

EARLY CHILDHOOD



ALBERT LEA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 241
EARLY LEARNING

EARLY LEARNING PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
CONTACT 507-379-4831

LITTLE SPROUTS

Age: 3 or 4 on/before Sept. 1

Schedule: Monday, Wednesday

Times: 8:00am-10:45am OR 12:00pm-2:45pm

SPOTS
AVAILABLE

Children enrolled in this program are provided with a rich learning environment in which to explore and understand new concepts. We will focus our attention on learning skill sets to problem solve, express feelings, and share. We will create through art, music, and dramatic play. We will enter the world of reading and explore books and stories in our daily activities.

3'S PRESCHOOL

Age: 3 on/before Sept. 1

Schedule: Monday-Thursday

Times: 8:00am-10:45am OR 12:00pm-2:45pm

WAITLIST
STARTED

Children in this program are provided with a rich learning environment to build on skills they have been learning at home or at child care. We will focus our attention on learning social/emotional skills such as how to express feelings and share; cognitive skills such as patterns and problem solving; getting creative with art, music, and dramatic play; literacy and language skills such as how to hold and read a book and recognition of numbers and letters; and enhancing fine and gross motor skills.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Age: 3 or 4 on/before Sept. 1

Schedule: Monday-Thursday

Times: 8:00am-10:45am OR 12:00pm-2:45pm

WAITLIST
STARTED

Children in this program are provided with an Outdoor Classroom environment to explore the natural surroundings around the Brookside Education Center area. Activities are focused on the surroundings of nature and the outdoors through a curriculum and may include a daily hike exploring the nature trails, digging in the sand pit, sledding in the winter, and learning more about the great outdoors. Students enrolled in this program will be outside most of the time except in severe or inclement weather.

VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Age: 4 on/before Sept. 1

Schedule: Monday-Friday

Times: 8:00am-11:05am OR 12:00pm-3:05pm

SPOTS
AVAILABLE

Children in this program are provided with a rich learning environment to build on skills they have been learning. These classroom experiences will build on a student's skills and knowledge through Social/Emotional Development, Cognitive Thinking, Literacy and the Arts, Physical/Motor Development and Growth, and Approaches to Learning. Teachers help guide students to achieve common goals.

WrapAround
Care Available:
6:45am-5:15pm

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR PRESCHOOL YET?



EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

Early Childhood Screening is a **free** and simple check of how your child is growing, developing and learning.

What to expect at a screening appointment:

A trained professional will check:

- Vision and hearing
- Height and weight
- Immunizations records
- Large and small muscles
- Thinking, language and communication skills
- Social and emotional development

This screening may help you link to other free learning opportunities, such as prekindergarten programming, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), Minnesota early learning scholarships for high quality care and education, Head Start, Home Visiting, and Early Childhood Special Education.

Upcoming Dates:

Thursday, September 5 | 8:00am-6:00pm
Friday, September 6 | 8:00am-2:00pm

Thursday, October 3 | 8:00am-6:00pm
Friday, October 4 | 8:00am-2:00pm

Thursday, November 7 | 8:00am-6:00pm
Friday, November 8 | 8:00am-2:00pm

Thursday, December 5 | 8:00am-6:00pm
Friday, December 6 | 8:00am-2:00pm

To schedule your child's
appointment, register online at
www.AlbertLeaCommunityEd.org,
or scan the QR code.



WHAT IS ECFE?

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a program by Albert Lea Area Schools offering parenting information and support for parents with children from birth to age 5.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL ECFE CLASS INCLUDE?

- **Parent-Child Activity Time:** Families explore a classroom with play materials and learning activities led by a licensed early childhood teacher.
- **Parent Education Time:** Parents meet with a licensed parent educator to share support, experiences, and parenting techniques.
- **Children's Activity Time:** Children engage with the early childhood teacher and practice social skills with their peers.

WE ARE HERE TO MEET YOUR NEEDS!

If you are interested in a parent-child class or a virtual parenting class but do not see a course that fits your schedule, please reach out to our staff. We are happy to discuss additional options that work for you!

Contact:

- Katrina Pedersen: katrina.pedersen@alschools.org
- Krista Doyle: krista.doyle@alschools.org

SUPPORT FOR CHALLENGING EARLY CHILDHOOD BEHAVIORS

We understand that your child's behavior can be challenging. Our Early Childhood Parent Educators are here to provide free information and support for parents and caregivers dealing with these issues.

To set up an appointment, which can be in person or via Zoom, please email:

- Krista Doyle: krista.doyle@alschools.org
- Mary Jo Volkman: mary.j.volkman@alschools.org

WE LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

Your child may also be screened at their Head Start, Child and Teen Check-ups or a clinic that offers developmental screening. Parents may conscientiously object to screening. Minnesota Statutes 121A.17.



BABY SERIES CLASSES
TODDLER SERIES CLASSES
PARENTING CLASSES
SPECIAL EVENTS

NEW NEW CLASS OFFERING

★ POPULAR CLASS

👨👩👧👦 SIBLING CARE OFFERED



3 WAYS TO REGISTER

CREDIT CARD ONLY

🖥️ ONLINE
 AlbertLeaCommunityEd.org

☎️ CALL
 507-379-4831

📍 IN PERSON
 211 W Richway Drive

SCAN QR
 CODE TO
 SEE CLASS
 OFFERINGS



BABY BUDS

0-12 month olds & parents

Parent Educator: Mary Jo Volkman & Krista Doyle

Welcome to our cozy Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) class designed for parents and their precious 0-12 month olds! Dive into a world of gentle songs, sensory play, and supportive discussions tailored to the needs of early parenthood. From tummy time tips to soothing techniques, discover invaluable insights while bonding with your baby and connecting with other families. Join us for a nurturing space where laughter, learning, and love abound. Together, we'll celebrate the joys of infancy and lay the foundation for a lifetime of exploration and growth. *No class November 28th.*

EC13 🧑👩👧👦	Tuesdays, Sept.10- Oct.15	4:30-5:30pm	ECFE Rm. 202	6 sessions See Fee Chart
EC12 🧑👩👧👦 ★	Thursdays, Sept. 12- Oct. 10	10:00-11:00am	ECFE Rm. 204	5 sessions See Fee Chart
EC14 🧑👩👧👦	Tuesdays, Oct.22- Dec.10	4:30-5:30pm	ECFE Rm. 202	8 sessions See Fee Chart
EC18 🧑👩👧👦 ★	Thursdays, Oct. 24- Dec. 12	10:00-11:00am	ECFE Rm. 204	7 sessions See Fee Chart

LITTLE EXPLORERS

6-18 month olds & parents

Parent Educator: Krista Doyle

Welcome to our exciting Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) class, where parents and their curious 6-18 month olds delve into the world of sensory exploration! Together, we'll engage in playful activities that stimulate your baby's senses—touch, sight, sound, smell, and taste. From sensory bins to textured play mats, every session is designed to spark wonder and promote developmental growth. Join us for a delightful blend of bonding moments, giggles, and discoveries as we nurture your little one's early curiosity in a warm and supportive environment. *No class November 28th.*

EC05 🧑👩👧👦	Thursdays, September 12- October 10	8:30-9:30am	ECFE Rm. 204	5 sessions See Fee Chart
EC06 🧑👩👧👦	Thursdays, October 24- December 12	8:30-9:30am	ECFE Rm. 204	7 sessions See Fee Chart

BABY SHOWER

Expecting parents or child 0-6 months

Parent Educator: Krista Doyle

Welcome to the start of your parenting adventure! Whether you're expecting or have recently welcomed your little one, we're thrilled to invite you to our Early Childhood Family Education community. Explore our facilities, connect with other families-to-be, and discover our exciting programs. Plus, enjoy a free welcome baby goodie bag as our special gift to you!

EC10	Friday, September 13	10:00-11:00am	ECFE Rm. 202 1 session FREE
EC11	Friday, October 11	10:00-11:00am	ECFE Rm. 202 1 session FREE
EC20	Friday, November 15	10:00-11:00am	ECFE Rm. 202 1 session FREE



PEA PODS

1-2 year olds & parents

Parent Educators: Krista Doyle & Mary Jo Volkman
ECFE Teacher: Katrina Pedersen

Welcome to a nurturing and enriching experience designed specifically for parents and their 1-2 year olds! Our Early Childhood Family Education class offers a supportive environment where families can learn, play, and grow together during this critical stage of early development. Enjoy the journey of parenthood surrounded by a welcoming community of families just like yours.

EC26

Tuesdays, September 10- October 15
8:30-9:30am

ECFE Rm. 204
6 sessions
See Fee Chart

EC27

Tuesdays, October 22- December 10
8:30-9:30am

ECFE Rm. 204
8 sessions
See Fee Chart

GROWING TOGETHER

1-3 year olds & parents

Parent Educator: Mary Jo Volkman
ECFE Teacher: Katrina Pedersen

Step into our vibrant Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) class, where parents and their adventurous 12-36 month olds embark on a journey of discovery and joy! Through engaging activities like sensory play, creative arts, and interactive stories, we celebrate each milestone and foster curiosity in our little explorers. Connect with fellow parents, share experiences, and gain practical tips from our supportive community of caregivers and educators. Join us for a fun-filled time of learning and laughter, where every moment is a new adventure in toddlerhood!

EC17

Tuesdays, September 10- October 15
6:00-7:00pm

ECFE Rm. 204
6 sessions
See Fee Chart

EC21

Tuesdays, October 22- December 10
6:00-7:00pm

ECFE Rm. 204
8 sessions
See Fee Chart

BUZZY BEES

2-3 year olds & parents

Parent Educators: Krista Doyle & Mary Jo Volkman
ECFE Teacher: Katrina Pedersen

Join us in our lively Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) class tailored for parents and their energetic 2-3 year olds! Join us for a delightful blend of play, learning, and connection in a supportive environment designed to celebrate this dynamic stage of early childhood. Through interactive activities, music, stories, and guided playtime, we'll explore the wonders of toddlerhood together. Build friendships with other families, gain valuable parenting tips, and watch your child thrive as they engage in age-appropriate activities that spark curiosity and creativity. This class is where learning meets laughter!

EC16

Tuesdays, September 10- October 15
10:00-11:15am

ECFE Rm. 204
6 sessions
See Fee Chart

EC22

Tuesdays, October 22- December 10
10:00-11:15am

ECFE Rm. 204
8 sessions
See Fee Chart

NEW CLASS OFFERING POPULAR CLASS SIBLING CARE AVAILABLE

BREAKFAST CLUB

3-5 year olds & parents

Parent Educators: Mary Jo Volkman
ECFE Teacher: Katrina Pedersen

Welcome to our delicious Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) class, where parents and their eager 3-5 year olds become breakfast chefs extraordinaire! Join us as we whip up fun and nutritious breakfast foods together. Through hands-on cooking activities and interactive storytelling, your child will develop fine motor skills, learn about healthy eating, and build confidence in the kitchen. Get ready for a morning of laughter, learning, and the aroma of freshly made memories!



EC03

Thursdays, September 12- October 10
9:00-10:30am

Brookside Rm. 114
5 sessions
See Fee Chart

SPECIAL ACTIVITY SERIES

3-5 year olds & parents

Parent Educator: Krista Doyle
ECFE Teacher: Katrina Pedersen

Weekly themed fun for you and your preschooler to enjoy together! Join us for rotating stations filled with learning activities that will help you get ready for Kindergarten. This class mixes learning, problem solving, and plenty of art! See you there! *No class November 29th.*



EC23

Fridays, Sept. 13- Oct. 11
1:30-2:30pm

5 sessions See Fee Chart

EC24

Fridays, October 25- December 13
1:30-2:30pm

Brookside Rm. 114
7 sessions
See Fee Chart

LITTLE ACORNS

3-5 year olds & parents

Parent Educator: Krista Doyle
ECFE Teacher: Hannah Lee

Parents and their lively 3-5 year olds will embark on exciting outdoor explorations in nature! Together, we'll discover the wonders of the natural world through scavenger hunts, nature walks, and imaginative outdoor games. From observing wildlife to creating nature-inspired art, each session fosters a love for the great outdoors and promotes physical activity. Join us for a joyful blend of laughter, learning, and unforgettable adventures as we play, learn, and grow together in nature's playground! *No class November 28th. Weather backup location: Brookside Rm. 114.*

EC28

Thursdays, September 19- October 10
3:00-5:00pm

Outdoor Adventure Classroom
4 sessions
See Fee Chart

EC29

Thursdays, October 24- December 12
3:00-5:00pm

Outdoor Adventure Classroom
7 sessions
See Fee Chart

MIXED MEDIA MAGIC

3-5 year olds & parents

Parent Educator: Mary Jo Volkman
ECFE Teacher: Katrina Pedersen



Parents and their imaginative 3-5 year olds will explore the magic of mixed media art! Together, we'll dive into a world of creativity using paints, collage materials, and more to create masterpieces that reflect your child's unique perspective. From messy fun with textures to storytelling through colors, every session is a celebration of creativity and self-expression. Join us for a joyful blend of laughter, learning, and boundless creativity as we unleash the artist within! *No class November 28th.*

EC19

Thursdays, Oct. 24- Dec. 12
9:00-10:30am

ECFE Rm. 114
7 sessions
See Fee Chart

POD SQUAD

Parents of newborns - 5 years

Parent Educator: Krista Doyle

Join us for an engaging and enlightening parenting series where we explore the world of parenting through podcasts. Each session is designed to spark discussions and provide valuable insights into various aspects of raising children in today's world. Whether you're a new parent or navigating the challenges of a kindergartener, these podcasts offer practical advice, expert interviews, and personal stories that resonate with every stage of parenthood. A podcast will be given to listen to over the weekend before each class to discuss as a group.

EC08

Mondays, September 9- October 14
9:00-10:00am, No class Sept. 30

ECFE Rm. 202
5 sessions
See Fee Chart

EC09

Mondays, November 11- December 9
ECFE Rm. 202

5 sessions
9:00-10:00am
See Fee Chart



PARENTING BOOK CLUB

Parents of newborns - 5 years

Parent Educator: Krista Doyle

Join us for our parenting book club as we delve into "Let Them Be Kids" by Jessica Smartt. This insightful book takes us on a journey to rediscover the joys of childhood and embrace a more balanced approach to parenting. Through lively discussions, we'll explore Smartt's practical advice on fostering creativity, encouraging outdoor play, and nurturing a sense of wonder in our children's lives. Reflect on your own parenting journey, share experiences with fellow parents, and leave inspired with actionable tips to create a childhood filled with joy and growth. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate the magic of letting kids be kids!

EC01

ECFE Rm. 202

Every other Thursday, Sept. 19- Dec. 5

6 sessions

5:30-6:30pm

See Fee Chart



THE WHOLE-BRAIN CHILD

Parent Educator: Krista Doyle

Parents of newborns - 5 years

Join our parenting class and unlock your child's brainpower! Learn how to navigate meltdowns, decode the mystery of tantrums, and turn everyday chaos into teachable moments—all using the secrets from 'The Whole Brain Child' workbook. Get ready to parent with confidence and a dash of neuroscience magic!

EC02

Tuesdays, October 22- December 10
1:30-2:30pm

ECFE Rm. 202
8 sessions
See Fee Chart

FAIRY TALE BAG DRIVE-THRU

Drive to our school to receive a special fairy tale story kit, complete with activities and crafts to enjoy at home. Dive into a world of imagination as you and your little ones discover storytelling magic together. Join us for a delightful blend of wonder, creativity, and storytelling joy — all from the comfort of your car!

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
5:00-5:30PM**

**BROOKSIDE
MAIN ENTRANCE**

\$6 per child
Register online!

CLASS SLIDING FEE CHART

FAMILY SIZE	CATEGORY A		CATEGORY B		CATEGORY C	
	ANNUAL INCOME		ANNUAL INCOME		ANNUAL INCOME	
2	Below \$35,000		\$35,000-\$45,000		\$45,000+	
3	Below \$45,000		\$45,000-\$55,000		\$55,000+	
4	Below \$55,000		\$55,000-\$65,000		\$65,000+	
5	Below \$65,000		\$65,000-\$75,000		\$75,000+	
6+	Below \$75,000		\$75,000-\$85,000		\$85,000+	
CLASSES	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 1	SESSION 2
Pod Squad	\$8	\$8	\$16	\$16	\$25	\$25
Pea Pods	\$10	\$14	\$20	\$28	\$30	\$40
Buzzy Bees	\$13	\$17	\$26	\$34	\$38	\$50
The Whole-Brain Child		\$12		\$24		\$35
Baby Buds AM	\$8	\$12	\$16	\$24	\$25	\$35
Growing Together	\$10	\$14	\$20	\$28	\$30	\$40
Little Explorers	\$8	\$12	\$16	\$24	\$25	\$35
Baby Buds PM	\$10	\$14	\$20	\$28	\$30	\$40
Breakfast Club	\$14		\$29		\$38	
Mixed Media Magic		\$18		\$35		\$50
Little Acorns	\$6	\$12	\$14	\$24	\$20	\$35
Parenting Book Club	\$10		\$20		\$30	
Special Activity Series	\$8	\$12	\$16	\$24	\$25	\$35

Sibling Care is an additional \$2 per class, with no extra charge for multiple children – the cost remains the same for one child.

TIGER CUB CHILD CARE

4 STAR PARENT AWARE, SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Our experienced staff and engaging curriculum provided by Teaching Strategies Gold-Creative Curriculum offers children the opportunity to play, learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment.

PROGRAM FEATURES:

- ✓ licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- ✓ Child Care Assistance welcomed.
- ✓ Drop-ins for infants & toddlers. Families must pre-register. Slots are based on availability.

ENROLL NOW

Brookside Education Center
 211 W Richway Drive
 Albert Lea, MN 56007

507-379-5158
www.AlbertLeaCommunityEd.org



