



Little Thunder Hawk Care

Montevideo, MN

Established

July 1st, 2016

Background & Basic Info

Little Thunder Hawk Care began as a private non-profit called Kinder Kare, Inc. that was incorporated in 1969 as a community project to address the need for childcare in Montevideo. Throughout the years, the location of the program changed frequently, until 2011, when the program was moved to one of the elementary schools in town.

During the years of 2011 through 2016, the program rented the classrooms it used from the school district. At first, they rented with two preschool classrooms, then added a toddler classroom, and lastly an infant classroom. By 2016, Kinder Kare was no longer able to charge high enough tuition to sustain the program after Chippewa County withdrew its financial contribution from the program.

Due to this, Kinder Kare made the decision to join the school district's pre-existing school-age child care program. The income from the district's school-age program is enough to make the expensive infant child care program sustainable.

As of July 1st, 2016, the staff that worked at Kinder Kare transitioned to full-time employees of the Montevideo School District, and the preschool, toddler, and infant programs continued operating as they had before, but under the school district as Little Thunder Hawk Care.



412 S 13th Street
Montevideo, MN



320-269-5026 x 3101



tlien@montevideoschools.
org



http://montevideoschools.org/comm_ed/little_thunder_hawk_care



Primary Contact:
Trisha Lien, *coordinator*



Upper Minnesota Valley
**REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**

Helping Communities Prosper



**SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

Building

Little Thunder Hawk Child Care operates in the Montevideo Elementary School. The building is owned by Montevideo Public Schools and the child care does not pay rent.

The toddler classroom, as well as the two preschool rooms are approximately 900 square feet each. The infant classroom is approximately 1,320 square feet. The child care has an additional classroom that they use for movies, parties, or activities like picture day and parent day. They also utilize a half-court gym, two outdoor playgrounds, and a computer lab, cafeteria, and kitchen which are all part of the school.



Schedule

Little Thunder Hawk Care is open from 5:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Friday with the exception of major holidays.

Food

Thunder Hawk Care uses multiple food programs to keep costs down. During the school year, children ages 12 months and older use the school lunch program for breakfast and have lunch accounts through the school district. Breakfast is free for all children and lunch is \$2.15 each, unless the child qualifies for free or reduced lunch, in which case the meal is free.

Child and Adult Care Food Program funds are used for food for infants under 12 months and for afternoon snacks for all children.

In the summer, the Montevideo area qualifies for the Free Summer Food Service Program, so Thunder Hawk Care hosts that program in the elementary school building and all Thunder Hawk Care children (infant through school-age) receive free breakfast and lunch through that program. Again, Child and Adult Care Food Program funds are used for snacks in the summer, and for infants under 12 months.

Enrollment & Fees

Enrollment

Little Thunder Hawk Care is licensed through the Department of Human Services.

Age Range	Number of Children License Allows	Number of Children Enrolled	Number of Children on Waitlist
Infant <i>6 weeks – 16 months</i>	12	12	27
Toddler <i>16 months – 33 months</i>	21	21	16
Preschool <i>33 months – kindergarten</i>	60	51	35
Total	93	75	78

License allows 60 preschool students because Little Thunder Hawks added an additional “Summer PreK” group during the summer months but during the school year, they do not like to have more than 20 students per preschool classroom at any given time. They currently have 51 preschool students enrolled but a few of them share slots—for example, one student comes mornings only, and another comes afternoons only, so two children essentially share one preschool slot.

Fees

Age	5 days	4 Days	3 Days	2 Days	1 Day	Drop-Ins
Young Infants <i>6 weeks-11 months</i>	\$171.25					No Drop-ins
Older Infants <i>12-15 months</i>	\$161.25					No Drop-ins
Toddlers & Non-Potty Trained PreK	\$151.25	\$121.00	\$90.75	\$60.50	\$30.25	\$33.25/day
Potty Trained PreK						
Full Days	\$141.25	\$113.00	\$84.75	\$56.60	\$28.25	\$31.25/day
Half Days	\$85.00	\$68.00	\$51.00	\$34.00	\$17.00	\$19.00/half day

Staff

Montevideo School District employs all Little Thunder Hawk Care staff. They aim to attract and retain employees by offering benefits to full time staff such as health insurance, paid sick leave, paid vacation leave, paid personal leave, paid holidays, and public employees retirement (PERA).

Currently Employed	Position	Starting Hourly Pay
7	Lead Teacher	\$11.30
6	Full Time Aide	\$10.20
4	Part Time Aide	\$9.86 (minimum wage)

Two of the seven Lead Teachers are on variance from the state. There is also one full time coordinator employed.

Financing

Start Up Costs

When Kinder Kare changed to Little Thunder Hawk Care and was brought under the umbrella of the Montevideo School District, they were able to utilize some of the existing supplies and equipment which helped lower the start up cost. Little Thunder Hawk Care received a \$10,000 grant from the City of Montevideo Economic Development Corporation to help with additional start-up costs and received an extra \$4,000 from them to add an exterior emergency exit to meet requirements. They also received grants from Child Care Aware and the Montevideo Area Community Foundation to help with technology initiatives in the classrooms

Current Operating Budget (July 2019-June 2020)

Annual Operating Revenue	Amount
Annual Child Care Center Revenue (infant – 12 years)	\$616,754
Special Education Tax Levies	\$40,380
United Way Funding	\$1,500
Montevideo Economic Development Administration (for infant care)	\$10,000
Fundraisers	\$3,500
Total	\$672,134
Annual Operating Expenses	Amount
Space Rental	In-Kind
Staff Positions	\$523,817
FICA/PERA/TRA/Medical Insurance	\$113,925
Training	\$9,500
Food	\$4,000
Supplies & Miscellaneous	\$16,920
Dues/Memberships/Licenses	\$8,000
Total	\$676,162
	Loss \$4,028

Loans & Grants

Little Thunder Hawk Care receives a grant annually from the local United Way chapter. United Way funding varies slightly from year to year depending on the amount raised within the community. These funds are split into two payments throughout the year.

Other Sources

Little Thunder Hawk Care conducts two main fundraisers. In the fall, they do a school picture fundraiser. In the spring, they do a fudge fundraiser.

Challenges and Successes

Challenges

One challenge Little Thunder Hawk Care faces is finding and keeping qualified staff and funding sources.

Successes

Little Thunder Hawk Care's greatest success has been joining with the school district for stability and leadership.

