



May 1, 2026

Dear Families,

I had planned to put off a rate increase until September, but we have reached a point where I can no longer delay it. The tuition increase, effective June 1, 2025, will directly support the program quality improvements outlined below, ensuring we continue to meet the high standards you expect and your children deserve.




The Seedlings program boasts a high-quality early learning experience that meets numerous quality indicators. Here are some that we are most proud of:

- **Level 5 on State Quality Rating Program, Early Achievers**-The Seedlings submitted for our quality rating score back in February 2026, and we are so proud to announce that we were awarded the highest quality rating in the state! A 5/5! **Level 5 (Excelling)**: Highest quality level, demonstrating excellence in continuous quality improvement. Here are some improvements we are instituting:
 - Use of a developmental continuum, **Brightwheel Experience Assessment**-Every child will be observed and their development documented. This individualization will help teachers better plan curriculum and provide individualized instruction for each child. Teachers will share these assessments this spring, and from now on, they will be completed three times a year. More on Experience Assessment here in this Brightwheel Article. <https://mybrightwheel.com/blog/psychometric-evaluation-summary-brightwheel-experience-assessment>
 - All Lead teachers and most teacher assistants have been trained in Emergent Curriculum. Emergent curriculum is a child-centered, flexible approach in early childhood education in which learning plans emerge from students' interests, questions, and curiosity rather than a fixed, preset agenda. At The Seedlings, teachers create basic plans inspired by students' interests and passions. They make sure to provide materials and activities that address the children's developmental growth areas in their classroom. More info about Emergent Curriculum here on this Brightwheel article. <https://mybrightwheel.com/blog/what-is-emergent-curriculum>
 - **Caregivers have Early Childhood Education and Professional Development**- Did you know that we have 2 Staff with Post Graduate Certificates or Masters Degrees in Education and/or Early Learning, 4 Staff with BAs with Education emphasis or Health and Nutrition emphasis, 6 Staff with AAs in Early Childhood Education (ECE) or equivalent and 9 staff with State Initial or Short ECE Certificates and/or are in college to complete their State ECE or an AA In ECE.
- **High Health, Safety, and Nutrition Standards** -The Seedlings will continue to provide meals that exceed the USDA and childcare requirements by providing nutritious meals with high-quality ingredients and fresh fruits and vegetables prepared by Kayla, our amazing chef who graduated from Bastyr University in culinary arts and nutrition.
- **Consistent Relationships**-Having consistent staff creates quality relationships between children and teachers, and teachers and parents. Research tells us that consistent caregiving leads to better child outcomes. Even though we have hired a lot of new staff recently, did you know that 10 Seedlings employees have been with us for all 7 years that The Seedlings has been in business, and 9 have been here for over 3 years. As you can imagine, compensating staff who meet longevity and educational milestones is a must for maintaining this amazing, skilled staff

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Kim Walbeck

The Seedlings Tuition Rates Effective June 1, 2026

Room/Age Group	State Required Ratio	Seedlings Average Ratio
Willow Room/Infants 1-12 months	4:1	3:1
	# of Days Per Week	Monthly Tuition
	5 Days	\$2350
	4 Days	\$2129
	3 Days	\$1666
	2 Days	\$1157
	1 Day	\$610
Room/Age Group	State Required Ratio	Seedlings Average Ratio
Huckleberry Room/Toddlers 12-18 Months	7:1	7:1
Juniper Room/Toddlers 18-30 Months	7:1	5:1
Gooseberry Room/Toddlers 2-3 years	7-10:1	7:1
	# of Days Per Week	Monthly Tuition
	5 Days	\$2089
	4 Days	\$1929
	3 Days	\$1516
	2 Days	\$1057
	1 Day	\$550
Room/Age Group	State Required Ratio	Seedlings Average Ratio
Rhodie Room/Preschool 3-4 years	10:1	7:1
Cedar Room/Preschool 4-5 years	10:1	7:1
	# of Days Per Week	Monthly Tuition
	5 Days	\$1885
	4 Days	\$1772
	3 Days	\$1398
	2 Days	\$979
	1 Day	\$512
	Daily ½ Day Rate	\$60

Note:

- Families attending 5 days a week with multiple children in the program will receive a 10% overall discount on their childcare bill. Families attending 4 days a week with multiple children will receive a 5% overall discount on their childcare bill.
- The annual registration fee is \$150 per child assessed at enrollment, and then \$75 in March and September annually.
- A \$2.00 per minute late pick-up fee will be assessed for every minute past 6:00.
- The price increase does not affect your co-pay if you are receiving a childcare subsidy from DSHS.

The Seedlings is an equal opportunity program.