



# Early Childhood Family Education

Vol. 28

Winter/Spring 2017  
ISD #84 Sleepy Eye, MN

No. 2

## Flurries N' Fun

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. Please take the time to look through our newsletter to see the numerous opportunities we have to offer your family.

The early years go by so quickly and there are so many teachable/learning opportunities during these years. These years can be very fun and enjoyable, but they can also be challenging. Parenting isn't always easy and no one is a perfect parent. We hope to help families connect with other families 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.

## 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

#### Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Class dates: 1/28, 2/18, 3/11, 4/1, 4/22  
Meet in Room 320

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: 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30  
Meet in Room 320

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 for the last twenty minutes of class.

*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.*

## Two Year Olds

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

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

### Monday Morning

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

Class dates: 1/23, 1/30, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3  
Meet in Room 321

### Monday Afternoon

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

Class dates: 1/23, 1/30, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3  
Meet in Room 320

### Monday Evening

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

Class dates: 1/23, 1/30, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3  
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 the last 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



## Special Family Events

### Kindergarten Transition

**When:** Date to be determined  
**Time:** 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
**Where:** SE Public School, Room 320  
**Who:** Any child who will be entering Kindergarten in the 2017-2018 school year

Come and learn ways you can help your child be better prepared for kindergarten from current Kindergarten teachers. This night is designed for parents of children planning to attend kindergarten. There will be activities for the children to do while the parents are at the discussion.

### Mommy & Me-Cooking with Mom

**When:** Friday, January 6  
**Time:** 5:00-6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** SE Public School, FACS Room  
**Who:** Children & Moms/Aunts/Grandmothers  
**Cost:** Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family

Come and join us as we bake pizza and cookies! 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.

### Literacy Night

**When:** Monday, February 6  
**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-Building with Dad

**When:** Thursday, March 30  
**Time:** 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** SE Public School, Cafeteria  
**Who:** Children & Dads/Uncles/Grandfathers  
**Cost:** Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family

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.

### Open Gyms

**When:** Saturday, January 7; 3:30-5:00 pm  
Saturday, January 21; 11:30-1:00 pm  
Saturday, February 11; 3:30-5:00 pm  
**Where:** SE Public School Elementary Gym  
**Cost:** \$2 per child/\$5 per family or 1 food shelf item for donation per person

Family open 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.

### Grandparents Day

**When:** Saturday, March 4  
**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 1 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.

### End of the Year Celebration

**When:** Coming in April!  
**Where:** SE Public School, Elementary Gym

**Details are not complete at this time for an end of the year celebration. Watch for updated information by the end of March.**

### 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.

## Special Family Events

### Daddy/Daughter Dance

There isn't a dad around who doesn't think of his daughter as his little sweetheart. Now there's a fun way for fathers to celebrate that special relationship. **Families Together** is hosting a Daddy-Daughter dance from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, April 23 at the New Ulm Country Club. The afternoon will include dancing, refreshments, pictures of each couple, and lots of quality time with your daughter dressed like a princess! Admission is \$10 per couple, with a \$5 charge for each additional daughter.

- This event is for girls ages 3 years to third grade
- 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

Tickets on sale beginning February 7 in the Community Ed office.

### Mother/Son Hoedown

Calling all moms and their sons! Enjoy a special afternoon with your favorite little cowboy. **Families Together** is hosting a Hoedown from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, May 7 at the New Ulm Country Club. The afternoon will include dancing, refreshments, pictures of each couple and lots of quality time with your son! Admission is \$10 per couple, with a \$5 charge for each additional son.

- This event is for boys ages 3 years to third grade.
- Grandmothers, aunts, stepmothers, big sisters, and other special women are invited to be escorts.
- Dress in western wear (jeans, boots, hats, etc.)

Tickets on sale beginning February 7 in the Community Ed office.

Each couple will receive a 5 x 7 photo courtesy of IMH Photography at either event

## 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!



### 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 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.*

## 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

Pat Stevermer	Darla Remus
Torry Berg	Megan Koenigs
Christina Fischer	Ashley Maher
Kayla Jacobsen	Crystal Uys
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 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 2017-2018 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 two 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 one to three days depending on family's choice.

Scholarships are available for qualifying families and busing is available in town. A preschool scholarship fund is open for tax-deductible donations to fund the program.

Other preschools are available at St. John's 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 2017-2018 school year.

Sleepy Eye Public School Kindergarten Round Up: Tuesday, March 14

St. Mary's Catholic School Kindergarten Information Night: Monday, February 27

St. John's Lutheran School Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Open House: Tuesday, March 7

**DID YOU KNOW...** Baby teeth are important for your child's overall health and development? Many parents do not worry much about their children's baby (primary) teeth because they think that they are "just baby teeth" and will fall out anyway. Baby teeth allow children to eat, speak properly, hold space for permanent teeth and guide the growth of the face. And dental problems *can* hurt!

## **Early Childhood Screening**

It is state law that every child entering kindergarten in a public school must 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 9, 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

### 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. They each have ten punches on them.

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!

### 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
- Loaves for Learning bread 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!

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.

### Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Grant

Over 800 books were received for children up to age 8 in the Sleepy Eye school district. A grant was written in April with partners being ECFE, School Readiness and Tri-Valley Head Start.

These are being given to children in classes, at special events, screening, and family nights until they are gone.

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](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.

The ECFE t-shirt design is shown below. 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.

### 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 or pick one up at ECFE classes or in Room 109.



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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 28     February 18     March 11     April 1     April 22
- \$27 for Toddlers
- \$36 for Two Year Olds
- \$36 Mixed Ages – Please mark a session     Mornings             Afternoons             Evenings
- Kindergarten Transition                       Literacy Night
- Grandparents Day            Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family
- Open Gym     Jan 7     Jan 21     Feb 11    Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family
- Daddy & Me: Building with Dad            Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family
- Mommy & Me: Cooking with Mom            Food shelf item or \$2.00 per child or \$5.00 per family
- End of the Year Celebration

*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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