



SOUTH-CENTRAL EARLY LEARNING HUB NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

November brings a season of gratitude, and we're feeling especially thankful for the families, educators, and partners who make early learning in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties so vibrant. As days grow shorter and schedules busier, this issue shares updates on Preschool Promise, early literacy ideas for cozy fall reading, upcoming family events and trainings, and highlights from Community UPLIFT.

Thank you for all you do to lift up our youngest learners. We're grateful to be in this work with you. Together, we make early learning possible every day.

Happy Reading,

The SCELH Team



SOUTH-CENTRAL
EARLY LEARNING

HUB

DOUGLAS, KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Book of the Month - pg.2
- Kindergarten Readiness Tip -pg. 3
- Preschool Promise- pg.4
- Community UPLIFT-pg.5
- Family Governance Advisory Committee- pg. 6
- Community Events - pg. 7-12
- Connect With Us-pg. 13

THE THANKFUL TREE

November is a wonderful time to practice gratitude with little ones. Find a few small branches and place them in a vase or jar to make a "tree." Each day, invite your child to add a leaf cut out of paper with something they are thankful for written (or drawn) on it. By the end of the month, you'll have a tree full of thankful leaves to celebrate together.

This activity encourages conversations, builds early literacy skills through drawing and writing, and helps children recognize the special people and things in their lives.

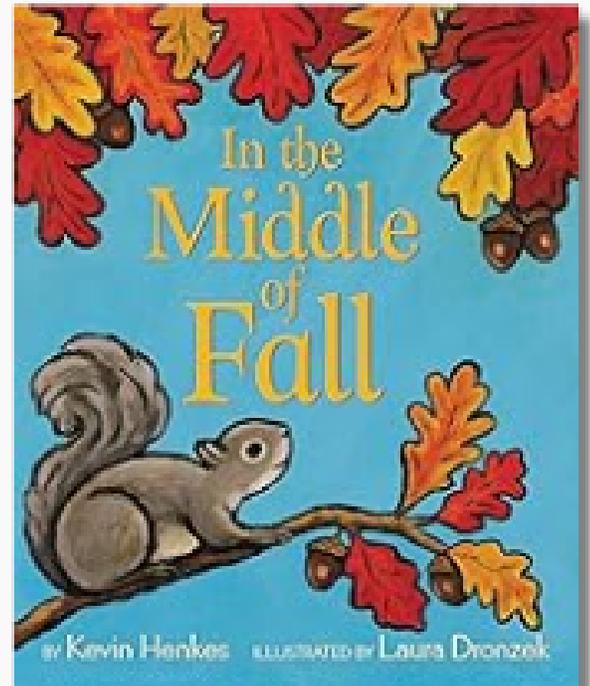


Book of the Month: The Middle of Fall by Kevin Henkes

This board book by Kevin Henkes gently captures the transition of the season, with simple, poetic text and expressive illustrations that highlight how leaves change, skies shift, and the world begins to slow down. It's a lovely, calming read that helps children notice small changes in nature.

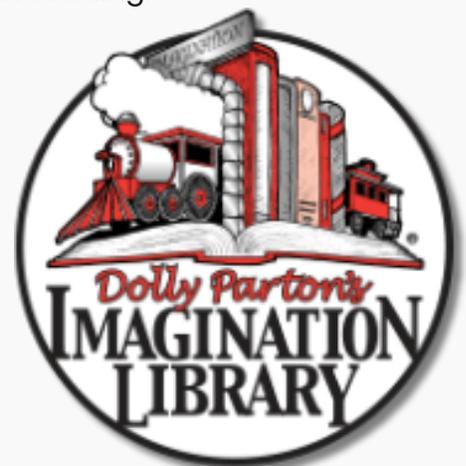
READING TIPS:

- "I Spy" with leaves: As you read, pause on pages and ask, "What color is that leaf? What do you see in the sky?"
- Nature walk: After reading, go outside and look for fallen leaves. Compare their colors and shapes to those in the book.
- Stretch the language: If the text says, "yellow leaf," add "big yellow leaf," "bright yellow leaf," or ask your child: "Do you see a small leaf? A big leaf?"
- Talk, talk, talk: Encourage children to tell their own leaf stories. Retelling in their own words builds memory and language.
- Keep it fun: Even a few minutes a day of reading together can make a big difference!



TAKE READING FURTHER!

Give your child the gift of reading by signing them up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Children ages 0–5 can receive a free book in the mail each month, building early literacy skills and a lifelong love of reading.



Kindergarten Readiness Tip:

Helping Little Hands Gain Big Independence

As the chilly weather sets in, November is the perfect time to support your child in practicing everyday self-help skills. Something as simple as putting on a coat, zipping it up, or fastening buttons plays an important role in preparing children for kindergarten.

Self-help skills, like dressing, washing hands, opening snack containers, and managing belongings are key to building confidence and independence. When children can do these things on their own, they feel proud, capable, and ready to learn. These skills also help teachers, who can then spend more time focusing on classroom learning instead of daily routines.

Jacket Practice: Zippers & Buttons

With colder days ahead, coat practice is a fun way to encourage independence. You might try:

- **Zipper Races:** Let your child try zipping up their coat while you count slowly to 10. Celebrate their progress even if they don't finish in time.
- **Button Challenge:** Start with larger buttons first, then work toward smaller ones. Encourage them to practice on shirts, sweaters, or even dolls and stuffed animals.
- **Model & Praise:** Show them how to pinch, push, or pull, then let them try. Be sure to celebrate their effort, not just the result!



Encouragement Goes a Long Way

Remember, it's about progress, not perfection. Mistakes are part of learning! Each attempt builds coordination, problem-solving, and perseverance, all skills that will help your child thrive in kindergarten and beyond.

Looking for more ways to support your child's readiness for kindergarten? Visit the [Parent Resources](https://www.scelh.com) page at [SCELH.com](https://www.scelh.com)!

Apply for Preschool Promise Today!

Enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year is open in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties!



Preschool Promise

Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care

About the Program:

Preschool Promise is still accepting applications for the 2025–2026 school year. It's not too late to apply! Applications are accepted year-round. Children who turned 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2025, may be eligible. Families must live in Oregon and meet income guidelines, but families are still encouraged to apply even if they don't think they qualify based on income.



Requirements:

- Family lives in Oregon
- Family income is at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
–*some exceptions may apply
- Children turn 3 or 4-years-old by Sept. 1 of the school year the family is applying for

For More Information:

- Visit www.southcentralhubenrollment.com
- Take virtual tours at SCELH.com
- Scan the QR code
- For questions or help with the application, call (541) 957-4809



Community UPLiFT is taking referrals!

Connecting expecting families and families with children birth to five, and up to the age of 21 with special needs, to resources in the community.

Finding Hope Together

A local family of five, once living in unsafe conditions after fleeing domestic violence, found hope through community support. With connections to counseling, financial resources, and a safer place to stay, the children are now thriving, especially the youngest, who finally has a school that meets their needs. While they continue searching for permanent housing, the mother shared her gratitude, saying it gave her comfort to know they are not alone.

Ways to make a referral to Community UPLiFT:

- Families can self-refer or be referred through community partners
- Text the keyword “uplift1” for Douglas, “uplift2” for Klamath, and “uplift3” for Lake to (541) 351-3100 to receive a link to the referral form
- Online at community-uplift.com
- QR Code



Families Leading the Way: The Family Governance Advisory Committee

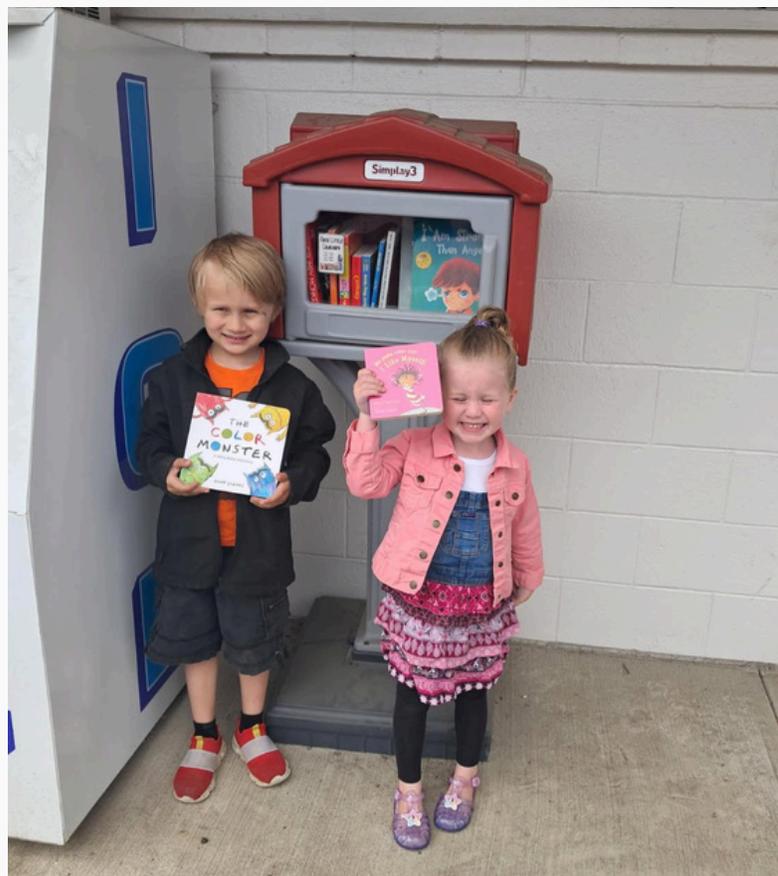
At the South-Central Early Learning Hub, we know that families are the heart of early learning. The Family Governance Advisory Committee (FGAC) brings together parents and caregivers from Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties, where members share their ideas and experiences to help improve programs and build strong communities for young children.

What the FGAC Does:

The committee meets each month to make sure family voices are heard in local decisions. Members:

- Learn about advocacy, family rights, and special education
- Practice leadership and teamwork skills
- Create welcoming spaces for connection and self-care
- Help bring Little Free Libraries to neighborhoods so families can enjoy free books

Together, they work to make early learning fair and accessible for all families.



Why it Matters!

Families know best what their children need to learn and grow. When parents and caregivers share their ideas, it helps build better programs and stronger communities. The FGAC gives families a place to speak up, share their stories, and make a real difference. As a thank-you for their time and input, members receive a \$50 payment for each meeting they attend.

Join the Conversation

We're looking for new parents and caregivers to join the FGAC! If you're passionate about helping all children and families thrive, we welcome you to be part of the FGAC. **Interested?** email Athena Wikstrom at Athena.wikstrom@douglasesd.k12.or.us !

BUILDING YOUR BOUNCE:

Simple Strategies for a Resilient You

FREE Childcare
&
Dinner

with Anela Plunkett, School Psychologist

Parenting is one of the toughest—and most important—jobs out there, and it doesn't come with a manual. **Building Your Bounce: Simple Strategies for a Resilient You** is a free, supportive class designed to help parents strengthen their own resilience so they can navigate the stress and challenges of raising children while also making room for celebrations. No matter what your background or situation, this class offers simple, practical tools you can start using right away.

All parents and caregivers are welcome!

Occurs every First Wednesday of the month from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

November 5th	Introduction to Resilience & Self-Reflection What is resilience and why does it matter for parents?
December 3rd	Taking Care of You Self-care as a necessity, not a luxury
January 7th	Building Inner Strengths Identifying and using personal strengths in parenting
February 4th	Managing Emotions in Stressful Moments Tools for emotional regulation during parenting challenges
March 4th	Building Supportive Relationships How social connections protect resilience
April 1st	Positive Thinking & Reframing Challenges How to shift perspective and reduce negative self-talk
May 6th	Celebration & Putting It All Together Review, celebrate growth, and plan for continued resilience

For more information: Sarah 541-957-4814 sarah.wheelock@douglasesd.k12.or.us



Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/TRBounceBack>

Or

Scan the QR Code to register

Registration is Limited!



-For more information:

Sarah Wheelock

541-957-4814

sarah.wheelock@douglasesd.k12.or.us



Scan here to register

STEAM NIGHT

Psst... Please Register so we know how much fun to bring!

GLENDALE



PIRATES

IN GLENDALE!

THURSDAY, NOV 13

5-7 PM

IN THE GYM!

Join Take Root and the Umpqua Valley STEAM Hub for an evening of hands on fun with the latest in learning technology! (and some snacks!)

REGISTER HERE:

<https://tinyurl.com/2nkumn53>





TAKE ROOT FALL 2025 OCTOBER-DECEMBER VIRTUAL EVENTS

BABY NUTRITION
HYBRID 4-PART WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 7, 9, 14, & 16
[HTTPS:// TINYURL .COM/NKDDP3EA](https://tinyurl.com/nkddp3ea)

MAKE PARENTING A PLEASURE
ONLINE SERIES WITH LISA AUSTIN
THURSDAYS STARTING OCT 9
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/BDENNZ8E](https://tinyurl.com/bdenz8e)

BECOMING A SUPER DAD AN
ONLINE WORKSHOP
WITH MICHAEL FINLAY
OCTOBER 13
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/DADTR25](https://tinyurl.com/dadtr25)

FROM CONFLICT TO CONNECTION:
ACTIVE PARENTING OF TEENS
SERIES ONLINE WITH T CHURCH
TUESDAYS STARTING OCTOBER 14
[HTTPS:// TINYURL .COM/ TEENSTR25](https://tinyurl.com/teenstr25)

BUILDING YOUR BOUNCE:
SIMPLE STRATEGIES FOR A RESILIENT
YOU WITH ANELA PLUNKETT, SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGIST
A ONCE-A-MONTH WORKSHOP STARTING
NOVEMBER 2025, REGISTER FOR MORE
INFORMATION:
[HTTPS:// TINYURL .COM/ TRBOUNCEBACK](https://tinyurl.com/trbounceback)

ROUTINES FOR FAMILY SUCCESS ONLINE
WORKSHOP WITH T CHURCH
NOVEMBER 17
[HTTPS:// TINYURL .COM/ROUTINESTR](https://tinyurl.com/routinestr)

Use the Google
Calendar with links
to sign-up
[https://tinyurl.com/
TakeRootActivities](https://tinyurl.com/TakeRootActivities)



For information: 541-957-4814
takerootinfo@douglasesd.k12.or.us





TAKE ROOT PARENTING CONNECTIONS DOUGLAS 2025

FALL

THURS OCT 9-DEC 19	Make Parenting a Pleasure via Zoom Register Here: https://tinyurl.com/bdennz8e
SAT NOV. 1	Dia de Muertos Storytime and Craft w/Jaidie Osuna Presented in English and Spanish Register Here: https://tinyurl.com/33s4c7f9
WEDS. NOV 5TH & DEC 3RD	Building Your Bounce- Simple Strategies for a Resilient You w/Anela Plunkett, School Psychologist Register Here: https://tinyurl.com/TRBounceBack
THURS NOV. 13	STEAM in GLENDALE! An evening of hands on fun learning together! w/The Umpqua Valley STEAM Hub Register Here: https://tinyurl.com/2nkumn53
THURS DEC 11	STEAM in CAMAS! An evening of hands on fun learning together! w/The Umpqua Valley STEAM Hub Register Here: https://tinyurl.com/3n9mxvnh
TBD	North Douglas Parent Club Collaboration and Communication during school breaks! w/Terra Jacobsen-Barnes Register Here: https://tinyurl.com/3dkd395h

EVENT CALENDAR

More Information:

Sarah

541-957-4814

sarah.wheelock@douglasesd.k12.or.us



<https://tinyurl.com/TRDouglasCalendar>





**FALL 2025
TAKE ROOT PARENTING
CONNECTION EVENTS**
OCTOBER - DECEMBER
**FOR
FAMILIES IN
LAKE
COUNTY**

OCTOBER

Baby Nutrition Campaign- Hybrid 4-Part Workshop

October 7, 9, 14, & 16- 6:00 -7:30 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/nkddp3ea>

Make Parenting A Pleasure- Series
Online with Lisa Austin

Weekly on Thursdays starting
Oct 9, 2025- 6:00-8:00 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/bdennz8e>

Becoming a Super Dad-Online Workshop
With Michael Finlay October 13, 2025 -
7:00-8:30 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/dadtr25>

From Conflict to Connection: Active Parenting of Teens- Series Online
With T Church
Weekly on Tuesdays starting
October 14, 2025 - 6:30-8:00 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/teenstr25>

NOVEMBER

Sensory Play Day- In-Person Family Activity
With Take Root and CODSN

November 8, 2025 - 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/sensoryTR>

Routines for Family Success -Online Workshop
With T Church

November 17, 2025- 6:30-8:00 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/routinesTR>

DECEMBER

Winter Crafts- In-Person Family Activity
With Kym Wadsworth
December 19, 2025 - 6:00-7:30 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/winterTR25>

**Use the Google
Calendar with links
to sign-up**

[https://tinyurl.com/
TakeRootActivities](https://tinyurl.com/TakeRootActivities)



For Information
Call, text or email
Lake County Take Root
541-219-6100
bguido@desd.k12.or.us



Take Root Fall 2025

Klamath County



Baby Nutrition Campaign

4-Part Hybrid Workshop

October 7th, 9th, 14th, & 16th 6:00 -7:30 pm <https://tinyurl.com/nkddp3ea>

Circle of Security Series

October 20th, to December 1st 11:00 am-1:00 pm
<https://tinyurl.com/3vup6f42>

Story Time & Pumpkin Painting

October 27th, 4:00-6:00 pm <https://tinyurl.com/4zuxbv8b>

Question Persuade and Refer (In Spanish)

October 28th, 5:30-7:00 pm <https://tinyurl.com/29ednz53>

Getting your Baby or Toddler to Sleep without the Struggle

November 6th, 5:30-7:00 pm <https://tinyurl.com/yc7ue7jf>

Story Time & Decorating a Gingerbread House

December 2nd, 4:00-6:00 pm <https://tinyurl.com/ywf57722>

Event Calendar



<https://tinyurl.com/2p3zsvea>



For questions contact:

Laura

541-670-6123

lbarajas@desd.k12.or.us



Take Root

PARENTING SUPPORT FOR DOUGLAS,
KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

We Want to Hear From You!

Your voice matters to us. The South-Central Early Learning Hub is committed to sharing information that is useful, relevant, and engaging for our community. If you have feedback about our newsletter, ideas for future topics, or stories you'd like to see featured, we'd love to hear from you! Please email your suggestions to cscheer@desd.k12.or.us and help us make this newsletter an even better resource for families, educators, and community partners.



SUBSCRIBE

To subscribe to our newsletter,
email Charlee Scheer;
cscheer@desd.k12.or.us

Hub Contacts

Gillian Wesenberg:
Director
Gillian.wesenberg@douglasesd.k12.or.us
(541) 440-4774

Athena Wikstrom:
Early Learning Program Facilitator
Athena.wikstrom@douglasesd.k12.or.us
(541) 957-4807

Charlee Scheer:
Administrative Assistant
Charlee.scheer@douglasesd.k12.or.us
(541) 816-5650

Danielle Walker:
Family Resource Facilitator
Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us
(541) 880-4655

Ronda Osborn:
Family Resource Specialist
Ronda.Osborn@douglasesd.k12.or.us
(541)-670-5964

