



Elmhurst Park District

Sunbeams & Rainbows

PRESCHOOL

Family Handbook

Two-year-old Preschool
2024 – 2025

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Welcome

The Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool staff would like to welcome you and your child to the 2024-2025 school year. The following information will be used throughout the year and should be saved as a reference. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

**Program Supervisor
Early Childhood & Preschool**

Allison Thomas
athomas@epd.org
P: 630-993-8185

**Early Childhood
Coordinator**

Michele Zielinski
earlychildhood@epd.org
P: 630-993-8933

Philosophy & Curriculum

The Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool Mission Statement is Learning Through Play. It is the goal of Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment that embraces all children and their diverse learning styles, needs, and interests.

Our Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool instructors offer unique learning experiences that are play-based, developmentally appropriate, and respectful of social, cultural, and linguistic diversity. Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool prepares children for elementary school and beyond by incorporating activities that promote social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development.

Our curriculum is guided by The Creative Curriculum for Preschool by Teaching Strategies® and by the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards with special attention to literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, the arts, and English language acquisition.



School Calendar

Scheduled No School Days



Eldridge & Wagner

2-day Option (M/W)

October	14	Columbus Day
November	20	Parent/Teacher Conferences
November	25, 27	Fall Break
December	23, 25, 30	Winter Break
January	1	Winter Break Continued
January	20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February	17	President's Day
March	31	Spring Break
April	2	Spring Break Continued

Eldridge & Wagner

2-day Option (Tu/Th)

November	5	Election Day
November	21	Parent/Teacher Conferences
November	26, 28	Fall Break
December	24, 26, 31	Winter Break
January	2	Winter Break Continued
January	21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February	18	President's Day
April	1, 2	Spring Break

The First Day of Preschool

Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool uses a modified schedule on the first day to support an easy transition to school.

Eldridge & Wagner 2-day Option (M/W)

Wednesday, September 4th
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Eldridge & Wagner 2-day Option (Tu/Th)

Thursday, September 5th
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Emergency School Closing

If School District 205 is closed due to weather, Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool will also be closed. If we expect inclement weather and choose to close prior to the next school day, Elmhurst Park District will announce building/program closings on the park district website at www.epd.org and email you directly.

You can receive weather-related cancellation or facility closure information by text, email, or mobile device using the *RainoutLine* app. Visit <https://www.epd.org/rainout-line-weather-cancellations> for more information.

Two cancellation days are built into the preschool calendar and will not be made up. Additional class cancellations by the park district will result in a program credit or make-up day.

Program Locations & Hours

Sunbeams & Rainbows 2-year-old Preschool is offered at the two locations listed below. In addition to the preschool classroom, children have access to indoor and/or outdoor areas for gross motor development and exploratory learning.

Eldridge Park Recreation Building

363 Commonwealth Lane
630-390-9480
srtwos@epd.org

Hours:
Mon – Thurs
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Wagner Community Center

615 West Avenue
630-901-3346
srtwoswcc@epd.org

Hours:
Mon – Thurs
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Payment & Refund Policy

Tuition

2024-2025 Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool Tuition Fees

Program	Location	Annual Fee	Autopay Installments (9)
Two-year-old Preschool (M/W)	Eldridge & Wagner	\$1179R \$1476NR	\$131R \$164NR
Two-year-old Preschool (Tu/Th)	Eldridge & Wagner	\$1179R \$1476NR	\$131R \$164NR

Payment Schedule

Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool requires a non-refundable \$65 registration fee due at the time of registration.

The Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool program term runs from September 2024 through May 2025. Annual tuition may be paid in full, or you can pay in nine equal installments by signing up for autopay at the time of registration.

The first installment will be charged on August 1, 2024. The remaining installments will be charged on the first of each month, with the last payment charged on April 1, 2025.

If payment is not received by 5 PM on the 5th of the month, a \$20 late fee will be applied to your account.

If payment is not received by 5 PM on the 15th of the month, your enrollment will be automatically terminated.

To change or update the credit card information on file, please contact:

Elmhurst Park District Registration

registration@epd.org

P: 630-993-8901

Refund Policy

The deadline for withdrawing from a Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool program without incurring fees is July 31, 2024.

To withdraw your child, please submit a *Termination of Enrollment* form to registration no later than July 31, 2024.

If you withdraw your child after tuition payments have begun, you will be eligible for a prorated tuition refund, which will be credited to your household account.

Termination of Enrollment forms can be found on the Elmhurst Park District website under Preschool Downloads, at <https://www.epd.org/downloads/preschool-downloads>

Elmhurst Park District Registration

registration@epd.org

P: 630-993-8901

Participant Information

ePACT

Elmhurst Park District uses a secure system called ePACT for participant and emergency contact information. You will receive an email from ePACT inviting you to complete your child's profile. If your child's record is not completed by the first day of school, your child will not be permitted to attend until the form is completed.

The following items must be uploaded to your child's ePACT account prior to the first day of school:

- *State of Illinois DHS Certificate of Child Health Examination* form, filled out by your child's physician
- *Birth Certificate*

All ePACT forms must be completed accurately and thoroughly by Friday, August 16th

Your child's ePACT record is the first source of information instructors will use regarding your child in the event of emergency. Please make sure to alert your child's instructors and update ePACT with any changes to your child's contact information, authorized individuals, or medical history.

Medication

Under the guidance of a physician, you should make every effort to adjust medication schedules so that medication may be administered under your supervision.

If your child needs medication dispensed during preschool hours, instructors can be authorized to do so if the proper forms have been fully completed.

In some instances, the administration of medication cannot be performed by Elmhurst Park District staff due to specific or complex physician or manufacturer instructions or invasive procedures.

Medications sent to preschool, including over-the-counter medications, must be given to instructors in the original container. Medications must be properly labeled by the pharmacist or accompanied with a physician's order or doctor's note.

You are responsible for ensuring all medications are within their expiration date and for collecting medications once discontinued or on the last day of preschool.

Medication Dispensing forms can be found online under the Documents & Forms section of the Registration Information page at <https://www.epd.org/registration-information>.

Food Allergies

For everyone's safety, our preschool classrooms have been designated as *nut restricted*, meaning we attempt to avoid nuts, but we cannot guarantee the complete absence of nuts or nut products in our classrooms.

Arrival & Dismissal

Parking

Vehicles must be parked in a legal parking space. It is not permissible to stop, park, or drop off in the fire lane. Parking regulations will be monitored and strictly enforced. Your cooperation is appreciated as it helps maintain a safe environment for all patrons and preschoolers.

Class Arrival

Instructors will open the door for drop-off at the start of class time. Arriving to preschool on time minimizes class disruptions and ensures that your child can fully participate in arrival activities, which are an important component of the daily schedule.

Eldridge Park Recreation Building

Line up with your child outside of the building door for check-in.

Wagner Community Center

Enter with your child through the main entrance and head to the Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool classroom. Line up in the hallway outside of the classroom door for check-in.

Easing Separation Anxiety

It is common for children to experience separation anxiety at the beginning of the school year, especially if this is your child's first time in a preschool setting. Rest assured that our instructors are skilled at comforting an upset child and engaging them in an activity within the first ten-minutes of drop off. If the child is still showing signs of stress and anxiety after the first ten-minutes, the instructors will seek your assistance.

You are encouraged to discuss any concerns with us so that we can work together to develop strategies to ensure a smooth transition for your child.

Class Dismissal

You or an authorized individual must check out your child promptly at the end of class.

You must list authorized individuals on your child's ePACT record. Authorized individuals must present a valid state identification card or driver's license until the instructors get to know them. Please be sure to update your ePACT record with any changes to authorized individuals.

If you need to request pick up by an individual not listed in ePACT, you can request a one-time authorization by either emailing the Program Supervisor or providing a signed note to the instructors at drop-off. Note that instructors are unable to alter pick-up arrangements on verbal requests alone. Be sure to update ePACT if you need to add or modify your list of authorized persons who can pick up your child on an ongoing basis.

Late Pick-up Fee Policy

Please make every effort to pick up your child promptly at dismissal. If you will be unable to pick up your child on time, please contact your child's preschool site:

Eldridge Park Recreation Building

363 Commonwealth Lane
630-390-9480
srtwos@epd.org

Hours:
Mon – Thurs
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Wagner Community Center

615 N. West Avenue
630-901-3346
srtwoswcc@epd.org

Hours:
Mon – Thurs
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Late Pick-up Fee Policy

A five-minute grace period is provided. After the five-minute grace period, the instructor will attempt to contact you if you have not already contacted the preschool site, and late pick-up fees will be charged as follows:

- If pick up occurs 5 to 10 minutes late, a \$5 late pick up fee is charged.
- An additional \$5 fee is charged for every five-minute period thereafter.
- After the third late pick up in a school year, the child may be dropped from the program at the discretion of the Program Supervisor.

Daily Sequence

Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool Daily Sequence

The Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool daily sequence is designed to incorporate individual, small group, and large group interaction among classmates and instructors. All aspects of the curriculum, as well as classroom play stations and toys, are carefully selected to provide active and engaging exploratory learning activities.

The Importance of Play

Sunbeams & Rainbows Two-year-old Preschool recognizes the immense value of play in child development and learning.

Through play, children explore the world around them, develop essential motor skills, and begin to understand social interactions. Play stimulates creativity, imagination, and problem-solving abilities, laying the foundation for future cognitive and emotional development.

Play isn't just a pastime; it's a crucial component of each child's learning and development.



What to Bring & Wear to Preschool

Children should dress in comfortable, washable clothing, as many preschool activities are messy. Gym shoes are recommended to permit full participation in activities. Please label all clothing and personal items with the child's first and last name.

The following items are needed daily:

- Full-sized backpack
- Labeled and filled water bottle
- Full set of seasonally appropriate extra clothes

Each child will have a cubby or hook to hang jackets and backpacks. Instructors are not responsible for lost or stolen items, so please leave money, valuables, and personal items such as toys, games, and electronic devices at home.

Restroom Use

Children enrolled in Sunbeams & Rainbows Two-year-old Preschool may wear diapers and pull-ups. If your child is not potty-trained, we ask that a parent/caregiver stay within fifteen minutes of the classroom to assist with changing. Instructors are not allowed to participate or assist with changing. Please communicate with instructors on potty-training status and progress.

Children who are potty-trained should wear clothing that aids in restroom independence. Please avoid sending children to preschool with difficult belts, buttons, or one-piece outfits.

Children can use the restroom as needed. Instructors will also periodically prompt children to take restroom breaks.

Snack

We are excited to share that snack time will be an integral part of our preschool routine this upcoming year at Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool.

By participating in a shared snack time children learn healthy eating habits, mealtime etiquette, and social skills.

We kindly request that each family sign up to bring an approved snack for the class on a rotating basis. More information regarding snack sign-up and the *Approved Snack* list will be available at *Meet the Teacher*.

Family Involvement

Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool emphasizes family involvement, as it allows parents/caregivers to gain an understanding of the program and showcase the importance of preschool and learning.

We are excited to invite families into our classrooms for special activities throughout the school year.

Do you have a special talent, hobby, career, or educational activity that you would like to share with your child's class? Contact your child's instructors to arrange for a classroom visit.

Parent Communication

Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool instructors are looking forward to providing your child with a positive and rewarding preschool experience. We hope to establish mutual relationships with each child and family.

Please check your child's backpack daily to remain up to date on classroom activities and special events. Calendars and classroom newsletters will be sent home at the beginning of each month.

You may contact your child's instructors via phone or email. Instructors will return calls and respond to emails before or after class.

HomeRoom App

The *HomeRoom* app is a secure platform that instructors use to post classroom photos, provide quick updates, and post reminders. As a user of the app, you can “like” posts and download photos but are not allowed to post or comment in the app. However, you can contact the Program Supervisor to request the posting of relevant information as it relates to your child’s classroom.

You will receive an email invitation to download the app and sign up to receive posts. More information about the *HomeRoom* app will be provided at *Meet the Teacher*.

Conferences & Assessments

Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool instructors will routinely assess each child’s development. Instructors will complete an initial formal assessment in the fall, and then again in the spring.

In addition to assessments, parent/teacher conferences will be held in November to discuss your child’s development and learning. You will receive conference sign-up information via e-mail in early November.

Classroom Parties & Celebrations

Throughout the year, Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool will host seasonal celebrations and parties. Details regarding each celebration will be sent home with the monthly calendar and communicated via the *HomeRoom* app.

If your family has a special tradition or celebration that you would like to share with your child’s class, please contact your child’s instructors.



Health Policy

General Health Policy

To maintain a healthy preschool environment, please keep your child home if your child has experienced any of the following symptoms within the past 24 hours:

- Sore throat
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Diarrhea
- Nausea/vomiting
- Fever
- Shortness of breath

Children must be symptom-free for 24-hours before returning to preschool.

If your child becomes ill while attending preschool, you will be notified immediately and must pick-up your child as soon as possible. If we cannot reach you, we will notify the emergency contact on file.

Please contact the Program Supervisor – Early Childhood & Preschool, as soon as possible if your child develops any of the following communicable diseases:

- Chicken pox
- Head lice
- Pertussis

Families will be notified when there is an occurrence of a communicable disease; the name of the affected child will not be shared.

A doctor's note may be required for your child to return to preschool.

Report an Absence

If your child will be absent, please contact your child's preschool site:

Eldridge Park Recreation Building

363 Commonwealth Lane
630-390-9480
srtwos@epd.org

Hours:

Mon – Thurs
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Wagner Community Center

615 N. West Avenue
630-901-3346
srtwoswcc@epd.org

Hours:

Mon – Thurs
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Emergency Procedures

In the event of serious injury or illness, it is the policy of Elmhurst Park District to first seek immediate medical attention by calling 9-1-1, and then notify you.

You are responsible for all costs associated with medical attention as stated in the *Registration Waiver & Release*. Elmhurst Park District does not assume any costs associated with medical attention.

Sunbeams & Rainbows preschoolers will participate in scheduled and impromptu fire, severe weather, and security drills.



Behavior Management

Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool fosters welcoming classroom communities where children feel safe to express themselves, make friends, and feel included.

An important component of our curriculum involves nurturing social competence where children gain an understanding of what it means to be respectful of the classroom, themselves, and others.

Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool instructors promote key social and emotional learning concepts like self-regulation, social awareness, and responsible decision-making skills.

Our instructors employ a variety of behavior management strategies including respectful redirection, nonverbal signals, reflection, and choice. Our instructors approach behavior management in a gentle, positive, and discreet manner.

Sunbeams & Rainbows instructors encourage collaboration and maintain open communication with families regarding behavior.

Elmhurst Park District reserves the right to suspend or dismiss any child whose behavior is deemed disruptive or dangerous to themselves or others.



Inclusion

Discrimination Policy

In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the United States Constitution, the Elmhurst Park District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, marital status, national origin, age, sexual orientation, religious or political affiliation, disability, military status, unfavorable discharge from military service or record of arrest, with regards to the use of parks and facilities or admission to and participation in programs and activities of the District.

Additionally, in compliance with the Illinois Civil Rights Act of 2003, Elmhurst Park District does not prohibit individuals from participation in, deny them the benefits of, or subjecting them to discrimination under any program or activity on the grounds of that person's race, color, or national origin; and does not utilize criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of subjecting individuals to discrimination because of their race, color, or national origin.

For information concerning rights and provisions under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or to inform us of program, facility, or service inaccessibility, please call the compliance officer at (630) 993-8910.

Inclusion Services

Elmhurst Park District is committed to promoting and encouraging positive interactions among participants with and without disabilities.

Staff members are available to assist participants with accommodations needed for success in and enjoyment of our programs in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To request inclusion services, please contact:

Program Supervisor – Inclusion

Sean Tovey

stovey@epd.org

P: 630-993-8670

Early Childhood Developmental Screenings

Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool is committed to working with your family to prepare your child for elementary school. On occasion, preschool instructors might refer families to their local school district for a developmental screening. Our instructors are happy to be a part of your support team if a signed *Consent & Authorization to Release Information* form is on file with Elmhurst Park District.

Families who reside in School District 205 are encouraged to take advantage of the preschool screenings and services offered by Madison Early Childhood Center. Contact MECC at (630) 617-2385 to request a pre-screening packet.

Thank you!

Thank you for choosing Sunbeams & Rainbows Preschool and for letting Elmhurst Park District be a part of your child's educational journey! We are looking forward to a fantastic school year! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

