



Dakota County Early Childhood Resources

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What Programs Provide Home Visiting for Parents?

School District Early Childhood Family Education Programs (ECFE) Home Visits

Some districts provide home visits for families experiencing pregnancy, birth, or infant adoptions. Many ECFE programs also offer Community Baby Showers where new parents can meet other new parents, learn about community resources, and learn more about ECFE.

Dakota County Family Home Visiting Program

The [Family Home Visiting program](#) focus on promoting the health and wellbeing of families by providing home visits to support families during pregnancy, after delivery, and the first years of a child’s life. Staff can provide growth and development checks for infants and children, and resources for children with special needs. To sign up for services visit www.dakotacounty.us and search “home visit” to complete the online referral form or call 651- 554-6115.

Head Start Early Home Visiting

Early Head Start is a home visiting program in Dakota County. It is designed to nurture healthy attachments between a child and their parent/caregiver. It provides a full range of services for each family from pregnancy to a child’s third year. 651-322-3500 or www.capagency.org



Safe and Healthy Start

Safe and Healthy Start is a Dakota County Community Services program designed to support pregnant women who are using drugs or alcohol. A team of social workers, public health nurses, mental health and chemical dependency specialists work to connect pregnant women to resources. Dakota County Children and Family Intake 942-891-7459

What If My Child Isn’t Doing Things Like Other Children Their Age?

[Help Me Grow](#) is the state-wide intake for all developmental concerns for children ages birth to age 5. It connects families to their local district for free screening and evaluation.



School District: Infant and Toddler Intervention are special services and supports for children birth through age 2 years and their families. These services are provided for eligible children who may be experiencing delays in their development for several reasons, including special health conditions. Services are offered at no cost to families. 1-866-693-4769

School District: Preschool Special Education is for eligible children ages 3 to 5 years. Help Me Grow provides services based on the needs of preschool children who meet state eligibility criteria for developmental delay or other disability, and who are experiencing challenges in their learning and development. 1-866-693-4769

Early Childhood Mini Grants

Mini-Grants are available for young children and their families who are receiving Early Intervention Services or Early Childhood Special Education Services and not receiving any other county services related to the child's disability. Grants can be used for respite care, adaptive or assistive technology and other unmet care needs. 952-891-7449 or sseccordinator@co.dakota.mn.us



Where Can I Go for Early Childhood Family Education?

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

This program is for all families with children between the ages of birth and Kindergarten. The program supports parents in their role as their child's first and most important teacher. It is a program that provides information, support, and friendship.

Is My Child on Track and Ready for Kindergarten?



Early Childhood Screening (Preschool Screening)

When a child is 3 years old, the local school district provides free early childhood screening. It looks at how a child is learning and developing to help them get ready for school. Free tools and resources are provided during the screening appointment!

Screening is required for all children prior to enrolling in kindergarten.

Follow Along Program

The [Follow Along program](#) is a free development and social-emotional screening program for children birth to 5 years of age. Families fill out questionnaires that ask how their child is growing, playing, talking, moving, and acting. Families receive results along with fun age-appropriate activities and connection to community resources.

Child and Teen Checkups

The [Child and Teen Checkups program](#) works with families, community partners and health professionals to increase access to regular, high-quality preventive medical and dental care for youth birth to age 21 who receive Medical Assistance. Staff can help find a doctor or dentist, make an appointment, and assist clients in using their interpreter and transportation benefits. To sign up for services visit www.dakotacounty.us and search "home visit" to complete the online referral form or call 651- 554-6115.

What If I Need Help with Child Care?

Think Small

This organization provides information to help families search for child care and early childhood education programs. 1-888-291-9811 or www.thinksmall.org

Parent Aware

Parent Aware helps families find the best quality childcare and early education program for your child. 1-888-291-9811 or www.parentaware.org

State Early Learning Scholarships: Families First of MN

The State Early Learning Scholarships give families financial support to help pay for high-quality early care and education to prepare their young children for school. The scholarship amount is up to \$10,000 for a 12-month period. Children must be age 3 or 4 by September 1. Scholarships are available for children ages birth to five for children who are homeless or in Foster Care. Dakota County residents should contact Families First of MN 507-287-2020 www.familiesfirstmn.org

Dakota County Child Care Assistance Program

Child Care assistance programs help low-income families who need assistance to help paying for childcare. There are three different programs available. Some programs may have waiting lists. [Dakota County Employment and Economic Assistance](#) 651-554-5611

Center for Inclusive Childcare

This agency offers inclusion coaching and consultation to childcare providers to support children with special needs and behavioral challenges in childcare settings. This program also provides Health and Safety Coaching to childcare providers. 651-603-6230 or www.inclusivechildcare.org

Where Can My Child Go for Preschool?



School District Preschool Programs

Every school district in Dakota County provides preschool for both three- and four-year-olds. Some programs offer financial assistance to those who qualify. Some school districts offer busing to programs.

Extended Day Pre-K This program offers extended hours for additional classroom instruction and activities for those enrolled in preschool programs.

Family Literacy Programs (Family School)

Parents can learn English and parenting skills while their children attend preschool. Contact your local Early Childhood Family Education Program for more information.

CAP Agency Head Start

Head Start promotes the school readiness of young children from income eligible families. This program is found in various communities in Dakota County. 651-322-3500 or www.capagency.org

Private Preschool Options

There are a variety of private preschool options available for children. Parent Aware gives families' tools and information to find the best quality early education program for children. 1-888-291-9811 or www.parentaware.org

Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program

[Dakota County WIC](#) is for families. WIC stands for Women, Infants and Children. WIC is a nutrition program that helps families eat well and stay healthy. WIC provides [nutrition information](#) , [healthy foods](#), [lactation support](#), and information on [health and community programs](#).

There are three ways to apply for WIC:

- Call 952-891-7525. The WIC phone line is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Text "DakotaWIC" to the phone number 855-11 and a WIC staff person will contact you.
- Fill out the [online application](#) and a WIC staff person will contact you.

Dakota County Asthma Program

The [Dakota County Asthma program](#) is free for children 17 and younger who live in Dakota County and have been diagnosed with asthma. Families will receive home visits from a Public Health Nurse to learn more about asthma and how to help manage it. To sign up for services visit www.dakotacounty.us and search "home visit" to complete the online referral form or call 651- 554-6115.

Dakota County Vaccine Clinics

[Free or low-cost vaccines](#) are available for eligible children and adults at appointment clinics.

Updated intake phone numbers:

Only edit is Health Promotion is 952-891-7540; I would remove adolescent health.

Also, could you add the following notation under public health intake:

Prenatal and postpartum referrals for families with children under age 2.

Child and Teen Checkups – support finding a medical or dental clinic and/or using Medical Assistance provided interpreter or transportation services.

How to Raise a Reader?

Dakota County Libraries

Kids who read grow up to succeed. [The Dakota County Library](#) offers a variety of fun programs for children age birth to 18. *Visit one of nine Dakota County Locations to learn more or call 651-450-2900.*

Revised 10/24/2025

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/HealthFamily/Parenting/EarlyChildhoodDevelopment/Pages/help-me-grow>



I am concerned about my Child’s Behavior

Dakota County has a variety of early childhood mental health providers that offer both clinic and in-home services. Some of these services are offered at a sliding fee for those who are uninsured.

In-Home Early Childhood Mental Health Providers

Family Adolescent Children’s Therapy Associated Clinic of Psychology (ACP) received a grant to provide Early Childhood Mental Health Services for families living in Dakota County for children ages birth through kindergarten. Insurance is billed for this service, and ACP has a sliding fee to support uninsured or underinsured families.

AGENCY	REFERRAL INFORMATION
<p>Associated Clinic of Psychology (ACP) Serves children school district: ISD 6-South Saint Paul ISD 192-Farmington ISD 194-Lakeville ISD 195-Randolph ISD 199-Inver Grove Heights ISD191-Burnsville 197-West Saint Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan ISD 200- Hastings 917-Therapeutic Preschool Program</p>	<p>Referral Coordinator: 612-455-8643 Option 1 Online Referral: www.acp-mn.com</p>
<p>Nystrom and Associates</p>	<p>763-767-3350 www.nystromcounseling.com</p>
<p>LifeStance Health – (FKA) Family Innovations</p>	<p>Home Based: 651-748-5019 ext. 1201 www.familyinnovations.com</p>

Clinic Based Early Childhood Mental Health Providers

AGENCY	REFERRAL INFORMATION
Associated Clinic of Psychology (ACP) West St. Paul and Apple Valley	651-450-0860 WSP 952-432-1484 Apple Valley www.acp-mn.com
Canvas Health West St. Paul and Cottage Grove	651-777-5222 Canvas Health
Fraser-Eagan	612-767-7222 www.fraser.org
Cedar Valley Center for Child and Family Therapy Eagan	651-688-0488 www.cedarvalleytherapy.com
NEXUS-FACTS Family Healing Mendota Heights	651-379-9800 Nexus-Facts Family Healing
Secure Base Counseling Center Lakeville, Northfield, New Prague In-home services for children (CTSS)	507-301-3412 www.securebasecounselingcenter.com
Life Development Resources (LDR) Birth to Five Program Lakeville & Apple Valley	952-898-1133 https://lifedrs.com/
Twin Cities Play Therapy Eagan	651-336-4557 www.twincitiesplaytherapycenter.com
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation-Clinic Services St. Paul	651-280-2310 www.wilder.org
Washburn Center for Children Minneapolis	612-871-1454 www.washburn.org

Early Childhood Day Treatment Programs (Preschool Ages 3-6)

AGENCY	REFERRAL INFORMATION
Fraser Eagan: Preschool Mental Health Day Treatment & Autism Day Treatment	612-767-7222 www.fraser.org
Lorenz Clinic	952-443-4600 Lorenz Clinic

Parenting Support

AGENCY	REFERRAL INFORMATION
NEXUS-FACTS-Circle of Security Parenting Groups for Parent of Young Children	651-379-9800 www.nexusfamilyhealing.org

Support and Navigation for Children with Special Needs

AGENCY	REFERRAL INFORMATION
AUSM-Autism Society of Minnesota	651-647-1083 www.ausm.org
The ARC Minnesota	942-920-0855 www.arcminnesota.org
Children & Youth with Special Health Needs Navigator	1-800-728-5420 Click here for website
Isuroon-Dakota County Parent Support Program	www.isuroon.org *Serves East African and Somali Communities
Minnesota Hands and Voices	651-265-2435 www.mnhandsandvoices.org
NAMI MN-Dakota County Parent Resource Program	651-645-2948 www.namimn.org
The ARC Minnesota	952-920-0855 www.arcminnesota.org
PACER Minnesota	952-838-9000 www.pacer.org
Proof Alliance (formerly MOFAS)	651-917-2370 www.proofalliance.org

Disability Supports

AGENCY	REFERRAL INFORMATION
Dakota County Community Living Services (CLS) Supports are available to help children with disabilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Support Grant (FSG) • PCA • Consumer Support Program (CSG) • Consumer Directed Community Supports • MA Waiver Programs 	Community Living Services 651-554-6336 clsintake@co.dakota.mn.us

Where Can I Find Information about Local Community Resources?

MinnesotaHelp.info

Minnesotahelp.info is brought to you by the State of Minnesota and strives to connect people with services in their communities. <https://mn.gov/adresources/> or 1-800-333-2433

United way 211 or 651-291-0211 www.211unitedway.org

Free information and referral service 24 hours a day 7 days a week in English, Spanish, Somali Russian & Hmong.
New Text Option: Text your zip code to 891-211 (Available M-F 8am-7pm).

Dakota County Community Services Intake Phone Numbers

<p>Children and Family Intake 952-891-7459</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection • Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) • Safe and Healthy Start • Children’s Mental Health Services • Truancy Intervention • Minor Parent Services • Foster Care Recruitment\Licensing and Adoption Recruitment and Placement 952-891-7400 • Family Child Care Licensing 952-891-7400 	<p>Community Living Services Intake 651-554-6336</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intake for aging and disability services (children and adults) • MN Choices Assessment • Consumer Support and Family Support Grants • Developmental Disability Services (DD) • Personal Care Assistance (PCA) • Waiver services <p>Senior Linkage Line 1-800-333-2433 Disability HUB 1-866-333-2466</p>
<p>Dakota County Housing Crisis Line 651-554-5751</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless prevention and intervention for individuals and families <p>Dakota County Crisis Response Unit 952-891-7171</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-hour Crisis Call Center 	<p>Dakota County Adult Services Intake 651-554-6424</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Mental Health Services • Chemical Health Services (Rule 25) • Information and referral • Pre-petition screening <p>Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center 1-844-880-1574</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide intake for suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult by any person.
<p>Public Health Intake 651-554-6115</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prenatal and Post-Partum Referrals • Family Home Visiting • Child and Teen Health Check-Ups • Children with Special Needs Ages Birth to Three • Asthma Education 	<p>Public Health Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIC 952-891-7525 • Immunization Clinics 952-891-7999 • Children’s Dental Services 612-746-1530 • Tuberculosis testing & treatment 952-891-7500 • Health Promotion & Adolescent Health 651-554-6100 • Follow Along Program 651-554-6178
<p>Employment and Economic Assistance 651-554-5611 Mendota Road, West Saint Paul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Assistance • Cash and Emergency Assistance • Child Care Assistance • Medical Assistance & MNSure Lab • To schedule appointment at the Burnsville Workforce Center, call 651-554-5611 and ask to speak to a cash information and referral worker. • To schedule appointments at Hastings Family Services, call 651-437-7134 • Child Support 651-554-5909 	<p>Dakota County Child Support-651-554-5909</p> <p>Dakota County Burnsville Workforce Center 952-703-3100 28000 County RD 42 W Burnsville MN 44557</p> <p>Dakota County West St. Paul Workforce Center 651-554-5955 1 Mendota Road, West Saint Paul MN 55118</p>
<p>Veterans Services 651-554-5601</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit Counseling, Information and Referral • LinkVet 1-888-546-5838 	

School District Early Childhood Program Contacts 2024-2025

District	School District Name	Early Childhood Screening age 3-4 (pre-school Screening)	Early Intervention/Early Child Special Education (ECSE) Intake Numbers	Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)	School District Community Pre-school Programs & School Readiness Programs
ISD 6	South St. Paul	651-306-3641	Birth to 3 651-306-3682 3 to 5 651-457-9497	651-457-9418	651-457-9418
ISD 191	Burnsville/Eagan/Savage	952-707-4105	952-895-6610	952-707-4150	952-707-4150
ISD 192	Farmington	651-460-3200	Birth to 3 651-460-3833 3 to 5 651-460-3833	651- 460-3200	651-460-3200
ISD 194	Lakeville	952-232-3000 Ext: 3	Birth to 3 & 3 to 5 952-232-3000 Ext:5	952-232-3000 Ext:1	952-232-3001
ISD 195	Randolph	507-645-4773 or 507-263-2151 Ext: 209	Birth to 5 507-645-4773 or 507-263-2151 Ext: 215	507-645-4773 or 507-263-2151 Ext: 209	507-645-4773 or 507-263-2151 Ext: 209
ISD 196	Apple Valley/Rosemount/ Eagan	651-423-7899	952-388-1900 952-388-1948 (fax)	952-388-1953	952-388-1977
ISD 197	WSP/Mendota Heights/Northern Eagan	651-403-8363	651-403-8390 651-403-8310 (fax)	651-403-8390	651-403-8390
ISD 199	Inver Grove Heights	651-306-7503	Birth to 3 651-306-7575 3 to 5 651-306-7301	651-306-7503	651-306-7503
ISD 200	Hastings	651-480-7381	651-480-7446	651-480-7678	651-480-7678

CAP Agency Head Start Program:
651-322-3500

www.capagency.org

Online Referrals: www.HelpMeGrowMN.org



Statewide Phone Referral Number: **1-866-693-4769**

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<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/HealthFamily/Parenting/EarlyChildhoodDevelopment/Pages/help-me-grow>