



Early Childhood Family Education



**CROOKSTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION
2022-2023 WINTER-SPRING SESSION
JANUARY 9, 2023—MAY 19, 2023**

**Early Childhood Family Education
Crookston Public Schools**

Crookston Public Schools receives 4 Star Top Rating for Early Childhood Programs

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

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- ◆ Classes begin January 9 — May 19
- ◆ Classes held outdoors at a designated location or at Washington School.
- ◆ Registration Form is on page 8
- ◆ Information is also available at:

www.crookston.k12.mn.us
www.crookstontimes.com
www.kroxam.com



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.



What is ECFE?

Early Childhood Family Education, a program of Crookston Community Education, offers classes and activities for parents and their children ages birth through five at Washington School. The classes are designed to enhance early learning. The gym is also used to encourage active play. Parents and children can take classes and participate in special family events. Call now to register and join us for a time of building skills and meeting new friends!



- ◆ Registrations are ongoing. Classes are filled on a first come first serve basis.
- ◆ There is a fee for each year long 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 Ed office for reduced fee information or payment plans.
- ◆ No one will be turned away for inability to pay.
- ◆ Refunds are not available.
- ◆ Mail or drop off your registration form and payment to the Community Education Office at Washington School.

"My children have learned so much from the ECFE program. They have received many educational experiences mixed with fun activities and life lessons."



Denice Oliver, Early Childhood Coordinator—deniceoliver@isd593.org

Lori Morgan, Early Childhood Admin. Asst—lorimorgan@isd593.org

Washington School—724 University Avenue, Crookston, MN 56716

Community Education Office—218-281-5078

ECFE Weekly Classes

Music in Me Featuring Kindermusik

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

In Person

Ages birth to Kindergarten Entrance

Join this class for songs and story time led by an ECFE teacher. We are excited to implement our new music curriculum, Kindermusik.

Kindermusik uses the power and joy of music-making to help children learn and grow during the most playful, interactive and developmentally appropriate music and movement activities.

Instructor: Gina Gunderson
Registration Is Required
Cost: \$30.00

Mixed Age Magic

Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Weekly—In Person

Ages birth to Kindergarten Entrance

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.

Instructor: Gina Gunderson, Kiely Tate
Registration Is Required
Cost: \$30.00

Oh the Places We'll Go

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

Weekly—In Person

Ages birth to Kindergarten Entrance

Mix it up on Fridays and enroll in the ECFE class that is going places! Both parent's and child's needs are met with creative activities and personal growth opportunities. Parents will select their favorite places to visit and explore in Crookston and the surrounding area. Mix up your Friday and register for this exciting class.

Instructor: Gina Gunderson
Registration Is Required
Cost: \$30.00

FREE ECFE Monthly Classes

Pop in and Play

2nd Saturday of each Month

1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/15

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Ages birth to Kindergarten Entrance

Registration not required

Pop in and play in the gym every second Saturday! 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.

Instructor: Gina Gunderson, Kiely Tate



FREE ECFE Classes



Unplug and Play

January 10 and 24, 2023

February 7, 2023

March 7 and 21, 2023

April 4, 2023

May 9, 2023

5:00-6:00 p.m.

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 in the gym at Washington School in January, February, March and outside in April and May. Get up and get going to this fun and exciting FREE ECFE class.

Instructor: Gina Gunderson, Kiely Tate
Registration Is Not Required

Celebrate the Young Child Collaboration invites you to

LET'S GO ON A PIRATE ADVENTURE

Crookston Public Library
Tuesday, February 21, 2023
6:00 -7:00 p.m.

An evening filled with pirate games, activities and more!



Celebrate the Young Child Collaboration invites you to

FAMILY FESTIVAL "LET'S GO ON A PIRATE ADVENTURE"

Crookston High School
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
5:30 -7:00 p.m.



Early Childhood Special Events and Information

Build a Wood Project
Monday, January 30
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Birth to 5 years old



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.

ECFE is going to the Movies
Monday, February 27
5:00--6:00 p.m.
Birth to 5 years old

Please join us at the Grand Theatre for a child friendly movie.



March Musical Madness
Monday, March 27
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Highland School
Birth to 5 year olds



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 music!

End of the Year Picnic
Monday, May, 15, 2023
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. Please join us by registering for this event early. In the event of rain, activities will be held inside.



help me



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 grown, 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 Pre-school Special Education services. Check online at www.helpmegrowmn.org for more information or to refer a child 0-5 years old.

Dolly Parton's 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 Crookston Public School and you can register at:

www.ImaginationLibrary.com.





Crookston Early Childhood Initiative at Work

The Crookston Early Childhood Initiative supports parents of children birth through kindergarten entrance 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 that this initiative will result in more books to enter more homes in our community. Other positive outcomes of the Little House of Books Library will be opportunities for children to read independently or with their caregivers, resulting in MORE children reaping the benefits of reading or being read to! Happy Reading Everyone!

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

Language development is a remarkable process for parents to witness. From the time our children are infants, we want to capture those precious moments with our cameras. The babbles turn into repetitive syllables, which then turn into words and eventually sentences. It's mesmerizing to hear our children's first "mama" or "dada" and to watch them progress from those simple words to full conversations.

What can you do to help your child? Here are some tips:

- **TALK**, talk, and then talk some more. During your daily activities, talk about what you and your child are doing. Ask and answer questions. Your child will learn to associate the words you say with the people, actions, objects, and feelings you describe.
- **ENCOURAGE** your budding communicator. Listen and respond to your child's sounds and words, including cooing and babbling. Imitate her sounds or words and add to them. Introduce vocabulary words during new routines and outings. You're teaching back-and-forth conversation skills.
- **READ** every day, starting from birth. Choose books with rhymes, bright colors, different textures, and photos. Read with expression, and point to words as you say them; point out real versions of pictures from the books you read as you see them in everyday settings (traffic signs, store logos). Create daily routines that incorporate reading, such as at bedtime or mealtimes.
- **SING** songs and recite nursery rhymes. Vary the pitch and volume of your voice.
- **MODEL** good speech. Speak clearly and naturally, and use correct speech sounds.
- **DESCRIBE** objects that have different sizes, colors, and textures. Use comparison words such as hard and soft.
- **PLAY** games that help your child follow directions, such as Simon Says. Encourage pretend play: pretend to talk on a toy phone, or have a "picnic." Build on the conversation (this is appropriate for older toddlers).
- **ASK** why questions, such as "Why do we need to eat breakfast?" And be ready to answer them, too (this is appropriate for older toddlers).



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.

ECFE PROVIDES A PLACE FOR PARENTS TO LEARN ABOUT AND PRACTICE IMPORTANT PARENTING AND FAMILY LIFE SKILLS AND BUILD TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PARENTS FROM THEIR COMMUNITY.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
FAMILY EDUCATION**

RESEARCH CONFIRMS THAT CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE INVOLVED IN THEIR EDUCATION AND LEARNING ARE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL.

School Readiness/ECFE Staff

Coordinator

Denice Oliver

Administrative Assistant

Lori Morgan

School Readiness Instructors

Karen Brekken

Brigette Burzette-DeLeon

Bobbie Jo Hebert

Amber Loken

Katie Scott

Kiely Tate

ECFE Instructors

Gina Gunderson

Kiely Tate

Parent Educator

Gina Gunderson

School Readiness Aides

Megan Baird

Linda Fuller

Kathleen Goodyke

Holli Pierson

Heather Rosu

Heidi VanEps

ECFE Advisory Board

The Early Childhood Family Education Advisory Board is a committee of parents and community members who meet to discuss policies and guide program direction. If you are in serving on the ECFE Advisory Board, contact Denice Oliver at 281-5078.

Board Meeting dates in 2022/2023 are:

Nov. 29, Jan. 31, Mar. 28, & Apr. 25 at Washington School.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF

ECFE FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES:

- SUPPORT DURING THE TRANSITION TO PARENTHOOD
- INFORMATION ON EARLY DEVELOPMENT AND WHAT TO EXPECT FROM CHILDREN
- STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE LIMIT-SETTING AND TEACHING
- QUALITY TIME WITH CHILDREN IN A SUPPORTIVE AND STIMULATING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
- TIME WITH OTHER PARENTS TO REFLECT ON FAMILY VALUES AND PARENTING PRACTICES IN A SUPPORTIVE GROUP SETTING
- ENHANCED FAMILY COMMUNICATION AND CO-PARENTING SKILLS
- STRATEGIES FOR BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY AND MANAGING STRESS
- FAMILIARITY WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

School Readiness

This preschool program is for 3-5 year olds. Priority for spots are given to 4-5 year olds prior to attending kindergarten. 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 and it makes the transition to kindergarten an easier one! The goals of the School Readiness Program are to encourage children's physical, social, cognitive and language based on Minnesota's Early Childhood Indicators of Progress. These standards lay the foundation for later academic Success.

Registration information for the upcoming year is mailed to families in May. Contact us at 281-5078 with address and phone number changes to keep informed of opportunities for your child.





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 Denise Oliver or Brenda Crane at 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 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 8, 2023. Children born before January 1, 2020, 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.

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.

ECFE HOME VISITING

Make a free appointment with a licensed parent educator to discuss your parenting challenges, get 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.

Early Childhood Family Education



EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION Fall 2022 Class Registration

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: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Parent permission for Field Trips and Photo Publication

I understand that my child(ren) may participate in school trips and/or have my child(ren)'s photo printed in publications for the Crookston School District. If I do not agree, I may request in writing that my child(ren) refrain from these activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Would you like to be added to our School Messenger service that will notify you if a class has been cancelled due to weather, etc. If so, please include the phone number that you would like to have the notification sent to:

**Registration and fees can be submitted to the Community Education Office at
Washington School, 724 University Avenue, Crookston, MN 56716.**