



ECFE and SR Advisory Council Meeting

MONDAY, October 13, 2025

2:00-3:00 PM

The Detroit Lakes Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness (ECFE and SR) Council exists to assist in developing, planning and monitoring the ECFE and SR program. When staff and council members work together as a team, knowledge of community resources and growth of program operations are significantly enriched!

Present: Raimy R, Jenny W, Natalia M, Annie V, Sandy N, Andrew L, Fran R

Minutes

- A. The meeting was called to order.
- B. Members were welcomed and introductions made.
- C. Reviewed the purpose of the council, with major roles: Contributing recommendations for program policies, goals, objectives, and ideas; Promoting the program, outreach, and community relations; Assisting in program evaluation; Serving as an advocate for Early Childhood Family Education programs in the community and Legislature; and Expanding resource development.
- D. Business
 - a. Review of minutes June 2025.
 - b. Fall Classes and Events
 - i. ECFE classes and events
 - 1. Fall Catalog available.
 - 2. Enrollment in classes: 8 Weekly Parent/Child classes with 92 children 0-5 enrolled. Wiggles & Giggles class partnering with Public Health has openings.
 - 3. Participation in events and Out & Abouts: Life Link 12 children/adults; Fire Station 39 children/adults; Kids Expo estimated at 175-200 children;
 - 4. Upcoming events and Out & Abouts: Museum so far 21 registered; coming up the Library and the Holiday Workshop. Holiday Workshop will be held in the ECFE/Com Ed spaces at MState. Marketing with Social Media Event invites, catalog, website.
 - 5. Parent Education Topics
 - a. Main requests on the Parent Discussion Topics Surveys completed at Fall Mixed Ages Classes are sub topics under social-emotional development and screen time use and limits.
 - b. Members looked at a sample handout from the READ Act Family Tool Kit and agreed it would be a good resource for parents.
 - c. Reviewed a section of the Revised Early Childhood Indicators of Progress.
 - ii. School Readiness classes
 - 1. Enrollment 2025-2026: 44 RVT, 40 RSM
 - 2. Tuition funding sources utilized are VPK, P1, P2, ECSE, SS, PP
 - 3. Activities and Curriculum: working on building relationships, becoming familiar with the routine; utilizing research based High Scope, Conscious Discipline, Second Step, LTRS, 7 Grandfather's Teachings.
 - 4. Fall Conferences in November.
 - iii. PreK Laker Kids
 - 1. With the previous Extended Care at Lincoln now at RSM and RVT, PreK registration and billing systems have been fully merged with Laker Kids.
 - e. Early Childhood Screening and Child Find: Annie, with Public Health provides the EC Screenings for the Detroit Lakes schools that are required after a child's third BD for preschool participation and prior to

Kindergarten entry. Previously Happy 3rd BD Postcards to remind of screening. June 30, 2024-July 1, 2025 143 children screened. July 1, 2025 to present 42 children screened. Referrals as a result of the screening include Developmental Delay, Hearing Concerns, and Vision Concerns. Surveyed parents identified the main ways they hear about screening is through their preschool, childcare, and friend/family. Only a few families who came through the Kid Expo booth had not heard about EC Screening.

- F. VPK Survey required to be completed by Sept 30 was completed and submitted.
- G. Parent Aware Rating Renewal needs to be submitted 8 weeks prior to Jan 26, 2026. Components include documentation of specific hours of staff training in assessment and child development, a signed Statement of Assurances and compliance, and schedules. A Parent Aware Rating allows for the program to utilize Early Learning Scholarship Funds.
- H. Current ECFE/SR Staff
 - i. Staffing
 - 1. New ECFE/SR staff: Child Educator Ally Bettenhausen; Educational Assistants Paige Beck, Jessica Erb, and Bryanna Ellis.
 - 2. Open positions: ECSE has one full time opening.
 - 3. Substitutes: Parents interested in becoming a substitute can pick up a packet from the Adm center or reach out with questions.
 - 4. Professional Development
 - a. CPR/First Aid classes coming up.
 - b. In-service Oct 15, On-going Assessment (COR) training toward meeting Parent Aware Requirements.
 - c. In-service Nov 10 Suicide Prevention, and mini sessions to be determined. White Earth is working with a new Suicide Prevention Curriculum through the U of M, and happy to share information.
- I. Building and Program Transition Updates: The DL newspaper did an article last spring on the closing of Lincoln and followed up with an article this fall. PreK and Elem School Photos and Fire Truck visits were coordinated.
- J. Other: The Early Childhood Dental Network is paying for 10 early childhood aged children to receive free dental exams and the school nurse Jean is working with ECDN. Discussion if there are children overall in the community being underserved or lack access.
- K. Adjourn
- L. Next Meeting Dates Dec 15, Feb 23, April 20 with Location RSM Conf Room