



Early Childhood Family Education

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ISD #84 Sleepy Eye, MN

No. 1

Fall Into Fun & Learning with ECFE!

As the crisp air and colorful leaves begin to signal the arrival of fall, we are excited to welcome you to another wonderful year of Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)! Whether you're new to our community or returning for another session, we're thrilled to have you with us as we embark on this journey of growth, learning, and connection together.

At ECFE, we believe that parenting is one of the most important and rewarding jobs there is—and it's also one that's better when shared. Our classes are designed to not only nurture your child's development but also to give you, as parents and caregivers, the tools, support, and community you need to thrive. You'll have the chance to connect with other families, explore new ideas in parenting, and witness the joys of your child's learning and discovery.

We have a wide variety of activities, classes, and events planned for the fall, each carefully crafted to create meaningful experiences for both you and your little one. From play-based learning for children to parent discussion groups, we aim to foster an environment where families can learn, bond, and grow together.

We look forward to getting to know you, hearing your stories, and supporting you throughout this session. Thank you for choosing to be part of our ECFE family—we're so glad you're here!

See you at ECFE activities!

Megan Koenigs
Early Childhood Educator



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.

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

Fall 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

Saturdays, 9:30-10:30am (3 classes)

Class dates: 9/28, 10/19, 11/16

Meet in Room 318

Learn about your child's development while you and your child experience many new and fun activities. Meet with other parents and discuss topics related to parenting babies.

Toddlers and Twos

Mondays, 5:15-6:30 p.m. (9 classes)

Class dates: 9/9, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11

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.

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 to the end of the hallway, turn right and door #318 is on the left.

Mixed Ages (3-5 years)

Tuesdays ~ 4:30-6:30 p.m. (9 classes) ***Come when you can, stay as long as you are able to.***

Class dates: 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5

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.

All Ages (0-5 years)

Thursdays, 8:30-9:45 a.m. (9 classes)

Class dates: 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14

Meet in Room 318

Come for ideas, motivation and support to stay ahead of your curious, active child. Have fun learning through various age appropriate activities. Parents may separate from their child for parent discussion time.

How Do I Register?

1. Mail - SE Community Ed
400 4th Ave -SW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
2. In Person – Room 318/320 at class
or Room 109 other times
3. By phone – 507-794-7873

Inclement Weather Policy

- If school is **2 hours late** for the day, all morning classes are canceled.
- If school **closes early** for the day, all afternoon and evening classes are canceled.
- If school is **canceled** for the day, all classes are canceled.

We will make up any missed classes at the end of the session. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Special Family Events

Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat Along with Trinity Lutheran Church

When: Saturday, October 26th

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Where: SE Public School Parking Lot

Trinity Lutheran Church and ECFE are collaborating for an exciting event! Join us for Trunk or Treating, Halloween themed games and activities, and community fellowship.

Come dressed in your full costume but, please, no weapons!

Open Gym

When: Saturday, November 16th

Time: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

When: Saturday, December 7th

Time: 10:30-12:00 p.m.

Where: SE Public School Elementary Gym

Cost: \$2 per child/\$5 per family or one food shelf item 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! We appreciate pre-registration in case of inclement weather, so we can contact those who were planning to come.

Holly Jolly Holiday Event

When: Friday, December 6

Time: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Where: Sleepy Eye Public School

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

Join us for some holiday themed activities, cookies, crafts, and games!

Mommy & Me-Cooking with Mom

When: Friday, November 8th

Time: 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Where: SE Public School, FACS Room/Cafeteria

Who: Children & Moms/Aunts/Grandmothers

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

Come and join us as we bake cookies and enjoy a simple supper of pasta. We will meet in the FACS Room in the High School (watch for signs). If Mom is working or busy, that's okay! You can bring any one that you want to cook with you.

Babysitting List

An updated list of youth willing to babysit is available in the Community Ed office. If you need a copy, please call 507-794-7873, pick one up at ECFE classes, or in Room 109.

Looking Ahead-Dances

Mark your calendars! Sleepy Eye ECFE will again be hosting their Father/Daughter Dance and Mother/Son Dance. More information will be available in the next few months.

Mother/Son Dance: January 26th

Father/Daughter Dance: February 9th

Dyckman Free Library

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

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

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

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

To enroll in this program you can register at ECFE classes, events, or at 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.

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.

Early Childhood Screening

It is state law that every child entering kindergarten in a public school must have completed a developmental screening. A child may 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.

Fall Early Childhood Screening is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 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:

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

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.



Fall Fun

Leaf Cutting

All you need is gather up some leaves and a scissors. Have your child snip or cut the leaves they have collected. This is great fine motor practice!



Pumpkin Marker Painting

Find a pumpkin, real or plastic, and grab some markers. Draw faces or color the whole thing and when you are done and want to create something different, get a wet paper towel, wipe it off, and start again!



Fall Snack Mix

- 1 cup of raisins
- 2 cups Chex cereal
- 2 cups pretzel sticks
- 1 cup of candy corn
- 1 cup M&M's
- 1 cup mini marshmallows

Pour all ingredients together and mix well. Feel free to add or eliminate any items you want!



Pumpkin Patch Palooza

St. John's Pumpkin Patch Palooza will be held on September, 28th from 12-3pm by St. John's Lutheran Church and School ground. They will have a food & pie stand, silent auction, farmer's market, petting zoo, hayride, and kids games. Come for an afternoon of fun!

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Mackenzie Evenson	Megan Koenigs
Pat Stevermer	Darla Remus
Kristina Marti	Alicia Beltz
Dulce Magana	Mikayla Bruggeman
Julie Seifert	Stephanie Montemayor

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 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!

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:

- RaiseRight Gift Cards
- Loaves for Learning Labels
- 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!

Preschools

District 84 offers Discovery Time for children who are 3 by September 1. Class begins on August 26th.

Voluntary PreK is for children who are 4 by September 1. Class begins on August 26th.

Preschool opportunities are also available at Mary's School and Grace Lutheran Church.

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!

Got Sneakers?

Sleepy Eye Early Childhood Family Education is holding a sneaker drive! Drop off your old tennis shoes in the box found in the entrance of school or send them with your child to turn in. We will do the rest of the work for you and earn money while doing so! We kindly ask NOT to donate any non-athletic footwear.

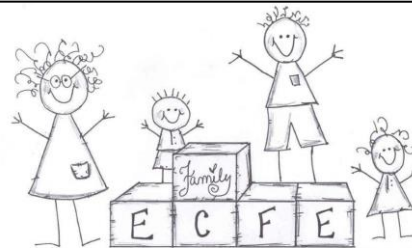
RaiseRight (Scrip) Fundraiser

- **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 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.



Building Families
Building Communities

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.

Early Childhood Family Education

REGISTRATION FORM

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Home/Cell Phone _____

Child's Name	Birth Date	Class Title

Please check the cost that applies:

- ☐ Babies class (Free) ☐ September 28 ☐ October 19 ☐ November 16
- ☐ \$36 for Toddlers & Twos
- ☐ \$36 for All Ages
- ☐ \$36 for Mixed Ages – payment is only needed for children NOT enrolled in Discovery Time
- ☐ Fall Festival
- ☐ Open Gym Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child/\$5.00 per family ☐ November 11 ☐ December 9
- ☐ Mommy & Me: Cooking with Mom Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family
- ☐ Holiday Event Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child/\$5.00 per family

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 >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 4th Ave SW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
