



THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER DIFFERENCE

Early Learning Center (ELC) has provided a strong foundation for Glencoe's preschoolers for more than thirty-five years. Our goal for children is not just school-readiness, but life-readiness. We are proud to be licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and to follow the Illinois Early Learning Standards. The standards were developed with the support of hundreds of Early Childhood educators in order to provide developmentally appropriate benchmarks. Our Early Learning Center teachers use this resource to guide classroom experiences and activities, providing a solid foundation for developmental and experiential learning.

OUR EDUCATIONAL TEAM

We pride ourselves on our ties to the community; some of our teachers have been with Glencoe Park District preschools for more than twenty-five years! The key component in accomplishing our mission is choosing individuals that can easily blend in with our Early Learning Center family. Our educators have academic degrees in Child Development, Early Childhood or a related discipline, and life experiences that encompass parenting and grandparenting. The ELC staff receives continuous development, support and training in and out of the classroom. All staff completes fifteen hours of continuing education each year to understand the latest trends in early childhood education and child development. The broad depth of knowledge enables the Early Learning Center to provide an exceptional preschool experience and allows your child to trust, respect and bond with their teachers, in addition to meeting our high standards of education and experience.



OUR PHILOSOPHY AND CURRICULUM

The Early Learning Center philosophy is that children learn best through meaningful interactions with the world around them in a secure environment. Learning is an active process, whether it happens during a teacher-guided group experience or during free choice play. We emphasize cognitive, social, emotional and large and small motor development through our play-based curriculum.



MEET OUR MANAGER

Naomi Garvett, Early Childhood Program Manager, received her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and Psychology from National Louis University. For over twenty years, Naomi has managed early childhood programs and classrooms in the Chicagoland area. As a mother of two young children, Naomi understands the importance of selecting the right preschool program for your child. Naomi welcomes your thoughts and questions, and is always available for conversation about your child at (847) 835-7534 or ngarvett@glencoeParkDistrict.com.

WHAT IS A PLAY-BASED CURRICULUM?

Glencoe Park District proudly utilizes a play-based curriculum for both the Early Learning Center and Children's Circle Full Day Preschool programs. In a play-based program, children choose activities based on their current interests. The term "play-based" is often interchanged with "child-centered". Playful learning is a whole-child approach to education that includes both free play and guided play. It refers to play in a structured environment around a general curriculum goal that is designed to stimulate children's natural curiosity, exploration, and play with learning-oriented materials. The play-based classroom is broken up into sections, such as a home or kitchen, science area, water table, reading nook, space with blocks and other toys, or other areas. Teachers encourage children to play, facilitating social skills along the way. Even though it seems like they are just playing, they are learning valuable skills, including important social cues, cooperation with others, and early math and science lessons.



DEFINING 'PLAY'

While there is no one definition of play, there are a number of agreed characteristics that describe play. Play can be described as:

- **PLEASURABLE-PLAY** is an enjoyable activity. Play sometimes includes frustrations, challenges and fears; however, enjoyment is a key feature.
- **SYMBOLIC-PLAY** is often pretend, it has a 'what if?' quality. The play has meaning to the player that is often not evident to the educator.
- **ACTIVE-PLAY** requires action, either physical, verbal or mental engagement with materials, people, ideas or the environment.
- **VOLUNTARY-PLAY** is freely chosen. However, players can also be invited or prompted to play.
- **PROCESS ORIENTED-PLAY** is a means unto itself and players may not have an end or goal in sight.
- **SELF-MOTIVATING-PLAY** is considered its own reward to the player.
- **PARALLEL-PLAY** is a developmentally appropriate form of play in which children play adjacent to each other, but do not try to influence one another's behavior. Children usually play alone during parallel play but are interested in what other children are doing.



HALF DAY PRESCHOOL

2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION STARTS DECEMBER 6, 2017

Please contact Naomi Garvett, Early Childhood Manager, at (847) 835-7534 to arrange a tour and discuss availability. Online registration is not available for the Early Learning Center.



PARENT & TOT PRESCHOOL

Give your toddler the opportunity to socialize with other children their age while encouraging movement and free play. This wonderful class will create a great bonding experience for caregivers and children, as it is a gentle step into the preschool world for your toddler, with a caregiver on hand for extra enjoyment and support. Social relations, motor skills and language development thrive in this friendly setting.

2-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL

Hand-in-hand with social learning comes language development, a key task for our busy 2's! We enrich the day with songs and rhymes, stories and conversation, and build vocabulary as we splash in the media table, experiment with paint, and try out new roles in the housekeeping area. Learning is natural and easy, with lots of choices and opportunities to explore.

3-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL

Teachers show the way by providing social models and support as children begin to negotiate and problem-solve. Special units bring learning to everyday experiences; a class trip to the grocery store sparks a host of new understandings about classifying, color, and nutrition, and sets the stage for imagination. Learning in the 3's room follows a developmental model; children learn through real, hands-on experiences, using their curiosity to drive discovery.

4-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL

In our 4-year-old class, learning is rapid and engaging as we prepare for the kindergarten year to come. Curriculum is strong and embedded; numbers become real through counting games and routines; letters draw life from songs, storytelling, rhyming, and a host of situational experiences. Cooking is science and socialization, as the fruits of children's efforts are enjoyed together. Use of social stories promotes deep imaginative play, cooperation, and cognition. Learning is interactive, with plenty of opportunities for children to explore and follow their interests.

2018-19 ELC	AGE	DAY	DATES	TIME	LOCATION	MONTHLY R/NR Fee	ACTIVITY
PARENT & TOT	12-24 MONTHS	M	9/10/18-5/20/19	9:15-10:15 AM	TAKIFF CENTER	\$72/79	604101-01
ELC 2-YEAR-OLDS	2 BY 9/1/18	M/W/F	9/5/18-5/24/19	9:15-11:15 AM	TAKIFF CENTER	\$307/335	604102-01
	2 BY 9/1/18	TU/TH	9/4/18-5/23/19	9:15-11:15 AM	TAKIFF CENTER	\$201/220	604102-02
ELC 3-YEAR-OLDS	3 BY 9/1/18	M-F	9/4/18-5/24/19	9-11:30 AM	TAKIFF CENTER	\$466/510	604103-02
	3 BY 9/1/18	TU-F	9/5/18-5/24/19	9-11:30 AM	TAKIFF CENTER	\$558/614	604103-01
ELC 4-YEAR-OLDS (AM)	4 BY 9/1/18	M-F	9/5/18-5/24/19	9 AM-12 PM	TAKIFF CENTER	\$607/678	604104-02
ELC 4-YEAR-OLDS (PM)	4 BY 9/1/18	M-F	9/5/18-5/24/19	12:30-3:30 PM	TAKIFF CENTER	\$607/678	604104-01

A \$125 non-refundable, non-transferable registration fee per child is required at the time of registration for all programs. This fee will **not** be applied toward your monthly tuition. **NOTE:** Our program respects the unique development of each individual child. Children are not required to be toilet trained to participate.



12 MONTHS-AGE 5