



Richland County Early Learning Center

October 2026

Bright Beginnings Mission:

Bright Beginnings, in partnership with families and the community, is to enhance each child's development by nurturing a positive, healthy parent-child relationship as a foundation for success in all areas of life.

Preschool For All Mission:

To provide the educational foundation for the learners and leaders of tomorrow.

Enrollment:

Program:	Total Enrollment as of 10/5/26
Birth-3 Bright Beginnings	53
Preschool for All	139 / Total Served: 145
Early Childhood	16

Updates:

- The Richland County Early Learning Center earned the **ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality!** This is a significant accomplishment that reflects the quality of our early learning program and our commitment to continuous improvement.
- 18 families participated in our **potty-training class**, led by Marti Waggoner, Carle Pelvic Floor Physical Therapist. 58% of participating families were preschool families, providing an excellent opportunity to support families with practical strategies they can use at home.
- Our **parent resource library** has been expanded to include backpack take-home kits containing books, toys, and resources focused on specific developmental and learning skills. These kits give families hands-on materials they can use at home to reinforce skills their children are working on at school.
- Teachers have begun **weekly professional learning on the Early Learning Scale (ELS)** as we work toward strengthening consistent assessment practices and using assessment information to better support student growth.
- Our preschool students checked out their **first library books!** Mrs. Kinkade visited each classroom to introduce the library cart, teach students how to care for books, and help each child select a book to take home. Families also received information about library expectations and the importance of reading with children every day. The library cart will visit each classroom during the first week of every month.

Current and Upcoming Events:

- October 6 - RCHS Intro to Teaching students begin at RCELC
- October 8 - Bright Beginnings Playgroup | 9:30-10:30 am
- October 13 - ROE Regional Summit - Behavior Support
- October 14 - Donuts and Discuss: Parent Education on Emotion Labeling | 9:30-10:30 am
- October 16 - Earthquake Drill
- October 19 - Bright Beginnings Parent Advisory Meeting
- October 20 - Amanda Brinkley's Birthday!
- October 20 - Preschool Screening Day
- October 20 - Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30-7pm
- October 21 - Bus Evacuation Drills
- October 22 - School Improvement Day - No Preschool - Complete Safety Care Training
- October 22 - Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30-7pm
- October 23 - No School
- October 26 - American Fidelity at RCELC
- October 26 - Fire Drill #2 with Olney Fire Department
- October 27 - Wheels in Our Town Event for Preschool and Bright Beginnings | 4:30-6pm
- October 28 - Early Dismissal - PFA: Sensory Training / PI: Project Child Training
- October 30 - Trunk or Treat Event