

All Students Ready for Kindergarten

Bemidji Early Childhood Family Education/School Readiness:

Bemidji's 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 that 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.

One can find the class listings for Early Childhood Family Education by going to the home page (www.bemidjicomunityed), scrolling schools, and choosing "ECFE". Click on "Family Ed" and all classes are listed. The online catalog lists all the SR preschool classes also. With our all day classes, before and after school care is available. Class changes are updated online and in Facebook as needed, or call 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 2013-2014 school year:

Calvary Preschool	54
TLC Preschool	13
Bethel Preschool	10
St. Phillips Preschool	16
Bi-CAP Head Start	32
Apple Blossom	8
Leech Lake Head Start	20
Bemidji District School Readiness	<u>140</u>
Total Served in Preschool	293

The Bemidji Area Schools Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and School Readiness (SR) work with these preschools and refer some children to them if the fit is better. Many other young students are in day cares that offer some type of programming. Bemidji district educators go into many of these day cares to work on options for learning with the day care providers.

In addition, ECFE collaborates with Evergreen, providing weekly parent groups at their drop-in housing site, do parent groups and assist with prenatal classes at Sanford Health, and partner with Bemidji Parks and Rec., Boys and Girls Club and Bemidji ECI each week at Movement and Play (MAP), where we provide a parent educator. We also have done parent education at the jail, women's shelter, and have done outreach with childcare providers with home visits regarding 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 1/2 – 4 years old or earlier, if parents have concerns about their child's development. There is no cost for the screening.

For Early Childhood Screening, the most immediate date for screening is featured on the home page. When one clicks on the "Early Childhood Screening" heading, there is a description of the screening. Screening dates for that school year are listed, by going to the side bar on the Community Ed page. This information is also in the Community Education Fall and Spring brochures, which go to every mail box in our school district. Please call Sue at 218-333-8329 to schedule an appointment.

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: Slots are reserved for special education children in each class, allowing early childhood special education children inclusion opportunities.

3 year old school readiness: Slots are reserved for special education children in each class, allowing early childhood special education children inclusion opportunities. Those sections work around transportation, and the children have access to the bus. There is also one class with slots reserved for special education children inclusion opportunity, but parents have to transport the children.

There are two Early Childhood Special Education classrooms. One classroom is scheduled Monday through Thursday, and the other classroom is scheduled M/W/F or T/Th 9:30-11:30 or 11:30-2:00 schedule. This is 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. Children ages birth to three years of age, living within the Bemidji School District and having identified special needs are eligible for homebased early intervention services. These services are provided through the school district and are free to eligible families.

In the spring each year, Early Childhood Special Education teachers meet with every elementary school principal and their classroom and special education teachers to discuss the students who will be coming to their school.

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