

## Waves of Change

As we go into the New Year we will have a few changes to our programs. In order to maximize our staffing and better provide quality programming for families, we will be combining our Toddler and Twos programs. Children naturally develop at their own pace so there are many skills that overlap. This gives families opportunities to interact with many ages/stages.

In addition we will be offering a come and go style Mixed Ages program. With our busy lives we want families to participate with their child for any amount of time they have available. During the 2 hour period there will be activities, crafts, circle time, snack, parent discussion, and free play. All the same components you have come to know and love, just presented in a new way. We would love to see you and your child for whatever time works for you!

We hope to help families connect with other families and learn together how to best handle the challenges and joys of raising a child, keeping in mind how to best handle situations in ways that are developmentally appropriate. By joining the ECFE family, you will build connections with other parents who are in the midst of raising children of similar age and stage of life.

Please consider joining our ECFE classes or come enjoy some of our special events that we are offering throughout the year. I look forward to seeing many of you in a few short weeks!!

**See you at ECFE activities!**

**Megan Koenigs**  
Early Childhood Educator  
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Thank you to the United Way of Brown County for providing funding to Sleepy Eye's Early Childhood Family Education program.



## What is ECFE?

- Early Childhood Family Education provides families with the opportunity to strengthen and grow together in an inviting atmosphere with the support of other parents and specialized staff.
- Early Childhood Family Education is where moms, dads, grandparents, and young children discover new things by spending time together and apart.
- Parents and children attend classes one time per week. Classes range from 1–1 ½ hours in length. Classes are held at the public school. All families are welcome.
- During the first years of a child's life, major development takes place that will impact the rest of their lives. Early Childhood Family Education parents are given credit for being the first and most important teachers of their child.
- We are funded by a combination of state aids, local levy, and participation fees. No one will be denied participation due to the inability to pay. Accommodations are made for people with disabilities.

## Winter Class Offerings

A child's age as of September 1 is used to determine which class to enroll in. We suggest that parents not consider moving their child ahead if s/he has a fall birthday. The teachers take into consideration children's developmental levels when planning activities for each class. When a child is placed ahead, consider that the child will eventually have to repeat an ECFE class before reaching Kindergarten.

A minimum of six children per class is needed to offer a class or age groups will need to be combined. Classes have been approved by the Brown County Family Services Center Training Credit for family day care and foster care providers. Payment for classes should be mailed with registration form, paid the first night of class, or dropped off at the Community Education office located in room 109 in the Sleepy Eye High School. Please register early so teachers have time to prepare for classes.

### Babies

#### **Saturday, 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

Class dates: 1/21, 2/11, 3/18, 4/15

Meet in Room 318

A special time to meet other parents and discuss topics related to parenting babies. Classes are available to babies who are not yet walking.

### Toddlers and Twos

#### **Thursday, 5:30-7:00 p.m. (9 classes)**

Class dates: 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30

Meet in Room 320

Come for ideas, motivation, and support to stay ahead of your curious, active child. Have fun learning through various age appropriate activities. Parents will separate from their child for the last thirty minutes of class during parent discussion time.

### Mixed Ages (3-5 years)

#### **Tuesday ~ 4:30-6:30 p.m. (9 classes)**

***Come when you can, stay as long as you are able to.***

Class dates: 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28

Meet in Room 320

Play is your child's work. These classes are intended to encourage play through dramatic play areas, reading corners, art, and other centers that encourage hands on learning. Parents will participate in a discussion for thirty minutes of the class led by a parent educator.

### How Do I Register?

1. **Mail - SE Community Ed**  
400 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
2. **In Person – Room 320 during class or Room 109 other times**
3. **By phone – 507-794-7873**
4. **Via email**



*To get to the ECFE room: Enter Sleepy Eye Elementary School Door #2 (near the bell). Go west down the hallway, turn left, and go past gym. ECFE door #320 is the second door on the right. Keep going and Room #318 is to the right at the end of the hallway.*

## Special Family Events

### Inclement Weather Policy

If school closes early for the day or is cancelled, all afternoon and evening classes are cancelled. We will try to make up any missed classes at the end of the session.

Please watch our Facebook page for weekend events if the weather is questionable.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

### Literacy Night

**When:** Monday, February 27 (tentatively)

**Time:** 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Where:** SE Public School

We will again be joining the Elementary School when they host their Literacy Night. Come join the fun and take part in the activities we have planned for preschoolers based on books! Watch for more details as they become available.

### Daddy & Me-Night with Dad

**When:** Friday, March 31

**Time:** 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Where:** SE Public School, Cafeteria

**Who:** Children & Dads/Uncles/Grandfathers

**Cost:** \$2 per child/\$5 per family one food shelf item for donation per person

Come and join us as we create a project. We will meet in the Cafeteria. If Dad is working or busy, that's okay! You can bring any one that you want to build with you.

### End of the Year Vehicle Fair

**When:** Tuesday, May 16

**Time:** 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Where:** SE Public School Parking Lot

**Cost:** Free Will Donation

Join us for an evening to explore different vehicles up close! We will have tractors, trucks, cars, and machinery! There will be a small concession stand and activities as well.

### Open Gyms

**When:** Saturday, January 28; 3:30-5:00 pm

Saturday, February 25; 3:30-5:00 pm

Saturday March 11; 10:30-12:00 pm

**Where:** SE Public School Elementary Gym

**Cost:** \$2 per child/\$5 per family or one food shelf item for donation per person

Family gym time is a wonderful opportunity to let kids run, jump, climb, play ball and so much more. Join us in the Sleepy Eye Elementary gym for some great fun!

### Snow Day Fun

**When:** Sunday, March 5

**Time:** 3:00-4:30 pm

**Where:** SE Public School Playground

**Cost:** Free Will Donation

Join us for an afternoon of fun in the snow! We will have sleds, paint for the snow, material to build snowmen, along with treats and other games to play together!

### Grandparents Day

**When:** Saturday, February 18

**Time:** 9:00-10:30 a.m.

**Where:** SE Public School, Room 320

**Who:** Children and their Grandparent(s)

**Cost:** \$2 per child/\$5 per family one food shelf item for donation per person

Please bring your grandparents to our classroom for a morning of fun. Your children will enjoy showing their grandparents their classroom and some of the fun things they do while they are here in school.

### Ladies Night Out: Crafting Party

**When:** March/April

**Who:** Any lady who needs a night away! ☺

Watch the Facebook page for more information when it gets closer!

Join us for a night free of kids and full of laughter and fun as we complete crafts with Misty from The Wooden Accents!

## Mother/Son Snow Ball

**When:** Sunday, January 29

**Time:** 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Where:** SE Event Center

**Cost:** *ADVANCE* \$10 per couple, \$5 for extra daughter  
*AT THE DOOR* \$12 and \$7

- This event is for girls ages 3 years to third grade
- Dads, grandfathers, uncles, stepfathers, big brothers, and other special men are invited to be escorts
- Dads are encouraged to wear shirt/tie, sweater, sport coat, or suit.

## Father/Daughter Sweetheart Soirée

**When:** Sunday, February 12

**Time:** 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Where:** SE Event Center

**Cost:** *ADVANCE* \$10 per couple, \$5 for extra son  
*AT THE DOOR* \$12 and \$7

- This event is for boys ages 3 years to third grade
- Mothers, grandmothers, aunts, stepmothers, big sisters, and other special women are invited to be escorts
- Moms are encouraged to wear a dress

The afternoon will include dancing, pictures, refreshments and quality time with the one you love.

Tickets are required for admittance and can be purchased in the Community Education office or at ECFE classes. You can order by mail and tickets will be sent to you or held at the registration table.

We appreciate all individuals and businesses that have been co-sponsoring these events. Monetary gifts, gift certificates or coupons, snack items, and bottled water have all been appreciated. For more information, call 507-794-7873.

## Snow Much Fun

### Paper Snow Flakes

Grab some paper or a coffee filter and have your child fold it multiple times and ways. Have them make cuts, or assist them with cutting different shapes/slits in the paper. Unwrap the paper and see the snowflake you created together!



### Family Handprint Christmas Tree

Include the whole family in this craft by tracing everybody's hand on green construction paper. Then cut the hands out, glue together so they resemble a tree and decorate how you see fit. Add a star to the top, decorations on the tree, or presents under it!



Family Handprint  
Christmas Tree

### Play Outdoors Together

Whether they want to build a snowman, go sledding, make a snow angel, or have a snowball fight, play outside together. You can make a snow fort, go tubing, skiing, or maybe just enjoy throwing snow in the air and watching it float back down to the ground!



## Dolly Parton Imagination Library



Parents of children are invited to register their child for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The program provides one book every month to your child from the time you enroll until they turn five for *FREE*. The program is managed by the United Way of the Brown County Area. Sign up at [www.unitedwaybrowncountyarea.org](http://www.unitedwaybrowncountyarea.org)

## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

This program is sponsored by the Brown County Early Childhood Initiative. The goal of this program is to promote reading and encourage children to have 1000 books read to them by the time they enter kindergarten.

*To enroll in this program you can register at ECFE classes/events, or the Dyckman Library. Once enrolled, children will receive a log to track the books being read to them. If you read a book twice, mark it down twice. After each 100 books read, children will receive a small prize or sticker. Special incentives will be awarded to children when they complete 300, 500, 700 or 1000 books.*

## Dyckman Free Library

Story Time continues every Thursday at the Dyckman Free Library on West Main Street at 10 a.m. During the school year, it is geared for preschoolers. Stop by and check out the selection of children's books and obtain a library card for your children and yourself.

## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Laura Petersen   | Megan Koenigs     |
| Pat Stevermer    | Darla Remus       |
| Kendra Guyer     | Kayla Jacobsen    |
| Brittany Sharpe  | Erika Garcia      |
| Emily Krzmarzick | Kristina Marti    |
| Alicia Beltz     | Amanda Fuchs      |
| Dulce Magana     | Mikayla Bruggeman |
| Julie Seifert    |                   |

The ECFE Advisory Board helps promote our Early Childhood Family Education Program and make recommendations about how to implement our programs. Contact any of the members listed if you have any suggestions for our ECFE program.

We are always in need of new members; please consider joining this board which meets four times a year to plan special events and fundraisers, discuss budget, update members on classes, and discuss and implement ways to promote our programs.

Parents are a great asset to this board, as you are engaged in our programs. We want to hear your feedback and insights on how to continue the growth of our ECFE and Preschool Programs!

## South Country Health Alliance Discount

All South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) members may take up to a \$15.00 discount per class. Members must be on SCHA at the time of registration, and throughout the duration of the classes. You must include ID number when registering.



## Preschools

Registration for 2023-2024 preschool has been taking place and interested families are encouraged to sign up early.

School District #84 offers a three year old **Discovery Time** preschool three days a week for two hours and fifteen minutes. Parents also attend ECFE classes with the child.

**Voluntary PreK** is available for four year olds and meets five days a week for two hours and thirty minutes. A voluntary PreK grant was received for 2023-2024. It provides for 140 days of free preschool.

Scholarships are available for qualifying families and busing is available in town.

Other preschools are available at Grace Lutheran School and St. Mary's Catholic School.

## Welcome to Kindergarten!

Area schools will be offering informational sessions for children who are entering Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year.

Sleepy Eye Public School Kindergarten Round Up: Tuesday, March 7 at 4:30pm.

St. Mary's Catholic School Kindergarten Round Up: Thursday, March 16 at 6:30-8:00pm.

## Babysitting Clinic

Each summer a Babysitting Clinic is held for youth ten and older. Topics covered include child growth and development, cleanliness, handling the small baby, emergency and safety measures, playing with children and discipline. Permission is needed for a child to be added to the **babysitting list** that is available in the Community Ed office. Call 507-794-7873 for a copy or pick one up at an ECFE class.

## Early Childhood Screening

It is state law that every child entering kindergarten in a public school have completed a developmental screening. A child can go through screening in the Head Start Program, at Public Health Nursing Services, or come to an Early Childhood Screening. The ECFE program works with county agencies and offers early childhood screening when a child is three to four years of age. We hold screenings once in the fall and once in the spring.

**Spring Early Childhood Screening is scheduled for Thursday, February 2, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Call ECFE @ 794-7873 to make an appointment.**

### **What to Expect:**

Children will participate in an evaluation of speech, language, and fine and gross motor skills. Social and emotional development, hearing, vision, and height/weight measurement will also be assessed. Parents will meet with a school nurse as well as family facilitator to complete the screening process. The entire screening typically takes one hour to complete.

### **Why children should be screened:**

The screening identifies needs that may require special attention before a child enters school.

### **Screening takes place:**

Basement of Trinity Lutheran Church, located off Hwy. 4 on the south end of Sleepy Eye.

## Brown County Help Me Grow Committee

Not all children do the same things at the same ages. If you are concerned about the development of a child less than seven years of age, living in Brown County, call (507) 359-8700 or 1-800-605-4431. The purpose of **Help Me Grow** is to develop coordination between agencies to encourage early identification and services for young children with special needs.

## What you can do to help ECFE

Thank you to all the families who have been so generous and have helped our program by donating items listed on our giving tree. The giving tree is located on the inside of the ECFE classroom door. Feel free to take a reminder from the tree and bring the item in for the class to use. We really appreciate the donations!

Other ways to help our ECFE program:

- Loaves for Learning
- RaiseRight Gift Cards
- Scholastic Book Orders

Go online, choose the books you want and pay by credit card. You need to use this ordering code PBFNQ to access the website. In return, we get free books to add to the ECFE classroom or give to the children!

You could also consider making a tax-deductible contribution as well. These contributions would support the ECFE program and assist with scholarships that the program offers to families for participation fees.



The ECFE t-shirt design is shown here. Child sizes 2-4 or 6-8 have been ordered in four different colors. They are \$10 each and are available for purchase in the ECFE room. Colors are: Saffire Blue, Helconia Pink, Purple and Lime.

Fill out the form below to place an order for T-shirts.

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt size(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Color(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Bring to class or send with registration form including payment.

## RaiseRight (Scrip) Fundraiser

- Need groceries?
- Like to eat at Subway or Hardee's?
- Need fuel for vehicles?

Why not purchase a gift card each month for each of the above categories?

You know you will use them and it's a great way to give back to our program without having to sell anything or purchase something you don't really need. You pay the exact amount for the gift cards you want, and each business gives back a percentage of the amount. We will be accepting orders by February 1 and April 1, and the cards will be delivered within two weeks. An order form will be placed on our ECFE website page, so you can print it off and send to school with your child or bring to ECFE classes. You can go online to: [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) to see what stores you can order from. We allow any business but only have a few businesses on the order form. Just write down the store name and amount on bottom of order form and we will place that order.

## RaiseRight App

A new option is to download the RaiseRight App on iPhone or Android phones and receive gift cards instantly.

1. Download the app
2. Select "Join a Program"
3. Enter ECFE's organization enrollment code: A56STSV5UKQZ
4. Create an account
5. Order gift cards!

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## Early Childhood Family Education

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# REGISTRATION FORM

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

| Child's Name | Birth Date | Class Title |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
|              |            |             |
|              |            |             |

Please check the cost that applies:

- Babies (Free)     January 21     February 11     March 18     April 15
- \$36 for Toddlers & Twos
- \$36 for Mixed Ages – payment is only needed for children not enrolled in Discovery Time
- Grandparents Day                      Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family
- Open Gym                       January 28     February 25     March 11    Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family
- Daddy & Me: Night with Dad                      Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family
- Father/Daughter Snow Ball                      \$10 per couple, \$5 per additional daughter
- Mother/Son Sweetheart Soirée                      \$10 per couple, \$5 per additional son
- End of the Year Vehicle Fair                      Free Will Donation

*You will be notified if your class or event is cancelled due to low enrollment.*

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

- I request a scholarship for parent/child classes this term.
- I will be using my South Country Health Alliance discount; my ID # is: \_\_\_\_\_

Future newsletter sign up: (Please check which you prefer)

\_\_\_\_\_ by email \_\_\_\_\_ (please list email address)

\_\_\_\_\_ by checking our website at [www.sleepyeyeschools.com](http://www.sleepyeyeschools.com) >ECFE

\_\_\_\_\_ continue to receive by mail

**Phone registrations accepted but mailed are preferred**

Call 507-794-7873 to register or send check and form to:

ECFE  
400 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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