

Early Childhood Family Education/ School Readiness Newsletter School Year 2026-2027



Dear Families,

Hoping all our families have had an amazing Minnesota Summer! As we begin the 2026-27 school year I am excited to be planning our Monday nights together at ECFE and get your children ready for a preschool year filled with learning, laughs, and relationships!

Again this year we will be holding our ECFE/School Readiness classes in our preschool classroom in the NW Kindergarten Wing of the Elementary School. Park in the main parking lot and the front doors will be open during class hours. If you park in the playground parking lot, you can enter through the preschool door across from the playground during the Fall and Spring only.

We don't have a class fee for the UH ECFE classes or registration, but we would appreciate it if you let us know if you will be attending each Monday's classes via text at 701-371-0235 *Tonya's cell* Also please invite others to attend classes that have young children and may have been missed with this schedule! It takes a village :)

What is ECFE-Early Childhood Family Education? It is a Minnesota School District Program for Families with Children from birth to 5 years old. The program's philosophy is for Parents/Grandparents/Guardians to be their young child's first teacher! A licensed Early Childhood teacher provides fun, educational activities and materials for parents to teach their children in a school setting. A licensed parent educator is also part of the ECFE experience. They provide parents with parenting resources, support, and encouragement through parent discussions, videos, and materials. This is a fun opportunity for parents to come together and enjoy talking with others about the day-to-day joys and struggles of raising kids! **The ECFE classes are FREE! Classes will be on Monday nights from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. ECFE begins September 21, 2026, and continues through April.** You do not need to register, just join us each Monday in our ECFE/SR Classroom for some fun with your young child(ren.) If you have older children who need to also attend with you, we will try to have a sibling care provider for them depending on the need. This is a time for parents to enjoy the youngest members of their family.

*****NOTICE:** The last few years we had an earlier start time and it seemed to work well! 5:30 - 7:00 PM

This is in hopes to get children home to bed earlier, but still provide a fun evening experience during the weekday! Please don't worry about coming in late, we look forward to working with you and your family!

****We will begin our ECFE program with a Fall Kick-Off on Monday, September 21st from 5:30-7:00 PM. Please join us for the fun!! We will be having a Pizza Party, so registration is needed to make sure to order enough pizzas. The whole family is welcome to attend this ECFE class!**

Please register with Tonya via text: 701-371-0235 by 4 p.m. on the day of kickoff (9/21/26.) I will be sending out a message to those I have had in the past, but PLEASE invite other families that you know would be interested in hanging with us on Monday Nights!



NEW WITH ECFE *IMMUNIZATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR

CHILDREN The MN Dept of Ed is now requiring ECFE programs to collect immunization records for each child participating. Please bring a copy of your child's immunization record to your first ECFE class. (I can also make a copy for you.)

Check-Out the Ulen-Hitterdal Community Ed for ECFE updates/announcements/weather-related cancellations. There is a link from the school's web page: ulenhitterdal.k12.mn.us Community Ed Tab

****I will also text for a quick announcement of any updates or changes.**

Please continue to read the rest of the newsletter as it contains **ALL of the ECFE classes/field trips for the school year.** Keep it handy for future reference. **Mark those class times in your calendars now.** Mrs. Emma Aranda, Preschool Teacher and I look forward to seeing you and your child(ren) for another school year.

Sincerely,

Tonya Matson

*ECFE/SR Coordinator *ParentEducator

*Community Ed. Director

Cell: 701-371-0235

tmatson@ulenhitterdal.k12.mn.us

Early Childhood Family Education Classes

Early Childhood Family Education is a program for parents and children. The first half of the class is for the parent and child together. During this time there will be age-appropriate activities set out by the Early Childhood Educator. The second half of the class is for parents only. There will be a discussion about parenting issues and adult social time with our licensed parent educator while your children play in their classroom with our Early Childhood Educator. A snack is also served!

CLASS Time: 5:30-7 PM

Fall Kick-off - Pizza Party

We will be kicking off a new school year...

September 21st, 5:30-7:00 in the ECFE/Preschool room.

Come and explore our classroom!! We have fun activities planned for you!!

Fall Field Trip –Pumpkin Patch - Oct. 5, 2026

Please join us for a Field Trip ...we will be going to the Pumpkin Patch on Hwy 10 Glyndon on MONDAY, Oct. 5th, from 5:30-7 PM

Please Meet There!

\$6 admission for each adult and child (1 year and up) and this includes a small pumpkin, wagon rides, games, a petting zoo, and much more. You will pay for your family when you arrive at the patch. They are offering us a reduced rate for our visit. They do take cash/check/cards.



FAMILY FUN CLASSES...

This class is for children birth-5 or not yet in kindergarten and their parents/guardians/grandparents. This class runs from September-April from **5:30-7:00 PM** on **Monday evenings**. A variety of Developmentally appropriate activities is provided for all children birth-5! This type of class allows for an entire family to come together to class, but there will be separate activities for different ages that attend! ECFE is special even when your child attends preschool, in that you THEIR PARENT get to be involved in their learning and social development! Please plan on attending even if your child does go to preschool during the day.

Older children: I am ok if older children join us at ECFE, but if possible make time for one on one with your youngest children on Monday nights, as activities will be geared towards them.

Class Schedule 2026-2027

(put all dates in your mobile calendar:)

September: 21 (Fall Kick off, Pizza), 28

October: 5 (Pumpkin Patch), 12, 26 (wear a costume) ***NO Class on 19th**

November: 2, 9, 16, 30 ***NO Class on 23rd**

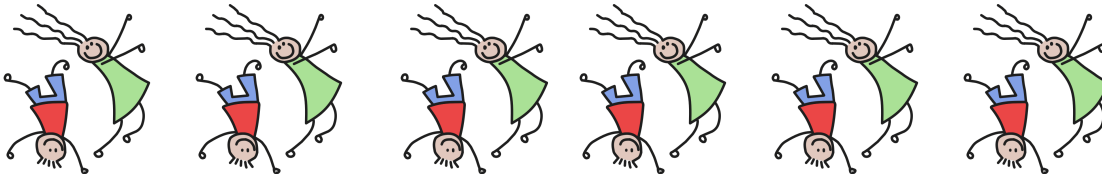
December: 7 (ornament making) ***No class Dec. 14, 21, 28th**

January: 4, 11, 18 ***No Class Jan. 25th**

February: 1, 8, 22 ***No class Feb. 15th (Pres. Day)**

March: 1, 8, 22 ***No class Mar. 15th or Mar. 29 Easter Mon.**

April: 5, 12, 19th LAST Class/Field Trip TBD



EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN GYM

There will be opportunities for you to bring your child into the gym to run off some winter energy Nov-March when available during our Monday night classes...Please join us for parent/child activities and lots of fun with your friends...

Is Your Child Counted?



If you are receiving this mailing, your child is on the U-H School Census. Do you know someone who didn't receive this info or is new to the U-H District? Please have them call the school at 218-596-8853 to "be counted"! This is very important, as it is how districts receive their funding.

Early Childhood Screening... OCT 2nd

Watch your mail if your child will be 3 ½ -5 years old.

If you have a 3 ½-year-old child or older and have not had your child screened please contact Elizabeth @ 218-596-8853 to make sure your child is on our school census. This is a mandatory screening for all Minnesota Children before 4/5-year-old preschool or it has to be completed within the first 90 days of preschool. We try to screen children at ages 3 ½-4 ½ years old. Screenings are done in the Fall and Spring of each year. Look for information for a Fall (October 2, 2026) screening time to be scheduled for your child if eligible. This is a link to a video that explains what screening is and isn't.

<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/Video/?group=Communications&id=MDE059367>

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Preschool/School Readiness...U-H offers two different classes:

****3's class** for children 3 by September 1, 2026

8:00-11:00 AM Tuesday and Thursday

****4's-5's class** for children at least 4 years old by September 1, 2026

8:00 AM-3:10 PM Monday/Wednesday/Friday

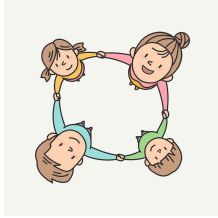
We have received the Pathways Grant again this year from the MN Dept of Ed to offer the third day (Friday) and Tuition Scholarships for the 4/5-year-old class!! A family must fill out a Free/Reduced tuition form and qualify for free or reduced tuition scholarships. See Mrs. Aranda for more information and application!



About Preschool (School-Readiness)

All classes are coordinated by a licensed Early Childhood Teacher

- Classes provide a setting where each child's social, emotional, physical, and pre-academic skills can be developed
- Recess and gym time for 4/5-year-old class
- Structured classes which include large group activities, small group/ teacher-directed activities, child choice time, gross motor, music and movement, lunch/snack, and rest/library
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Access to services such as Speech, Physical or Occupational Therapy, if needed



About ECFE Monday Class

- All of our evening ECFE classes are Mondays from 5:30 to 7:00 PM
- All ECFE and School Readiness classes will be held in the ECFE room. (NW corner of the building in the open classroom).
- ECFE CLASSES ARE FREE! Take this opportunity to have fun in an educational setting with your young children. The mess stays at school!
- Please call Tonya at 701-371-0235, or tmatson@ulenhitterdal.k12.mn.us with any questions or concerns you may have.
- If for any reason school is canceled or dismissed early, so will ECFE and preschool classes. Watch for closings on the school web page, tv, radio, and via a text message from me.



Early Childhood Family Education
Ulen-Hitterdal School
PO Box 389
Ulen, MN 56585