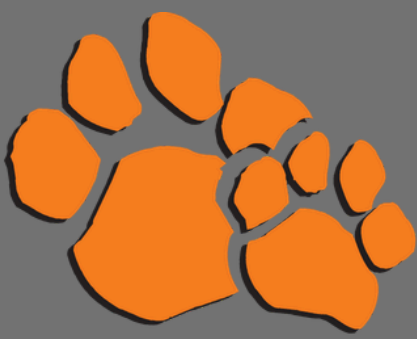




2026 - 2027  
School Year



# PRINCETON

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Supporting Families & Inspiring  
Young Learners for Generations!

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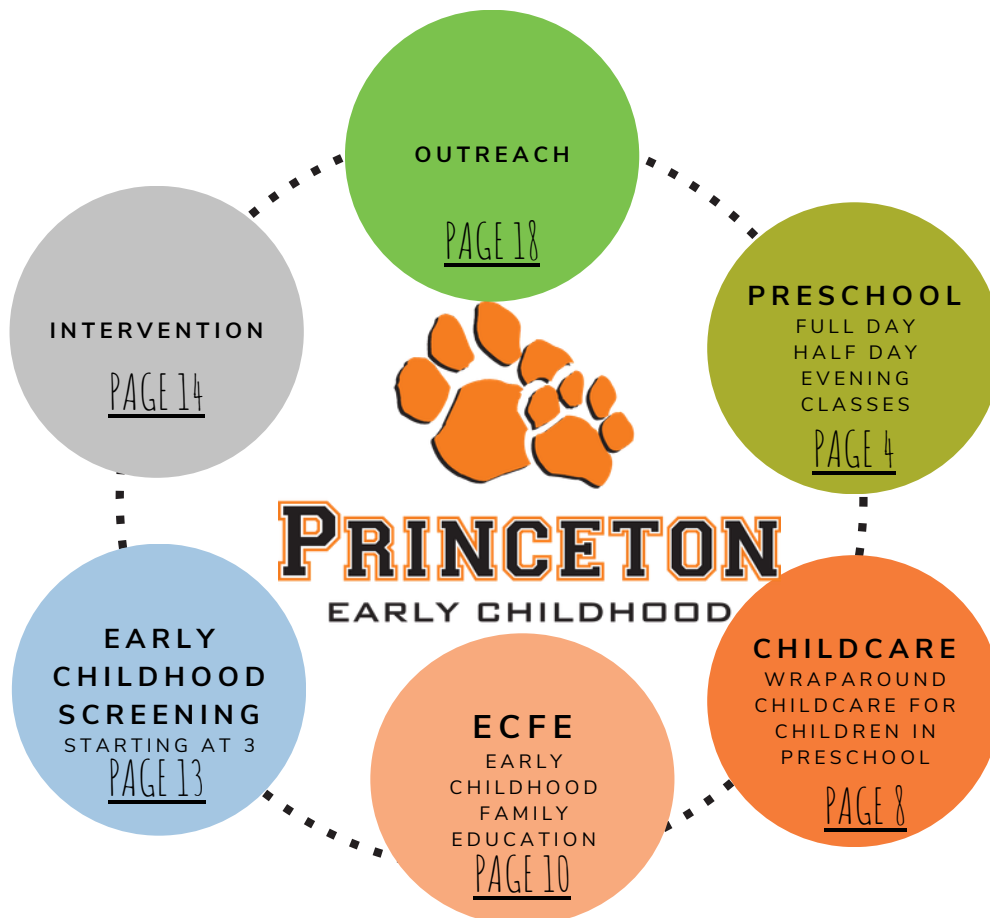
ECFE  
PRESCHOOL  
CHILDCARE

# WHERE SCHOOL BEGINS

At Princeton Early Childhood, we believe that early learning is the foundation for lifelong success. Our high-quality programs provide a nurturing environment where children engage in play-based learning, build social-emotional skills, and develop a love for learning. Our experienced educators focus on individualized instruction, ensuring that each child is supported in their growth and development. We offer a variety of preschool options, early childhood family education (ECFE) classes, and wraparound childcare through Tiger Club to meet the diverse needs of families in our community.

From engaging classrooms to hands-on activities that promote creativity and curiosity, Princeton Public Schools is the perfect place to start your child's educational journey.

**Join us in creating a strong foundation for your child's future!**





# WHERE FRIENDSHIPS START AND BLOOM

Early Childhood office team.  
Pictured left to right:  
Stefanie Middendorf,  
Jessie Kohl, Brian Julson



## Meet Our Team

**Stefanie Middendorf**  
Early Childhood Coordinator  
763-389-6197,  
[stefanie.middendorf@isd477.org](mailto:stefanie.middendorf@isd477.org)

**Jessie Kohl**  
Family Center Secretary  
763-389-7235, [jessie.kohl@isd477.org](mailto:jessie.kohl@isd477.org)

**Brian Julson**  
Community Education Director  
763-389-6199, [brian.julson@isd477.org](mailto:brian.julson@isd477.org)

- 4 Preschool
- 8 Childcare for Preschool Students
- 10 ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education)
- 16 Early Childhood Screening
- 17 Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education
- 21 Community Outreach
- 24 Policies and Procedures
- 27 Registration Details

Princeton Early Childhood is funded and operated by community ed.



# Hand in Hand Preschool

Hand in Hand Preschool ISD 477 offers a range of engaging and educational activities designed to foster social and intellectual growth as children prepare for kindergarten. Through hands-on exploration in areas such as art, music, dramatic play, physical fitness, and literature, children develop key cognitive skills, including math, science, language, and problem-solving. Hand in Hand provides these opportunities within a fun and nurturing environment. Our classes may also collaborate with Early Childhood Special Education (Help Me Grow), Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), and Head Start to support diverse learning needs.

## PRESCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

- We offer flexible 1- to 5-day options with morning, afternoon, or evening schedules. Please review the age requirements for each class to determine the best fit for you and your child.
- A non-refundable registration fee of \$50 reserves your child's spot and includes a t-shirt. Monthly payments are due on the 1st of each month, prior to the start of preschool.

## CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

At Hand in Hand Preschool, we use a research-based curriculum to support the development of the whole child and prepare them for kindergarten.

Curriculum Overview:

- **Frog Street Curriculum:** Focuses on language, literacy, math, science, and social-emotional skills through engaging activities.
- **Heggerty Phonemic Awareness:** Builds early literacy with skills like rhyming and sound recognition.
- **Second Step Social-Emotional Learning:** Teaches empathy, self-regulation, and problem-solving.

Assessment:

- **FastBridge & Teaching Strategies GOLD:** Track progress in literacy, math, and development.
- **Ongoing Observation:** Teachers document growth to personalize learning.
- **Family Engagement:** Regular communication and conferences keep families informed.

Our curriculum and assessments ensure each child's success and readiness for kindergarten.



## HOW CAN MY CHILD BENEFIT FROM PRINCETON DISTRICT PRESCHOOL?

Our cherished preschool is a valued part of our district's family of schools, dedicated to delivering excellence for every student. Our preschool classes embrace inclusivity and diversity, creating a warm and nurturing environment. Our dedicated teachers excel at fostering independence while supporting a smooth transition to kindergarten.

## WHAT SETS US APART?

We are the only preschool that is fully integrated and aligned with Princeton Public Schools.

✓ **We foster independence for kindergarten while supporting a smooth transition.** As part of the Princeton School District, we align our curriculum with elementary schools and share assessment data to ensure continuity in student development.

✓ **We welcome children of all abilities.** Our inclusive classrooms provide an environment where both typically developing children and those with special needs can learn and grow together. Many of our classrooms feature a collaboration between an early childhood special education teacher and a general education teacher.

✓ **We support families as a whole.** Our ECFE and preschool classes collaborate to ensure that preschool is a positive and enriching experience for your entire family.

*“I need care for my child All-Day.  
What are my options?”*

### **All-Day Classes**

Princeton Early Childhood programs offer full-day preschool for 3, 4, and 5-year-olds. This high-quality program combines preschool and childcare to meet the social, emotional, and educational needs of young children.

Children in full-day preschool will participate in a variety of activities throughout the day, including rest time. Each classroom has a maximum of 20 students and is staffed with two adults. Children must be able to stay with the group and follow expectations.

If your child has special needs, please contact your case manager. While the all-day program strives to accommodate children with special needs, full-day preschool is not an IEP placement, and parents are responsible for the cost. The program focuses on academic, social-emotional, and physical development for preschoolers.



### **Half-Day Classes**

Princeton Early Childhood programs also offer half-day preschool options for children aged 3, 4, and 5 years old. These half-day classes provide a high-quality early learning experience in a structured, supportive environment. Children participate in a variety of activities that promote their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development, including play, art, music, literacy, and more.

Available in both morning and afternoon sessions, our half-day classes offer flexibility for families. If needed, families can utilize Tiger Club Wraparound Childcare to extend the preschool day, providing a longer and more seamless experience that fits their schedule. Tiger Club can supplement the half-day preschool program to ensure children have a full day of care and learning, giving families the convenience and support they need.

The All-Day Everyday class and the 3-All Day class is for children who will be 4 years old or older by September 1st, 2025. The 2-All Day class is open to any 3, 4, or 5-year-old child, provided they are 3 years old by September 1st, 2025.

For families who need care outside of the half-day and full-day classes,

Tiger Club Wraparound Childcare is available to provide additional care. Tiger Club can help all children attend school every day by supplementing their preschool schedule with wraparound care, ensuring a full school experience. Learn more about Tiger Club on page 9.

### **Parent Aware Rating**

Our preschool is proud to be Parent Aware 4-Star rated, Minnesota's highest quality rating. This reflects our commitment to exceptional early childhood education, focusing on kindergarten readiness, nurturing relationships, and a supportive learning environment. Families can trust their children are receiving top-quality care and education.

### **Classes for New**

#### **3-Year-Olds**


Princeton Early Childhood programs offer a special opportunity for new three-year-olds to begin their preschool journey with our one-day, half-day classes. These classes are designed for children as soon as they turn three during the school year, providing a gentle introduction to the preschool experience.





We offer two convenient sessions for these young learners: one on Tuesday mornings and one on Thursday evenings. The Thursday evening session includes a caregiver, allowing families to participate together in a supportive, fun, and engaging environment.

Starting preschool at this early age is not only fun but also incredibly important for your child's development. It provides an opportunity for your child to explore new concepts, interact with peers, and build confidence. Our program focuses on nurturing curiosity, building social skills, and promoting a love of learning—all while creating positive memories that will last a lifetime. It's a wonderful way to start your child's educational journey, with the support of both a caregiver and our dedicated staff.



# 26 - 27 SCHOOL YEAR PRESCHOOL OFFERINGS

Days	Age Eligibility	Time	Cost x 9 months
Thursday Evening Parent Component 	Can start as soon as they are 3 years old	5:00 - 7:00 PM	\$89 x 9
Tuesday AM	Can start as soon as they are 3 years old	8:00 - 10:45 AM	\$109 x 9
Monday and Wednesday PM	Must be 3 by September 1st, 2026	12:15 - 3:00 PM	\$180 x 9
Tuesday and Thursday AM	Must be 3 by September 1st, 2026	8:00 - 10:45 AM	\$180 x 9
Tuesday and Thursday PM	Must be 3 by September 1st, 2026	12:15 - 3:00 PM	\$180 x 9
Monday, Wednesday, Friday AM	Must be 3 by September 1st, 2026	8:00 - 10:45 AM	\$245 x 9
Monday - Thursday PM	Must be 3 by September 1st, 2026	12:15 - 3:00 PM	\$295 x 9
Monday - Friday AM	Must be 3 by September 1st, 2026	8:00 - 10:45 AM	\$355 x 9
Tuesday and Thursday All Day	Must be 3 by September 1st, 2026	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	\$355 x 9
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday All Day	Must be 4 by September 1st, 2026	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	\$505 x 9
Monday - Friday All Day	Must be 4 by September 1st, 2026	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	\$775 x 9

-  Can start as soon as they are 3 years old
-  Must be 3 by September 1st, 2026
-  Must be 4 by September 1st, 2026
-  This class has a parent component piece where the Parent or Caregiver attends with the child.

## COST IS MONTHLY

PRESCHOOL RUNS FOR 9 MONTHS  
SEPTEMBER - MAY

## SCHOLARSHIPS

## AVAILABLE

MORE INFORMATION ON WEBSITE

**\$50 NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE** REQUIRED AT REGISTRATION  
INCLUDES A PRESCHOOL  
PRINCETON TIGER T-SHIRT

SAVE THE DATES!

# 2026-27 Preschool Registration is OPEN

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How do I apply for a scholarship for preschool tuition?

Families who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch can receive 50% off preschool tuition by completing the required paperwork. In addition, there are county and district scholarships available that families may be eligible for.

To apply for county aid, families can fill out paperwork at <https://earlylearningscholarshipshub.mn.gov/>. If you need assistance or have questions about eligibility, please contact our office.

Please note: Tuition charges may be different for students on IEPs receiving special education services. If your child has an IEP, please reach out to our office to discuss tuition and program options.

### 2. Is busing available for preschool students?

Yes, transportation is available for eligible preschool students. However, busing is only provided at the beginning and end of the school day—there is no mid-day transportation. Families needing mid-day care and transportation options can enroll their child in Tiger Club Wraparound Childcare.

Busing is available only on days when the school district is in session. Students can also utilize busing to and from Tiger Club on days when the Family Center is open and the school district has school.

Special Transportation for Students on IEPs:

Students with an IEP that includes transportation services are eligible for special transportation, which provides pick-up and drop-off both ways to and from school, including mid-day on the days the child is receiving special education services. If you believe your child may qualify, please reach out to the special education team for more details.

### 3. Does my child need to be potty trained to attend preschool?

Potty training is a continuum, and preschool students do not need to be 100% potty trained but must be in the process of learning. Children should be able to attempt to clean up independently if they have an accident. While an adult will always provide support, children must have the basic skills to help themselves.

If your child has frequent accidents, we recommend enrolling in a half-day class, as this may be a better fit while they continue developing their toileting skills.

Students on IEPs do not need to be potty trained to attend preschool. If your child has an IEP and you have concerns about toileting, please reach out to the special education team for further support.

Please note: Potty training policies in Tiger Club Wraparound Childcare are stricter than those in preschool classrooms. If your child is attending Tiger Club, they must be more fully independent in their toileting. If you have concerns, please reach out to discuss the best placement for your child.

### 4. Does my child need to go through Early Childhood Screening before starting preschool?

Early Childhood Screening is required for all children before they enter public school kindergarten in Minnesota, but it is not necessarily required for preschool enrollment. However, it is highly recommended, as it helps identify any potential developmental, health, or learning concerns early on.

Our district follows the 45-day rule, which means your child can start preschool without screening but must complete it within 45 days of beginning the program. If your child has not been screened yet, we encourage you to schedule an appointment as soon as possible. If needed, they can start preschool and complete screening afterward. They could even be screened during their school day.

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



**PRINCETON**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD

**27/28 School Year**

**Preschool**

**Information Night**

**March 15th, 2027**

**4:30 - 6:00 PM**



[isd477.arux.app](http://isd477.arux.app)

**HAND IN HAND PRESCHOOL**

**Family Center**

Bring all your questions and  
your preschooler.

Meet the Teachers,  
Tours and lots of FUN

# Tiger Club Child Care



## PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

For children currently attending Hand in Hand Preschool

Tiger Club is proud to offer a companion child care program to our Hand in Hand Preschool schedule. During the school year, all children entering our program must be enrolled in a Hand in Hand Preschool class. As a Parent Aware 4 Star Program, we work with the Hand in Hand staff to further enrich your child's experience at preschool.

**Important:** All preschoolers must be completely toilet trained and self-sufficient in the bathroom.

Location: Princeton Family Center

School year hours: M-F, 6:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Tiger Club is a Preschool and School Age Program that offers creative, safe, and engaging fun before and after school and during the summer months. Showing "Tiger Pride" is our goal. We work to offer a variety of well-supervised, nurturing activities that work with the whole child and help them as they grow. Program activities include health and wellness, arts and crafts, technology play and learning, building relationships and friendships, and developing social skills.

The program is designed to help meet each family's childcare needs. We offer consistent and pick your days/drop-in schedules.

**Susan Wark / Pre-K Site Supervisor**

» [susan.wark@isd477.org](mailto:susan.wark@isd477.org)  
» 763-389-6085

**Kayla Maring / Community Ed Coordinator**

» [kayla.maring@isd477.org](mailto:kayla.maring@isd477.org)  
» 763-389-6176

**Kristie Kaiser / Community Ed Secretary**

» [kristie.kaiser@isd477.org](mailto:kristie.kaiser@isd477.org)  
» 763-389-6198

**Looking for financial assistance?**  
Be sure to check with your county to see if you qualify for the child care assistance program (CCAP).

**Summer 2026 Tiger Club Registration Opens Tuesday, February 25**

**School Year 2026-27 Tiger Club Registration Opens Tuesday, March 17**

**To register for Tiger Club, visit <https://isd477.arux.app/>**

# Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)



EARLY CHILDHOOD  
FAMILY EDUCATION



Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a special program for you and your young child. It features opportunities for you to meet other parents of young children, playtime for your child, and classes led by licensed teachers and experienced staff.

## Who is a parent?

For our programs, "parent" can mean a child's mother or father, but it can also include a significant adult in a child's life; for example, a grandparent, aunt, uncle, foster parent, step-parent, caregiver, etc.

## What about sibling care?

Sibling Care is provided for many of our classes, please register for sibling care when you register for your ECFE classes.

## What if I don't live in the district?

Families living in Princeton School District #477 have priority when registering for our ECFE classes, but non-residents are welcome to register and may participate. We will contact you prior to the start of class if we are unable to accommodate you and your child.

## Where is ECFE located?

Unless otherwise indicated, classes meet in the Family Center, 706 First Street, Princeton. Parking is available in the Family Center lot or on the street (1st Street or 8th Avenue N). Please enter the main entrance (door #1). Signs will direct you to your classroom and you will be greeted upon entering our building. \*Please bring identification on the first day of class.

ECFE class fees depend on gross family income. When registering, please enter your gross family income. This information is confidential and will not be shared. Scholarships or payment plans might be available. Call Stefanie at 763-389-6197.

**Sliding Fee Scale  
(gross family income)**  
\$0-39,999  
\$40,000-74,999  
\$75,000+

## Early Childhood Census

Ensuring accurate counts of all children aged birth to five is crucial for our district's funding and future planning. By providing this data, you contribute to securing vital resources from both state and federal sources. Moreover, it enables us to make informed decisions about enrollment and ensures families receive important district communications promptly. If you're new to our district or have recently welcomed a little one, please take a moment to complete this form online or reach out to Jessie Kohl at 763-389-7235. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

ECFE

# What does Early Childhood Family Education look like at Princeton Public Schools?

## Welcome & Gathering Time

Families are warmly welcomed into a thoughtfully arranged classroom with different play areas designed to spark curiosity and exploration. We understand that mornings with young children can be unpredictable, so the first portion of class is a relaxed time for parent-child play as families arrive. This helps ease transitions and allows children to settle in at their own pace.

## Circle Time

Led by the teacher, Circle Time includes songs, stories, greetings, fingerplays, and simple learning activities that promote listening and communication skills. We know that sitting for structured activities can be challenging for some children. If needed, teachers and caregivers will work together to support each child's comfort and success during this time.

## Free Play & Learning Centers

Play is at the heart of how young children learn. During Free Play, children and parents explore a variety of engaging learning centers that change throughout the year to offer fresh experiences and challenges. Each center supports different areas of development, encouraging both discovery and skill-building:

## Parent-Child Interaction Time

In ECFE, parents and children attend class together. Each session includes time for shared parent-child activities followed by time for parent education. During interaction time, you and your child will explore developmentally appropriate activities focused on early literacy, language development, and math readiness.

Because parents are a child's first and most important teachers, these shared experiences are designed to strengthen your relationship and provide meaningful opportunities for connection and learning.

To help you make the most of this special time together, keep these tips in mind:

- Relax and enjoy the moment—this time is meant to be fun and engaging.
- Follow your child's lead—start with the activities that interest them most.
- Go at your child's pace—encourage exploration, but don't rush.
- Include others—model kindness and social skills by engaging with other families.
- Talk about what's happening—use simple language to build vocabulary and understanding.
- Get on their level—sit or kneel to connect with your child eye-to-eye.
- Encourage and support—praise effort and offer reassurance.
- Be flexible—if an activity is full, help your child find another and come back later. Learning to wait is a valuable skill.
- Put phones away—be fully present during this special time.
- Keep adult conversation brief—your child needs your attention. If you notice your child is seeking you, or you've been talking with another adult for a while, it's a great time to refocus.



## Parent Education

The parent education portion of class is designed to support and empower you in your parenting journey. Led by a licensed parent educator, discussions focus on topics such as child development, behavior, routines, parenting strategies, and family relationships. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, share experiences, and connect with other parents in a welcoming, supportive environment.

### Types of Parent Education Time:

- **Non-Separating Classes:** Parents remain in the classroom during discussion. While you participate in the conversation, teachers and staff engage children in activities and support their exploration.
- **Separating Classes:** Parents say a brief goodbye and transition to the parent education room. This time apart allows children to develop confidence and independence while parents focus on learning and connection.
- **Gradual Separation:** For some classes, separation starts small and increases over time, giving children (and parents) the chance to adjust comfortably and successfully.

### Parent Education Group Guidelines

Parenting brings both joy and challenges, and this group is a place where you can share openly, listen, and support one another. To help create a safe and respectful space for everyone, please keep the following in mind:

- There's no one "right" way to parent. Let's respect different perspectives and avoid judgment.
- Please silence your cell phone and avoid using it during class unless it's an emergency.
- Feel free to carry forward the ideas discussed, but please keep personal details and names private.
- The more you engage, the more meaningful this experience will be—for you and for others.
- Let's give each speaker our full attention. Side conversations can be distracting and may prevent others from feeling heard.
- When parent time ends, it's important that everyone returns to the classroom together. Seeing some parents return before others can be unsettling for children.

Thank you for helping make this a supportive and respectful space for all families.

# Sibling Care in ECFE

## Sibling Care

Sibling care is available for most ECFE classes for an additional fee, due at the time of registration. Space is limited. This care is designed to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children ages 3 months to 6 years while parents attend class. Licensed paraprofessionals staff the sibling care room.

Parents are welcome to keep babies under 3 months of age with them during class. Once your baby turns 3 months, we ask that they be enrolled in sibling care so you can fully engage with your enrolled child.

## Sibling Care Guidelines

To help ensure a smooth experience for you and your child, please follow these guidelines:

- All children should arrive with a clean diaper and/or having used the restroom. If a diaper change is needed during class, parents will be asked to assist.
- Please feed your child before class. You may send a bottle or small snack—make sure everything is clearly labeled with your child’s name.
- Bring any comfort items your child may need, such as a blanket or pacifier. Be sure all personal items are labeled.
- If your child is having difficulty adjusting or separating, we may ask you to return to comfort them.

# Early Childhood Education

## FALL 2026 Session

TO BE PLANNED!

CHECK BACK

TO BE PLANNED!

CHECK BACK





# Early Childhood Screening

\* Play \* Grow \* Learn



To schedule an appointment, please go to  
[www.isd477.org/community/earlychildhood/screening](http://www.isd477.org/community/earlychildhood/screening)

or contact Stefanie Middendorf at 763-389-6197 or [stefanie.middendorf@isd477.org](mailto:stefanie.middendorf@isd477.org)

## SCREENING IS FOR CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS OLD

State Law requires screening before a child enters kindergarten.

Early Childhood Screening is Free and checks children's:

Height & Weight

Immunizations

Development

Hearing & Vision

### What is Early Childhood Screening?

Early Childhood Screening is a free program in Minnesota that checks how a child is developing and growing. Screening supports children as successful learners and promotes positive developmental outcomes. Screening may also lead to referrals for early learning opportunities.

### When Should I Schedule an Early Childhood Screening?

The Early Childhood Screening program is available to children when they turn three years old. Students must complete this program if they are enrolled in Hand in Hand Preschool. Students do not need it completed before they start attending but parents need to get them signed up for an appointment within 45 days of starting preschool. Students need to be screened before they attend Kindergarten.

### My child was screened in another district, do we have to do another one?

No, your child does not need to be screened again. When enrolling in Preschool or Kindergarten, please let us know where the screening was completed. We will contact that school district to obtain the necessary paperwork.

### What if My Child Does Not Speak English?

If you or your child does not speak English, we can provide an interpreter. When a child is learning two languages, it is better to screen in the language they hear most often.

### Does my child need to be screened more than once?

Your child only needs to go through early childhood screening one time. If you have concerns about your child's development and they have already gone through screening, you can always reach out to [stefanie.middendorf@isd477.org](mailto:stefanie.middendorf@isd477.org) or make a referral through Help Me Grow (more info on page).

### Can I Decline the Early Childhood Screening?

We strongly encourage all students to participate in this process. However, if a parent chooses to decline or opt out of the screening program for their child, participation is not required. For more details, please refer to Minnesota Statute 121A.17 or contact Stefanie Middendorf at [stefanie.middendorf@isd477.org](mailto:stefanie.middendorf@isd477.org).

# “My child scored a referral at screening. Now what?”

## What Happens if the Screener Finds a Concern During the Early Childhood Screening?

There are a few options if the professional screener finds an area of concern in your child’s development. The screener will explain the process but it could be to Special Education or a medical route.

## Will Screening Result in a Diagnosis for my child?

Screening does not result in a diagnosis for your child. If health or developmental concerns are raised during a screening, a parent and the screener may decide that further evaluation by a medical or educational professional is needed. Early access ensures that children and families receive instruction, services and supports so that they are successful in school.

## Does a Parent Have a Say in Whether a Child is Referred to Special Education?

A parent perspective, on how the child is developing, is always included when discussing referral information. Parents will be contacted by Princeton School Districts Evaluation Team. JoEllen Olson usually works with families in early childhood. She will call you and go over basic information and the results of the early childhood screening. Together you will come up with a plan on what will happen next. Please see frequently asked questions below for more information.

JoEllen Olson - Phone- 763-389-6765 Fax- 763-220-5159 Email- joellen.olson@isd477.org

## The Referral and Evaluation Process

Parents have the right to request an educational screening or evaluation if they have concerns about or suspect delays in their child’s development. This screening or evaluation will be at no cost to the family.

- Contact us through Online Referral. Parents and other concerned individuals, including health care and social services personnel, may use the [Help Me Grow website helpmegrowmn.org](http://helpmegrowmn.org) to make a referral. That referral information will then be directed to our office within 24 hours and you will be contacted by our program staff.
- Contact Princeton Public Schools directly by calling 763-389-6765 to make a referral. We strive to get back to you within two weeks during the school years. Note: Screening for children under age three is provided in the home setting. (See page 15 for more information).
- Early Childhood Screening (ECS) is held weekly for children over age 3 years and 0 months. You may [register online for ECS isd477.org](http://isd477.org) or by calling 763-389-4789 (See page 12 for more information)

# Is your child under the age of 3?

## Birth - 2 Years



We're here to help! Scan the QR code or visit [www.isd477.org](http://www.isd477.org) and search "early intervention" to learn more.

### 6 MONTHS

- Rolls over in both directions
- Reaches for objects
- Uses hands and mouth to explore the world

### 9 MONTHS

- Sits without support, gets in and out of sitting with minimal support
- Makes sounds like "bababa," "dadada," or "mamama"
- Begins to play peek-a-boo

### 12 MONTHS

- Pulls to stand and walks holding onto furniture
- Says "mama" and/or "dada" and tries to say a few other words.
- Puts objects into and takes them out of containers
- Points and pokes with index finger

## EARLY INTERVENTION

Do you have questions or concerns about your child's development?

Early intervention helps support a child's development and provides their parents/caregivers with strategies for encouraging the child's growth, learning, and engagement in daily activities.



**COMMUNICATION, PLAY SKILLS, SOCIAL INTERACTION, MOTOR SKILLS, AND MORE!**

### 18 MONTHS

- Walks well without support
- Begins to run
- Begins to walk up steps
- Starts to imitate two-word phrases
- Engages in pretend play, such as feeding a baby doll
- Follows simple directions (e.g., come here, give me)

### 2 YEARS

- Says 50-250 words
- Use phrases with 2-3 words (e.g., more juice, help me, it's all gone, I see you)
- Plays next to other children, with some interaction
- Follows two-step directions (e.g., get your cup and put it on the table)

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION?

The purpose of an evaluation is to determine if your child has delays in any areas of development, which could make him or her eligible for special education services based on state criteria. Minnesota law requires that your child show a certain amount of delay in order to qualify for special education services through the school district. Under the age of three, your child may also qualify for services if they have been diagnosed with a physical or mental condition or disorder that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay regardless of whether they have a demonstrated need or delay. If your child qualifies for service, he or she could receive special education services at no direct cost to your family.

An evaluation team may consist of an ECSE teacher, speech/language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, school nurse, ECSE family resource facilitator and/or other specialists as appropriate. All of these people are trained to work with very young children and their families.

Parent interviews and checklists are also a critical part of the evaluation. Childcare providers, preschool teachers, and other significant adults in your child's life may be included. The evaluation team will ask you about your child and his/her likes/dislikes and routine. In addition, you will be asked about your concerns, questions, and anything else you would like to share about your child. Parents' information is very important in the evaluation process and will be included in the evaluation report. You know your child best!

## WHO PERFORMS THE EVALUATION? ARE PARENTS INVOLVED?

## WHAT HAPPENS IN AN EVALUATION?

The evaluation team will play and interact with your child. This is the "informal" or observational part of the evaluation. The team gets a lot of information about children by watching them in their natural setting. Under the age of three, this is most often in the home or child care setting; over the age of three this could be at home, childcare or in a preschool setting.

Formal testing using standardized tests is often used to gather information about a child's present level of development as compared to children of a similar age. Your child will be asked to play or interact with materials in a certain way. Some of the tasks are easy and others are more difficult. Because of the nature of standardized tests, your child is not expected to do or understand every item that is presented. Team members may need more than one session to complete their portion of the evaluation and sometimes two team members will work together.

For children under the age of three, screening and evaluations take place in the child's home or childcare setting. In most instances children three years and older will be brought to the Princeton Family Center for some of the evaluation, but will have an observation in a natural setting such as home, preschool or child care.

## WHERE DOES THE EVALUATION TAKE PLACE?

help me



Help Me Grow offers information and resources for parents of newborns to 5-year-olds. Their online referral form connects you to early childhood intervention and special education resources in your home school district.

Learn more at: [helpmegrowmn.org](http://helpmegrowmn.org)

help me **C O N N E C T**

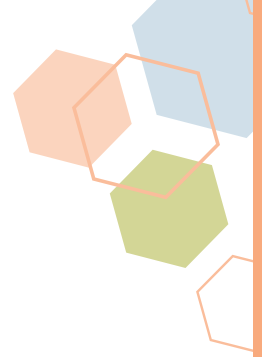
Are you looking for resources for your family? Pregnant and parenting families with children from birth to 8 years of age now have a new tool to connect to services in their local communities that support healthy child development and family well-being.

Help Me Connect is a website designed to help Minnesota's families navigate local community, county, and state resources. Families and those that support families, such as preschool teachers, child care providers, and pediatricians, can use Help Me Connect to find services such as:

- Healthy development and screening
- Developmental and behavior concerns
- Disability services and resources
- Early learning and child care
- Family well-being and mental health
- Tribal and American Indian resources
- Dental care
- Basic needs
- Legal services





Learn more at: [helpmeconnectmn.org](http://helpmeconnectmn.org)

# COMMUNITY **EVENTS** FOR OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

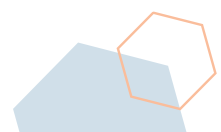


Join us for a year full of engaging and family-friendly events designed for our youngest learners and their families in Princeton 477! These events provide opportunities to connect with our early learning community, participate in fun activities, and learn more about the programs and resources available for your child. Mark your calendars and join the fun!

## 2026 / 2027 School Year Events

-  **October 09 – Homecoming Party (4:30-6:00 PM) Family Center**  
Celebrate school spirit with our youngest learners and their families! Join us for fun activities, games, and a chance to connect before Princeton’s Homecoming festivities.
-  **October 26 – Fall Family Night (4:30-6:00 PM) Family Center**  
A seasonal celebration where children can dress up in their Halloween Costume, featuring fall-themed crafts, activities, and interactive experiences for families to enjoy together.
-  **December 3 – Early Childhood Holiday Party (4:00-7:00 PM)**  
**Light Up Princeton (6:00-9:00 PM)**  
Register for this fun event with all proceeds from registration going back into Early Childhood. Get into the holiday spirit with festive activities, treats, and a special visit from Santa! Come visit Light Up Princeton, a citywide celebration with holiday lights and cheer with 50% donations going back to Early Childhood.
-  **March 15 – Spring Family Night & Preschool Info Night (4:30-6:00 PM) Family Center**  
Enjoy Tiger Pride-inspired activities while learning more about Hand in Hand Preschool and early learning opportunities in Princeton 477.
-  **April 24 – Family Fair Community Event (09:30 AM-11:30 AM) Primary School**  
Explore early learning programs, local resources, and family-friendly vendors at this fun and interactive fair designed for young children and their caregivers. Free Bike Helmets, Vehicle Fair, Games & Activities and SO MUCH MORE.
-  **June 3 – Princeton Parade Community Event (5:00 -6:30 PM) Family Center**  
Join us in celebrating our community before their festive parade.

**We can't wait to see you and your little ones at these exciting events! Stay connected for more details as each date approaches.** 🎉👪👶





# Princeton Tigers Early Connections WITH ECFE

BRINGING EARLY LEARNING TO YOU!

**Princeton Tigers Early Connections with ECFE offers free home visits for families with children from birth to kindergarten, providing personalized support and learning opportunities right in your home.**

## **What are Home Visits?**

Our licensed Parent Educators are experienced professionals dedicated to helping families prepare for school success. Whether you're new to the community or a longtime resident, we're here to provide engaging learning experiences designed just for you and your child.

Home visits are flexible and tailored to your family's needs. We can meet in your home or at our ECFE center for one-on-one visits. Each visit includes fun, age-appropriate activities and time to discuss parenting topics, child development, and community resources.

## **What Can Home Visits Include?**

- Interactive parent-child activities
- A customized family plan to support your child's growth
- Developmental assessments to track progress
- Community resources and referrals
- Q&A time to discuss parenting topics

Princeton Tigers Early Connections with ECFE is free for families within ISD 477. Let us bring learning and support directly to you!

**Interested?**  
SIGN UP ON ARUX

# Princeton Childcare and Princeton Public Schools Partnership

Princeton Public Schools recognizes the vital role that home daycares and childcare centers play in supporting our youngest learners. To make Early Childhood Screenings more accessible for families in our community, we are offering on-site screenings at daycare locations during regular hours.

By bringing screenings directly to your daycare, we can help remove barriers that might otherwise prevent families from participating—eliminating the need for parents to take time off work if they are unable to do so.

## Screening Details:

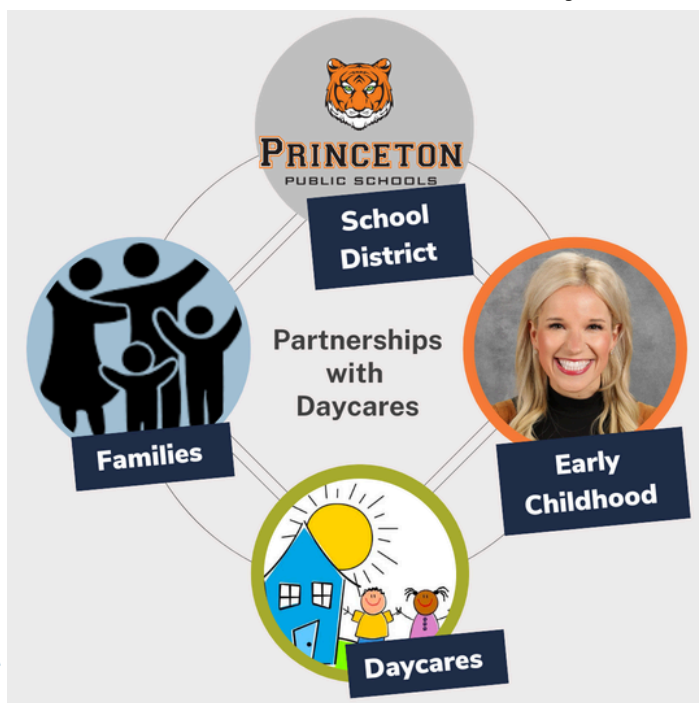
- Available for any child who is at least 3 years old by the screening date and has not yet started kindergarten
- Conducted conveniently at your home daycare or childcare center during regular hours
- Parents will receive a follow-up phone call or email the next day to review results at a time that works for them

## Additional Resources for Childcare Providers:

Princeton Public Schools is committed to supporting both home daycares and childcare centers with additional early learning resources, including:

- Child development and early learning materials
- Parenting resources and referrals to community programs
- Connections to ECFE parent-child classes, preschool options, and early intervention services
- Opportunities for professional development and collaboration

We value our partnership with childcare providers and appreciate your support in ensuring all children have access to the resources they need for a strong start in school.



CHECK OUT ALL THESE PROGRAMS  
ON [ISD477.ARUX.APP](https://isd477.arux.app)

# Policies and Procedures for Early Childhood

Procedures in the staff handbook are subject to change. Such changes will be communicated from the director/coordinator. In the case of a discrepancy between this handbook and other information, such as the student handbook or district policy or other communications, governing priority is as follows:

1. State and Federal Law
2. District Policy
3. Contract Language
4. District & administrative directives (i.e. needed to comply with MDE/MDH guidelines)
5. Student Handbook
6. Registration Guide
7. Staff Handbook

It is the responsibility of all employees to review this handbook thoroughly and abide by all district policies, procedures, and guidelines, regardless of whether they are included in or referenced in this handbook. District policies are available on the district website at <https://www.isd477.org/>.

## Drop-off and Pick-up for Preschool

Please be on time when dropping off and picking up your child. It can be upsetting for children when they are the last to leave or when other students have already been picked up. Please review the current drop-off and pick up procedures in the Parent Orientation.

If you're running late, please call us at 763-389-6198.

For safety, sign-in and sign-out is required each day.

If you are late more than once, your child will be brought to the Community Education office to wait for 10 minutes. After that, they may be taken to Tiger Club childcare, and you will be charged the current Tiger Club rate.

## Tuition Payments

Preschool - Tuition is paid monthly through the invoicing system on our district website. Monthly invoices are emailed, and payment is due by the 1st of each month.

ECFE- Tuition will be based on income. Choose the category based on your annual gross income. The information you provide will be treated confidentially. All families are welcome at ECFE. We break up the tuition into two payments for each session. You will be charged a fee at registration and again in the second half of the session.

## Illness & Accidents

Emergency forms must be completed upon enrollment and updated as needed.

Please notify staff if your child will be absent for any reason.

Your child should stay home if:

- They've had a fever, diarrhea, or vomiting in the past 24 hours.
- They show signs of a contagious illness (e.g., pink eye, chickenpox).

If a medical emergency occurs while your child is in our care, staff will take necessary action and contact you as soon as possible. Any medical costs will be the responsibility of the family.

If your child has severe allergies, medications, or a medical condition, please:

- Indicate this on the Emergency Information Form (via Skyward Family Access).
- Verbally inform the teacher.
- Call the district nurse, Nicole Wyganowski at 763-389-6195, to develop a medical plan.

We are a nut-aware building. Please do not send any items containing peanuts or tree nuts or those processed in facilities that handle nuts.

Due to latex allergies, only non-latex gloves, balloons, and bandages are used.

Lice: Children with live lice or increasing numbers of nits should stay home. Lice are considered an inconvenience, not an illness.

## **Skyward & Seesaw Communication Tools**

We use Skyward Family Access as our main system for managing student and family information. It's important to keep your contact information up to date in Skyward so that you receive important updates about school closings, emergencies, and your child's attendance and health records. You can log in to Skyward through the district website.

Seesaw is our classroom communication tool used by teachers to share updates, photos, reminders, and student learning moments. Please be sure to accept your Seesaw invitation from your child's teacher and check it regularly to stay connected with what's happening in the classroom!

## **Immunizations**

Minnesota law requires proof of immunizations or a legal exemption for children in preschool. Please ensure we have records for:

- DTaP
- Varicella
- MMR
- Hepatitis A & B
- Polio
- Hib
- Pneumococcal (ages 2–24 months)

## **Dressing for School**

Label all outdoor clothing. Dress your child in comfortable play clothes suitable for messy activities and outdoor play. We go outside daily, even in cold weather (above 0° windchill).

Footwear: Tennis shoes are best. Avoid cowboy boots, sandals, or dress shoes, which may be unsafe during active play.

## **Emergency Closings**

Please ensure your contact information is up to date in Skyward Family Access.

In the event of weather-related closures or delays:

- You'll be notified via Skylert, local TV/radio stations, the district website, and Facebook.
- If there is a late start, ½ day morning classes are canceled.
- Full-day classes will begin late.
- Classes starting after 10:00 AM will run as usual.
- For early releases, children must be picked up at the designated time.

## **Behavior & Discipline**

We follow Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS), promoting "TIGER PRIDE":

- I will respect myself
- I will respect others
- I will respect property
- I will respect my community

We use positive strategies such as redirection, problem-solving, and gentle guidance. We treat all behaviors as teachable moments.

If unsafe or persistent behaviors occur, parents will be notified.

## **Tiger Team**

Our trained team supports children who are overwhelmed or at risk of hurting themselves or others. They may take students to a calm space to regulate and return when they are ready.

## **Safety Drills**

We will practice drills for severe weather/tornado, fire, and soft lock-downs.

## Bussing and Transportation for Preschool

### Student Transportation Expectations and Consequences

Our goal is to provide safe transportation and a positive experience for all students. Transportation to and from school by bus is a privilege, not a right. This privilege can be suspended or terminated. Students are expected to follow the same behavior expectations while riding school buses, or at the bus stop, as those on school property, at school activities, functions, or events. All school rules are in effect while a student is riding the bus or at the bus stop. Consequences for inappropriate behavior on the school bus and at the bus stop will be reported to, and handled by, school administration or designee. Illegal conduct will be reported to law enforcement.

#### School Bus and Bus Stop Expectations -

The district school bus expectations will be posted on every bus and reviewed with students at each school. Students who violate expectations on school transportation or at designated bus stops will receive a bus referral, and consequences will follow. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges.

- Arrive at your bus stop five minutes prior to scheduled pick up time.
- Wait for bus driver's signal. Cross 10 feet in front of bus.
- Get on and off only at designated stop or school.
- Respect the bus driver and monitors by following directions.
- Respect other students and their personal belongings.
- Use respectful language and appropriate voice level.
- Stay seated in assigned area or seat at all times.
- Keep all parts of your body, and all possessions, inside of the bus.
- Eating or drinking are allowed at the discretion of the bus driver.
- Keep the bus clean and litter-free. Throwing of any items on the bus is prohibited and unsafe.
- Large items are not allowed on the bus without permission from the driver.
- Respect the school bus and equipment. Student will be responsible for cost of damages to property. Bus riding privileges may be withheld until an acceptable plan of restitution is made.
- Physical contact on the bus is unsafe and unacceptable. This includes pushing, hitting, kicking, horseplay, intimidation, and fighting.
- The use and/or possession of illegal substances, or related items, is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the use or possession of alcohol, drugs and drug paraphernalia, lighters, tobacco, vaping or e-cigarettes products, weapons or look-alike weapons.

Students who do not follow the bus stop and/or bus expectations may lose their bus riding privileges for a period of time. Students are still required to attend school when they are suspended from school transportation. Parent(s) are then responsible for transportation to and from school. Transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right, for an eligible student. (Minnesota Statutes, Sec. 4 (123.801).

#### Guidelines and Consequences for Not Following Bus/Bus Stop Expectations

We expect all students to follow the expectations on school transportation and display positive and safe behaviors. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. Consequences for school bus and/or bus stop misconduct will apply to field trips, activities, and regular or late routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extra-curricular events (field trips, competitions, and activities) will be at the sole discretion of the school district. Parents or guardians will be notified of any bus suspension or loss of riding privileges and are responsible for the student's transportation during the suspension. Consequences for the school bus and bus stop will be reported to and handled by school administration or designee.

**Minor Incidents:** Disrespectful behavior, minor physical contact or horseplay, taking personal items from others, name calling, not following directions, littering, excessive noise level, leaving seat, inappropriate language or gestures, inappropriate use of cell phone or technology, arguing, disobedience towards driver or monitor, other incidents reported and deemed inappropriate.

**Major Incidents:** Major physical aggression (fighting, kicking, punching, etc), profanity and abusive language directed at driver, monitor, or another student, sexual or racial language, damage or theft of property, intimidating or threatening behavior, insubordination toward driver or monitor, possession or use of illegal substances or related items (tobacco, drugs, e-cigs, weapons), throwing items out of the bus, throwing items at other students.

### **Early Childhood, Primary and Intermediate Elementary: Response to Bus Referrals**

#### **1st Incident**

#### **2nd Incident**

#### **3rd Incident**

#### **4+ Incident**

#### **Minors**

Education, parent contact, written warning

Education, parent contact, up to 1 day bus suspension and/or a) restitution

b) meeting with driver c) assigned seat

Education, parent contact, up to 3 day bus suspension and/or

a) restitution b) meeting with driver c) assigned seat d) in-school consequences

Education, up to 5 day bus suspension and a parent meeting, possible loss of bus service and/or

a) restitution b) meeting with driver c) assigned seat

d) in-school consequences

#### **Majors**

Education, parent contact, written warning and in-school consequence, or 1 day suspension and/or a) restitution b) assigned seat

Education, parent contact, up to a 3 day bus suspension and/or a)restitution

b) assigned seat

c) meeting with driver, d) in-school consequences

Education, up to a 5 day bus suspension and a parent meeting and/or

a) restitution b) assigned seat c) meeting with driver, d) in-school consequences

Education, up to a 7 day bus suspension and a parent meeting, possible loss of bus service and/or

a) restitution b) assigned seat c) meeting with driver,

d) in-school consequences

**Education may include:** *Re-teaching bus expectations, counselor referral, conference with student, individual plan, role playing, reading replacement behavior stories, apology, etc.*

**Snacks**

Each child will take turns bringing a healthy snack for the class. Please follow these guidelines:

- Snacks must be store-bought and unopened (no homemade items).
- Whole fruits or vegetables are strongly encouraged.
- We will wash and cut produce here—leave it in original packaging.
- Check labels carefully. We are peanut/nut aware (including products processed in nut-handling facilities).
- Bring enough for the entire class.

If a snack doesn't meet guidelines, it will be sent home.

**Other Important Information****Lunch:**

Children in full-day classes or Tiger Club will be offered hot lunch in the school cafeteria.

**Child Abuse Reporting:**

All preschool staff are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by Minnesota law.

**Personal Items:**

Please leave toys and personal items at home unless otherwise arranged with your child's teacher.

**Conferences for Preschool:**

Held twice per year. One-day programs include child-attended conferences during class time. Please make every effort to attend.

**Toileting:**

**ECFE-** If your child is still in diapers you will be called from parenting to change them. If your child is toilet learning, please let your teacher know if staff can take your child to the bathroom or if you should be called. **Preschool-** Children in preschool should be self-toileting or working toward it. We understand accidents can happen and are prepared for that.

**Family Changes:**

If there are any unusual circumstances at home (e.g., illness, travel, loss), let us know. It helps us support your child.

**Early Childhood Screening:**

Children must complete Early Childhood Screening within 45 days of starting preschool.

Call 763-389-6168 or schedule online on [isd477.org](http://isd477.org) under Screening.

**Birthdays:**

To support healthy habits, we do not allow birthday treats. Teachers will celebrate birthdays in special, non-food ways and will provide details.

**Photos & Media:**

Photos may be taken during school and posted in newsletters, district publications, or social media. If you do not want your child's photo used, please give your request in writing to your child's teacher or office.

**School Calendar:**

You can find the preschool calendar at the bottom of the Community Education page on the district website.

Look at all the fun things  
**COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION**

*has to offer!*

Summer 2026 Catalog  
opens up for registration  
on April 8th at 8:00 AM



**CONNECT WITH US**

Get the latest news on classes, special events, cancellations, and more!



@princetoncommunityed

@princetonearlychildhood



@communityedprinceton

**LOOKING FOR MORE  
INFORMATION?**

CHECK

**OUT**

# PRINCETON

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Independent School District 477

Community Education

Princeton Schools

706 First Street

Princeton, MN 55371

**50**  
YEARS

**PRINCETON**  
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Celebrating 50 years of serving our community!

SAVE THE DATE

## Early Childhood Fair

Sat. April 25, 2026

9 AM - 11:30 AM

Birth to Age 5 & Families

Food, Vendors, Activities & Fun!

