



EARLY CHILDHOOD
FAMILY EDUCATION

Crookston Community Education



Crookston Public Schools

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION



Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a program of Crookston Community Education offering classes and activities for parents and their children birth through five at Washington School. All of society benefits from STRONG FAMILIES and HEALTHY, CAPABLE, CHILDREN. Strong families are the foundation of a strong society NOW and far into the FUTURE. Parents have a great influence on their children as the first and most significant teachers in their lives. Because the role of parenting is so important, ECFE is designed to include children and their parents in activities that strengthen parenting skills, encourage children in caring ways, and will bring parents and children together for a variety of shared experiences.

ECFE WINTER/SPRING 2023 - 1/8/23-5/17/23

WELCOME TO ECFE!



Parents are the first and most important influence on a child's physical health, mental health, moral values, and learning. Early parental influences form the foundation for school success and a meaningful and productive adult life. Research shows that early childhood programs that include parents build protective factors through child development and guidance, social networks that provide reassurance and support, and connections to community resources. All parents benefit from information and support during the early years.

CONTACT US

ECFE Main Office
218-281-5078
Washington School
724 University Avenue
Crookston, MN, 56716

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Crookston Public Schools has received a top rating for high quality Early Childhood Programs. For more information about Parent Aware, go to: parentawareratings.org

ARE YOU ON THE CENSUS?

Preschool parents, your child is never too young or too old to be on our census. If your family has a new addition through birth or adoption, or you are new to the Crookston community, contact the Community Education Office at 281-5078 with your child's information. By doing so, your family will receive information on upcoming preschool events, preschool screening, School Readiness, Kindergarten Roundup and other important information. Please notify our office of changes in address and telephone numbers. Providing updated information will help keep you informed of the Early Childhood opportunities that you don't want your child to miss.



WHAT IS ECFE?

ECFE Mission

The mission of ECFE is to strengthen families through the education and support of all parents to provide the best possible environment for the healthy growth and development of their children.

WHAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD WILL GAIN FROM ECFE

- Information, new tools, and new strategies to support healthy growth and development for parents and children
 - Enhanced family communication skills and co-parenting skills
 - Strategies for balancing family life
- Opportunities to connect with other families and build relationships

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

In Person Classes

Separating Classes

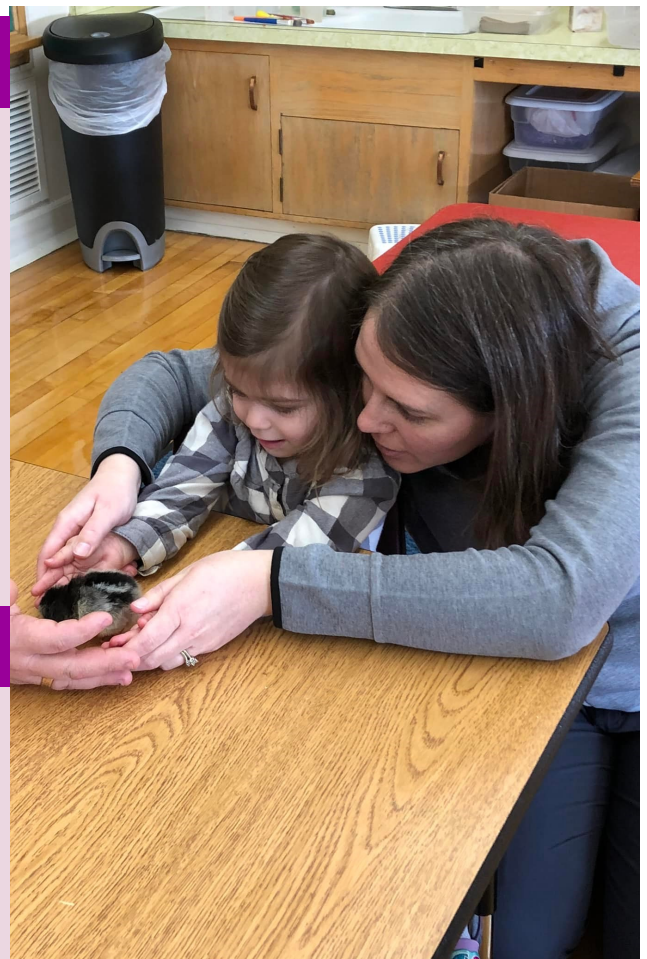
Classes include time with children and their caregivers interacting in early childhood spaces. Caregivers leave the children's space for parent education while children stay and learn from other children and professional staff.

Non-Separating Classes

Play, learn, and sing with your child and other families. Parent education and children's activities happen in one space. If you or your child are not ready to separate or to prefer to use ECFE as a time to play and learn together, look for this type of class.

Home Visits

Make a free appointment with a licensed parent educator to discuss your parenting challenges, receive resources and/or develop a plan that will fit you and your family. A follow-up consultation will be offered if necessary and can be scheduled after your first visit. Call Washington School at 281-5078.



BIRTH TO KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE CLASSES



In Birth to Kindergarten Entrance classes, families and their young children come together to explore, play, and learn. The parent educator facilitates conversations on child development and ways to support children's growth and learning while building the parent/child relationship. Early childhood educators engage children in developmentally appropriate activities to support specific needs and growth of all children.

All families with children ages Birth to Kindergarten Entrance are welcome to attend our classes.

Full STEAM Ahead

Mondays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

ECFE with a twist! During this class you and your child will participate in activities that emphasize STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) in the early childhood classroom. Each week we will focus on one or more of these areas with developmentally appropriate activities.

Instructor: Gina Gunderson

Registration Is Required

Cost: \$30.00



Mixed Age Magic

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Families meet in the classroom/gym for circle time with stories and songs. Parents will meet informally to share ideas and discuss topics such as positive discipline strategies, challenging behaviors, food, health and safety tips, and more. Parents learn from each other as they discuss topics that most interest them. During parent education time, the children remain in the classroom/gym to play and explore with each other and the early childhood teacher and classroom aide.

Instructors: Gina Gunderson, Kiely Tate

Registration Is Required

Cost: \$30.00

Oh the Places We'll Go

Fridays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Mix it up on Fridays and enroll in the ECFE class that is going places. During this class, we will explore our community, whether it's at a local business or outside at one of the many fabulous parks! Both parent's and child's needs are met with creative activities and personal growth opportunities. Research reveals the necessity of contact with nature for healthy child and adult development. A growing body of research links our mental, physical and spiritual health directly to our association with nature.

Instructor: Gina Gunderson

Registration is Required

Cost: \$30.00

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EVENTS

Build a Wood Project

Monday, January 29

6:00-7:00 P.M.

Washington School

Wanted, young carpenters! You will need to bring a parent or special friend, a Phillips screwdriver, and a hammer to build a project that will be useful for years to come. Supplies are limited so please register and pay for your project by January 25th. The cost is \$8.00 per project for materials. No one will be turned away due to inability to pay.

March Musical Madness

Monday, March 25

6:00-7:00 PM

Highland School

Come and enjoy music! Musicians will entertain you and your children. Your child will have the opportunity to experience the sights and sounds of many musical instruments. Children can join in a sing-a-long or move to the music. Enjoy the wonderful sound of live music!

Let's PLAY Pretend

Tuesday, February 20

6:00-7:00 PM

The Celebrate the Young Child Collaborative, along with the CALL Committee, invites you to come and PLAY pretend at the Crookston Public Library. Your child is welcome to come dressed in costume!

Let's PLAY Together at the Family Festival

Tuesday, April 16

5:30-7:00 PM

The Celebrate the Young Child Collaborative invites you to come PLAY together at our CYC Family Festival at the Crookston High School. Many hands-on stations will be available, along with informational booths and a light meal.

ECFE is Going to the Pool

Monday, February 26

6:00-7:00 PM

Crookston Pool

Bring your child and explore to the water with them. Exposing children to water at a young age is beneficial to them and builds confidence to be comfortable around it.

End of the Year Picnic

Monday, May 13

5:00-6:30 PM

Washington School

School Readiness and ECFE families along with Washington staff and families will celebrate together at a fun End of the Year Picnic. This event offers great food and family fun. In the event of rain, activities will be held inside.



MORE ECFE OPTIONS

Pop in and Play

1/20, 2/10, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11

10:30-11:30 AM

Ages birth to Kindergarten
Entrance

Registration not required

Pop in and play in the gym on a Saturday morning! You and your child can come and play in the gym using equipment designed for young children. Come expecting to have lots of fun making wonderful memories with your child.

Instructors: Gina Gunderson, Kiely Tate



Unplug and Play

1/9, 1/23, 2/6, 3/5

3/19, 4/9, 4/23, 5/7

5:00-6:00 PM

Ages birth to kindergarten
entrance

Registration not required

It's time to "Unplug and Play"! Get out of the house and have some family fun at a park in October or in the gym at Washington School in November and December. Get up and get going to this fun and exciting FREE ECFE class.

Instructor: Gina Gunderson



Newborn Baby Talk

Every Tuesday (except for Federal Holidays)

9:30-11:00 A.M.

Crookston Public Library, 110 N. Ash Street

For parents with babies 0-12 weeks.

2—12 Week Sessions: Jan. 8-Mar. 26 and Apr. 2-June 18

A public health nurse, parents educator, and lactation specialist will be available to answer questions about your newborn and provide support and information on your new journey of parenting. Facilitate discussion will cover feeding, attachment, sleep, development, family changes and returning to work. You will have an opportunity to have your baby weighed as well.

Baby Talk is a collaboration between Polk County Public Health, Crookston Public School Early Childhood Education (ECFE) Program, and Lake Agassiz Regional Library.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Crookston Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)

The Crookston Early Childhood Initiative supports parents of children age birth to 5 in the crucial role they have in preparing children for success in school, the workplace, and life. A Directory of Crookston Early Childhood Opportunities has been designed to help parents and can be obtained at any of the Crookston Public Schools, City Hall, and the Crookston Library. It is a listing of available resources including home-based childcare, pre-school education, parenting education, and community services throughout Crookston. For more information, visit www.crookston.k12.mn.us or like us on the Crookston Early Child Initiative Facebook page. The Crookston ECI is here to help children and all those who parent, care for, and educate young children. If you see a need in our community, or would like to support the work of the ECI, please contact Gina Gunderson, Local Coordinator, at 281-7385.

Check out our Little House of Books around the community: Evergreen Park, Castle Park, Crookston Sports Center, and Landslide Park! The ECI is hopeful this initiative will result in more books to enter more homes in our community, resulting in MORE children reaping the benefits of reading or being read to! Happy Reading Everyone!

CROOKSTON EARLY CHILDHOOD



INITIATIVE

Love ♥ Learn ♥ Thrive

The Crookston Early Childhood Initiative is sponsored by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and is part of the statewide Minnesota Early Childhood Initiative.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Parents of children are invited to register their child for Dolly Parton's 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 Crookston Public School and you can register at:

www.ImaginationLibrary.com.



Help Me Grow provides resources for families to understand developmental milestones and learn if there are concerns. This helps families take the lead in seeking additional support or referring their child for a comprehensive, confidential screening or evaluation at no cost. If you have concerns about a child's development and think a child might need extra help to learn and grow, don't hesitate to refer a child. The family will be contacted by the local school district to arrange for a screening or evaluation to determine if their child is eligible for Infant and Toddler Intervention or Preschool Special Education services. Check online at www.helpmegrowmn.org for more information or to refer a child 0-5 years old.

help me



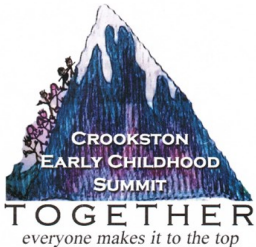
OTHER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Crookston Early Childhood Summit

In recent years, fall kindergarten assessment data has shown that annually about 50% of children have entered kindergarten in need of early reading intervention. The goal of this project is to increase the number of children prepared to enter kindergarten. This will be accomplished through a series of "Crookston Early Childhood Summits", or meetings, with kindergarten teachers, early childhood educators, childcare providers, organizations advocating for young children, and parents. The definition for the word "summit" is: the highest attainable level of achievement.

During these Summit Meetings, people will have the opportunity to discuss and create a shared vision for early childhood in our community. We will talk about what we are currently doing that has been successful and what we can do collectively to help children prepare for kindergarten so they can be successful in school.

As a result of funding from the Otto Bremer Foundation, "Tool Kits" are distributed during Early Childhood Screening and Kindergarten Roundup. These "Tool Kits" contain activities parents can do with their children to help prepare them for Kindergarten.



Our goal is to schedule Summit Meetings annually and continue the important networking among all people working with and caring for young children in our community, and add to the "Tool Kits" when funding allows.

Our committee is made up of a variety of individuals, with many experiences, who are all volunteering their time to this project and have a connection to early childhood in our community.

If you would like more information, contact Denice Oliver or Brenda Crane at 218-281-2762.

Early Childhood Screening

The early childhood years from birth to the start of kindergarten are an important time of rapid learning and growth. The State of Minnesota requires that all children are screened prior to entering preschool and kindergarten. Early Childhood Screening is a quick and simple check of how children are doing between the ages of three and four years. It identifies, at an early stage, possible learning or health concerns so that children can get the help they need before starting school. Early Childhood Screening is *not* a kindergarten entrance test. Crookston Public School's Early Childhood Screening will be held March 6, 7 and August 2024. Children born before January 1, 2021, who have not yet been screened, will be eligible. In January, parents of eligible screening age children will receive information about setting up an appointment for screening. If your child will be eligible and you do not receive a letter in February, please contact us at 281-5078.

School Readiness Programming

The registration process for preschool begins in May when information for the upcoming school year is mailed to families with children who will be three or four years old by September 1. Children who are 5 years old on or before September 1 are eligible for Kindergarten. Classes for the 2023-2024 school year have already been filled. Please inquire if you wish to be placed on a waiting list.

School Readiness offers children five preschool sessions a week, guided by a professional early childhood educator. Children have the opportunity to become comfortable with going to school, making the transition to kindergarten easier! The goals of the School Readiness Program are to encourage children's physical, social, cognitive, and language development based on Minnesota's early Childhood Indicators of Progress. These standards lay the foundation for later academic success.

Stay informed of opportunities for your child by providing our office with any changes to your address or telephone number. Contact us with updates at 281-5078.

HOW TO REGISTER

ONLINE	OR	BY MAIL	OR	IN-PERSON	OR	BY PHONE
Email Lori Morgan at lorimorgan@isd593.org		Complete and mail your registration form to: ECFE 724 University Avenue Crookston, MN 56716		Bring your registration form to: Washington School 724 University Avenue Crookston, MN 56716		Call the Community Education office at 218-281-5078

Program Details and Policies

- Registration is ongoing. Classes are filled on a first come first serve basis.
- There is a fee for each class. A supply fee may apply.
- Events are free. A supply fee may apply.
- The maximum enrollment may vary with each class.
- Contact the Community Education office for reduced fee information or payment forms.
- No family will be turned away due to inability to pay.
- Refunds are not available.

What are the goals for ECFE participants

1. Parent-child relationships support the child's development in physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language development, communication skills, cognition, and general knowledge.
2. Parents understand the importance of their role and how it changes over time.
3. Parents have the knowledge and realistic expectations to anticipate and meet the developmental needs of their children.
4. Parents demonstrate sensitive and responsive care and interactions with their children.
5. Parents and children experience a smooth transition from early childhood programs and services into kindergarten and the K-12 system.
6. Parents are engaged in their children's learning and education in the school age years.
7. Families participate in formal and informal social networks in their communities that support effective parenting.
8. Families are knowledgeable about and use community resources.

REGISTRATION FORM



EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

STUDENT INFORMATION

Child's Name: _____

State Student ID (School use only): _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Immunizations Up to Date: _____

Classes are filled on a first come, first serve basis. You may inquire of the class availability throughout the year. There is a fee for some year-long classes. Contact the Community Education office at 281-5078 for the Reduced/Free Fee qualifications or payment plans. No one will be turned away for inability to pay. The class fee reserves your family's spot for the year. If openings remain, families may register after January 1st at a reduced rate. Families limited to one class per day. Refunds are not available.

Family Class Fee: \$30

Reduced/Free Class Fee: \$15

Make checks payable to: Community Education

Payment plans are available: Call 281-5078 for more information.

Class Title: _____ Class Fee: _____

Class Title: _____ Class Fee: _____

Class Title: _____ Class Fee: _____

TOTAL FEE: _____

Name of Parents Attending: _____