

FOREST HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WESTERN SPRINGS, IL



CASE STUDY



It's All About the Kids!

Providing Child-Centered Care and Enrichment Before, During, and After School





During the eight years that Rachel Corrough has been the principal of Forest Hills Elementary School, she has observed changes in the community.

"I noticed a big uptick in the number of dual working parent families," she said. "We didn't have a child care program on site, so it was solely up to families to secure before and after school child care."

Finding child care, however, wasn't easy. "There was a shortage of providers in town, so many families had to hire someone or leave their child in the care of a grandparent or other family member," said Corrough.

Forest Hills Elementary School is one of four schools in Western Springs School District 101. The preK-5 school is located in Western Springs, Ill., a Chicago suburb and village of approximately 13,600 people.

"We interviewed several different vendors to see who would be the right fit for us and landed on Right At School," said Corrough.

"Right At School has a child-centered focus, providing the right amount of structure and fun. To me, they felt like the best match, providing exactly what our students and families needed."

Providing safe, flexible options for families

Forest Hills Elementary School began its partnership with Right At School in 2018. Families can sign up for before or after school programs or both. They can also choose from one to five days a week or do drop-in care.

"It's nice that we're able to provide this service and be good partners to parents because parents are good partners to us," said Corrough. "Having Right At School here on site is very helpful and convenient."



Providing **engaging, meaningful** academic enrichment

“Our students love Right At School,” said Corrough. “There are several who arrive at seven o’clock in the morning and stay until six o’clock at night. It’s a long day, but I never hear complaints. They enjoy Right At School.”

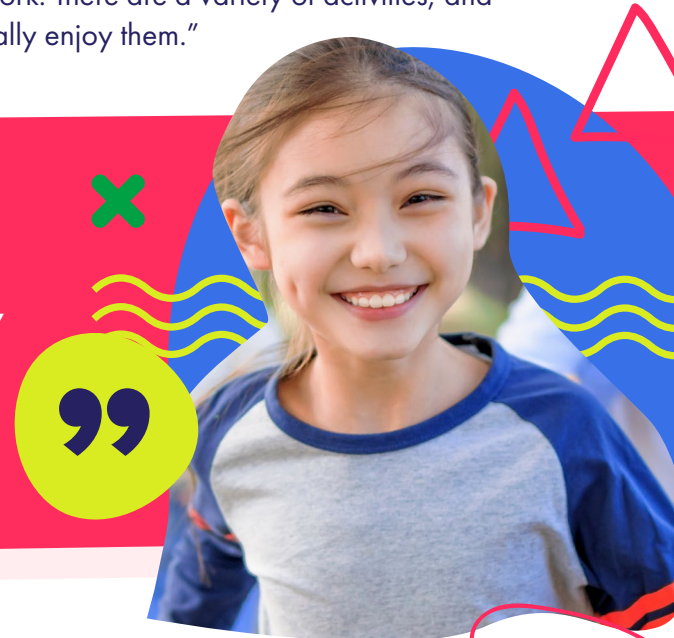
Right At School’s Disguised Learning™ preK-8 curriculum supports learning standards in English language arts, literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, physical fitness, and service learning.

In addition, students can get homework help, play games and sports, engage in self-directed learning, and participate in other fun activities.

“Right At School runs a great program. When I arrive in the morning, I see students in the gym, getting an active start to their day, which I think is really helpful,” she said. “When I leave, I see students outside playing after they’ve done their homework. There are a variety of activities, and they really enjoy them.”

“Right At School provides another opportunity for students to practice social and emotional skills in a supervised setting, which is especially important post-pandemic.”

— Rachel Corrough, Principal of Forest Hills Elementary School.



Supporting social-emotional learning (SEL) and building a **community**

SEL is also carefully woven into the curriculum, and all Right At School educators are trained in SEL and trauma-informed care.

“Right At School provides another opportunity for students to practice social and emotional skills in a supervised setting, which is especially important post-pandemic,” said Corrough.

“Students have developed wonderful relationships with the Right At School staff, and they’ve formed friendships with each other. It’s cool that a first grade boy and a fourth grade girl can develop a friendship because they spend so much time together. Right At School has created this lovely little community of kids who might not otherwise have the opportunity to interact with one another.”

Providing lunchtime and recess support

In addition to before and after school enrichment, Right At School provides Forest Hills Elementary with lunch and recess support during the school day.

“Three lunch staff members retired, and midday supervision became a great area of need,” said Corrough. “To know that we can count on Right At School to provide adult supervision and a safe environment during lunch and recess has been a huge help.”

Supporting parents

“Parent feedback about Right At School is universally very positive,” said Corrough. “When I talk with parents, they say how much they appreciate having this program and a trusted provider on site at Forest Hills. They are happy with the program. If they weren’t, I’d hear about it.”



Supporting administrators

To eliminate headaches for district and school administrators, Right At School handles all aspects of program implementation, including the structure, curriculum, and hiring and training of staff.

“Initially, there was a little bit of hesitation on our end because we worried this might be ‘one more thing’ for us to manage. But it truly hasn’t been. If you invest a little time at the beginning, you reap the dividends on the other side,” said Corrough.

“Right At School is flexible and self-sufficient, which I appreciate. I have a school to run so not having to manage program logistics or troubleshooting has been wonderful.”





RIGHT AT
SCHOOL



Sharing the same vision, values, and goals

“Right At School has been a wonderful partner. Philosophically, our vision and values are very much aligned. That makes us great partners because we have the same goals,” said Corrough.



“We want to provide a great service for families and a program that’s all about the kids. We have that with Right At School, and it has been a huge benefit for our community.”

— Rachel Corrough, principal of Forest Hills Elementary School.

School Data

Grades PreK-5

300 students

<https://www.wsd101.org/o/forest-hills>

Student Demographics

- 0.7% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 0.3% Black/African American
- 3.3% Hispanic
- 92.3% White
- 3.3% Two or more races

