



# Early Education Cooperative Preschool 2024-2025 Program Information

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## Class Descriptions

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### Desert Doves- Turning 2 by September 1 T/TH

The Desert Doves class is an introduction to preschool for children who turn 2 years of age by September 1. For many children, this is their first time experiencing separation from a caregiver, and the initial focus is to establish comfort and safety in a new setting. We encourage the development of language and foster autonomy and discovery. The class consists of free exploration in the indoor classroom environment, outdoor play and gross motor activities, group literacy and music circle times, and snack time. Parents participate in the classroom by cooping twice per month. The Desert Dove class has up to 14 children, with 2 teachers and 2-3 cooping parents each day.

### Hummingbirds- Mixed Age 3's M/W/F

In this class, we move from a maximum of 14 children to 21, which means new friends and more energy and excitement. This class is a combination of children who have been in preschool before and new friends. At this age, children are ready for more in depth and cooperative learning. The class day consists of free exploration in the indoor classroom environment, outdoor play and gross motor activities, group circle times, and snack time. Social development, gross motor skills and curiosity are important elements of this program. Parents participate in the classroom by cooping twice monthly. The Hummingbird class has up to 21 children, with 3 teachers and 2-3 cooping parents each day.

### Owls- Pre-K class M-F

The Owls class is for children who are 4 years of age by September 1 and who intend to start kindergarten the following year. Most of the children in this class have attended either our preschool or another preschool before. This allows the teachers to build on the foundation of social development the children have experienced, and to provide even more intentional opportunities for collaboration and communication between them. Learning how to make a friend and how to be a friend is an important part of readiness for kindergarten, as are self-regulation, independence, and responsibility, all important focuses of our Owls program. Parents participate in the classroom by cooping twice monthly. This class has a maximum of 18 children, with 2 teachers and 1-2 cooping parents daily.

### Roadrunners

This is our Pre-K classroom for children with Autism. Each child in this classroom will work 1:1 with a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) on individualized goals and learning outcomes. This classroom also has one teacher who prepares an engaging center-based environment, and leads the class through group circle times and activities. Parents have the opportunity to participate through cooping in the classroom, serving on a parent committee and attending monthly parent meetings. The school day for Roadrunners consists of time in the indoor classroom, outside play and gross motor activities, lunch, circle times, weekly music class, and time spent with their Owls class peers as appropriate.

### Music

In addition to the integration of music throughout the day in all of our classrooms, a 30 minute weekly music class is part of the Hummingbird, Owl and Roadrunner class programming. Teacher Jeffrey Sadow has been teaching music at EEC for 36 years! Music, movement, storytelling, drama and puppetry are incorporated into this class, which is a favorite of our students.

### Parent Participation

Parent Participation is a core element of the classroom and overall EEC experience. Parents commit to spending the morning in their child's classroom twice monthly, as well as serving on a parent committee, attending two "work days" annually and attending monthly parent meetings. Through consistent participation, parents form important and special relationships with their child's teachers and with each other. The community that is built through this investment of time is supportive to all involved and enriches the experience for the children and families we serve.

\*Class placement decisions are made by the EEC staff with the child's best interest in mind. Factors considered include date of birth, social and cognitive development, gender, and previous school experience.