

Thief River Falls Public Schools



Winter Session 2017-2018
November 27-February 23

Early Childhood Family Education



Opportunities for You and Your Child to Learn and Grow Together

Classes, Activities and Services for You and Your Infant to Preschool-Age Child

Discover what's available at www.trfcommunityed.com or 218-681-8670



Follow us on Facebook/Thief River Falls ECFE

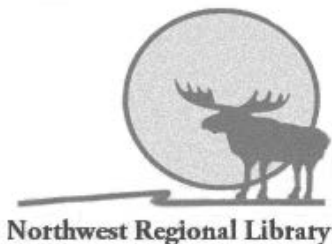
Classes and activities are held at Challenger Elementary & Preschool



STORYTIME

Library Storytime with ECFE

Visit the Thief River Falls Public library and enjoy Storytime with music, stories, and activities each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. for all preschool aged children 0-5 years old. Call 218-681-8670 or 218-681-4325 for more information.



Bag Up a Love of Reading

Want to get your little one excited about visiting the library? Make a special "library bag." Get an inexpensive tote bag from a craft store. Help your child decorate it with paint or markers. She'll want to go to the library to fill it up-and it can turn her into a lifelong reader.

Welcome to Early Childhood & Family Education

Classes and Activities for You and Your Child

Our ECFE classes have parents and children learning together through a mix of activities guaranteed to be fun and educational for children birth to five years of age. Parents also are provided with information and support to help you be the best FIRST teacher of your child. All classes include time where parents and children work together on educational activities designed for early learning success.

Classes include a story, rhymes, music, and parent & child hands-on learning activities followed by a time when parents can share and learn about child development, parenting styles and techniques, parenting dilemmas and more. During the parent discussion time, your child's teacher will continue to encourage learning through music, stories, games, and social experiences.



Keep Calm and Keep It Real

- "You look tired." I have kids, I'm pretty sure this is just my face now.
- "So I stepped away for like two seconds..."
The beginning of every parenting horror story.
- Before I had kids, I didn't know I could ruin someone's day by saying "Brush your teeth please."
- Be kind to everyone you meet. Because you never know who lost an argument with a 3-year-old today.

2017-2018 ECFE Advisory Board Members

Amanda Asp	Nicole Bassett
Heather Crandall	Megan Eickman
Krystyna Ellingson	Sheri Huth
Kendra Hunt	Jenny Johnson
Jenni Lane	Stephanie Olson

Misty Hempel, TRF School Board Member
Meg Kolden, TRF Community Ed. Director
Lisa Hinrichs, ECFE Educator & Coordinator



The ECFE Advisory Board is a group of parents and community members that contribute recommendations for our program, give ideas for classes and events, and help promote our program. They also help organize the children's garage sales we have in October and April as a fundraiser for our program.



Ideas for Winter Play

- Put plastic balls in a kid pool to play in
- Build tents and forts with blankets
- Play with Playdough
- Use sidewalk chalk on paper
- Blow bubbles
- Draw with crayons in tub
- Practice cutting paper in a big pan
- Obstacle course made from tape
- Dance party
- Do craft projects
- Chalkboard
- Play in bath with dolls
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Rip paper and make a picture



Are you on the School Census?

Parents, your child is never too young or too old to be on our census. If your family has a new addition through birth or adoption, or you are new to the Thief River Falls community, contact the Early Childhood office at (218) 681-8670 with your child's information. By doing so, your family will receive information on upcoming early childhood events, ECFE classes, Early Childhood Screening, the School Readiness program, Kindergarten registration and visitation, and other important information. Also, please notify our office of changes in address and/or telephone numbers. Providing updated information will help keep you informed of the early childhood opportunities that you don't want your child to miss.



Children's Garage Sale
Saturday, April 21, 2018
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Challenger Elementary Gyms & Cafeteria

Rental of tables will begin February 24.

The Scissors Song

(sung to "London Bridge")



*Keep your thumbs up
When you cut, when you cut,
when you cut.*

*Keep your thumbs up when you cut
and squeeze the blades together!*

Support and Information Online Resources for Parents of Children Ages 0-5

Think Small Text Program for Parents

Have fun and boost your child's learning! Sign up for Think Small Parent Powered TEXTS.

What are Think Small Texts? Think Small Parent Powered Texts send fun facts, and easy tips on how to promote your child's learning. Research shows that when parents use this program, their children are more prepared for kindergarten.

How does it work? Each week, you'll receive three text messages designed to help get your child ready for kindergarten.

How do I sign up? Signing up is easy, simply text TS to 70138. Signing up is free! Carrier and data message rates may apply.

Learn more at ThinkSmall.org/texts



Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow provides resources for families to understand developmental milestones and learn if there are concerns. This helps families take the lead in seeking additional support or referring their child for a comprehensive, confidential screening or evaluation at no cost.

If you have concerns about a child's development and think a child might need extra help to learn and grow, don't hesitate to refer a child. The family will be contacted by the local school district to arrange for a screening or evaluation to determine if their child is eligible for Infant and Toddler Intervention or Preschool Special Education services. Check online at www.helpmegrowmn.org for more information or to refer a child 0-5 years old.

Pennington County Resources

This website can link a person to many agencies and available resources in our area.

Go to NWMNResources.org, click on Pennington County or Pennington County Resources.org.

Tumblebook Library

nwrlib.org

E-books for kids PreK-6 Grade
Animated, talking picture books to read or have read to you. Available on the Northwest Regional Library website (click on Using the Library tab, then the Resources tab). You will need to enter your library card to use the program.

Parent-Child Classes



Incredible Infants

(Ages 3 - 12 months old)

These FREE classes will give parents and babies the opportunity to explore and learn together. Enjoy this time to celebrate and nurture the relationship with your new baby. Connect with other new parents about the joys and concerns of parenting an infant.

Mondays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Nov. 27, Dec. 11, Jan. 8 & Feb. 5

Fee: Free

Please call 681-8670 or email Lisa.hinrichs@myproowler.org to register or set up a home visit.

Pop In and Play Time

(Ages birth – 5 year olds)

Take time to play with your child at school. You can explore and interact in a variety of ways including doing puzzles, building with blocks, creating art, discovering in the sensory table, dancing to music, and listening to a story, etc. (This could be a second class for families.)

Mondays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Nov. 20, Dec. 4 & 18, Jan. 29,
Feb. 12 & 26

Fee: \$3.00 per child or \$5.00 per family per class.

Tiny Tots

(1 & 2 years old)

As your baby grows into a toddler, you encounter a world of new experiences and milestones together. Spend your morning by connecting with others who are also experiencing the joys and challenges of parenting. There will be time to play and learn through activities planned for you and your curious child.

Mondays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Nov. 27, Dec. 11, Jan. 8 & Feb. 5

Class: WEC101 (4 weeks)

Fee: See sliding fee scale on last page.



Parent-Child Classes



Walkers and Talkers

(Ages 18-36 months old)

Toddlers are terrific and have very busy minds and bodies. Children enjoy exploring the early childhood classroom and begin to form friendships as they play alongside their peers. Activities will focus on making this a positive time for everyone with a variety of toys, projects, music and movement, and story time. Parents will be able to connect with other parents that share the experience of raising a toddler.

Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22

Class: WEC106 (4 weeks)

Fee: See sliding fee scale on last page.

Get Up & Go

(Ages 2-5 years old)

It's movement based learning time. We will explore Playland, use the parachute, play games, and use music for movement during this class. It will be a good place to use extra energy and meet new friends. (This could be a second class for families).

Tuesday Class: WEC103

(11 weeks) 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Fee: See sliding fee scale on last page.

Busy Buddies

(Ages 1 year old-Kindergarten enrollment age)

(Infants may accompany parents with siblings) Stories, songs, puzzles, creative projects, sensory, and movement activities and other learning opportunities will be available for the variety of ages in these classes. Parents separate from the children to share joys and challenges, and learn helpful tips for parenting during part of the class (infants stay with the parents).

Wednesday Class: WEC104
(11 weeks) 10:00-11:45 a.m.
CLASS IS FULL

Thursday AM Class: WEC105
(11 weeks) 10:00-11:45 a.m.
CLASS IS FULL

Thursday PM Class: WEC107
(4 weeks) Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22
6:00-7:30 p.m.
NON-SEPERATING

Friday Class: WEC108
(11 weeks) 10:00-11:45 a.m.

Fee: See sliding fee scale on last page.

Early Childhood Screening

Don't Wait!

The early childhood years from birth to the start of kindergarten are an important time of rapid learning and growth. Minnesota law requires each child attend a health and developmental screening before starting school. The purpose of Early Childhood Screening is to identify possible health or learning concerns so that children can get help before they start school. Screening is highly recommended between the ages of 3 ½ - 4 years old. Waiting until a child is starting kindergarten may be waiting too long.

When your child attends Early Childhood Screening, a trained professional will check large and small muscle development, thinking, language and communication skills, social and emotional development, vision, hearing, and immunization records.

To make an appointment,
call Lisa Simenson at 218-681-8670.

Upcoming screening dates:

- January 31
- February 27
- March 1



Early Childhood Special Events

at Challenger Preschool

Christmas Family Event

**Thursday, December 7
5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Join us for making a Gingerbread House, a visit with Santa, making Christmas crafts, and having a snack. Please register by calling 218-681-8670 by December 6.

Beach Party Family Fun Night

**Thursday, January 25
5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of "beach fun" to play with water, bubbles, and sand. Please register by calling 218-681-8670 by January 24.

Preschool Family Gym Time on

Thursdays:

Dec. 14, Jan. 18, & Mar. 15
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Saturdays:

Jan. 13, Feb. 10, & Mar. 10
10:00-11:30 a.m.

Does your preschool aged children (1-5 years old) need to use up extra energy? Join us in the Challenger gyms to play, have fun, and use that energy.

Special events are offered for all families with children ages birth to five years old FREE of charge in the Thief River Falls area. You do not need to be attending an ECFE class to attend a special event.



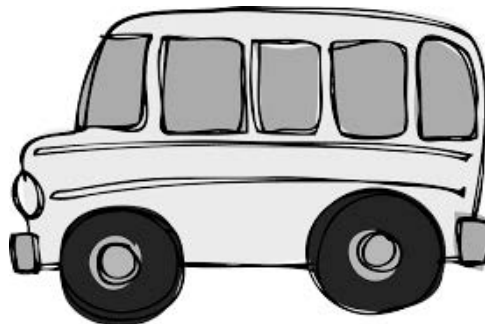
Preschool on Wheels

Preschool on Wheels is a monthly home visit program for TRF School District parents who are also child care providers.

Our early childhood staff will bring stories, songs, and educational activities for children and information for parents/providers, to use in your homes. Throughout the school year you can expect quality educational experiences that best fit the needs of children in your care. The goal of Preschool on Wheels is to work with you in preparing children for success when they enter kindergarten.

Parents/providers who are interested in signing up for this valuable program are asked to call 218-681-8670 or email lisa.hinrichs@myproowler.org and let us know you would like to register for this opportunity. Upon receiving your message our staff will contact you to schedule your visits, which will be approximately one hour in length, and are subject to staff availability.

Visit fee: No charge



Home and Site Visits

Not sure how to get your child to behave? Not sure if your child is developing as they should? Getting mixed signals from those around you about development and discipline, but you are not sure a parenting class or support group is right for you? You are not alone! Perhaps a home visit or a visit at the school with our trained staff is what you need to help get past the bumps in the road-the ones that are slowing your child on the path to success. Whatever the reason, we encourage you to take advantage of our flexible visit options.

Please call Lisa at 218-681-2345 ext. 4136 to set up a home or at school visit. There is no cost for visits.

Visit fee: No charge

Family School

Parents and children come to school together. This program provides a special time for parents and children to learn together through many activities. While parents attend their class to work toward their GED, high school diploma, or work on basic skill development; the children stay with the early childhood teachers to continue their educational activities. Lunch is available for all families. Transportation help is provided if needed. Class size is limited, so please call (218) 681-8670 for more information. This program is provided through Adult Basic Education, Head Start, and Early Childhood Family Education.

**Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
Room D107 at Challenger Preschool
Fee: No Cost**

Registration Information

Winter session begins the week of November 27 and ends the week of February 19.

Registration begins on November 18. Registration is first come, first serve and is ongoing until all classes fill.

4 Easy ways to register for ECFE Classes:

1. Sign up online at www.trfcommunityed.com beginning November 18.
2. Stop at the Challenger Preschool office.
3. Mail your completed registration form & payment to:
Challenger Preschool, 601 County Rd #61, Thief River Falls, MN, 56701.
4. Register by phone at (218) 681-8670.

Fee Policy

No family who resides in the Thief River Falls School District will be turned away from participating in ECFE because of the inability to pay. Talk to Lisa Hinrichs for more information.



Winter 17-18 ECFE Sliding Fees

Tiny Tots Class

(1 & 2 year olds)
Mondays-WEC101
(4 weeks) 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Get Up & Go Class

(2-5 year olds)
Tuesdays-WEC103
(11 weeks), 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Walkers & Talkers Class

(18-36 month olds)
Thursdays in February-WEC106
(4 weeks), 4:30-5:30 p.m.

SLIDING FEE SCALE (Per family) WEC101, WEC103, WEC106

Income Level of \$51,000 +
\$6.00 per class
Income Level of \$26,000-\$50,000
\$5.00 per class
Income Level of \$16,000-\$25,000
\$4.00 per class
Income Level below \$16,000
No Fee

Busy Buddies Class

Wednesdays-WEC104 (11 weeks)
10:00-11:45 a.m.
Thursdays-WEC105 (11 weeks)
10:00-11:45 a.m.
Thursdays in February-WEC107 (4 weeks)
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Fridays-WEC108 (11 weeks)
10:00-11:45 a.m.

SLIDING FEE SCALE (Per family): WEC104, WEC105, WEC107, WEC108

Income Level of \$51,000 +
\$8.00 per class
Income Level of \$26,000-\$50,000
\$7.00 per class
Income Level of \$16,000-\$25,000
\$6.00 per class
Income Level below \$16,000
No Fee

REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to: ECFE, Challenger Elementary and Preschool, 601 County Rd #61, Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Parent's Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Child's Name	DOB	Class Name	Day & Time
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Total fee enclosed: \$ _____ First time for my family _____ Unable to pay at this time _____

The ECFE program is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and accessibility for all residents. If you have any specific needs for participation, please contact Lisa Simenson at (218) 681-8670 before the first day of class.

Thief River Falls Public Schools
Challenger Preschool
230 LaBree Ave S
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 146
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

The TRF Early Childhood Initiative sponsors the Big Blue Bookshelf. These are book bins around town where children of all ages are encouraged to take home a book to keep. Reading 20 minutes every day is very important for brain development, and having your own books is one way to do this easier.

We are able to take gently used books as donations for the Big Blue Bookshelf at Challenger Elementary and Preschool entrances, Northern State Bank Drive-thru branch, TRF Public Library, and Discovery Place. We can reuse books that children have gotten from the Big Blue Bookshelf too.



The Big Blue BOOKSHELF

How to use:

Help your child find a book to enjoy!

Take the book home with you.

Read together often.

Talk about the pictures,
characters and story.

Most importantly, Have Fun!

For more information on the Big Blue Bookshelf locations like us on facebook.



TRF Early Childhood Initiative