Early Childhood Community Survey Project
Community Education received a grant from the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement at the University of Minnesota, to collaborate with the Center for Early Education and Development to research the preferences and needs of high-needs families with preschool-age children in order to improve its ability to offer appropriate and effective early education programming.

The project, begun in 2011 and continuing through this year, will help Community Education identify students who would benefit from preschool/child care, learn about what families want, and establish relationships with families with young children living in St. Louis Park.

District staff members from Community Education early childhood programs, as well as elementary ESL teachers are working on the project with community partners including Park Nicollet Health Care Home, Louisiana Courts – Project for Pride in Living, Jewish Family and Children’s Service, Meadowbrook Collaborative, and Perspectives.
PRE-K PROGRAMS
Preparing your child for success in school and life, beginning at birth.

All programs have highly qualified staff and use research-based curriculum. As part of the St. Louis Park Public Schools, SLP Pre-K provides families with important first connections to kindergarten and the community.

SLP CREATIVE PLAY PRE-K – Children ages 2½-5 participate in school-readiness activities. This year, families raised $1,200 for scholarships through a cookie-dough fundraiser.

SLP EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE) – Parents and children, ages birth-5, play and learn together under the guidance of a licensed early childhood teacher.

SLP FAMILY LEARNING PRE-K – While parents enrolled in ABE learn English or work on their GED, preschool children learn in activities.

SLP FIRST STEPS PRE-K – Curriculum is coordinated with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. For students ages 3-5.

SLP KIDS’ PLACE PRE-K – Provided a high-quality preschool experience for 202 children ages six weeks - 6 years within a full-day child care setting.

SLP PALS PRE-K – Families with children ages 2½-5. Adds a preschool day to ECFE classes, while including the benefits of parent-child interaction, and parent discussion groups.

SLP PALS+ PRE-K – Children, ages 3-5, with and without disabilities learn to appreciate differences through a positive, nurturing, small-class environment.

SLP RSK PRE-K – Readied 42 four year olds for kindergarten who would not otherwise have attended preschool. Ages 3-5.

SLP Community Education also serves preschoolers with Aquatics, Gymnastics and Kid Dance classes, all held at Central Community Center.

SENIOR PROGRAM
Learn & Laugh at Lenox!
The Senior Program, housed at Lenox Community Center, operates in partnership with the City of St. Louis Park. Offering Great Decisions, which reviews current foreign policy issues of vital importance to the United States. Coordinated with the Minnesota International Center, 2011 topics included: Sanctions and Nonproliferation, US National Security, Horn of Africa, Global Crime, and more. Next year’s offering will again challenge our audience on issues as varied as cyber security, Middle East realignment, or the state of our oceans.

A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR LISA GREENE – School year 2010-11 was my first year as Director of Community Education for St. Louis Park Public Schools. It was my pleasure to meet and work with a great district staff and community. They are all highly engaged people who care about the future of St. Louis Park and all its residents. 2011-12 promises to be an energetic year as our Community Education Advisory Council and staff work together to increase participation opportunities for our pre-school, youth, adult and senior programs. To get a feel for the full scope of our programming, please take a moment to read about our offerings on this page.

ADULT PROGRAMS
Lifelong Learning Completes

ADULT ENRICHMENT – Serves lifelong learners of all ages with a variety of classes ranging from in-depth history seminars developed for the adult audience by High School AP European History teacher Ann Jurewicz, to the fun Thriller Line Dance workshop.

ADULT OPTIONS IN EDUCATION / ABE – Responding to the economic need of adults for increased job skills, AOIE provides basic skills in English language, math, reading and GED preparation as a base for work readiness. This year, it added STAR reading and college prep classes. In partnership with Hopkins and Minnetonka Community Education.

PROJECT SOAR – Enrollment up 14%, for adults with disabilities, in a variety of social, recreational and enrichment activities. Operates in partnership with Hopkins, Minnetonka and Wayzata Community Education.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM – Recruits and trains volunteers for the City and Schools, including more than 150 weekly volunteers helping in classrooms throughout the district.

YOUTH PROGRAMS
Creating building blocks for a healthy, happy life

YOUTH ENRICHMENT – Serves students in grades K-12 and their families with a variety of classes and extracurricular activities in areas such as arts, music, sports, fitness and more.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – Brings students in grades 4-12 together to develop leadership skills through service learning and volunteerism.

AQUATICS – Provides lessons for swimmers ages five months through senior citizens, lap swimming opportunities, and pool rental and synchronized swimming club coordination.

GYMNASTICS – Provides enrichment gymnastics classes for participants ages 2-18, and prepares athletes for competition on the SLP High School team.

SUMMER SPARK – Continued learning over the summer for students grades K-8 through enrichment classes and activities. Students who qualified for Academic Summer School through Targeted Services added enrichment to their academic program with tuition for Summer Spark paid by Targeted Services funds, which are reimbursed by the State of MN.

KINDERGARTEN PLUS – This growing, tuition-based, full-day program benefited 132 students with extended learning time with the same certified kindergarten teacher all day.

KIDS’ PLACE CHILD CARE – Offers year-round child care for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age, serving approximately 350 school-age students throughout the school year and 270 during the summer.