



Informational Packet

"Instilling a lifetime love of
learning in all children!"

THREE Convenient Locations!

Niceville, Bluewater-Bay, Destin

www.sselacademy.com

enrollment@sselacademy.com

Welcome to Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy!

Dear Families,

We're so excited you're here—and we can't wait to welcome you into the Stepping Stones family!

Whether you're just beginning your search for the perfect early learning environment or you've heard about us through friends and neighbors, we want you to know: you've found something special.

At Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy, we believe in nurturing the whole child—mind, body, and spirit. Our faith-based foundation helps children grow in confidence, kindness, and curiosity. From our tiniest infants to our thriving VPK students, every child is celebrated, supported, and encouraged to shine.

Across our three beautiful campuses—**Niceville**, **Bluewater Bay**, and **Destin**—you'll find passionate educators, joyful classrooms, and a curriculum designed to spark a lifelong love of learning. We're proud to offer a structured, play-based program that blends academic readiness with social-emotional growth, all in a safe and loving environment.

Each of our centers has its own unique charm:

-  **Miss Kaitlyn** and her team in **Niceville** bring warmth and energy to every classroom, creating a cozy, family-like atmosphere.
-  **Miss Lauren** leads **Bluewater Bay** with creativity and heart, making every day an adventure in discovery.
-  **Miss Ronni** at **Destin** is known for her dedication and deep roots in our community—her leadership helps children feel right at home.

We'd love to invite you to **schedule a tour** at the center of your choice—or better yet, visit all three! Each location offers something wonderful, and we're confident you'll find the perfect fit for your child and your family.

Come see the difference for yourself. Meet our teachers, explore our classrooms, and experience the joy that fills our halls every day. We're here to answer your questions, ease your worries, and help you take the next step with confidence.

We can't wait to meet you!

With love and excitement,

Kaitlyn Hollingsworth - Niceville

Lauren Biesel – Bluewater Bay

Ronni Jones – Destin

-Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy Director's Team



Kaitlyn Hollingsworth



Lauren Biesel



Ronni Jones



Infant Room Program:

Our Infant Program is thoughtfully designed to nurture your baby's well-being from the very start. Beginning at just **3 months old**, our littlest learners enjoy a calm, loving environment where they can grow, explore, and simply be babies.

With **separate play and nap rooms**, we ensure peaceful rest and engaging play—on **YOUR** baby's schedule. Our dedicated staff build strong bonds with each child, supporting early development through cuddles, songs, stories, and playful learning with colors, shapes, and numbers. Because consistency matters, our infant hours are slightly shortened to maintain a stable, familiar team every day. At Stepping Stones, your baby is at the heart of everything



Stepping Stones was founded in 2019 by Tammie Bowyer, and Marilyn Wallace. God opened the door for the two of them to step out in faith, and Stepping Stones was Born! Rooted in our mission to create a positive foundation for children to strengthen their social and emotional skills through learning about God's Love & God's Creation, quality childcare isn't just an occupation to miss Tammie or miss Marilyn, it is their passion. They never could have imagined Stepping Stones being what it is today, but are Thankful and Faithful to the Lord for His Calling on their life. To Tammie and Marilyn, Stepping Stones IS family, and they are excited to welcome you into the SSEL Family with open arms!

Schedule a TOUR Today!



Inchworm Program

Our Inchworm Program is specially designed for curious, wiggly one-year-olds who are just beginning to explore the world around them. In this nurturing space, children enjoy a balance of play, learning, and love—all at their own pace.

With shortened hours to ensure consistent, familiar staffing, our inchworms thrive in a routine that supports their growing independence.

Teachers guide little ones through early learning experiences with songs, stories, sensory play, and lots of movement. From first steps to first words, we celebrate every milestone with joy and care. It's a place where your child can grow, giggle, and feel right at home.



Dragonfly Room Program

Our Dragonfly Program is built for adventurous, energetic two-year-olds who are ready to explore their world with wonder! In this engaging classroom, children begin to develop independence, social skills, and early learning foundations through music, movement, sensory play, and hands-on activities. Our nurturing teachers support potty training and language development with patience and encouragement. With shortened hours to ensure consistent staffing and familiar faces, our dragonflies thrive in a safe, structured routine. From giggles to growth, every day is filled with discovery, love, and learning. It's the perfect place for your little one to flutter forward with confidence!



SSELA is proudly an approved School Readiness & VPK Provider through the Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast.

Through this partnership, eligible families can access tuition assistance and free pre-kindergarten for four-year-olds. The ELC also offers childcare referrals, community resource connections, and support for families navigating early education options

Learn more at:

www.elc-ec.org

or visit our website:

www.sselacademy.com



Caterpillar Room Program

Our Caterpillar Program is designed for busy, blossoming toddlers who are beginning to explore their independence and the world around them. In this nurturing classroom, children enjoy a mix of structured play, music, movement, and early learning activities that support their growing curiosity. Teachers gently guide them through routines, transitions, and social interactions, helping build confidence and communication skills. With shortened hours to ensure consistent staffing and familiar faces, our caterpillars thrive in a safe, loving environment. From giggles to group play, every day is filled with joy, discovery, and growth—laying the foundation for their next big leap!



GOING ABOVE & BEYOND

VPK Performance Designations are here, and our school has earned **ABOVE EXPECTATIONS!**

Florida
VPK

Early Learning
Coalition
OF THE EMERALD COAST

Butterfly (VPK) Program

Our VPK Program is the heart of Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy—and the final, exciting step in your child’s early learning journey with us. Designed for children preparing to enter kindergarten, this program blends academic readiness with independence, confidence, and character-building in a way that sets our graduates apart.

Through a thoughtfully structured curriculum, children dive into early literacy, math, science, and social studies while continuing to grow emotionally and socially. Our experienced educators foster a love of learning through hands-on activities, group collaboration, and purposeful play. Children are encouraged to ask questions, solve problems, and express themselves—all while building the skills they’ll need to thrive in elementary school and beyond.

What truly sets our VPK Program apart is the reputation it carries. **School district professionals actively seek out SSELA graduates** because of their strong foundation in kindergarten readiness, independence, and classroom confidence. Our students enter school not only prepared—but excited and equipped to succeed.

With a focus on leadership, responsibility, and self-help skills, our VPK classroom is a vibrant, engaging space where children blossom into capable, curious learners. It’s more than preparation—it’s transformation.



Our Parent Communication App



Procare Connect is our all-in-one parent communication app that brings convenience right to your smartphone!

Parents will use Procare to **sign their child in and out**, receive **newsletters**, **accident reports**, and other important **school updates**. The app also supports **direct messaging** with your child’s **classroom teachers** and offers a **private messaging option** for contacting the **school office** directly.

With Procare, staying connected to your child’s day at school has never been easier!



Electronic Tuition Payments

Parents can conveniently pay tuition online via:

<https://www.myprocare.com>.

Visit our website:

<https://www.sselacademy.com>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/sselacademy>



NECPA
National Early Childhood
Program Accreditation

THREE Convenient Locations!

With campuses in **Niceville, Bluewater Bay, and Destin**, the academy offers families flexibility and accessibility. Each location maintains the same high standards while serving the unique needs of its community.



Inquire *today* about Niceville, Bluewater Bay, or Destin!



Safety First: Secure Access & Carline Convenience

At Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy, your child's safety is our top priority. All three of our campuses—Niceville, Bluewater Bay, and Destin—are equipped with **secure access control doors**, ensuring that only authorized individuals can enter our buildings. To further protect our children and staff, we proudly operate a **carline drop-off and pick-up system**. This not only adds convenience for families but also limits foot traffic inside the center, keeping **non-screened individuals** out of the learning environment. It's just one more way we create a safe, peaceful space where your child can **thrive**.



Chapel Enrichment Program

At Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy, we believe in nurturing not only the minds of our children—but their hearts and spirits too. Our **Chapel Enrichment Program** is a cherished part of our weekly rhythm, offering children a joyful opportunity to learn about God's love, kindness, and creation in an age-appropriate and engaging way.

Led by passionate staff and often featuring music, storytelling, and interactive lessons, chapel time helps reinforce the values we live by every day—respect, compassion, gratitude, and faith. Whether it's singing songs, hearing Bible stories, or simply gathering together in a spirit of community, our chapel program brings warmth and meaning to our week.



It's a beautiful way to help children grow spiritually while feeling safe, loved, and connected.

National Accreditation:

Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy is proud to state that **all three** of our campuses—Niceville, Bluewater Bay, and Destin—are nationally accredited through NECPA, the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation.

This prestigious recognition reflects our commitment to excellence in early childhood education. The NECPA accreditation process involves a rigorous evaluation of our curriculum, staff qualifications, health and safety practices, and family engagement standards. Each campus undergoes a detailed self-study, followed by an external validation visit to ensure we meet or exceed national benchmarks.

By choosing an NECPA-accredited program, families can be confident that their children are learning in a safe, nurturing, and developmentally rich environment—one that goes beyond minimum licensing requirements to uphold the highest standards in early learning.

The Difference Is Clear!



What we offer vs. what others offer!	SSELA!	CNI	LPA	KD
Infant Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potty Training	✓		✓	
Step Up Provider	✓		✓	
School Readiness Provider	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gold Seal Accredited	✓		✓	
NECPA Accredited	✓			
Secure Camera System	✓	✓	✓	✓
Customize Care	✓			
Amazing Playground	✓			
Special Curriculum	✓			
Family Owned	✓			
High Teacher Comp/Benefit	✓			
Car-Line Pickup/Dropoff	✓			
Chapel Enrichment	✓			

At Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy, more doesn't cost more.

We believe that *family is who we are*, and going *above and beyond* for our families isn't a bonus—it's our baseline. At SSELA, exceptional care, communication, and connection come standard.

What Families Say:

At Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy, families often tell us they feel like part of something bigger—a place where their children are known, loved, and celebrated. Parents describe SSELA as “a second home,” “a faith-filled foundation,” and “the best decision we ever made for our child.”

From our intentional curriculum to our daily communication through PROCARE, every detail is designed to make families feel supported and connected. Whether at Niceville, Bluewater Bay, or Destin, the message is clear: SSELA is where children thrive and families belong

Schedule a TOUR Today!



Our Rates:

- **Discover the Value Behind Our Tuition**

At Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy, we believe seeing is believing. That's why we invite families to tour our campuses and experience firsthand what sets us apart.

- ❖ **Modern, Spotless Facilities –**

Our schools are updated, clean, and thoughtfully designed for early learners.

- ❖ **State-of-the-Art Security –**

Safety is our top priority, with advanced systems in place to protect every child.

- ❖ **High-Quality Materials –**

From curriculum to classroom supplies, we invest in tools that inspire learning and creativity.

- ❖ **Exceptional Educators –**

Our passionate staff are dedicated to nurturing each child's growth in a faith-based environment.

We're proud to be an approved School Readiness and VPK Provider through the Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast, offering tuition assistance and free pre-kindergarten for eligible families.

- Schedule a tour today and see why SSEL Academy is the best choice for your child's early education.

- Visit us at www.sselacademy.com

- Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sselacademy

- School Supply Fee – August (Yearly)
- Re-Registration Fee – February (Yearly)
- Insurance Fee – October (Yearly/family)
- Summer Supply Fee – June (Yearly/family)

Note

Supply/Insurance Fee(s) are pro-rated for the month in the year that you start. Fees are non-refundable.

Why Our Rates Reflect *Real* Value:

Your tuition supports:

-  **Modern Facilities –**
Clean, updated buildings designed for learning.
-  **Advanced Security –**
State-of-the-art systems for peace of mind.
-  **Quality Supplies –**
Engaging materials that spark creativity.
-  **Experienced Staff –**
Caring educators focused on your child's growth.

We invest in excellence—because **your child deserves the very best!**

Please call ANY location to inquire about rates:

Niceville - 850-842-2640
niceville@sselacademy.com

Bluewater-Bay - 850-842-2717
bwb@sselacademy.com

Destin - 850-353-2713
destin@sselacademy.com