

Early Childhood Family Education/ School Readiness Newsletter

School Year 2023-2024

Dear Families,

Another school year is HERE-FINALLY! It is with great enthusiasm that I am planning the 2023-24 school year. Again this year we will be holding our ECFE/School Readiness classes in our preschool classroom in the 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 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 18, 2023, and continues through May.** 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 provide 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** Last year was our first time trying the 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!

****We will begin our ECFE program with a Fall Kick-Off on Monday, September 18th 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 3 pm on the day of kickoff. (9/18/23)



NEW WITH ECFE...IMMUNIZATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH

CHILD. 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 Webpage Page 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.** We look forward to seeing you and your child(ren) in September!!

Sincerely,

Tonya Matson

ECFE/SR Coordinator/Parent Educator

Cell: 701-371-0235

tmatson@ulenhitterdal.k12.mn.us

Spotlight on the teachers...

Mrs. Tonya Matson...

Hi! My Name is Tonya Matson. Both my husband Beau and I grew up in the Ulen-Hitterdal area and have 3 Children, Dakota 25, Cole 21, and Gage 19. We are officially empty nesters and loving it! I have a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and Parent Education. A few years ago I got a crazy idea and went back to college 25 years after my first degree, and received my Master's in Educational Leadership and a Community Education Admin. license. You are never too old to go back to school! I have been teaching ECFE and Preschool for 27 years. Besides coordinating/teaching ECFE/SR at Ulen-Hitterdal, I just became the Community Education Director for the district and I am also the preschool teacher/coordinator for the Hawley School District. My family and I currently live south of Lake Park. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my grown-up kids, running, reading, pontooning, traveling, shopping, and entertaining family and friends.

Mrs. Tessa Nelson...

My name is Tessa Nelson. I received my Bachelors (Early Childhood Education) and Masters (Curriculum and Instruction) at MSUM. I have had the privilege of teaching at Ulen-Hitterdal Schools for the past 6 years, 5 in elementary and last year taking on the preschool/ECFE classes. I am very passionate about early childhood and have loved this new opportunity! I am married to my high school sweetheart, Brock and we have a daughter Nova who just turned two years old, and a sweet 2 month old son, Wilder! I look forward to teaching preschool, ECFE, and working with all of you!

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!

New CLASS Time: 5:30-7 PM

Fall Kick-off - Pizza Party

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

September 18th, 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. 2, 2023

Please join us for a Field Trip ...we will be going to the Pumpkin Patch on Hwy 10 Glyndon on MONDAY, Oct. 2nd, from 5:30-7 PM

Please Meet There!

\$6 admission for each adult and child (2 years 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.



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-May 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!

Class Schedule 2022-2023 (put in your mobile calendar:)

September: 18th (Fall Kick off, Pizza), 25th

October: 2nd (Pumpkin Patch Trip), 9, 16, 30 (wear a costume) ***NO Class on 23rd**

November: 6, 13, 28 (Part of class in the gym when we can) ***NO Class on 20th**

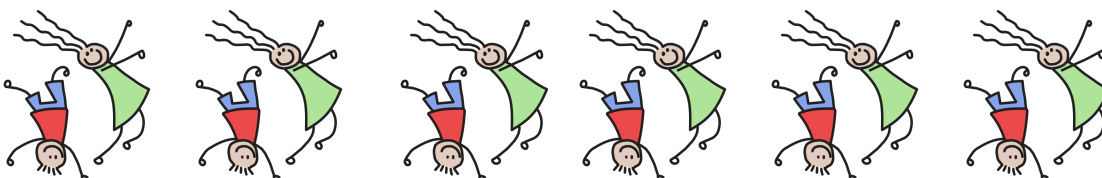
December: 4, 11 (ornament making) ****No class December 18th, 25th**

January: 8, 22, 29 ****No class January 1st (no school) 15th (MLK Day)**

February: 5, 12th (Valentine's Party), 26 ****No class February 19 (Pres. Day)**

March: 4, 18, 25 ****No class 11th**

April: 8, 15, 22, 29th LAST Class/Field Trip TBD **No Class April 1st**



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 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 13th 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 Michelle @ 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 13, 2023) screening time to be set 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, 2023**

8:00-11:00 AM Tuesday and Thursday

****4's-5's class for children at least 4 years old by September 1, 2023**

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 tuition scholarships. See Mrs. Nelson for more information.

About Preschool (School-Readiness)(SR)

- 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
- Phy. Ed classes for 4/5-year-old class
- The small child-to-teacher ratio for more individualized attention
- 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
- 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. (NORTHWEST 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.

