

Family Handbook

2026 - 2027



2596 Dos Rios Dr.

Grand Junction, CO 81501

970-254-1626

Website: eurekasciencemuseum.org/STREAM

Email: STREAM@eurekasciencemuseum.org

School Hours:

School Year: Monday-Friday, 7:30AM-5:30PM

Summer: Monday-Friday, 8:00AM-5:00PM

Table of Contents

● About Us	Page 4
○ Mission	Page 4
○ Vision	Page 4
● Purpose & Philosophy	Page 4
○ Purpose	Page 4
○ Philosophy	Page 4
● Learning Environment	Page 5
● Program	Page 5
● Staff and Volunteers	Page 5
● Admission and Enrollment	Page 6
● Non-Discrimination Policy	Page 7
● Privacy Policy	Page 7
● Student & Family Supports	Page 7
● Immunizations	Page 8
● Tuition & Scholarship Qualifications	Page 9
● Withdrawal	Page 10
● Calendar	Page 12
● Daily Routine	Page 13
○ General Schedule	Page 13
○ Student Arrival and Dismissal	Page 14
○ No Phone Zone - Drop Off & Pick Up	Page 15
● Attendance	Page 15
● Snow Days and Inclement Weather	Page 15
● Behavior Management	Page 17

- Family Communication and Collaboration Page 17
 - Plan Implementation and Monitoring Page 17
 - Review, Revision, and Referrals Page 17
 - Ongoing Documentation Page 17
- **Visitors & Meetings** Page 18
- **Meals and Snacks** Page 18
 - Student Birthdays & Special Snacks Page 19
- **Student Personal Items** Page 19
 - Lost and Found Page 19
 - Student Toys Page 19
- **Toileting, Toilet Training and Student Clothing** Page 20
- **Naps** Page 20
- **Money** Page 21
- **Field Trips** Page 21
- **Media Policy** Page 22
 - Screen Time and Media Use Page 22
- **Family Communication** Page 22
- **Health and Safety** Page 23
 - Illness and Medications Page 23
 - Sunscreen Page 24
 - Lotion and Chapstick Page 24
 - Emergencies Page 25
 - Injuries Page 25
 - Building Security and Access Page 25
 - Safety and Supervision Page 25
 - Emergency Plans Page 26

○ Fire Plan	Page 26
○ Lost Child Plan	Page 26
○ Transportation	Page 27
○ Mandated Reporting	Page 28
● Rating and Accreditation	Page 28
● Claims	Page 29
● UPK Policies	Page 29
○ Health Development & Child Screenings	Page 29
○ Family and Community Engagement	Page 29
○ Annual CDEC Family Survey	Page 30

About Us

Mission: To inspire a passion and respect for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) in our communities.

Vision: Inspiring all learners to discover their potential through hands-on STEAM exploration and building a community grounded in curiosity, wonder, and STEAM literacy.

Purpose & Philosophy

Purpose: At STREAM Preschool, our purpose is to nurture curious, creative, and compassionate life-long learners through a STEAM-rich, play-based curriculum with a special focus on river and water education. We are committed to creating an engaging and inclusive learning environment that cultivates a strong sense of community, stewardship, and belonging. By empowering young minds to explore, innovate, and connect with the natural world, we help children grow into capable problem-solvers, active learners, and responsible caretakers of their environment.

Philosophy: We believe that children are natural explorers, brimming with curiosity about the world around them. Our philosophy is rooted in honoring this innate curiosity through meaningful, play-based learning experiences that integrate STEAM principles—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math—alongside a vital emphasis on rivers and water education.

We view the early years as a critical time for cultivating wonder, creativity, and a sense of purpose and belonging. Through play-based activities like designing experiments, building structures, exploring artistic expression, and investigating our community, children gain both academic knowledge, practical life skills, and a sense of stewardship for the Earth. These experiences nurture competent, confident, and connected learners.

Recognizing that every child is unique, we embrace individualized learning and prioritize social-emotional development. We strive to create a warm, inclusive environment where children feel safe, seen, and celebrated—building positive relationships with peers and adults alike.

Learning Environment

STREAM Preschool is housed within the new Confluence Center of Colorado, uniquely situated at the meeting point of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. This dynamic hub brings together mission-driven nonprofits working at the intersection of land and water science, education, agriculture, and environmental stewardship. Surrounded by this rich network and natural setting, we will immerse children in meaningful, play-based learning through projects—regularly observing the nearby river ecosystem to learn and connect with the natural world firsthand.

Program

STREAM has three classrooms and sometimes follows a mixed-age group configuration of 3-5 year olds, depending on enrollment needs. Each classroom has a maximum of 20 learners. STREAM operates as an extended day preschool program with optional extended care during the summer, Monday-Friday, 7:30AM-5:30PM during the school year and 8:00AM-5:00PM during the summer. STREAM will align with D51 for no contact days to allow our staff adequate time to plan, care for the learning environment, and engage in professional learning and development.

Staff and Volunteers

The daily STREAM staff includes a certified director and three teachers in each classroom: a lead teacher, teacher, and teacher assistant. This allows us to maintain excellent ratios to provide individualized education and care. Students are supervised by keeping them in sight most of the time, with only short intervals by sound permitted with frequent check-ins.

All volunteers for STREAM will report directly to the STREAM director, and will not count towards staff:student ratios. All regular volunteers will have completed background checks before interacting with students and will never be left alone with students.

Admission and Enrollment

STREAM Preschool accepts students on a rolling basis as space allows. Interested families should complete the online interest form and attend an information session, which can be found at eurekasciencemuseum.org/STREAM. If more applications are received than available spots, a random lottery will be conducted to determine enrollment.

Once a child is admitted, families will receive an admissions packet and enrollment checklist. To secure a spot, the completed forms and non-refundable deposit that will apply to the first month's tuition must be submitted by the deadline provided.

Enrollment is intended for the full school year and tuition cannot be prorated based on selective attendance or partial schedules. Summer participation (aligned with D51 schedule) is optional and charged as a separate rate.

Priority enrollment is given to:

- Children of Confluence Center staff
- Children of EUREKA! Staff
- EUREKA!'s AmiGOs Mobile Preschool participants
- Children of D51 staff

Non-Discrimination Policy

STREAM does not discriminate based on any race, gender, national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national and/or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or scholarships.

Privacy Policy

STREAM is committed to protecting the privacy of students and families. We ensure that students' personal information and educational records will not be disclosed to anyone other than parents or guardians without prior consent.

Student & Family Supports

STREAM does not discriminate against any student based on a disability or special needs. STREAM will partner with families to support students with special needs, to support their inclusion within the classroom and program, in addition to their learning and development goals. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to alert STREAM when they submit their application. STREAM staff will work to best meet the needs of all students and their families in our program, while acknowledging we may have limitations due to staff ratios and knowledge/experience for some student disabilities. If the student is admitted, the family and STREAM staff will meet to identify what resources are available, and a student plan will be created to provide accommodations for the student to ensure they are fully included in program activities and all opportunities to meet their individualized learning/development goals. At this time, if the family accepts the plan, the admission process can move forward. Monthly check-ins with the family will be conducted to continuously adapt the student plan. IEPs and 504s from Child Find, in addition to other assessments from medical providers will be used to support the individualized plan for effective inclusion.

If STREAM staff identifies a potential need for additional services for students or families, such as learning supports, financial hardship, trauma, etc., families will be connected to community support resources. For example, if a teacher identifies additional learning support for a student, their family may be given paperwork and referred to do a student evaluation through the Child Find program.

STREAM partners and connects families with community resources that can support them outside of school. Supports include partnerships such as Kids Aid Backpack Program, Grand Valley Connects (supports provided through Mesa County), CCAP, and more.

At STREAM Preschool, we are committed to supporting the whole child by monitoring and promoting their healthy development. We regularly use authentic assessment practices—alongside developmental screening tools when appropriate—to gain a comprehensive understanding of your child's individual progress, strengths, and needs. To further ensure overall wellness, we provide families with clear information on accessing free community hearing, vision, and dental screenings. If staff or assessment results indicate that additional insights would be beneficial, we may partner with you and gently ask that you pursue a specific screening for your child to ensure they receive any extra support needed to thrive.

Prior to starting school, students and families will have a chance to meet the teachers. Families are also provided handouts to familiarize them and their students with the drop off/pick up procedures, in addition to how to support students with successful transitions. Teachers spend time preparing students and families for their transition into kindergarten.

Immunizations

All accepted learners must submit immunization records prior to finalizing enrollment. STREAM will consider medical exemptions upon review of physician generated documentation. All non-medical exemptions will not be accepted.

Tuition & Scholarship Qualifications

Due to the generosity from foundation support, STREAM is able to provide sliding scale scholarships for qualifying families. Current scholarship qualifications and tuition:

Ages 3-4 Non-UPK Qualifying

STREAM Preschool Tuition Scale: School Year 2026-27 (Ages 3-4 Non-UPK)						
Household Size	Annual Income					
	Federal Poverty (2025)	Tier 1 200%	Tier 2 300%	Tier 3 450%	Tier 4 600%	Tier 5 600+%
2	\$20,440	\$40,880	\$61,320	\$91,980	\$122,640	
3	\$25,820	\$51,640	\$77,460	\$116,190	\$154,920	
4	\$31,200	\$62,400	\$93,600	\$140,400	\$187,200	
5	\$36,580	\$73,160	\$109,740	\$164,610	\$219,480	
6	\$41,960	\$83,920	\$125,880	\$188,820	\$251,760	
7	\$47,340	\$94,680	\$142,020	\$213,030	\$284,040	
8	\$52,720	\$105,440	\$158,160	\$237,240	\$316,320	
For each add'l member, add \$4,540						
STREAM Monthly Tuition		\$100	\$385	\$670	\$900	\$1,100

Ages 4-5 UPK Qualifying

STREAM Preschool Tuition Scale: School Year 2026 - 2027 (Ages 4-5 UPK qualifying)						
Household Size	Annual Income					
	Federal Poverty (2025)	Tier 1 200%	Tier 2 300%	Tier 3 450%	Tier 4 600%	Tier 5 600+%
2	\$20,440	\$40,880	\$61,320	\$91,980	\$122,640	
3	\$25,820	\$51,640	\$77,460	\$116,190	\$154,920	
4	\$31,200	\$62,400	\$93,600	\$140,400	\$187,200	
5	\$36,580	\$73,160	\$109,740	\$164,610	\$219,480	
6	\$41,960	\$83,920	\$125,880	\$188,820	\$251,760	
7	\$47,340	\$94,680	\$142,020	\$213,030	\$284,040	
8	\$52,720	\$105,440	\$158,160	\$237,240	\$316,320	
For each add'l member, add \$4,540						
STREAM Monthly Tuition (Without UPK Discount)		\$100 or Waived w/ CCAP	\$385	\$670	\$900	\$1,100
Participation in FREE Universal PreK (UPK) will grant a tuition discount (Eligible to all)						
STREAM Monthly Tuition (With UPK Discount)		\$70 or Waived w/ CCAP	\$270	\$469	\$630	\$770

Summer Tuition

STREAM Preschool Summer 2027 Tuition Scale (Ages 3-5)						
Household Size	Annual Income					
	Federal Poverty (2025)	Tier 1 200%	Tier 2 300%	Tier 3 450%	Tier 4 600%	Tier 5 600+%
2	\$20,440	\$40,880	\$61,320	\$91,980	\$122,640	
3	\$25,820	\$51,640	\$77,460	\$116,190	\$154,920	
4	\$31,200	\$62,400	\$93,600	\$140,400	\$187,200	
5	\$36,580	\$73,160	\$109,740	\$164,610	\$219,480	
6	\$41,960	\$83,920	\$125,880	\$188,820	\$251,760	
7	\$47,340	\$94,680	\$142,020	\$213,030	\$284,040	
8	\$52,720	\$105,440	\$158,160	\$237,240	\$316,320	
For each add'l member, add \$4,540						
STREAM Summer Weekly Tuition		\$25	\$96	\$168	\$225	\$250

Monthly tuition is due on the 1st of the month and an invoice via Square will be sent to the email address on file.

First month's payment is due at the time of acceptance to hold a spot.

Scholarship opportunities are available. To be considered for scholarships, families must complete the Scholarship Qualification section on the online application. Qualification will be determined from the information collected from the application.

Withdrawal

If a family chooses to withdraw their child from STREAM Preschool, a written notice must be submitted at least 14 days in advance to **STREAM@eurekasciencemuseum.org**. This allows us to plan accordingly and offer the spot to another family on our waitlist.

At STREAM, we are committed to inclusive, non-exclusionary practices and strive to support all children in a nurturing, developmentally appropriate environment. We partner with families to address behavioral or developmental concerns and work collaboratively to implement supportive strategies.

However, STREAM reserves the right to terminate services under the following circumstances:

- Ongoing challenges in maintaining a collaborative partnership between the family and program staff
- Behaviors or needs that exceed our program's available resources or capacity to support
- Continued lack of communication from guardians
- Unpaid tuition or fees, despite reasonable attempts to resolve the issue

All decisions regarding suspension or termination of services are made thoughtfully and at the discretion of STREAM administrative staff, with the goal of ensuring a safe, supportive, and respectful environment for all children and staff. STREAM staff will have active communication and meetings with families documented prior to suspending or terminating a learner.

Calendar

First Day of School

School Day
7:30AM - 5:30PM

Parent - Teacher Conference Day
(School not in session)

Holiday / Teacher Work Day
(School Not in Session)

Last Day of School Year

Summer Program
8:00AM - 5:00PM

2026-2027

AUGUST '26							SEPTEMBER '26							OCTOBER '26							NOVEMBER '26									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
					1				1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30								
30	31																													

DECEMBER '26							JANUARY '27							FEBRUARY '27							MARCH '27										
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
												1	2				1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27				
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31							
							31																								

APRIL '27							MAY '27							JUNE '27							JULY '27									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
					1	2						1				1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
							30	31																						



STREAM will be closed for the following holidays during the 2026-2027 year:

- September 7: Labor Day
- November 23-27: Fall Break
- December 21 - January 5: Winter Break
- January 18: Martin Luther King Jr Day
- February 15: President's Day
- March 22-26: Spring Break
- May 31: Memorial Day
- July 3: Independence Day Observed

STREAM will be closed for the following family conference days/teacher workdays during the 2026-2027 year:

- September 8: Teacher Work Days
- September 28: Teacher Professional Development
- October 9-12: Teacher Work Days
- October 13: Fall Family Conferences
- November 13: Teacher Work Day
- March 11-12: Teacher Work Days and Spring Family Conferences
- April 8-9: Teacher Work Days
- May 14: End of School Year Family Conferences

Daily Routine

While STREAM wants to encourage free exploration in learning, we also acknowledge the importance of consistent and predictable structures throughout the learning day.

General Schedule (Activities/times vary by classroom)

- Early Bird Activities

- AM Snack
- fastFree Choice Center Time
- Circle Time/Music and Movement
- Small Group
- Outdoor Play
- Lunch
- STEAM and Nature Exploration
- Rest Time
- Afternoon Snack
- Free Choice Center Time
- Outdoor Play

Student Arrival and Dismissal

Student morning drop-off will be between 7:30-9:00 AM. Student pick-up will be between 4:00-5:30 PM.

We ask that vehicles are not left idling in the parking area, with the exception of extreme temperatures.

Student attendance will be taken through Tadpoles and caregivers will be responsible for checking their student in when they arrive, and checking them out when picked up. At the end of every day, staff will check all areas on the premises, including the rest rooms, to ensure no students remain, in addition to reviewing the attendance log to ensure all students have been signed out.

If a learner is not picked up by 5:30 PM, the student's guardians will be called, followed by emergency contacts. If staff have been unable to communicate with guardians or an emergency contact by 6:00 PM, staff will call the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. STREAM staff will wait with the student at the preschool until an authorized adult or Mesa County Sheriff Department picks up.

Learners can only be dropped off and picked up by authorized adults. If an individual not authorized tries to pick up, STREAM will not release the student to them until written or verbal permission is granted by the student's parents/guardians.

No Phone Zone - Drop Off & Pick Up

To foster meaningful connection and ensure safety during transitions, STREAM Preschool is a **No Phone Zone** during drop-off and pick-up, with the exception of using phone technology for signing in and out. We ask that families refrain from using cell phones during these times so you can be fully present with your child and available for any communication from staff. Thank you for helping us create a warm, respectful, and attentive environment for all!

Attendance

Consistent, punctual attendance is vital for the success of your child's learning. Please notify STREAM@eurekasciencemuseum.org if your learner will be absent or late. Frequent and sustained uncommunicated absences may result in removal from the program.

Snow Days and Inclement Weather

STREAM will follow District 51's decision about weather-related closures and changes. Once issued, we will notify families via email and/or text, in addition to posting a notice on our website. In the event that schools need to close early, we will call the learner's parents/guardian, then emergency contacts if the guardians can't be reached.

STREAM staff will use the following weather chart to determine when it is safe for students to go outside for Fresh Air or activities. Please send learners to school with appropriate clothing for that day's weather. When temperatures are below 50°F, learners should wear winter coats, gloves, and a hat. STREAM staff will also have extra winter articles in case a learner is missing an item.

Understand the Weather

Wind-Chill



- 30° is *chilly* and generally uncomfortable
- 15° to 30° is *cold*
- 0° to 15° is *very cold*
- 32° to 0° is *bitter cold* with significant risk of frostbite
- -20° to -60° is *extreme cold* and frostbite is likely
- -60° is *frigid* and exposed skin will freeze in 1 minute

Heat Index



- 80° or below is considered *comfortable*
- 90° beginning to feel *uncomfortable*
- 100° *uncomfortable* and may be *hazardous*
- 110° considered *dangerous*

All temperatures are in degrees Fahrenheit

Child Care Weather Watch

Wind-Chill Factor Chart (in Fahrenheit)											
Air Temperature	Wind Speed in mph										
	Calm	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40		
40	40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27		
30	30	25	21	19	17	16	15	14	13		
20	20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1		
10	10	-1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15		
0	0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29		
-10	-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43		
-20	-20	-34	-41	-45	-48	-51	-53	-55	-57		
-30	-30	-46	-53	-58	-61	-64	-67	-69	-71		

■ Comfortable for outdoor play
 ■ Caution
 ■ Danger

Heat Index Chart (in Fahrenheit %)											
Temperature (°F)	Relative Humidity (Percent)										
	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90
80	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	84	84	85	86
84	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	92	94	96	98
90	91	93	95	97	100	103	106	109	113	117	122
94	97	100	102	106	110	114	119	124	129	135	
100	109	114	118	124	129	136					
104	119	124	131	137							
110	136										

Child Care Weather Watch

Watching the weather is part of a child care provider's job. Planning for playtime, field trips, or weather safety is part of the daily routine. The changes in weather require the child care provider to monitor the health and safety of children. What clothing, beverages, and protections are appropriate? Clothe children to maintain a comfortable body temperature (warmer months - lightweight cotton, colder months - wear layers of clothing). Beverages help the body maintain a comfortable temperature. Water or fruit juices are best. Avoid high-sugar content beverages and soda pop. Sunscreen may be used year around. Use a sunscreen labeled as SPF-15 or higher. Read and follow all label instructions for the sunscreen product. Look for sunscreen with UVB and UVA ray protection. Shaded play areas protect children from the sun.

■ Condition GREEN - Children may play outdoors and be comfortable. Watch for signs of children becoming uncomfortable while playing. Use precautions regarding clothing, sunscreen, and beverages for all child age groups.

INFANTS AND TODDLERS are unable to tell the child care provider if they are too hot or cold. Children become fussy when uncomfortable. Infants/toddlers will tolerate shorter periods of outdoor play. Dress infants/toddlers in lightweight cotton or cotton-like fabrics during the warmer months. In cooler or cold months dress infants in layers to keep them warm. Protect infants from the sun by limiting the amount of time outdoors and playing in shaded areas. Give beverages when playing outdoors.

YOUNG CHILDREN remind children to stop playing, drink a beverage, and apply more sunscreen. OLDER CHILDREN need a firm approach to wearing proper clothing for the weather (they may want to play without coats, hats or mittens). They may resist applying sunscreen and drinking beverages while outdoors.

■ Condition YELLOW - use caution and closely observe the children for signs of being too hot or cold while outdoors. Clothing, sunscreen, and beverages are important. Shorten the length of outdoor time. INFANTS AND TODDLERS use precautions outlined in Condition Green. Clothing, sunscreen, and beverages are important. Shorten the length of time for outdoor play.

YOUNG CHILDREN may insist they are not too hot or cold because they are enjoying playtime. Child care providers need to structure the length of time for outdoor play for the young child. OLDER CHILDREN need a firm approach to wearing proper clothing for the weather (they may want to play without coats, hats or mittens), applying sunscreen and drinking liquids while playing outdoors.

■ Condition RED - most children should not play outdoors due to the health risk. INFANTS/TODDLERS should play indoors and have ample space for large motor play. YOUNG CHILDREN may ask to play outside and do not understand the potential danger of weather conditions. OLDER CHILDREN may play outdoors for very short periods of time if they are properly dressed, have plenty of fluids. Child care providers must be vigilant about maximum protection of children.

Understand the Weather

The weather forecast may be confusing unless you know the meaning of the words.

Blizzard Warning: There will be snow and strong winds that produce a blinding snow, deep drifts, and life threatening wind chills. Seek shelter immediately.

Heat Index Warning: How hot it feels to the body when the air temperature (in Fahrenheit) and relative humidity are combined.

Relative Humidity: The percent of moisture in the air.

Temperature: The temperature of the air in degrees Fahrenheit.

Wind: The speed of the wind in miles per hour.

Wind Chill Warning: There will be sub-zero temperatures with moderate to strong winds expected which may cause hypothermia and great danger to people, pets and livestock.

Winter Weather Advisory: Weather conditions may cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, these situations should not become life threatening.

Winter Storm Warning: Severe winter conditions have begun in your area.

Winter Storm Watch: Severe winter conditions, like heavy snow and ice are possible within the next day or two.

In the event of severe weather,
STREAM staff will follow our
Emergency Action Plan.

Behavior Management

At STREAM Preschool, we believe that all children thrive in environments where they feel safe, supported, and respected. Our approach to behavior management is rooted in positive reinforcement, social-emotional learning, and peer-to-peer conflict resolution. We emphasize developmentally appropriate strategies and are committed to using non-exclusionary practices whenever possible to support each child's growth.

When significant behavioral challenges arise that impact the safety or learning of the classroom community, we follow a collaborative, step-by-step process:

1. Family Communication and Collaboration

- Guardians will be notified of concerns and invited to partner with staff to understand the behavior and identify supportive strategies.
- A behavior support plan will be developed with input from both families and staff, ensuring consistency between home and school.
- A conference log will be completed and signed by guardians after each meeting.

2. Plan Implementation and Monitoring

- The agreed-upon strategies will be implemented in a timely and consistent manner by the classroom team.
- Progress will be monitored regularly, and updates will be shared with the family.

3. Review, Revision, and Referrals

- If challenges persist, a follow-up meeting will be held to revise the plan and discuss additional support that might be needed.
- STREAM administrators may recommend referrals to outside services such as **Early Intervention, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants**, or other specialists, as

appropriate to better support the child's needs.

4. Ongoing Documentation

- All behavior-related observations, intervention steps, and meetings will be documented and reviewed with families to ensure transparency and accountability.

While our goal is to provide inclusive, responsive care for every child, services may be discontinued in rare cases if:

- A collaborative partnership between the family and program staff cannot be maintained
- A child's needs or behaviors exceed the level of support the program is equipped to provide
- Ongoing safety concerns remain unresolved despite documented interventions and support

All such decisions are made with care and only after all reasonable efforts, including referrals and support planning, have been explored in good faith.

Visitors & Meetings

To schedule a visit or meeting with STREAM instructors, please contact STREAM@eurekasciencemuseum.org. All visitors to STREAM must sign in on the visitor log including their name, address, and purpose of visit, and show identification to staff. Authorized visitors include guardians, people authorized to pick up, emergency contacts, county licensing consultants, and anyone authorized through the administration team.

Meals and Snack

There will be a morning snack time and an afternoon snack time, in addition to a midday lunch. Due to our participation with the Colorado Food Program (CFP), STREAM will provide food during snack times. Families must send their students with a healthy packed lunch. More information will be shared with registered families.

Before and after meals, all tables are disinfected and sanitized with soapy water and Purell. All students and instructors thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water, and food is distributed with clean disposable gloves.

Student Birthdays & Special Snacks

At STREAM Preschool, we love celebrating each child's special day in meaningful and inclusive ways! In line with best practices for early childhood health and wellness, we kindly ask that families **do not bring cupcakes, candy, or other sugary treats** to school. Instead, we celebrate birthdays with special classroom activities, songs, stories, and optional non-food items (such as stickers or a book donation).

If you would like to contribute to your child's birthday celebration, please speak with your child's teacher to plan a fun, allergy-safe, and developmentally appropriate way to make the day special.

Student Personal Items

Please mark all student items and removable clothing clearly with their name. Our staff will do the best to organize and locate removable student items, but are not responsible for lost or stolen belongings.

Lost and Found

Unlabeled student items whose owner can't be identified will go into the classroom lost-and-found box. This box will be emptied at the end of each semester.

Student Toys

Please do not send your learners to school with personal toys. These items can be easily lost or broken. STREAM will provide opportunities and supplies for play.

Toileting, Toilet Training and Student Clothing

At STREAM Preschool, we encourage all students to be fully potty trained or actively working toward independent toilet use during their time with us. We recognize that toilet learning is a developmental process, and every child progresses at their own pace. Our team is committed to working in partnership with families to support consistent routines, celebrate progress, and provide gentle encouragement along the way.

Open communication is essential. If your child is still in the process of becoming fully toilet independent, please let us know so we can align our approaches and offer appropriate support both at home and in the classroom.

In the event of accidents, families must provide a labeled extra set of clothes—including underwear, socks, pants, and a top—to be kept in the student’s cubby. If this set is used, a replacement should be brought the following day to ensure your child remains comfortable and prepared.

Children should arrive in **school-appropriate clothing** that supports active, hands-on learning both indoors and outdoors. Please ensure students are dressed for the weather each day, including layers and outdoor gear when needed (e.g., jackets, boots, hats, and gloves during cold or wet months).

At STREAM Preschool, we use accurate anatomical terms (such as *penis*, *vulva*, and *vagina*) during diapering and toilet training. Using correct terminology helps children build a healthy, body-positive foundation and ensures they have the exact words they need to communicate discomfort or illness clearly. Crucially, teaching children the real names for their body parts is a vital component of personal safety and abuse prevention, as it removes the secrecy or confusion that can surround made-up nicknames.

Naps

Afternoons will include a time for students to nap or rest. If a student does not fall asleep within 30 minutes, they may use the remaining time as quiet time and will be provided books, coloring pages, or

other quiet activities. We will provide a sheet and a cot for each student to sleep on. We ask that families send a blanket and a small comfort item.

Money

STREAM staff will not be able to hold student money for events such as book fairs or field trips.

Field Trips

Throughout the school year, STREAM Preschool will enrich classroom learning with field trips that provide hands-on, real-world experiences. Most field trips will take place **within walking distance** of the school, allowing students to explore nearby natural areas and community spaces.

We use a **blanket permission form** for walking trips to nearby areas (such as the Dos Rios Park, fields, and nature areas) at the beginning of the school year. **No separate slip is required** for these approved neighborhood excursions.

For all other off-campus field trips requiring transportation, a **separate permission slip must be signed** by a guardian for a child to participate.

Families may choose to **opt their child out of a particular field trip**. If you choose to opt out, please note that the child may stay home that day or during that time of day, as **alternative supervision or care may not be available on site** during off-campus activities.

If a child arrives late on the day of a field trip, it is the responsibility of the family to transport them to the destination or wait until the class has returned to school to drop them off.

We welcome family participation and appreciate your support in creating safe, exciting learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Media Policy

STREAM reserves the right to use publications of audio, video, and/or photographic images of our participating learners, without the payment of compensation or royalties.

Screen Time and Media Use

Learners will not receive more than 30 minutes a week of recorded media, such as videos or TV, and these will never be shown during snack or lunch time.

Learners will not receive more than 30 minutes a day of tablet and computer time, which will be split into increments under 15 minutes at a time. Learners will only be guided and permitted to use age appropriate applications, websites, and software.

Family Communication

Our website, eurekasciencemuseum.org/STREAM, will be a main source of preschool information, in addition to email and daily communications through the Teaching Strategies Family app.

STREAM will provide 3 opportunities for family conferences during the school year. Special meetings can be scheduled anytime during the school year by either STREAM or the family in advance. Translation and interpretation services will be provided to allow for effective communication with families in their home language. In-house translation is available for Spanish, and other languages will have translation services provided by Mesa County.

If you have a concern or problem involving the classroom, contact the Lead Teacher to schedule a time to discuss the concern away from classroom activities.

Serious grievances should be communicated in writing to STREAM's program director by emailing kph@eurekasciencemuseum.org.

STREAM's Quality Improvement Plan will be available on the parent bulletin board. Digital copies of the most up to date plan are also available anytime by emailing STREAM@eurekasciencemuseum.org.

Health and Safety

Illness and Medications

For the health and safety of other learners and staff, please do not send your student to school when sick.

Students should stay home if experiencing the following:

- Fever of 100.4°F or higher
- Severe stuffy or runny nose
- Fatigue and muscle aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours

STREAM Preschool staff will follow these same guidelines for when they are sick.

If your student is out sick, please notify STREAM and inform us of the symptoms and onset time. If they have been diagnosed with a contagious illness, please inform STREAM immediately so we can take proper precautions to keep our learners and staff healthy. We are required by the State of Colorado to report any student with a communicable disease to the Colorado State Health Department.

In the event a student becomes sick at school, guardians listed on the emergency contact will be called to pick the student up. Students may return when they are free of fever and/or vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.

If your student needs to be administered medication, the following steps must be taken:

- Guardians must submit a written and signed request for both prescription and over-the-counter medications. All medication delivered during school hours will need a medication plan written out with our Medical Administrator staff that covers the necessary information required for that

child's specific medical needs. Every medication will need a completed Medication Administration Permission form.

- Families must provide the medication in the original container with the student's printed name, dosage, and directions.
- A trained Medical Administrator staff will administer the medication at the assigned time.
- Guardians are allowed to come to the school to administer medication themselves, without written request.
- All emergency medication (epi-pens, albuterol, etc) will be kept in a STREAM medication backpack, and will be carried by staff when the student is present.
- All authorized non-emergency medication will be stored in a locked medicine box on a shelf that's inaccessible to students.

Sunscreen

EUREKA! is committed to sun safety. Families are expected to apply sunscreen to their students before school. STREAM staff will reapply sunscreen every 2 hours, 80 minutes if swimming or playing in water. STREAM will use Rocky Mountain Sunscreen or similar sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.

If you prefer your student to use a specific sunscreen, please provide it to staff with your student's name clearly labeled. STREAM staff will reapply based on the sunscreen's labeled directions.

Lotion and Chapstick

Families may provide and send their students with lotion and chapstick to prevent dryness. These items must be clearly labeled with the student's name, in the original container. Staff is unable to apply these items for the students, but can support students to self-apply. A doctor's note and medical authorization is required to apply lotion or chapstick in the case of cracked skin.

Emergencies

In the event of an accident or sudden onset of sickness, we will immediately seek proper care for a child, and alert emergency services if deemed appropriate. Our staff will reference any individual emergency instructions from the student's file, call guardians listed on the emergency contact, in addition to notifying our health care consultant.

It is the responsibility for families to keep updated emergency contacts and emergency plans.

Injuries

All of our staff are CPR and First Aid certified. In the event of a minor injury, first aid will be applied and parents will be informed during pick up. If the injury is significant, but does not require emergency services, guardians will be called and notified.

Building Security and Access

The STREAM Preschool has separate entrances than the Confluence Center that remain locked at all times. Only authorized caregivers and staff will have a secure code to enter the building. All other visitors must ring the doorbell and be admitted by a staff member. All points of entry are equipped with security cameras.

Safety and Supervision

STREAM will follow the ratio of 1 staff to 10 students, at all times. Learners will be supervised primarily by sight *and* sound, with brief periods (no more than ten minutes) when the learner is out of direct sight OR sound. Headcounts will be performed throughout the day and face-to-name checks will be conducted at the start and end of all daily transitions.

Emergency Plans

STREAM will follow our emergency preparedness plan, which is annually reviewed and updated. Lock down, fire evacuation, and other emergency drills will be conducted in accordance with licensing requirements.

After an emergency event, it may not be possible to locate a student's parent/guardian or other authorized individuals. STREAM will need to keep the child safe until reunified, or contact the local emergency management agencies if no one has been located to release the child once STREAM is no longer able to provide care.

If the STREAM facility is unusable following an emergency event, childcare will still be provided using a classroom at EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum, until repairs are made on the STREAM Preschool building.

Fire Plan

In the event of a fire, all students will immediately evacuate from the building to a designated area. Staff will ensure all children are present before evacuating and will call 911.

Lost Child Plan

As soon as it is discovered or reported that a child is missing, all staff will be immediately notified of the following information:

- Name
- Age
- Approximate height and weight
- Skin and hair color

- Details of what the child was wearing (clothes including the type and color of the child's shoes and jewelry, identifying features like glasses or braces, and other accessories like a backpack)
- Where the child last seen, doing what, with whom
- What was the child's disposition before the disappearance: angry, happy, sad?

All available staff will conduct an immediate search of the building and area. If the child is not located within 10 minutes, 911 will be called, in addition to the child's guardians.

Transportation

Students may be transported on EUREKA! Activity buses or vans for field trips. When being transported, all students will be seated in a rear seat with a seatbelt fastened. STREAM staff will visually check all students are buckled into their seats. If traveling in the EUREKA! Van, all students will utilize an appropriate safety seat/booster. All EUREKA! drivers have completed the D51 online and in-person driver course. Student to staff ratios will be met at all times, including when inside a vehicle.

Each vehicle will have the following items, and staff will check they are present before all trips:

- Proof of insurance and vehicle registration.
- Mileage log book.
- Window shade.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Hazard triangle.
- Tire pressure gauge.
- Jumper cables.
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Hand towels
- Trailer hitch
- Trailer electrical adapter
- Driving binder
- Flares

- Duct tape
- Water (1 liter)
- First aid kit
- Car sickness bags

In the event of an emergency (flat tire, car sickness, accident) during transport, the driver will stop at the next safe area to pull off. Students will be evacuated from the vehicle to a safe area, away from traffic, until the problem is resolved or a replacement vehicle is provided.

Mandated Reporting

All STREAM staff are mandated reporters, and have completed training through the Colorado Department of Human Services. If staff have any reason to suspect physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, child neglect or exploitation against a student, they will call the Mesa County Child Protection Hotline at 970-242-1211.

STREAM staff are not required to inform families when a complaint has been reported.

In the event that a EUREKA! staff member is accused of child abuse, the accused person will be suspended during the investigation. If the allegation is unfounded, the staff member will return to duty. If found, the staff member will be dismissed. Every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality for all parties involved.

Rating and Accreditations

STREAM Preschool participates in the quality rating process through Colorado Shines. Quality Improvement Goals have been created and updated annually, with family feedback, and shared with the STREAM Preschool team to focus on continual growth. STREAM Preschool is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care to children and families.

Claims

If you have concerns about this child care facility and would like to file a complaint against the facility, you may contact:

Colorado Office of Early Childhood, Division of Early Care and Learning, Child Care Licensing and Administration at 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO, 80203-1714 or call 303-866-5958 or 1-800-799-5876

UPK Policies

1. Healthy Development & Child Screenings

To support your child's healthy development, our program provides information on voluntary developmental screening services. Please speak to the director or email stream@eurekasciencemuseum.org for information on obtaining any of the following:

- **Developmental or Health Screenings**
- **Vision, Hearing, or Dental Screenings**
- **Social-emotional, Cognitive, or Language Screenings**
- **Mental Health or Special Education Referrals**
- **Translation Services**

2. Family and Community Engagement

We believe you are your child's first and most important teacher. Our program is committed to partnering with you in the following ways:

- **Language Support:** We provide opportunities to utilize interpreters or other language resources as needed to ensure clear communication.

- **Cultural Sharing:** We invite and encourage you to share your home's cultural and social practices within our classroom community.
- **Goal Setting:** We will partner with you to set individual learning and development goals for your child during parent/teacher conferences.
- **Program Decision-Making:** We offer opportunities for families and community partners to engage in our program's operational decision-making processes.
- **Transitions:** We will actively partner with you in your child's transitions between classrooms or when moving to a new school.
- **Feedback:** We value your perspective and provide opportunities for you to give feedback on the quality of program-family and program-staff interactions.

3. Annual CDEC Family Survey

Each spring, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) conducts an annual family survey. You will be notified of the opportunity to participate and share your experiences regarding your meaningful and culturally appropriate involvement in our program, as well as the healthy development supports provided.