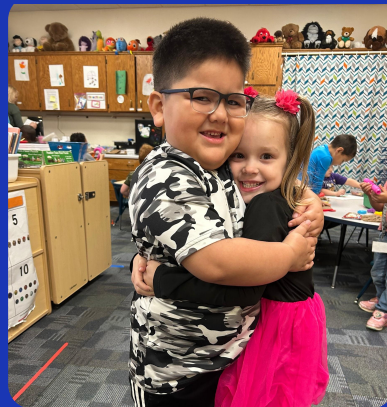
Age 4 by Sept. 1

4-5 days a week, morning or afternoon.

State funding Voluntary Prekindergarten, Scholarships, or ECSE.

Literacy, Math, and Social curriculum aligned to district kindergarten.

Assessment in all areas of development.

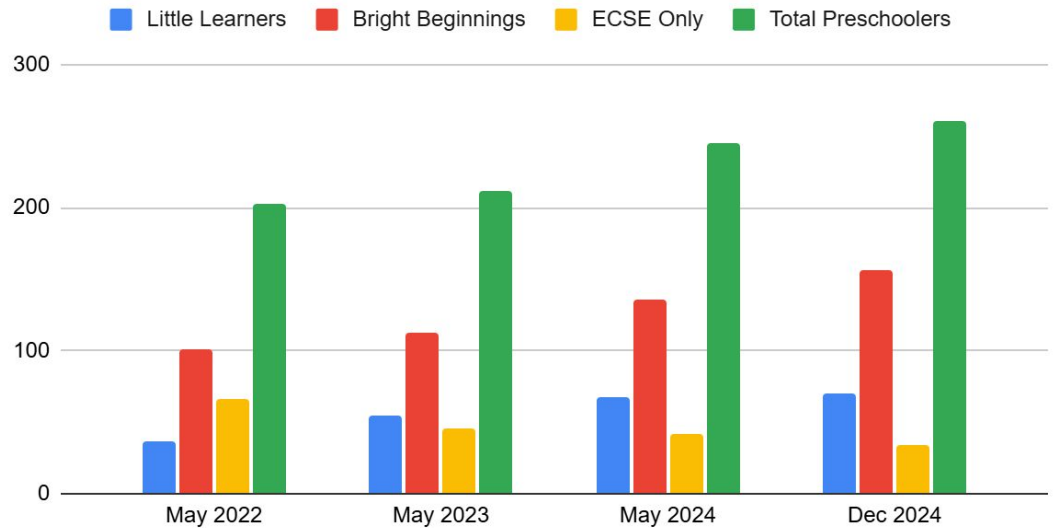


Preschool Enrollment

Our goal has been to increase preschool enrollment so that:

- Families and children in our district are able to benefit from the high quality preschool experience.
- Continue to access and utilize the state funding streams available to us.
- Children enter kindergarten with previous experience in foundational learning skills.
- The preschool classrooms are more similarly reflective of our elementary classrooms in diversity, needs, etc.

Little Learners, Bright Beginnings, ECSE Only and Total Preschoolers



Preschool Enrollment, Cont.

Growth Successes

- Transportation solutions from Owatonna Bus Company and SMART preschool have resulted in fewer drops due to lack of transportation.
- Flexibility of staff and space uses allowed us to open a 10th section of Bright Beginnings in November.
- Early registration in January, Open House, and on-line registration have all supported the enrollment process.
- We were awarded 80 VPK seats, historically received 60.
- OPS teacher and staff children participation has increased.



Growth Continued Challenges

- Have continuously had a wait list for Little Learners (3 years) preschool. Lack of transportation for this group after the school year begins. Difficulty in staffing and space to open new classrooms.
- Would like to offer wrap-around childcare for families. We were not able to offer this at OEC 24-25 due to co-location of Wee Pals.
- The Owatonna Education Center houses the majority of our preschool programs and has one access door and a congested area for cars and buses to access at preschool start and end times. Shared building with ALC.

Voluntary Prekindergarten Legislative Change for 25-26

Current

All children who are 4 years of age as of September 1 are eligible to participate in a VPK program free of charge.

Beginning FY 26

All children who are 4 years of age as of September 1 and meet one of the following:

- Qualify for educational benefits
- Qualify using state general financial eligibility requirements
- Is an English Language Learner
- Is an American Indian
- Has experienced homelessness in the last 24 months
- Is identified through health and developmental screening with a potential risk factor that may influence learning
- Is in foster care, kinship care, or is in need of child protection services
- Has a parent who is a migrant or seasonal agricultural laborer
- Has a parent who is incarcerated
- Is defined as at risk by the school district

All are Welcome!

Little Learners

- Pathway II Scholarships
- ECSE Students
- Tuition Schedule:
 - 2 day Full Rate: \$90/mth
 - 2 day Reduced Rate: \$45
 - 3 day Full Rate: \$120/mth
 - 3 Day Reduced Rate: \$60

Bright Beginnings

- VPK Seats
- Pathway II Scholarships
- ECSE Students
- Tuition Schedule:
 - Full Rate: \$190/mth
 - Reduced Rate: \$95



Open House January 28, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Program Shoutouts!

- 28 early childhood teachers and speech pathologists completing Early Childhood LETRS training focused on foundational literacy skills
- Fastbridge earlyReading screening was piloted last winter; this will be the first full year of completion.
- Preschool screening shift focused on 3.5 year olds
- Student support team connecting with families with immediate response to referrals
- Family Connect nights with families invited from all program areas
- ECFE responding to families and community. New classes this year include nature-based learning, family fun, and home child care visits.





Questions?