

SOUTH-CENTRAL EARLY LEARNING HUB NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we head into December, many families are stepping away from the normal school routine. Breaks are important for rest, connection, and play, and they're also a wonderful time to keep early learning going at home in simple, joyful ways. For our youngest learners (birth-5), everyday moments are the classroom.

If your routine shifts during the holidays, that's okay. Consistency can be as simple as a regular bedtime story, a mealtime conversation, or a daily dance break. Small, predictable rituals help children feel safe and ready to learn when school resumes.

Our team is here to support you. If you're looking for local resources, early literacy ideas, Preschool Promise information, or help connecting to services, please reach out to the South-Central Early Learning Hub. Wishing you a peaceful season filled with rest, laughter, and lots of cozy reading time.

Happy reading,
The SCELH Team



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KEEP THE LEARNING GOING

Keep the joy of learning alive during winter break! Read a favorite story together, count cookies as you bake, or bundle up for a "winter walk" to spot shapes and colors outside. Simple, playful moments at home help little minds grow every day.

Singing songs, playing board games, or letting children help with everyday tasks are all fun ways to build language, math, and problem-solving skills. Remember, kids learn best through play, so enjoy these cozy moments of learning together!

Book of the Month: One Snowy Day by Diana Murray

Bundle up and join a joyful adventure through a snowy day! In *One Snowy Day*, children follow a group of friends as they splash, stomp, and play in the snow, counting, rhyming, and laughing all the way. With rhythmic text and bright illustrations, this book invites young readers to experience the simple wonders of wintertime.

Watch and Read Along!

Can't get your hands on the book? No problem! Families can enjoy *One Snowy Day* together by checking out the read-along video version online. Read-along videos bring the story to life with colorful illustrations, gentle narration, and engaging sounds, perfect for little learners!

Watching a story read aloud helps children hear new words, follow along with the rhythm of language, and build a love for books even without a physical copy at home. It's a wonderful way to keep early learning going anytime, anywhere, whether you're snuggled up on the couch or on the go.



READING TIPS TO TRY

AT HOME:

Infants (0–1 year)

- Focus on your voice and expression, babies love hearing the rhythm and tone of language.
- Point to and describe pictures: "Look, a hat! The snow is falling!"

Toddlers (1–3 years)

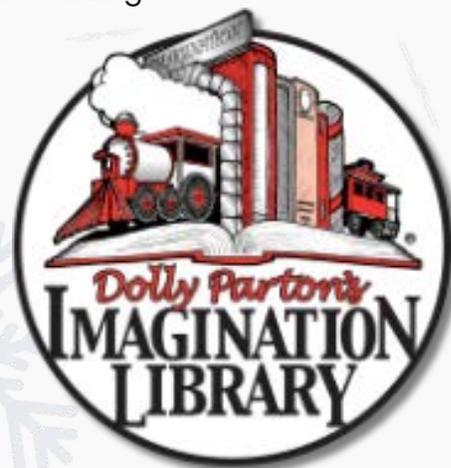
- Let them finish rhymes ("One snowy... day!") or count along with you.
- Ask simple questions: "What color is the sled?" or "Can you make a snow sound?"

Preschoolers (3–5 years)

- Talk about what the characters are doing and how they might feel, "Do you like to play in the snow too?"
- After reading, try a snow-day pretend play: bundle up dolls or stuffed animals, or use cotton balls for indoor "snow."

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:

Learning Never Takes a Snow Day

Winter break is the perfect time to keep little minds growing through everyday moments at home. Building kindergarten readiness doesn't always mean worksheets or lessons, it can be found in play, conversation, and shared family time!

Try These Simple Ideas to Keep the Learning Going!

- Bundle up and explore! Go on a "Winter Walk" and look for shapes, colors, or letters in nature and neighborhood decorations.
- Count it up! Let your child help count cups of cocoa, buttons on a coat, or steps to the car.
- Read together daily. Cozy up with a favorite story and ask questions like "What do you think will happen next?"
- Practice self-help skills. Have your child zip their own jacket, put on mittens, or help set the table. These small tasks build confidence and independence.



Encouragement Goes a Long Way

Every playful moment helps children build the curiosity, language, and independence they'll need for kindergarten success!

Keep the learning going at home with Vroom, a free app and website full of fun, science-based tips and tools that turn everyday moments into brain-building opportunities! Whether you're cooking dinner, getting ready for bed, or playing outside, Vroom offers quick ideas that help boost your child's learning and strengthen your connection together.

✨ Download the free Vroom app or visit www.vroom.org to start exploring today!

Looking for more ways to support your child's readiness for kindergarten? Visit the [Parent Resources](#) page at 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:

The South-Central Early Learning Hub takes Preschool Promise applications all year. Children who are 3 or 4 years old by September 1 can apply. Families must live in Oregon and meet income guidelines. If you're not sure you qualify, go ahead and apply! Preschool Promise is accepting applications for the 25–26 school year now.



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

Last year, a family experiencing homelessness connected with Community UPLiFT in search of support and stability. Living in a camp under a bridge with their young child, the parents were struggling to access resources and find steady employment. Their Family Resource Facilitator worked alongside local partners like Safe Families for Children, Healthy Families, ODHS, and others to help the family reconnect with vital supports, including The Oregon Health Plan, SNAP, TANF, and the Housing Authority of Douglas County (HADCO). When the father shared that reliable transportation was a barrier to finding work, the Facilitator located a bicycle for him, a simple but powerful tool that allowed him to attend job interviews and pursue employment opportunities. Recently, the Family Resource Facilitator who worked their initial referral learned wonderful news: the father is now employed full-time, and the family is no longer experiencing homelessness. The mother expressed heartfelt gratitude, sharing how much it meant to be treated with kindness and care during their hardest moments.

This story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when community partners work together and families receive compassionate, ongoing support. At Community UPLiFT, we're honored to walk alongside families on their journey to stability, dignity, and success.

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



Community Events

GREATER DOUGLAS United Way A BENEFIT FOR GREATER DOUGLAS UNITED WAY

Pancakes, Pins & Pajamas

Ten Down Sports Family Grill

DECEMBER 2ND GIVING TUESDAY **5:30PM - 7:30PM**
\$18 PER PERSON

Christmas Pajama Party
 Pancake Dinner

Bowling with the Grinch
 Pictures with Santa

SCAN TO REGISTER



Sponsored by:

peak Credit Union, CURRENT ORTHODONTICS (541) 672-5721, Ten Down Bowling, Splitz Family Grill, Oregon Pacific Bank, HONDA, Roseburg Honda

THE NEWS-REVIEW

TENDOWN BOWLING & ENTERTAINMENT, ROSEBURG | 541-672-3601 | TENDOWNBOWLING.COM

FREE FAMILY ACTIVITY

STORY TIME & DECORATING A GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Take Root PARENTING SUPPORT FOR DOUGLAS, KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

DECEMBER 2ND, 2025 4-6:00 PM
 SOUTH SUBURBAN LIBRARY
 3625 SUMMERS LN, KLAMATH FALLS



FOR QUESTIONS: LAURA BARAJAS
 541-670-6123 LBARAJAS@DESD.K12.OR.US

DOUGLAS EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT LISTEN • LEARN • LEAD

OREGON PARENTING EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

DECEMBER 8

CANNED FOOD NIGHT

Free Admission with Donation of 5 items



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Sponsored by

BIGFOOT BEVERAGES, Abby's LEGENDARY PIZZA

33rd ANNUAL UMPQUA VALLEY Festival of Lights

Nov 23-Jan 1, nightly 5:30pm - UVFestivalOfLights.com

FEATT FAMILY NETWORK

FEATT (Families Engaging and Thriving Together) is a nonprofit that supports families raising children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Douglas County.

OREGON Fish & Wildlife

Introduction to Archery

December 4th 6-8 pm
 Waldron's Outdoor Sports
 450 NE Stephens Street



Space is extremely limited and you must pre-register each individual participant here:





Presents:

Time with Santa

December 13 from 10-2

Connections Case Management
2930 NE Stephens Street, Roseburg

Join the FEATT team for a holiday celebration including crafts, activities, snacks, and a special visit with Santa



Reserve your spot here: 




Dad's Night Out

December 11, 2025 5-7 pm

Sports Night at Scorecard
920 SE Stephens

Enjoy an evening of connection with other dads of children with disabilities



Atlanta v Tampa Bay



St. Louis v Nashville
Dallas v Minnesota
Boston v Winnipeg

Click here to RSVP: 

You're Doing a Great Job 



HOSTED BY
TERRA JACOBSEN-BARNES

Join Us for Our

PARENT CLUB

Come join in conversations about parenting during school breaks!

- Meet other parents
 - Collaborate on Winter Break Activities
 - How to communicate with your kids 

CHILD CARE AND DINNER PROVIDED!

For more information: sarah.wheelock@douglasessd.k12.or.us
541-817-3119
6:00 or 7:00





CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASSES

All Classes are All 6:00 -8:00 pm

- November 4th: Pregnancy & Onset of Labor
- November 11th: Labor & Delivery (with hospital tour!)
- November 18th: Lactation & Breastfeeding
- November 25th: 4th Trimester & Infant Care

Taught by Megan, an RN and IBCLC, and Anneke, a Doctor of Physical Therapy specializing in pelvic floor and orthopedics.

Education, research and hands on techniques to help mama's thrive during pregnancy, birth, postpartum and breastfeeding. Megan and Anneke are both mothers, and bring their clinical and personal experience to help provide up to date and relevant information for the transition into motherhood for the first time or 9th time.



Childcare Available!





Take Root
PARENTING SUPPORT FOR DOUGLAS,
CLATSOP & LAKE COUNTIES

Everyone please RSVP so we can get enough supplies

Winter Family Crafts

DEC 19TH, 2025

AT ST. PATRICK ACADEMY
181 SOUTH G STREET
LAKEVIEW, OR 97630

RSVP

ALL FAMILIES MAY JOIN US TO MAKE SOME WINTER CRAFTS, INCLUDING A FELT TREE TO TAKE HOME AND REDECORATE OVER AND OVER. THIS ACTIVITY IS FREE FOR EVERYONE. PLEASE REGISTER SO WE CAN MAKE SURE WE ORDER ENOUGH SUPPLIES.

CALL, TEXT, OR EMAIL US FOR ANY ASSISTANCE
541-219-6100
BGUIDO@DESD.K12.OR.US



FEATT (Families Engaging and Thriving Together) is a nonprofit that supports families raising children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Douglas County.

Reading with Rescues

Please register to read with rescued animals! Those who participate will receive a free book to take home!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:



December 19 at 2 pm

Saving Grace Animal Shelter
450 Old Del Rio Road
Roseburg




Winter Break and kids are going stir crazy? Come play with us!

Sunset Apartments
1800 NE Sunset
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

December 23: Make your own tacos & salsa




December 30: Cookie baking and decorating




FEATT (Families Engaging and Thriving Together) is a nonprofit that supports families raising children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Douglas County.




JOIN CONNECTIONS NW AND THRIVE FOR A CARNIVAL PARTY!

Jugglers, face painting, cotton candy, popcorn, balloon animals, games, and more..

10 JANUARY 12-4 PM

Sutherlin Community Center
150 Willamette Street.
sutherlin, OR 97479

FREE ENTRY




Douglas County Food Pantry & Kitchen Locations

Here is a list of places in Douglas County where you can get free food and meals. Hours and locations can change, so check for updates before you go. To stay up to date on schedules, visit the [UCAN Food Bank Facebook page](#) for the latest information.

Pantries

Bread of Life Emergency Pantry

225 Brich St. Yoncalla, OR
(541) 977-5454
2nd & 4th Sat. of the month 10:00am – 2:00pm

Care & Share Pantry

1008 Hayhurst Rd., Yoncalla, OR
(541) 849-2800
Last Tues. of the month
9:00am – 12:00pm

Community Care Food Pantry

518 Pacific Ave., Glendale, OR
(541) 761-4967
Thurs. 1:00 – 3:00pm

Dillard-Winston Food Pantry

121 Gregory St., Winston, OR
(541) 679-8281
Mon. & Wed. 9:30 – 11:30am

FISH Food Pantry (Drain)

128 W. C Ave., Drain, OR
Tues. 9:00 am – 1:00pm

FISH Food Pantry (Roseburg)

405 Jerry's Dr., Roseburg, OR
(541) 672-5242
Mon. & Wed. 1:30 – 3:30pm |
Thurs. & Fri. 9:30 – 11:30am

Living Hope Outreach

337 West C. Ave. Drain, OR
Wed. 12:00-1:30pm

Project Blessing Pantry

150 S. 20th St., Reedsport, OR
Tues. & Wed. 1:00 – 3:00pm |
Fri. 11:00am – 1:00pm

Roseburg Dream Center Pantry

2555 Diamond Lake Blvd., Roseburg, OR
(541) 673-5918
Mon. 10:00am – 2:00pm & 4:00 – 7:00pm
Wed. 10:00am – 2:00pm

SDA Glide Food Pantry (Helping Hands)

174 Abbott St., Glide, OR
(541) 496-3956
Wed. 10:00am – 2:00pm

SDA Roseburg Food Pantry

1109 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg, OR
(541) 672-1542
3rd & 4th full weeks – Tues.
10:00am – 12:00pm and 12:30 – 2:30pm

Salvation Army Food Pantry

3130 N.E. Stephens St., Roseburg, OR
(541) 672-6581
Tues. – Fri. 1:00 – 4:00pm

South Douglas Food Bank

420 E St., Riddle, OR
(541) 391-2796
Thurs. 9:00am – 12:00pm |
3rd, 4th & 5th Sat. 10:00am – 12:00pm

St. Vincent De Paul Pantry

116 N. Main St., Myrtle Creek, OR
(541) 863-3310
Mon. & Wed. 9:00am – 1:00pm

Kitchens and Hot Meals

St. Francis Community Kitchen

323 N. Comstock Ave., Sutherlin, OR
(541) 459-8807
Mon. & Wed. 3:00 – 4:30pm
Dine-in or to-go available

St. Joseph's Community Kitchen

630 W. Stanton St., Roseburg, OR
(541) 673-5157
Tues. – Thurs. 4:00 – 5:30pm

Sutherlin-Oakland Emergency Pantry

183 E. 1st St., Sutherlin, OR
(541) 459-4082
Mon. & Wed. 9:00 – 11:00

Need More Help with Food Resources?

- If you need help with food or other family needs, you can fill out a Community UPLIFT form on [scelh.com](#) or by scanning the QR code. You will be connected with someone who can help you find programs that can support you.
- If you have the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), you can find more food programs on Umpqua Health Alliance's website at [umpquahealth.com](#)
- If you are a Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians member, you may get food from their pantry and a beef box. Visit [www.cowcreek-nsn.gov](#) for more information.
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a free program that helps families get healthy food. It is for people who are pregnant, new parents, and children under 5 years old. Visit [uncanap.org](#) for more information.
- Check out the Little Free Pantry finder. Search by zip code to find mini pantries near you! [mapping.littlefreepantry.org](#).

Klamath & Lake Counties Food Pantry & Kitchen Locations

Below is a list of places in Klamath and Lake Counties where you can get free food and meals. Hours and locations can change, so check for updates before you go.

Pantries

Klamath-Lake Counties Food Bank

3231 Maywood Dr., Klamath Falls
(541) 882-1223

For a full list of pantry locations and hours, visit the Klamath-Lake Food Bank website at [klamathfoodbank.org!](#)

Kitchens and Hot Meals

First United Methodist Church

230 N. 10th St., Klamath Falls
(541) 884-4053
Tue. & Sun. 5:00pm
Dinner Served

Freewill Church

420 Market St., Klamath Falls
(541) 882-1303
Tues. Fri. 11:30am
To-Go Lunch Served

Klamath Falls Gospel Mission

1931 Mission Ave., Klamath Falls
(541) 882-4895
Mon.-Sun. Hours are depend on meal
Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner Served

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1735 Main St., Klamath Falls
(541) 882-2466
Mon. 5:30pm
Dinner Served

Need More Help with Food Resources?

- If you need help with food or other family needs, you can fill out a Community UPLIFT form on [scelh.com](#) or by scanning the QR code. You will be connected with someone who can help you find programs that can support you.
- If you have the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), you can find more nutrition programs through Cascade Health Alliance by visiting their website at [cascadehealthalliance.com](#).
- If you are a Klamath Tribes member, you may get food services and nutrition education. For more information, visit The Klamath Tribes Commodities Program website at [klamathtribes.org](#).
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a free program that helps families get healthy food. It is for people who are pregnant, new parents, and children under 5 years old. Visit [klamathcounty.org](#) for Klamath County, and [lakehealthdistrict.org](#) for Lake County.
- Check out the Little Free Pantry finder. Search by zip code to find mini pantries near you! [mapping.littlefreepantry.org](#).



COMMUNITY
UPLIFT

Toys for Tots Registration

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program helps bring joy to children during the holiday season by collecting new, unwrapped toys each October–December and distributing them to families in need within local communities. Since 1991, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has supported this mission as a nonprofit partner dedicated to fundraising and program coordination. Families and community partners can request assistance or learn how to donate by visiting the Toys for Tots registration links below by County.

Please note that the application deadline in Klamath County is December 7th.

Douglas County

[REGISTER](#)



Klamath County

[REGISTER](#)



Please be sure to check the Toys for Tots requirements for your county on the registration page, as each county may have different guidelines.



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.



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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

