



**SOUTH BOSTON
CATHOLIC ACADEMY**
FAITH • FAMILY • ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

SBCA Early Childhood | FAQs

What age does your program begin?

Our Early Childhood Program begins at the following ages:

- **Tiny Tots:** 15 months
- **Toddler Program:** 22 months
- **Ko:** 2 years and 9 months (2.9) and fully potty trained
- **K1:** 4 years old

Children may begin **as soon as they reach the required age**, even if that occurs after the school year has started. Students who begin later in the year are considered **delayed-start students** and must still apply for and secure a spot for that academic year.

What time is the school day?

- **Early Childhood (Tiny Tots–K1):** 8:15 AM – 2:15 PM
- **Half Day Programs:** 8:15 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Extended Day Program (EDP)** is available beginning at **7:00 AM** and runs until **5:30 PM**, pending availability.

What program options are available for Tiny Tots?

- 5 Half Days (8:15–11:30)
- 5 Full Days (8:15–2:15)

Families may opt for an abridged attendance schedule (e.g., M/W/F); however, tuition reflects

the selected **5-day program option**, as classroom placement is reserved full-time.

What program options are available for Toddlers?

- 5 Half Days (8:15–11:30)
- 5 Full Days (8:15–2:15)

Abridged schedules may be accommodated, with tuition reflecting the full or half-day program selected.

What program options are available for Ko?

- 5 Full Days
- 5 Half Days (8:15–11:30)

Abridged schedules are permitted; tuition remains consistent with the selected program option.

What program options are available for K1?

- 5 Full Days only

What does a typical school day look like?

- Each day at SBCA begins with a warm welcome from teachers and a morning meeting that fosters community, social-emotional skills, and a sense of belonging. Students then engage in literacy, math, and hands-on learning centers, where academic concepts are introduced through play-based, developmentally appropriate activities that encourage exploration and critical thinking. Outdoor play provides opportunities for physical activity, teamwork, and gross motor development, while snack and lunch times support healthy habits and social interaction. A short rest period allows children to recharge and practice self-regulation. Throughout the day, our program balances structured academics with learning through play, emphasizing meaningful

interactions with peers and teachers to promote both cognitive growth and social development.

Should my child bring lunch?

- **Full-day students:** Lunch, snack, and water bottle
- **Half-day students:** Snack only
- Milk (whole, skim, or chocolate) is available for lunch for **\$80 per year**.

What if my child does not nap?

Rest time is a quiet period for all students. While some children sleep, others engage in quiet activities such as reading or playing calmly on their mats.

What curriculum do you use?

Our curriculum is guided by the **Lynch Foundation**, ensuring a strong, research-based approach to early childhood education.

- **OWL (Opening the World of Learning) – Literacy:** OWL provides a comprehensive literacy program that builds foundational reading and writing skills. Students engage in activities that develop phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension, and early writing. Lessons are hands-on and developmentally appropriate, fostering a love of language and storytelling while preparing children for future academic success.
- **Building Blocks – Mathematics:** This research-based program emphasizes conceptual understanding and problem-solving in mathematics. Students explore numbers, patterns, shapes, and spatial reasoning through interactive, playful, and age-appropriate activities. Building Blocks encourages logical thinking, collaboration, and confidence in using mathematical ideas in everyday life.
- **Handwriting Without Tears – Writing:** This program teaches writing in a developmentally appropriate way, focusing on letter formation, fine motor skills, and early composition. Students practice writing letters, numbers, and words using multisensory techniques that make learning accessible and fun, building both skill and confidence.
- **Heggerty (K1) – Phonemic Awareness:** Heggerty develops essential phonemic awareness skills, helping students understand and manipulate sounds in words.

Through daily, systematic instruction, children strengthen the auditory skills needed for successful reading, including rhyming, blending, segmenting, and sound recognition.

In addition to these core academic programs, students participate in **Spanish, Library, Gym, Music, Art, Yoga, Social-Emotional Learning, and STEM**, enriching their educational experience and supporting a well-rounded development of mind, body, and spirit.

What if my child is not potty trained by the first day of school?

- If a child is not fully potty trained, families should connect with their teacher to arrange a later start date. Accidents are developmentally appropriate; please send a labeled change of clothes to school.

My child turns the required age after the first day of school. When can they start?

- Children who reach the required age **before February 1st** may be considered for a **late start**, pending space availability.