



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Is Early Learners Academy a licensed childcare program?**

Childcare programs are not required to be licensed by the Department of Human Services if they are located in and associated with a public school district. However, ELA will follow licensing guidelines.

## **What is the discipline approach of Early Learners Academy?**

We maintain appropriate behavior by establishing a strong routine with clear consistent expectations, administering consistent consequences and with positive staff interaction. We utilize parental assistance and classroom staff when dealing with inappropriate behavior.

## **What will the students learn in Early Learners Academy?**

Curriculum is developed to support and prepare students for the existing Kindergarten curriculum in Bloomington Public Schools. In addition, ELA will support your child's educational, social-emotional, and personal development, including language development, self-help skills, and skills for living in a diverse society.

## **What kind of food will be served?**

Meals and snacks are well-rounded and designed to introduce children to healthy foods and good nutrition. Breakfast and lunch are provided daily by Bloomington Public School Food Service in the school's cafeteria each day the elementary school is in session. ELA follows the school district's menu and adapts to a three, four and five year-old level. ELA and food service staff make accommodations and utilize alternate menus to provide healthy and age appropriate meals. Our snacks meet the Institute of Medicine guidelines for healthy eating. Families will provide lunch on district non-school days.

## **What is the Early Learners Academy staff to student ratio?**

Early Learners Academy will follow licensing guidelines for staff-to-student ratios. Therefore, Early Learners Academy will employ one staff member to every ten students with a maximum of 20 students enrolled in each classroom.

## **Will Early Childhood Screening be taken care of in the school?**

Parents/Guardians are responsible for contacting their home school district and making an appointment for an Early Childhood Screening to be completed before the child starts in ELA.

## **Are immunizations required for students entering ELA?**

Yes. All students will be required to have updated immunizations on file with the district before they can attend ELA.

## **What are the enrichment or recreational activities?**

ELA will provide instruction in different cultures, art, music, and technology. ELA will also spend time in the school's outside playground or in the gymnasium each day. Other activities may include special events, classroom guests, speakers, and summer field trips.

## **What part of the day will educational activities be provided?**

All curricular activities take place between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

**My child is toilet trained, will he/she receive assistance in the bathroom if needed?**

We expect students to be toilet trained. Parents/Guardians must provide a change of clothes in the case of accidents.

**What does ELA cost?**

Please visit our website at [www.earlylearnersacademy.org](http://www.earlylearnersacademy.org) for current rates.

**Do you offer scholarships to families who cannot afford Early Learners Academy?**

ELA is a non-profit, fee-based program and does not offer scholarships or a sliding fee scale at this time.

**What is your security system for my child with parent/guardian pick-ups?**

Parent/Guardians must walk their child into the ELA classroom and sign their child into the program every morning and out every afternoon. Children are signed in/out through an electronic system.

**Do families receive vacation credit in Early Learners Academy?**

Vacation credit is available for two to five consecutive days, once during the school year.

**Can parents/guardians volunteer in the Early Learners Academy classroom?**

Parents/Guardians may have an opportunity to volunteer in your child's classroom. Please contact your instructor for opportunities.

**How long is rest time?**

Our rest time is 90 minutes long. Children are expected to lie quietly on their cot for 30 minutes; books are passed out for the remaining time for children who are awake.

**Do I need to fill out any paper work before my child is accepted?**

In addition to the online account information, we need to have the following on file: birth certificate, immunizations records, growth and development history, health history form, Bloomington Public Schools registration form, and the non-refundable registration fee.

**Does my child ever travel off site? What transportation is used?**

We go on three fieldtrips per school year. The children go on a school bus and always have ELA staff supervising the trips.

**Can my child ride the school bus to preschool with their older sibling?**

No, there is not an adult to supervise your child at this time on the school bus. An adult will need to bring each student into the ELA room and sign in and out inside the room.

**Is programming offered during the summer or just the school year?**

Programming may be offered during the summer; however, it would be contracted separately from the school year. If offered, families will be able to register for the summer program in the spring.