



Osseo Area Schools

Early Childhood Family Education

FAMILY HANDBOOK



OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS
Community Ed
Early Childhood & Family Education



bit.ly/Osseo-ECFE

763-391-8777

WELCOME FAMILIES



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new and exciting year of Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes! We are thrilled that your family is joining us on this journey of growth, learning, and connection. Whether you are returning or joining our program for the first time, we want to extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you.

At Osseo Area Schools, our ECFE program is designed to support families with young children by fostering a nurturing and enriching environment. We believe that parents and caregivers are a child's first and most important teachers, and we are here to partner with you every step of the way. Our classes offer opportunities for your child to explore, play, and learn, while also providing you with resources and support to strengthen your role as a parent/guardian.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for choosing to be a part of our ECFE community.

Kari Sawyer

Early Childhood Program Coordinator
sawyerk@district279.org

If you would like this handbook in another language, call 763-391-8777 to request a copy. Please allow at least 72 hours' notice for us to accommodate your request.

Osseo Area Schools mission statement

Our core purpose

To inspire and prepare each and every scholar with the confidence, courage, and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.



Program information

Absences

If you and your child will miss a class, please report the absence by calling our attendance line at 763-391-8624. The line is available 24 hours a day to leave a voicemail. A message will be relayed to the teacher.

Calendar

The ECFE program calendar is available on our website. bit.ly/Osseo-ECFE

Cell phone guidance

Please avoid using your cell phone during class and parent discussion time. Your presence and attention are important for meaningful engagement with your child and the class activities.

Class registration

Families have the opportunity to register for a second ECFE class (3 weeks after classes have started) if you'd like to expand your ECFE experience. If you have questions or need guidance on which class might be the best fit, ask your current teacher.

Clothing

Dress your child in comfortable, washable clothing. It's also a good idea to pack an extra set of clothes, just in case.

Curriculum and assessment

Early childhood curriculum - Our early childhood curriculum is based on the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIP's). The ECIP's have been developed by the Minnesota Department of Education and include all areas of child development.

Parent education curriculum - Our parent education curriculum is based on the Parent Education Core Curriculum Framework (PECCF) which is a comprehensive guide to strengthening families through education and support.

ECFE assessment - Teachers observe the children's development during ECFE class and use a district developed assessment tool to support your child's development.

Behavior guidance

We believe that all behavior is a form of communication. Hitting, biting, pushing and taking a toy from another child are sometimes seen when groups of young children come together. When a child engages in these kinds of behaviors, they are typically communicating a need to avoid something or a desire to gain something. Some behaviors that are age-appropriate for a young child are not long-term solutions that we want them to use in a group setting. While these behaviors are concerning, we also acknowledge that young children are just beginning to learn how to interact in a group and often are still developing impulse control and decision-making skills.

We take several steps to promote positive classroom behavior and are responsive as behaviors arise. We use teaching practices based on the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children. The Pyramid Model focuses on teaching practices that build skills for students to be successful in a classroom environment and reduce challenging behavior.

If a student needs additional support, we have a team of professionals that can work with the child's parent and teacher to develop a support plan. This support plan is private student information and will not be shared with other families.

Delayed (late) start / early dismissal

If Osseo Area Schools announces a two hour delay/late start, all morning ECFE classes will be canceled.

Parents/guardians will receive notice from the Early Childhood & Family Education program if you are enrolled in a class on that day. It may come in the form of email or text.

If Osseo Area Schools closes early, you will also receive a notification from the EC&FE program via email or text if it impacts your class.



Program information

E-learning

If Osseo Area Schools announces e-Learning days, you'll receive information from the EC&FE program via email, text, or phone call.

Teachers will send activities and instructions via email and be available to respond to questions.

Photo agreement

According to the Osseo Area Schools photo agreement: "I agree that by my/my child's participation in Osseo Area Schools Early Childhood & Family Education (EC&FE) programs, I/my child may have their photo/image taken and used by Osseo Area Schools Community Education in various media formats, including print, computer or electronic media, video or audio recording, and film. If I wish to deny this for myself/my child, I will indicate this in my/my child's Community Education program registration."

Please notify your child's teacher if you choose to opt out of photos.

Sibling Care

Sibling Care is available for children aged five months to five years while parents attend ECFE classes. The room provides a safe environment with fun, age-appropriate activities.

- If your child needs support (e.g., diaper change or comfort), staff will call you from your ECFE class.
- Babies under five months can attend class with you at no charge. Once your child turns five months, register for sibling care. If your child will turn five months during the session, call the office to arrange sibling care in advance.
- Please follow the program's health guidelines if your child is not feeling well.

Drop-off: You can drop off your child five minutes before class starts. Sign in, put a name tag on your child, and label personal items like diaper bags and bottles.

Pick-up: Pick up your child within five minutes of class ending. If someone else is picking up your child, let staff know at drop-off. Your child won't be released to anyone without prior permission.

Snack guidelines

Due to food allergies, our early childhood sites are "nut safe" and all children's snacks should be checked for ingredients to ensure this. This means no products with nuts or processed with nuts are allowed.

Classroom snacks need to be commercially prepared/store bought and unopened. Nutritious snacks and fresh fruit are encouraged. View the full snack guidelines sheet online - bit.ly/3AYZ5v2.

School closings

Where can you find updates on school closings?

-  facebook.com/OsseoEC
-  instagram.com/OsseoEC
-  WCCO, KSTP, FOX 9, KARE 11
-  WCCO radio

ECFE classes are not made up nor is a credit issued for cancellations due to emergency or weather-related closings.

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Program information

Check-in process

To ensure the safety and security of our students and staff, we use an enhanced check-in process at some of our sites. With this system, everyone in the building will be expected to wear a visitor pass.

Arbor View Early Childhood Center

- When you arrive, stop at the front desk to scan your photo ID and get your semester visitor pass, which will be placed in a lanyard.
- You'll need to scan your pass each time you enter and exit the building and wear it while inside.
- If another adult attends with your child, they'll need to scan their photo ID for a temporary day pass.

Willow Lane Early Childhood Center

- Upon arrival, scan your photo ID at the front desk to receive your semester visitor pass, which will be worn in a lanyard.
- It must be worn during your time in the building.
- If another adult attends with your child, they'll need to scan their photo ID for a temporary day pass.

Health and safety

Mandatory reporting

Under Minnesota Statute 260E.06, persons who work with families and children are mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Medical needs

- If your child has an Asthma, Seizure, or Severe Allergy Action Plan, your clinic can fax a copy directly to the program nurse at 763-391-8762.
- If your child has other health needs requiring medication or special attention at school, please complete the Health History Form: bit.ly/ECFE-Health-History or contact the Program Nurse.

Health and safety

Resources to support families

If you or your family need information on community resources for essentials like food or diapers, talk to your class teacher. We will work with you to help find resources to support your family's health, safety, and well-being.

Safety drills

We prioritize the safety of our students, staff, and visitors. Throughout the school year, we routinely practice five types of safety drills: Evacuate, Lockdown, Secure, Hold and Shelter. These drills may occasionally affect adults arriving or leaving the parking lot during their scheduled times.

For everyone's safety, we kindly ask all adults to adhere to temporary signage and/or follow staff instructions during these drills. This may involve vehicles entering or exiting the parking lot being temporarily paused. Your cooperation ensures a safe environment for everyone involved.

When should a parent/child stay home?

- A temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher in the last 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- An undiagnosed rash; check with your child's physician before coming to school.
- Diarrhea or vomiting within 24 hours prior to school.
- Harsh or new continuous cough.
- Chills, sore throat, nausea, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, or severe headache.
- If you or your child has contracted a contagious disease and a doctor has confirmed it, inform the student's teacher.

A good rule of thumb to follow:

How would I feel if my family were in a class with another family who had the same symptoms?

Early Childhood Programs

ECFE Visits

by Phone, Virtual or In-Person

Osseo Area Schools offers free ECFE visits with a licensed parent educator for families with children from birth to eight years old. A visit involves meeting with a parent educator who is there to listen and support you on your parenting journey. The goal is to support your unique needs during your child's early years. There are special ECFE visits for families with newborns.

For more information or if you have a question about ECFE visits, call 763-391-8777 or scan the QR code to submit an online form.



bit.ly/ECFE_Interest

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is a free service to check your child's growth, development, and learning.

Screening is recommended at 3½ years old but can be done anytime between ages 3 and 5, before starting kindergarten.

Learn more or schedule your child's screening online at bit.ly/EC_Screening or by scanning the QR code to the right. If you would like assistance, call 763-371-8777.



bit.ly/EC_Screening



Early Childhood Parent Teacher Organization (ECPTO)

We encourage you to think about joining the Early Childhood Parent Teacher Organization (ECPTO).

It's a great way to connect with other families, work together on events, and help make EC&FE (Preschool, PreK and ECFE) even better for our young learners. Your involvement can really make a difference!

To learn more about the ECPTO, visit their website bit.ly/Osseo_ECPTO, follow them on Facebook bit.ly/ECPTO_Facebook, or email them at infoECPTO@gmail.com.



Connect with us

We communicate important messages via SMS texting and email. Be sure to provide this information in your Eleyo account and check the box that you want to receive messages.

Social media

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for information about Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Preschool and to see what exciting things are happening in our classrooms!

 facebook.com/OsseoEC  instagram.com/OsseoEC



Scan the code to log in to your Eleyo account