



Early Childhood Family Education

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Fall 2017
ISD #84 Sleepy Eye, MN

No. 1

Falling For School!

Our community is blessed to have so many opportunities for our youth. ECFE is a place that welcomes any and all families with children birth through age five. I hope you take the time to look through our newsletter to see all the different opportunities we have to offer your family.

The early years are so much fun and they go by so quickly. They can also be challenging. Parenting isn't always easy and no one is a perfect parent. We hope to help families connect with others and learn together how to best handle the everydayness of life, 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.

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



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

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 (4 classes)

Class dates: 9/16, 9/30, 10/14, 11/4
Meet in Room 318

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

Toddlers

Thursdays, 6:00-7:15 p.m. (9 classes)

Class dates: 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/26, 11/2, 11/19, 11/16
Meet in Room 318

Have fun learning with your toddler through play during action filled parent and child activity time. Children will continue to have activities supervised by the teacher, while parents have a discussion with a parent educator.

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.

Two Year Olds

TUESDAYS, 6:00-7:30 p.m. (9 classes)

Class dates: 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14
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 parent discussion time.

Mixed Ages (3-5 years)

MONDAY Morning

9:00-10:30 a.m. (9 Classes)

Class dates: 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6
Meet in Room 318

MONDAY Afternoon

4:30-6:00 p.m. (9 classes)

Class dates: 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6
Meet in Room 320

MONDAY Evening

6:00-7:30 p.m. (9 classes)

Class dates: 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6
Meet in Room 320

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

How Do I Register?

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



Special Family Events

Fall Festival

When: Saturday, October 28
Time: 10:00-12:00 p.m.
Where: Sleepy Eye Public School Cafeteria
Cost: \$2 per child/\$5 per family or one food shelf item donation per person.

Join us for a fun afternoon of fall themed games, playdoh creations, cookie decorating, book corner, and coloring!

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

Open Gym

When: Saturday, November 18
Time: 3:30-5:00 p.m.
When: Saturday, December 2
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.

Holiday Event

When: Friday, December 8
Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Where: Sleepy Eye Public School Cafeteria
Cost: \$2 per child/\$5 per family or one food shelf item donation per person

Come play games, create art projects, decorate a cookie, and read books.

Mommy & Me-Cooking with Mom

When: Friday, November 10
Time: 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Where: SE Public School, FACS Room
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 make a simple supper and dessert together. 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.

Inclement Weather Policy

If school starts **two hours late**, the morning class will not meet. If **school closes early** for the day or is cancelled, all afternoon and evening classes are cancelled as well. We will make up any missed classes at the end of the session.

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

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.

Preschools

District 84 offers Discovery Time for children who are 3 by September 1. Open House will be Tuesday, August 29 and classes begin Wednesday, September 6.

School Readiness is for children who are 4 by September 1. Open house is Tuesday, August 22 with classes beginning Monday, August 28.

Preschool opportunities are also available in the Tri-Valley Head Start program (includes day care as well), St. John's and St. Mary's Schools.

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 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.

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 3, 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

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!



Leaf Pile Jumping

Rake up those pesky leaves in a pile and spend hours jumping in it, having leaf fights, then just re-rake them again and start all over!



No Cook Pumpkin Spice Playdough

2 1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup salt
3 Tbs. oil
1 Tbs. alum
2 cups boiling water
Pumpkin spice seasoning

Pour all ingredients together and mix well.
Knead for a bit and add food coloring
if you want too.

Dyckman Free Library

Story Time continues every Friday 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

Torry Berg	Megan Koenigs
Pat Stevermer	Darla Remus
Crystal Uys	Kayla Jacobsen
Christina Fischer	Rashelle Weicherding

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:

- Save Milk Moola lids or labels
- Box Tops for Education
- Casey's Donut & Pizza Cards
- 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!

Last call for Campbell's Soup labels. The deadline to mail them in is December 15 in order to be included in the final submission. They have not been printed on products recently but some products still have an old label that is valid.

Change is Generally Good

The waiting is over! After submitting a grant proposal for Voluntary PreK last February, Sleepy Eye was approved on August 1 for the next two years. This means School Readiness will expand from 90 days to 140 days. The grant also provides all funding for the classes. First class will be August 28. We are still seeking a paraprofessional for these 140 days.

So one change will be the use of our rooms. Room 320 will be pretty much scheduled during the day for School Readiness as well as Monday and Tuesday evenings for ECFE. Room 318 will be reserved for Discovery Time of Wednesday and Friday as well as the Monday morning ECFE class, babies and toddler classes.

Discovery Time classes begin on Wednesday, September 6 with ECFE classes on Monday, September 11. Discovery Time meets 52 days during the school year.

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 through the 10th of each month, 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.

Casey's Partnership Cards

ECFE will again sell the Partnership Cards. Cards have no expiration date and are accepted at all Casey's General Store locations that serve pizza and donuts. Each card has ten punches.

Each punch on a Pizza Partnership Card is valid for one FREE medium single topping pizza with the purchase of any large specialty pizza. The cards sell for \$15.

Each punch on a Donut Partnership Card is valid for 6 FREE cake donuts with the purchase of 6 cake donuts. These cards sell for \$10.

Cards are available at ECFE classes or in the Community Ed office during open hours. They make great gifts!

REGISTRATION FORM

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Child's Name	Birth Date	Class Title

Please check the cost that applies:

- Babies class (Free) September 16 September 30 October 14 November 4
- \$27 for Toddlers
- \$36 for Two Year Olds
- \$36 Mixed Ages – Please mark a session Mornings Afternoons Evenings
- Fall Festival Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child/\$5.00 per family
- Open Gym Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child/\$5.00 per family November 18 December 2
- 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
