



Early Childhood Family Education

Vol. 32

Winter/Spring 2021
ISD #84 Sleepy Eye, MN

No. 2

A Change in the Norm

As a pandemic can create many unknowns and a world of uncertainty something will always remain constant; one of those being the growth of your child. As many lives have shifted to a more home based life, it can be hard to think of new fun ways to enjoy time with your children! Please take the time to look through our newsletter to see the different opportunities we have to offer your family.

ECFE has created 4 weeks of virtual classes and some events to help add some *spice* in your “new normal” life! We hope that you will join us for some activity packets, live or recorded circle times, and special events.

We are hoping to have a spring session with 9 more weeks outside like fall and also some other special events if possible! We will send out another, smaller, newsletter with those dates and events if we are able to!

You may either send this form back to register or there is also an online form this year that can be found on our Facebook page. I look forward to seeing many of you in a few short weeks!!

See you at ECFE activities!

Megan Koenigs
Early Childhood Educator
megan.koenigs@sleepyeye.mntm.org



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

Find us on Facebook! Sleepy Eye - ECFE



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

NO BABIES CLASSES THIS SESSION

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

Tuesday, Live Circle Time at 4:45: 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9

Packet Pick Up Dates: 1/18, 2/1, 2/15, 3/1

Have fun learning with your toddler through different activities sent home every other week. We will also be having a live circle time once a week. If the time does not work for you it will be recorded and posted for you to watch on your own time.

Two Year Olds

Tuesday, Live Circle Time at 5:00: 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9

Packet Pick Up Dates: 1/18, 2/1, 2/15, 3/1

Come for ideas, motivation, and support to stay ahead of your curious, active child. Have fun learning through various age appropriate activities that are sent home every other week. We will also be having a live circle time once a week. If the time does not work for you it will be recorded and posted for you to watch on your own time.

Mixed Ages (3-5 years)

Thursday, Live Circle Time at 5:00: 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11

Packet Pick Up Dates: 1/18, 2/1, 2/15, 3/1

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. We will be having a live circle time once a week. If the time does not work for you it will be recorded and posted for you to watch on your own time.

How Do I Register?

1. **Mail - SE Community Ed
400 4th Ave SW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085**
2. **In Person – Room 318
or Room 109 other times**
3. **By phone – 507-794-7873**
4. **Online – Form can be found
on our Facebook page**



Special Family Events

Snow Day Fun

When: Sunday, February 21
Back up day Sunday, February 28
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!

Valentine's Trail Mix

When: Saturday, February 13
Time: 10:30 am
Where: Virtual Class Dojo Site

Let's make Trail Mix! Gather together some ingredients like; cheerios, pretzels, bugles, oyster crackers, rice chex, yogurt covered raisins, marshmallows, M&M's, skittles, Swedish Fish, or anything else you enjoy!

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Area schools will be offering informational sessions for children who are entering Kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year.

Both dates are tentatively planned due to COVID and will be reevaluated once closer.

Sleepy Eye Public School Kindergarten
Round Up: Tuesday, March 9 from 4-6:30pm.

St. Mary's Catholic School Kindergarten Round Up: Thursday, March 18 at 6:30pm.

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. For a an up to date Babysitter List please call the Community Ed office. Call 507-794-7873 for a copy.

Bedtime Stories

When: Saturday, February 27
Time: 6:30 pm
Where: Virtual Class Dojo Site

Wear your pajamas, grab your favorite stuffed animal, and join us for some bedtime stories and songs!

Yoga

When: Saturday, January 30
Saturday, March 13
Time: 10:30 am
Where: Virtual Class Dojo Site

Look for some COSMIC YOGA links posted online and follow along as you work on different poses and find your inner Zen.

Preschools

Registration for 2021-2022 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.

School Readiness is available for four year olds and meets five days a week for two hours and thirty minutes. A Voluntary Pre-K grant is being applied for for the 2021-2022 school year. It would provide 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.

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

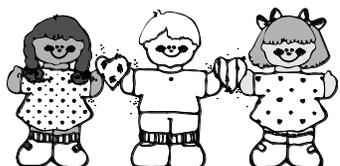
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

This program 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 or events. 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.

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.



ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Stevermer	Darla Remus
LeAnn Helget	Megan Koenigs
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Trista Barka	

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!

Salt Painted Snowflakes

Use glue to create a snowflake on your paper. Sprinkle salt over the glue and let it dry. Once dry grab your water color paints and paint over the salt and watch your snowflake shine!



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:

- Box Tops for Education
- Casey's Donut & Pizza Cards
- Loaves for Learning
- Scrip 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.

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.

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, March 11, 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.

Early Childhood Family Education

REGISTRATION FORM

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Child's Name	Birth Date	Class Title

Please check the cost that applies:

- \$12 for Virtual Toddlers
- \$16 for Virtual Two Year Olds
- \$16 for Virtual Mixed Ages
- Yoga
- Valentines Trail Mix
- Bedtime Stories
- Snow Day Fun

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
