

# SOUTH-CENTRAL EARLY LEARNING HUB NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

## A NOTE FROM THE SCLEH

Happy New Year from the South-Central Early Learning Hub! As we step into 2026, our team is excited to continue partnering with families, providers, and community organizations across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Together, we're building strong foundations for young children through early learning, family support, and community connection.

This year, we'll continue focusing on programs that make a difference, Preschool Promise, Community UPLIFT, Every Child Belongs, literacy initiatives, and more. We are grateful for your partnership and the work you do every day to support children and families in our region.

Thank you for being part of our early learning community. We're looking forward to a year of growth, collaboration, and continued impact!

Happy reading,  
The SCLEH Team



SOUTH-CENTRAL  
EARLY LEARNING

HUB

DOUGLAS, KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

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## STAY IN THE KNOW

Gillian Wesenberg has notified us of her resignation as the Director of the South-Central Early Learning Hub, effective December 1, 2025.

We are appreciative of Gillian's commitment and contributions. Her work over the last 10+ years has built a strong foundation for the continued success of our region's Early Learning Hub, and we wish her the very best.

If you have questions or need to connect with the Hub, please reach out to Athena at [awikstrom@desd.k12.or.us](mailto:awikstrom@desd.k12.or.us).

## Book of the Month:

The beginning of a new year is a great time to start fresh routines, including reading together as a family. Our January Book of the Month, *Happy New Year, Spot!* by Eric Hill, is a fun and engaging board book that introduces young children to the excitement of the New Year through a familiar and much-loved character.

In this story, children help Spot get ready for a New Year's celebration by lifting flaps and discovering surprises on each page. The interactive format keeps babies, toddlers, and preschoolers engaged while supporting important early learning skills like attention, memory, and fine motor development. The bright pictures and simple storyline make it easy for young children to follow along and stay interested.

### Why We Love This Book!

- Builds early literacy skills: Simple words and repeated phrases help children grow their vocabulary and listening skills.
- Encourages hands-on learning: Lifting flaps helps strengthen fine motor skills and curiosity.
- Introduces the idea of a new year: The book offers a gentle, age-appropriate way to talk about change and new beginnings.



### READING TIPS TO TRY AT HOME:

After reading together, extend the learning:

- Ask your child questions like, "What is Spot getting ready for?"
- Practice counting down together, just like a New Year's countdown.
- Talk about one new thing your child might like to try or learn this year, and draw a picture of it together.



### 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:

## Starting the New Year Strong!

Coming back from winter break can be a big adjustment for young children. Schedules may have changed, bedtime routines may have shifted, and days may have felt more relaxed. As the new year begins, this is a great time to help your child ease back into routines that support kindergarten readiness.

## Try these simple tips below at home!

### Re-Establish Daily Routine

Children feel more confident when they know what to expect. Try getting back into regular wake-up times, meal times, and bedtimes. Simple routines, like brushing teeth after breakfast or reading a book before bed, help children build independence and feel ready for the day. These skills are important for a smooth transition into kindergarten.

### Practice Everyday Learning Skills

Kindergarten readiness is about more than letters and numbers. Encourage your child to practice skills like following directions, cleaning up toys, sharing, and taking turns. You can also build early math and literacy skills by counting steps, naming colors, writing their name, or playing simple games together.

### Set Small Goals for the New Year

The start of a new year is a perfect time to help your child feel proud and motivated. Talk about one small goal they might want to work on, such as getting dressed by themselves or helping set the table. Celebrate their efforts and progress, not just the outcome.



## Prepare for the Road to Kindergarten

If your child will start kindergarten in fall 2026, spring is a good time to:

- Check your local school district's enrollment dates by calling the district directly
- To check what school district you live in visit [Greatschools.com](https://www.greatschools.com)
- Attend family or kindergarten readiness events
- Use the free Kindergarten Checklist from Dreambox [here](#) to gauge your child's readiness
- Talk with your Preschool Promise provider or Family Resource Facilitator if you have questions

**Looking for more ways to support your child's readiness for kindergarten? Visit the [Parent Resources](#) page at [SCELH.com](https://www.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](mailto:athena.wikstrom@douglasesd.k12.or.us).

Questions must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2026.

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](http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com)
- Take virtual tours at [SCELH.com](http://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.

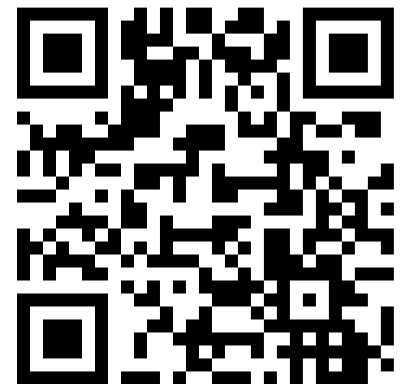
Recently, Cow Creek shared how meaningful this partnership has been:

*"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](http://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

**Littles 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 Routinesfor 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](mailto: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>  
Brr-illiant 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>



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