

All Students Ready for Kindergarten

Bemidji Early Childhood Family Education/School Readiness:

Bemidji's Area Schools Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and School Readiness (SR) programs are for all families in the Bemidji School District who have pre-school age children. We recognize that parents are a child's first and most important teachers and sometimes parents need support and encouragement for this responsibility. ECFE/SR offers a variety of classes for infants to pre-kindergarten at the Community Services Center, 616 America Avenue, and on the Bemidji State University (BSU) campus.

To see class listings or register for an ECFE or SR class, visit www.bemidjicomunityed.com or look through the Bemidji Community Education brochure. For additional information about ECFE or SR, call Sue at 218-333-8329.

The Bemidji community offers several preschool options for our young learners. Following are the number of four-year-old students served in Bemidji preschool programs during the 2015-2016 school year:

Calvary Preschool	43
TLC Preschool	17
Bethel Preschool	7
St. Phillips Preschool	24
Bi-CAP Head Start	40
Apple Blossom	2
Leech Lake Head Start	17
Bemidji District School Readiness	140
Kandiland	15
Heartland Christian Academy	13
First Lutheran Preschool	9
Marilyn's Munchkins	4
Little Smiles	?
Kinderkids	?
Total Served in Preschool	331

Bemidji's School Readiness (SR) program refers children to other community preschools when our seven classes are at full capacity.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) offers 15 parent and child classes at the Community Services Center in downtown Bemidji. These classes are offered during the daytime and also at night for working parents. In addition to on-site classes, Bemidji's ECFE program collaborates with Evergreen Youth & Family Services by providing weekly parenting groups at their drop-in housing site, collaboration with Sanford Hospital to visit all their childbirth classes, partnering with Bemidji Parks and Recreation to promote indoor play space at the Boys and Girls Club and with Bemidji's Early Childhood Initiative to promote high quality early childhood care and

education throughout the community. We have also offered parent education at the Beltrami County jail, the women's shelter, and provided childcare providers with home visits promoting literacy-based play.

Early Childhood Screening:

In order for a child to start kindergarten in any Minnesota public school (s)he must participate in early childhood screening. Screening includes vision, hearing, height, weight, speech/language and developmental observations. We offer these screenings throughout the school year. Ideally, children are screened between the ages of 3 ½ - 4 years old or earlier, if parents have concerns about their child's development. There is no cost for the screening.

To schedule an appointment for screening, please call Sue at 218-333-8329. The screening dates are listed on the Bemidji Community Education website under the Early Childhood Family Education tab.

Early Childhood Special Education:

Most of the information about Early Childhood Special Education is found on our web site at: <http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/early-childhood-special-education/>

4-year-old school readiness: Three slots are reserved for special education children in each school readiness classroom. This provides 21 early childhood special education children inclusion opportunities in a 4-year-old school readiness classroom. Bus transportation is provided for special education students.

3-year-old school readiness: Three slots are reserved for special education children in each school readiness classroom. This provides six early childhood special education children inclusion opportunities in a 3-year-old school readiness classroom. Bus transportation is provided for special education students.

There are two Early Childhood Special Education classrooms at the Community Services Center. Special Ed classes are in session Monday through Friday. The morning session runs from 9:00-11:30 and the afternoon session runs from 11:30-2:00. These two classrooms are only for special education children. Early Childhood Special Education teachers also provide special education services to children at Head Start and Leech Lake Head Start (Bemidji site).

Homebase teachers provide Early Intervention services to families in their home. These teachers only work with children from birth to three years of age. To be eligible for homebase services, the family must be living within the Bemidji School District and the child is identified as having special needs. There is no cost to families that qualify.

If parents have concerns regarding their baby or toddler's development, communication skills or motor skills, call the Early Intervention Program at (218) 333-8330 and arrange a developmental screening with an early intervention teacher.