

SOUTH-CENTRAL EARLY LEARNING HUB

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

A NOTE FROM THE SCLEH

February is a time to focus on connection, kindness, and community. At the South-Central Early Learning Hub, we are grateful for the families, providers, and partners who work every day to support young children across our region.

This month, we continue to support Preschool Promise families, share early literacy resources, and connect families to helpful services through Community UPLIFT. Our goal is to make sure every child in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties, and within our Tribal communities, has a strong start.

Thank you for being part of this work with us. Together, we are building brighter futures for young children and families.

Happy reading,
The SCLEH Team



SOUTH-CENTRAL
EARLY LEARNING

HUB

DOUGLAS, KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

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STAY IN THE KNOW

February is Heart Health Month! It's a great time to focus on healthy habits for the whole family.

Simple things like eating fruits and vegetables, drinking water, getting enough sleep, and moving your body each day help keep hearts strong.

Try taking a short family walk, dancing to your favorite song, or cooking a healthy meal together.



Book of the Month: Love Makes a Family by Sophie Beer

February is a month that celebrates love and connection. “Love Makes a Family” is a bright and simple board book that shows the many ways families care for one another. The book uses short sentences and colorful pictures to show everyday moments like cooking, playing, helping, and sharing.

Why We Love This Book!

- Builds vocabulary with simple, clear words
- Encourages kindness and empathy
- Helps children see that families can look different
- Supports early language skills through repetition

READING TIPS TO TRY AT HOME:

♥ Talk About Love

Ask your child, “How do we show love in our family?” Help them name simple acts like hugs, helping, or kind words.

📖 Picture Walk

Before reading, flip through the pages and talk about what you see. Ask, “What do you notice?” or “What is happening here?”

🎵 Add Movement

Act out things families do together—cook, clean, play, or give a hug. Movement helps young children stay engaged.

🗨️ Build Vocabulary

Point to pictures and name objects or actions. For toddlers, simple labels like “baby,” “dog,” or “hug” are powerful learning tools.



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. Click the linked picture below or scan the QR code to learn more!



Kindergarten Readiness Tip: School Time Stamina

Kindergarten days can feel long for little kids. One helpful skill is school-time stamina—the ability to stay with an activity, even when it’s not brand new or exciting.

Try a Practice School Day!

A few times a month;

- Set a timer for 10 minutes and do one activity (puzzle, blocks, coloring, or looking at books).
- When the timer ends, take a 2-minute movement break (jump, stretch, march).
- Then do a second activity for 10 minutes.

Over time, you can slowly increase the timer to 12–15 minutes. This helps children build focus, follow a routine, and finish tasks, skills they will use every day in kindergarten.

Bonus Tip:

Praise effort, not perfection. Try saying, “You kept going!” or “You finished your work!”



Preparing for kindergarten helps children feel confident and ready to learn. When children practice skills like listening, following directions, sharing, and trying new tasks, they build the foundation they need for school success. Kindergarten readiness is not just about knowing letters and numbers. It is also about building social skills, independence, and problem-solving skills. When families support learning at home through talking, reading, and everyday routines, children start school feeling prepared and excited to grow.

Looking for more ways to support your child’s readiness for kindergarten? Visit the [Parent Resources](#) page at [SCELH.com](#)!



Funding Opportunity: Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation and Early Literacy Grants

The South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) is now accepting applications for Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI) and Birth to Five Early Literacy Grants for the 2025–2027 biennium. These grants are designed to strengthen early literacy efforts and support successful transitions into kindergarten across our region.

Birth to Five Early Literacy grant funding may support projects that expand early literacy professional development, strengthen parent and caregiver engagement, increase access to books and literacy materials in multiple languages, build cross-sector partnerships, and collaborate with Tribal leaders to ensure culturally responsive language and literacy practices.

Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI) funding focuses on building shared understanding across early learning and K-12 systems, identifying community and system needs, and aligning policies and programs to support smooth, coordinated transitions from early learning settings into kindergarten. Find more information about the KPI program [HERE](#).

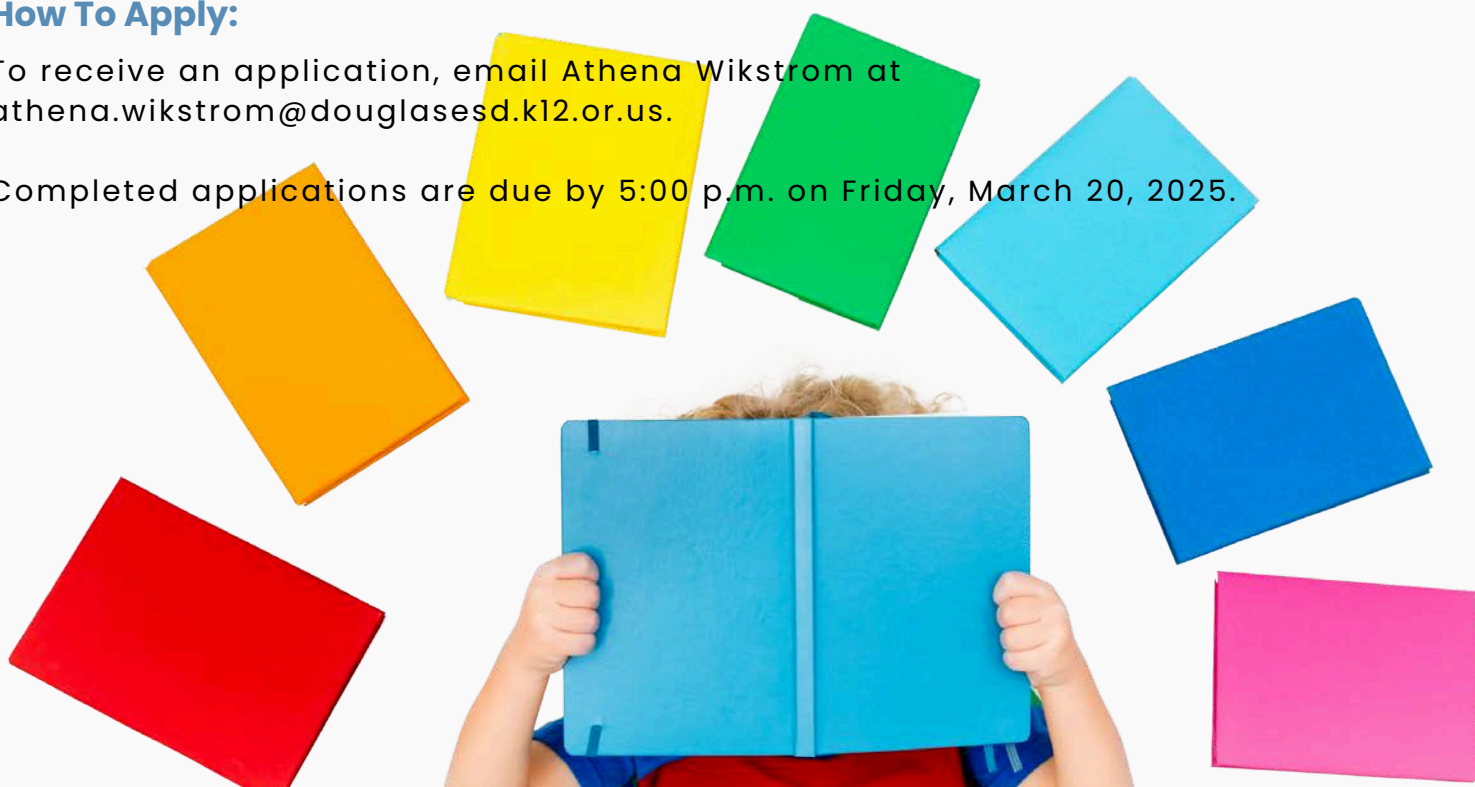
Who Should Apply?

Eligible applicants may include early learning providers, school districts, community-based organizations, Tribes and Tribal organizations, libraries, and other partners committed to improving early literacy and kindergarten readiness for children and families.

How To Apply:

To receive an application, email Athena Wikstrom at athena.wikstrom@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Completed applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2025.



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.

Coming Together

One of the greatest strengths of Community UPLiFT is the way we work hand-in-hand with trusted community partners. This collaboration ensures families receive the right support at the right time, in ways that honor culture, safety, and community connection.

Recently, Cow Creek shared how meaningful this partnership has been:

"I just wanted to thank you for providing us with those car seats! We had an event on 10/17 and 4 of them were put to great use as primary car seats for some littles who were in car seats they had either outgrown or were expired and damaged. I love the collaboration. Debi Groshong, RN BSN, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians"

Stories like this show exactly what Community UPLiFT is all about, working together to remove barriers, keep children safe, and strengthen family well-being across our region.

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



2026

Winter Events

RECURRING CLASSES

**TUESDAYS
JAN 13-MARCH 3**

Conscious Discipline
with Tina Little
5:30-7:30 PM

In Person- Green Elementary School

Register Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/TRConsciousDiscipline>

**1ST WEDNESDAYS
JAN 7, FEB 4, MARCH 4**

BuildingYour Bounce;

Simple Strategies for a Resilient You!
with Anela Plunkett

5:30-7:30 PM

Zoom & In Person at Douglas ESD

Register Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/TRBounceBack>

JANUARY:

15th

**Infant CPR - Choking and Infant Safety
Workshop**

with Dr. Drew Groshong
5:30 - 6:30 PM

1871 NE Stephens St. Roseburg

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

31st

Kindness Begins with Us- Story & Craft
W/Kristen Yohn

Explore themanywonderfulways familiescanlook andgrow!
11 am to 1 pm

1871 NE Stephens St. Roseburg

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

FEBRUARY:

11th

Little's Zumba!
W/CeCe

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

1871 NE Stephens St Roseburg

Register Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/TRLittleZumba>

12th

First Foods

with Debi Groshong, RN
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

TBD Sutherlin

Register Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/TRFirstFoods>

21st

**Billiards & Pizza
for Parents and their BIGS**
1:30-3:30 PM

1028 NE Stephens St Roseburg

Register Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/TRBigKids>

MARCH:

19th

STEM Night in REEDSPORT!

w/Oregon Coast STEM Hub!
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Reedsport Community Center

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

12th

Healthy Sleep Routines for Infants

with Debi Groshong, RN
5:00 - 7:30 PM

TBD Canyonville

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdt427pz>

Full Calendar of Events:

<https://tinyurl.com/TakeRootActivities>



Take Root-Klamath County Winter 2026 Events



Co-Parenting Series

January 13th-February 17th, 6:30-8:00 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/2fcjr2b6>



Sleep Success for Little Ones

January 27th, 05:00-7:00 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/ye2avjk8>



Emotional Awareness

January 28th, 6:30-8:00 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/5h598vsk>



Valentine's Day Literacy & a Fun Activity

February 10th, 4:00-5:30 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/ycymfum3>



Family Yoga

March 7th, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/29hjb4sd>



Liderazgo

<https://tinyurl.com/53fpn75w>



Story Time & Making a

Bird Feeder March 19th, 4:00-5:30 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/2w3uv3xv>

[Google Calendar](#)



For Questions: Laura Barajas

541-670-6123

lbarajas@desd.k12.or.us

Let it snow! Wishing you a winter wonderland filled with love and laughter



Take Root

PARENTING SUPPORT FOR DOUGLAS,
KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

Winter

2026

TAKE ROOT PARENTING CONNECTION EVENTS

For Families in Lake County, Oregon

◆ January

Building Your Bounce: Simple Strategies for a Resilient You,
Hybrid First Wednesday of every month <https://tinyurl.com/TRBounceBack>

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors Online in English

Monday's January 12-March 16 <https://tinyurl.com/OpenTR>

Co-parenting Series Online

Wednesday's Jan 13th-Feb 17th <https://tinyurl.com/2fcjr2b6>

Brilliant Science Night In Lakeview

1/21/26 <https://tinyurl.com/brilliantTR>

Combating Sibling Rivalry Online

1/26/26 <https://tinyurl.com/siblingTR>

Sleep Success for Little One's For ages 0-5 Online

1/27/26 <https://tinyurl.com/ye2avjk8>

Sensory Play Day with CODSN and Take Root

1/31/25 <https://tinyurl.com/trsensoryplay>

Use the Google Calendar
with links to sign-up

<https://tinyurl.com/TakeRootActivities>

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



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

◆ February

The Help That Helps

2/5 2026 <https://tinyurl.com/TRHelps>

Read, Create, & Celebrate Valentine's Day

2/11/26 <https://tinyurl.com/TRcreate>

Tumble Kids in Christmas Valley Ages 3-5

2/21/26 <https://tinyurl.com/tumbleK>



◆ March

Positive Intent: Teaching Problem-Solving Skills, A Conscious Discipline
Approach! Online 3/5/26 <https://tinyurl.com/TRCD26>

Make Your Own Sensory Box

3/21/26 <https://tinyurl.com/sensoryBXtr>

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

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