



Positive Happenings: October 2012

Forest Lake Area Schools Community Education

Early childhood years are an important time of rapid learning and growth. One component of Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is **Early Childhood Screening**. Early Childhood Screening is a free health and developmental screening for children best completed between the ages of 3 and 4 years. The purpose is to detect possible health or learning concerns, so that children can receive support before they enter kindergarten. Early Childhood Screening is required before entering kindergarten in a Minnesota public school.

Early Childhood Screening takes place **7 to 8** times a year at the Family Center. Day and evening appointments are available.

In the 2011-12 school year **497** children were screened. **100** children were referred for additional assessments. **35** of these children are now receiving Early Childhood Special Education services through the district. **58** children were referred to a health provider for additional hearing and vision assessments. Many other families were given assistance in obtaining health insurance, finding counseling and therapeutic services and placing their child in an appropriate preschool class.

Early Childhood Screening was offered offsite at Room For Growing Child Care Centers in Forest Lake for the first time. **28** children were screened.

Forest Lake collaborated with two other school districts, St. Francis and Centennial, in what is known as the Early ID Project. The Early ID Project is a **\$45,000** grant given by Anoka County to enable outreach to populations who are not typically screened prior to kindergarten. Forest Lake ECFE is excited to have earned the grant for a 2nd year for 2012-2013.

Early Childhood Screening

