

**Welcome to
Coulee Children's Center
2026-2027 Preschool Class!**

Coulee Children's Center
2935 East Avenue South
La Crosse, WI 54601

Main Phone Line: 608-787-5572
Fax: 608-795-3030



Meet the Teachers!



Lilly Ackerman: Hello! My name is Lilly Ackerman and I am the Preschool teacher here at Coulee Children's Center. I graduated from UW-La Crosse in December 2023 with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood to Middle Childhood Education. I began working at CCC in June 2024 for the summer program, and I am thrilled to continue with my third year in the Preschool program. My clinical experiences at UW-L, along with my collaboration with the School District of La Crosse have prepared me well for this position. I am passionate about supporting creativity through various means and materials. I hope to encourage exploration of the world around us through hands-on activities and experiences. I am honored to continue this journey with the CCC!

Jerene Beitlich: Hello! My name is Ms. Jerene and I am a teacher's assistant for the Model III Preschool Program for the La Crosse School District at Coulee Children's Center. I have been with CCC since 2001. I have an Associate's Degree in Child Care and Development. I consider it a privilege to be part of this fantastic program offered at CCC! Children's literature and music are two of my greatest joys to introduce, share, and experience with the children. I look forward to meeting and greeting you and your child in the fall as we embark on this wonderful journey of learning, growing, laughing, singing, reading, playing, exploring, and spending time together!

Stacy Bruemmer: It is my absolute joy to introduce myself to you! I'm Ms. Stacy and I get to spend my days playing, learning, singing, and exploring with your child here at CCC. I am one of the assistants for the Preschool Program and I have been at the Center since 1998! I learn something new every week, right along with our students. I enjoy introducing a little theatre to our Preschool Day thru imagination play and acting out our favorite books! My favorite thing about Preschool is the growth I witness in each child throughout the year.

Coulee Children's Center Preschool Supply List for the 2026-2027 School Year

- Box of Markers (Crayola Classic Colors Preferred)
- Box of Crayons (Crayola Preferred)
- Three-Ring Binder with a clear front (1 ½ inch). This will return to your family at the end of the year filled with your child's work, photos, and art from their school year!
- A complete change of weather appropriate clothing with your child's name on them (socks, underwear...the works!)
- Bag or backpack big enough to carry projects home in
- Box of facial tissues
- Box of double zipper bags (Ziploc or generic brand) - snack, sandwich, quart, or gallon size
- A pack of baby wipes
- A 4x6 or 5x7 family photo. Many of our children get a little homesick at the beginning of the year. We find hanging up these photos helps whenever they are feeling a little down. If you do not have a physical copy, you can e-mail one to Miss Lilly at lackerma@lacrossesd.org
- Children staying for wrap-around care after preschool will need a blanket and sheet for nap time. They may also bring a small pillow if desired.



Preschool Hours

8:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Monday-Friday

Following the La Crosse School District's Calendar

** We do provide wrap-around care for those who are interested. Please contact our Executive Director, Annette Larson, for more information. **

Contact Information

<p>Annette Larson Coulee Children's Center Executive Director 608-787-5572 coulee.director@couleechildrencenter.com</p>	<p>Jane Erickson and Tanya Dagensh Early Childhood/4K Program Coordinator 608-789-6917 and 608-789-6429 jerickson@lacrossesd.org tdagende@lacrossesd.org</p>
<p>Cindy Shofield Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator 608-789-7600 sshirel@lacrossesd.org</p>	<p>Heidi Bennie Administrative Assistant for the La Crosse School District Preschool Program 608-789-7006 hjohnsto@lacrossesd.org</p>
<p>Shelly Shirel 4K Supervisor School District of La Crosse 608-789-8942 sshirel@lacrossesd.org</p>	<p>Coulee Children's Center 2935 East Avenue South La Crosse, WI 54601 Main Phone Line: 608-787-5572 Fax: 608-795-3030</p>



Preschool Daily Schedule

A Typical Preschool Day!



8:15-8:45 a.m.: Breakfast

Breakfast provides a wonderful opportunity for social/emotional as well as language and concept development. Children work on name recognition as they search for their chairs. Their social skills and manners are practiced as children pass food/beverages. Verbal and self-help skills are increased as they converse with friends and teachers and attend to their own needs.

8:45 – 9:30 a.m.: Outside/Gross Motor Play

In this important portion of our day your child is able to work on their gross motor and socialization skills while getting some much-needed fresh air and change of environment. We go outside every day except for inclement weather days. Inclement weather days include gross motor play inside through cooperative movement games, tumbling on mats, and other activities. Children need a time to move freely and use their larger muscles.

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.: Morning Meeting

During this time students are building a sense of community and friendship while also practicing rules, routine, and developing positive social skills. Music, small and large motor movement, as well as academic enhancement are interwoven to help prepare the student for success. This period includes science (weather/observation), math (numbers, colors, shapes, patterns), literacy (name recognition, alphabet recognition, letter sounds), and social skills (rules, jobs within the classroom, learning to be good friends, and talking about our day).

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.: Small Group Learning Centers and Child Led Planning Time

Learning centers are for children to learn and explore through various activities in a small group setting. Learning centers may include: art, literacy (stories, rhyming, alphabet, letter sounds, etc.), science exploration, or math (counting and recognizing numbers, patterning, shapes, measurement, colors), etc. During this time, small group, teacher-led activities provide the opportunity for individual attention and instruction. Following the

learning center activity, students take time to plan their work time - what classroom center they would like to explore, who they wish to play with, and what this plan will consist of. The teacher in their small group will assist them to expand their play.

10:15 - 10:45 a.m.: Work Time

This is the time students carry out their plans for play. During this segment, all interest areas are available for exploration - art sensory (may get messy), blocks/building, math/manipulatives, literacy, science, and fine motor activities. It is common for 4- or 5-year-olds to engage in different activities in one work time. At the end of the work time, students take time to recall and discuss with a teacher how they followed through with their plans.

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: Wrap-Up/Dismissal

Together, as a community of learners, we work on a project, game or activity that develops our thematic unit or social/emotional learning. We may read or make a class story to develop a love of literacy, have guided discoveries such as science experiments or cooking. We also may use the opportunity to express ourselves through different forms of art.

We use our final moments of our day to talk about what we learned and the choices we made throughout our day. We use critical thinking and reasoning to solve problems, predict outcomes, and decide alternative solutions.

11:00 a.m. - Transition

As a group, we transition to our wrap-around care program. For families picking up at 11:00 a.m., they are free to come in and pick up their child. The rest of the children will transition to 'me, myself and I' or small group work time until lunch, which is served at 11:30 a.m.

This is an example of a typical day, but preschool days are seldom typical! We like to be flexible and may change the schedule to meet the needs of our students. We always allow for "spontaneous" learning moments, which often happen when you put a group of curious four and five-year-olds together!



Absence/Illness Protocol and Policy

If your child is not able to attend due to illness, doctor's appointment, or other reason, call the Coulee Children's Center main phone line and let us know your child will be gone or late that day. We do have a general voicemail that is available 24/7, so if you need to call after hours, please make sure to leave a voicemail.

Reporting attendance is a mandatory piece of the School District of La Crosse's Preschool Program. It is a requirement of the program for you to let us know if your child will be tardy or absent for the day. Our day begins at 8:30 a.m., so any child arriving after this time would be marked "tardy." Appointments will be marked as excused, however not calling in would be classified as an unexcused tardy or absence. Too many unexcused tardies or unexcused absences could affect your enrollment in the Preschool Program. We do not have an alternative 4/5-year-old classroom, so if your child is disenrolled from Preschool, they would be unable to stay at CCC.

Please note that if your child runs a fever of 100.4 or more degrees, they will be sent home. They have to be fever free (without the use of a fever reducer) for **48 hours** before returning unless you acquire a doctor's note stating that you are able to bring your child back before the 24-hour waiting period.

If your child is vomiting or has multiple diarrhea incidents, your child will be sent home. They will need to wait **24 hours** from when the vomiting and/or diarrhea has subsided before returning.

Any unexplained rash that may be contagious needs to be consulted with by a doctor and a doctor's note will need to be given to stay in childcare until the rash clears up.

If your child is unable to participate in our daily routine due to illness, they are unable to stay at the center (i.e., Extremely lethargic, unable to go outside per parent's request, etc.). We do not offer sick care, so if your child is unable to participate in normal programming, they are unable to stay here at the center.

Currently, early learning facilities and K-12 school do have an additional sickness policy to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The current policy is as follows:

Is your child experiencing any of the following symptoms (outside of their baseline)?

- ❖ Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste, new loss of smell. If so, the child may not attend school.
- ❖ Please contact your pediatrician and then CCC for further instructions.

OR, is your child experiencing at least 2 of the following symptoms (outside of their baseline)?

- ❖ Fever, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. If so, the child may not attend school.
- ❖ Please contact your pediatrician and then CCC for further instructions.

Medication

Prescription or non-prescription medication may be given to a child under the following conditions:

- A signed, dated, written authorization from the parent, including the dosage and direction for administering is one file.
- A written authorization will also need to be completed for items such as lip balm, lotion, sunscreen from home, etc.

Prescription medicine must be in the original container, with the prescription label affixed, and non-prescriptive medication must be labeled with the child's name.



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Child's Arrival and Departure

All children need to be picked up by authorized persons stated on your emergency card. Any person not clearly indicated on the emergency card will not be allowed to pick up your child unless we have verbal or written authorization from the parent or guardian.

All people picking up need to have picture identification available upon request to make sure all of our students are safe.

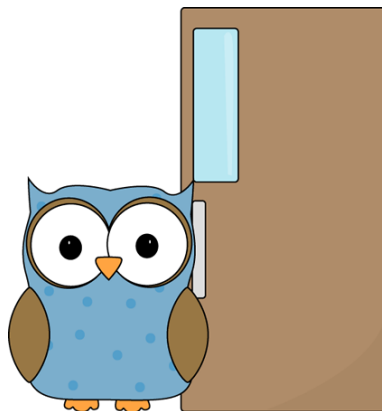
Please keep all contact information current. If you end up getting a new phone number, or would like to add or delete someone from your card throughout the school year, please inform one of the teachers and they can obtain your emergency card for you to update.

For existing CCC families, new emergency cards will be filled out during orientation. Please make sure to bring your contact information with you. For all families new to CCC, the emergency card will be included in your enrollment paperwork from the office.

Your child must be accompanied into the center by either you or another authorized adult. You need to maintain supervision of your child until the teacher has been personally notified of your child's presence. Please be sure that your child is signed in and out daily.

When picking up your child, be sure that the teacher knows your child is leaving the center. This procedure is for your child's protection. Please assume responsibility for your child's supervision as soon as you enter or exit his/her classroom.

The Preschool Program officially starts at 8:30 a.m., however, you may drop your child off starting at 8:15 a.m. Any earlier than 8:15 a.m. is not part of the La Crosse Preschool Program and families will be charged for wrap-around care.





Birthdays, Special Days, and Days Not in Session

Coulee Children's Center Preschool Program follows the La Crosse School District calendar.

If school is not in session, then neither is Preschool. Wrap-around care will still be provided to students who are contracted through the center. A district calendar will be provided for you in this packet. Additional copies can be found on the school district website at: <https://www.lacrosseschools.org/calendars/> or on the Coulee Children's Center website.

You are welcome to send in treats to share with your child's class, but please check with the teacher for current allergies within the classroom. All birthdays are very special days and will be celebrated briefly.

Sometimes, we may have a special day that we celebrate such as Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Fill-The-Bucket Day. We will let you know of these days in advance.

Family Fun Nights happen throughout the year and happen after school hours. It is a chance for you and your preschooler to meet and interact with the other preschool families. It is also a time for your family to have some time together.



Child's Belongings

Please do not allow your child to bring toys from home other than **one** for nap time if your child stays for wrap-around care. Toys often get lost or broken and sometimes children have a hard time sharing their toys from home. Coulee Children's Center cannot assume responsibility for materials brought from home. Please label all clothes and outerwear as well as any sheets, blankets, or backpacks. Each child has a cubby in which to keep personal items.



Outdoor Play

Daily outdoor activity is very important for young children. We will be going outside every day unless there is inclement weather. In the winter, children will not be going outside if the wind chill is zero or colder and, in the summer, they will not go outside if the heat index reaches 90 degrees. In the winter months your child should have mittens, boots, shoes, hats, snowsuits, or snow pants with jackets. Please make sure to provide weather appropriate clothing for the extremes we have here in Wisconsin. We do strongly suggest closed toed shoes while your child is here at CCC. Flip Flops and sandals inhibit gross motor play, and make it more difficult for your child to freely play.



Frequently Asked Questions

Does Preschool start on the same day as the rest of the schools start in the fall?

No. Open house for preschool is held the first two days of school. Preschool begins on the third day.

What is open house?

These days have two purposes:

First, it gives the preschooler a chance to spend a short time with their teacher, learn some important information (such as where their locker is and where the bathroom is), practice what they will do when they come to school for the first time and hopefully increase their comfort level about starting school.

Second, this is the time for parent to fill out and turn in the necessary paperwork, ask questions regarding breakfast/lunch, etc.

How will we know when to come for open house?

You will receive a letter during the summer with a time and date for you to attend from the School District of La Crosse. Orientation will be held here at CCC in the Preschool Classroom. Keep an eye out on your mail for this information.

Can my child eat breakfast at school?

Breakfast is served every morning from 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Our preschool program officially starts at 8:30 a.m. and our outside time starts at 8:45 a.m. Breakfast may not be guaranteed after 8:45 a.m.

I have other questions regarding Preschool...

You can ask your child's Preschool teachers, the CCC management staff, or call Heidi Bennie, the Administrative Assistant for the district preschool program, at 608-789-7006.

