

SOUTH-CENTRAL EARLY LEARNING HUB NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

A NOTE FROM THE SCELH

March is a time of growth, fresh beginnings, and new opportunities for our families and community partners. As we move into spring, our team is preparing for Preschool Promise enrollment season and continuing to support families through Community UPLiFT referrals, kindergarten readiness efforts, and early literacy initiatives across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties, as well as with our Tribal partners.

We are grateful for the educators, providers, and community organizations who work alongside us every day to ensure children have strong starts and families feel supported. Your partnership makes a difference in the lives of young children throughout our region.

If you know a family who may benefit from Preschool Promise or additional community resources, please encourage them to connect with us. Together, we can help more children learn, grow, and thrive.

Wishing you a bright and hopeful start to spring!

Happy reading,
The SCELH Team



SOUTH-CENTRAL
EARLY LEARNING

HUB

DOUGLAS, KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

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STAY IN THE KNOW

Spring is here, and Preschool Promise enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year is now open! We are excited to welcome new families and returning students.

You can apply now to access free, high-quality preschool for eligible families. Be sure to check your email, visit our website, or follow us on social media for updates about enrollment, family events, and helpful community programs.

Have questions? We are here to help. Call us at 541-957-4807 or email at:
scelpreschoolpromiseenrollment@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Book of the Month: The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

March is a month of change. Flowers begin to grow, and the weather starts to warm up. This month's book is all about change, too!

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" tells the story of a tiny caterpillar who eats many different foods as he grows. In the end, he changes into a beautiful butterfly.

This Book Helps Children:

- Learn the days of the week
- Practice counting
- Talk about healthy foods
- Understand how things grow and change

Talk About it:

A fun way to help your child learn during story time is called the CAR method, which is part of dialogic reading.

- **C – Comment and Wait:** Point to a page and say, "Look at all the food the caterpillar ate!" Then pause and wait. Give your child time to look, think, and share what they notice.
- **A – Ask Questions and Wait:** "What food did the caterpillar eat on Monday?"
- **R – Respond by Adding a Little More:** If your child says, "He ate an apple," you can say, "Yes! He ate a red apple. Apples grow on trees."

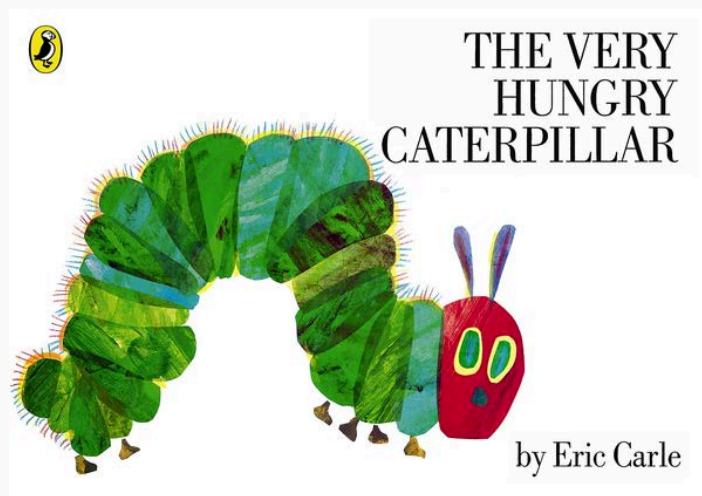
This helps children talk about the story, learn new words, and remember what they read.



Looking for books like "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and other great stories to enjoy with your child? Visit your local library!

Libraries in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties offer free books, story times, and fun learning activities for young children. Visiting the library is a simple way to help your child build early reading skills and grow a love for books.

Click [here](#) to view a list of libraries in our region and find one near you.



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 picture below or scan the QR code to learn more!



Kindergarten Readiness Tip: Practice Everyday Skills

Jump into Spring!

Spring is a great time to help your child get ready for kindergarten. Children build confidence when they practice new skills at home.

Try these simple tips below at home!

- Practice writing their first name (or just the first letter).
- Play a simple game and practice taking turns.
- Give 2-step directions like, "Please get your shoes and put them by the door."
- Sort socks by color or size.
- Talk about feelings and use words like happy, sad, mad, or excited.

Additional Resources:

Take a look at [Vroom](#). Vroom shares free, easy tips you can use during everyday routines. You can use the tips while cooking, driving, or getting ready for bed. Each activity helps build your child's brain through talking, counting, and playing together.

You can also visit your local library for free books and story times.

Every time you talk, read, and play with your child, you are helping them get ready for kindergarten!

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



Funding Opportunity: Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation and Early Literacy Grants

This is a reminder that the South-Central Early Learning Hub is currently accepting applications for the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) and Birth to Five Early Literacy Grants for the 2025–2027 biennium. The application deadline is March 20, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. We encourage interested applicants to review the Request for Applications (RFA) materials and submit proposals in advance of the deadline.

The Birth to Five Early Literacy Grant supports initiatives that expand early literacy professional development, strengthen parent and caregiver engagement, increase access to multilingual books and literacy resources, foster cross-sector partnerships, and collaborate with Tribal leaders to promote culturally and linguistically responsive literacy practices.

The Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Grant supports efforts to strengthen alignment between early learning and K–12 systems, assess and address community and system needs, and coordinate policies and practices to ensure smooth and successful transitions 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 access the application click [HERE](#). Submit completed applications to Athena Wikstrom at athena.wikstrom@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Completed applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, March 20, 2026**.



Apply for Preschool Promise Today!

Enrollment for the 2026–2027 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 2055–2026 and 2026–2027 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 years old, and up to the age of 21 with special
needs, to resources in the community.**

Coming Together

Since the start of the new year, Community UPLiFT has received 55 referrals from families in need of extra support. Each referral represents a child and family we have had the honor of connecting with in meaningful ways.

Through these referrals, we have helped link families to important services such as early learning programs, health resources, basic needs support, and family strengthening services. Our team works closely with trusted community partners to make sure every referral becomes a closed loop referral, meaning we don't just make the connection, we follow through to ensure families are successfully connected and receiving the help they need.

This work is only possible because of strong partnerships and a shared commitment to children and families. Together, we are building a network of care that lifts families up and helps them thrive. We are proud of the impact Community UPLiFT continues to make and look forward to strengthening even more connections in the months ahead.

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



Upcoming Community Events

MARCH EVENTS



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

Practicing Boundaries

An exploration and hands-on practice of physical and other boundaries for kids and teens with intellectual disabilities and their supporters

March 11
5:00 - 8:00 pm
Aviva Health
150 Kenneth Ford Drive
Roseburg



Alexis Reed is a developmental disabilities behavior professional, trainer, and parent who shares person-centered, relationship-based approaches that promote connecting, healing, and learning.

- What are personal boundaries?
- Different types of boundaries
- Who gets to set boundaries and can they change?
- A simple framework for understanding consent
- How can we tell when we need to set boundaries and how to do it
- What makes respecting boundaries hard?
- Practice saying "no"
- Practice respecting boundaries

Register here:



11 MARCH

MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL: GUT HEALTH*
*AT 5:30 PM AT THE LIBRARY W/ DR. DECKER

12 MARCH

SPRING ENERGY RESET
AT 2:00 PM WITH MARY

12 MARCH

LOW FODMAPS COOKING CLASS
AT 5:30 PM WITH JEN

19 MARCH

GROUP HEALTH COACHING
AT 10:30 AM WITH CASSIDY

24 MARCH

APPS VS. ANALOG CLASS
AT 1:00 PM WITH CASSIDY



Call the Sky Lakes Wellness Center for more info and to rsvp!
541-274-2770

Sleep as Medicine

Lunch & Learn

March 11, 2026
12:00 - 1:00 pm

Attend & enter to WIN a free copy of Dr. Wu's book *Hello Sleep*



Free Online Event

Jade Wu, PhD

Author, Keynote Speaker, & Founder of Thrive Sleep Clinic








Take Root
PARENTING SUPPORT FOR DOUGLAS,
KLAMATH & LANE COUNTIES

STORY TIME & MAKING A BIRD FEEDER

Thursday March 19th, 2026
4:00-5:30 pm

SOUTH SUBURBAN LIBRARY
3625 SUMMERS LANE

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2W3UV3XY](https://tinyurl.com/2W3UV3XY)

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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

COME SAY
HI TO
JUNIPER

**FREE
EVENT**





REGISTRATION REQUIRED
by April 1, 2026
Donna Lindsey
541-884-0649 EXT 121



Class sponsored by
HomePath Program
A direct service of
Klamath Housing Authority
and Pacific Crest Federal Credit Union

2-hour series class
Wednesday evenings
April 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
4:00 – 6:00 PM

FINANCIAL FITNESS WORKSHOP

PROMOTING FINANCIAL HEALTH

You will learn:

- Effective budgeting tools
- Consumer protection
- Money values and habits
- How to set realistic financial goals
- How to manage debt
- Individual Development Accounts *aka 1 savings match!*
- Credit reports and scores
- Laws that keep you SAFE
- Basic Investing
- Tax returns, employee deductions, net worth
- Fair Housing, your rights, and responsibilities
- Protecting your assets


LOCATION:

Sunrise Vista Community Room
5175 Homedale Road
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
(Turn left off Homedale to
Kennebeck Road & turn left into
Sunrise Vista Apartments)

Facilitated By:
Michelle Scott ~ Donna Lindsey
Certified Financial Coach Instructors
HomePath Program

Light snacks & water
provided
Masks & Hand Sanitizer
Available

Parents Voices Matter





Who Can Join?
Parents or caregivers of children from birth to 5 years old

What is this conversation about?
Join a group discussion as part of our research study to help shape parenting workshops for families in rural Oregon.

Details:
Date: April 8, 2026
Duration: 90 minutes
Time: 5:30 - 7:00 PM
Location: Online (Zoom)

Compensation?
\$25 gift card as appreciation

Interested or have questions contact:
Mehwish Dawood (dawoodm@oregonstate.edu)





Every action we take is preceded by an intention. Our intention as we approach a situation influences the outcome in profound ways. With the Power of Intention, we ask, "What is my intent as I approach this child?" If a person approaches us with an open heart and mind, we feel that. Intentions can bond us together, enhance communication, and foster goal achievement. Intent is vital when delivering a consequence or using any Conscious Discipline skill. Intentions often happen unconsciously, blindly following our emotions and impulses. We can choose to consciously set our intention before we respond.

Come work on this skill with us in this workshop!

For more info call, text, or email
Take Root Parenting Connection
541-219-6100
bguido@desd.k12.or.us

Positive Intent: Teaching Problem-Solving Skills, A Conscious Discipline Approach!

Facilitated by
Mariah Adams



March 12th, 2026
Online Workshop
6-8:00 PM



<https://tinyurl.com/TRCD26>



MATERNAL & INFANT MENTAL HEALTH SESSION

JOIN US!

The Douglas County Perinatal Taskforce, in partnership with local community organizations, is hosting a **free** session focused on maternal and infant mental health. Knowledgeable local speakers will share practical tools, encouragement, and strategies to support emotional well-being during pregnancy and early parenthood. Families are invited to enjoy a **free dinner** together, with on-site childcare available so parents and caregivers can take time to relax, connect, and fully participate. Join us to build community, learn together, and leave with resources to help you and your baby feel supported and thrive. Fathers and partners are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**WEDNESDAY
18 MARCH**

5:30PM TO 7:30PM

 **GREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

REGISTER HERE

Or scan the QR code!



**FREE ONSITE
CHILDCARE!**

**AWESOME
RAFFLE PRIZES!**

**FREE FAMILY
MEAL!**



DOUGLAS COUNTY

Service Provider Roundtable

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**MYRTLE CREEK OR ELKS LODGE #1943 106
South Main St. Myrtle Creek, OR. 97457**

Join us for a networking roundtable with fun, engaging activities designed to strengthen connections among local service providers. Together, we'll explore how our shared work supports communities across the region.

Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of services, programs, and gaps - and leave with ideas for more collaboration. Lunch provided, [RSVP requested](#).

RSVP



Questions?

Becky Yaeger, becky.yeaeger@211info.org
Colin Hill, colin.hill@211info.org



**Connect.
Inform.
Empower.**

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

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Follow us on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date with the latest news, program updates, family resources, and community events. It's a great way to see what's happening and learn about opportunities for children and families in our community!

