

SOUTH-CENTRAL EARLY LEARNING HUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

A NOTE FROM THE SCELH

Spring is here, bringing longer days, fresh energy, and new opportunities for learning and growth! April is a wonderful time to slow down, enjoy the sunshine, and explore the world around us with young children. Whether it's reading outside, planting seeds together, or taking a neighborhood walk, everyday moments can become meaningful learning experiences.

At the South-Central Early Learning Hub, we continue to focus on supporting families, providers, and community partners across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties, as well as our Tribal communities. We are grateful for the work you do each day to help children build strong foundations for kindergarten and beyond.

As we move further into spring, we encourage families to stay connected, reach out with questions, and take advantage of the many resources available in our region. Together, we are building bright futures for our youngest learners

Happy reading,
The SCELH Team



SOUTH-CENTRAL
EARLY LEARNING

HUB

DOUGLAS, KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

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STAY IN THE KNOW

Earth Day is April 22! It's a special day to care for our planet and teach children how small actions can make a big difference. You can pick up litter at a park, plant flowers, recycle at home, or turn off lights when you leave a room. Talk with your child about why the Earth is important and how we can help protect it. When children learn to care for the world around them, they learn to care for their community too!





EARTH DAY

ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES



Celebrate Earth Day by spending time together and taking care of our planet. Download the newsletter to print this activity page and enjoy these fun activities together as a family!

CAN YOU FIND THESE ITEMS ON A NATURE WALK?



ROCK



WORM



TWIG



CLOUD



GRASS



COLOR IN THE EARTH!

COUNT THE PICTURES AND CIRCLE THE NUMBER



1

2

3

4



1

2

3

4



1

2

3

4



1

2

3

4

MATCH THE PICTURE TO THE WORD!



FLOWER



BIRD



RAINBOW



LEAF

Book of the Month: Round is a Tortilla by Roseanne Thong

This month, we are celebrating culture, language, and learning with Round Is a Tortilla. This bright and joyful book shares shapes in both English and Spanish. As children read, they learn about circles, squares, and triangles through foods, music, and traditions found in Latino culture.

The story connects everyday learning (like shapes!) with real-life experiences. Children see how learning can be part of their home, family, and community.

Reading Tips:

This fun book shows how shapes can be found in everyday life. You can help your child learn new words by using dialogic reading. Try the PEER method while you read together.

P – Prompt your child to talk

Ask your child something about the picture or story.

"What shape is the tortilla?"

"Can you find something that is round?"

E – Evaluate the answer

Let your child answer. Tell them they are right or help them if needed.

"Yes, the tortilla is round!"

"That one is not round. Let's look again."

E – Expand what your child says

Repeat their answer and add a little more.

Child: "Ball!"

Adult: "Yes, the ball is round, just like the tortilla in the book."

R – Repeat the prompt

Ask the question again so your child can say the new words.

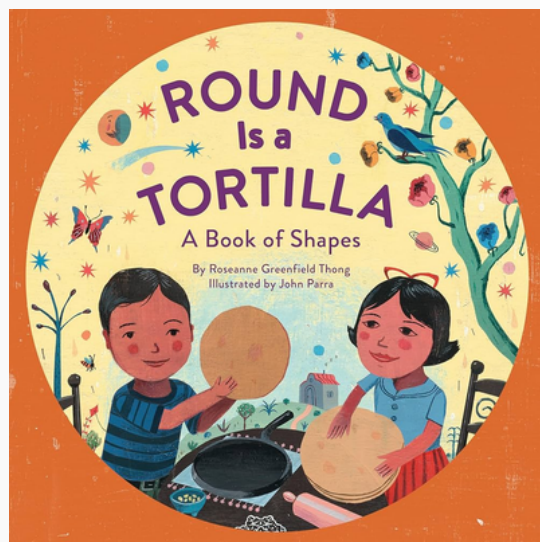
"What else is round?"

"Can you find another circle on this page?"

Talking about the book helps your child learn new words, notice shapes, and get ready for kindergarten.

Why it Matters :

Learning about other cultures helps children grow kindness and respect. When children see families and traditions that may be different from their own, they learn that our differences make our world special. Bilingual books also support language skills and help children feel proud of their home language.



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 “Plan + Do + Tell” (A Big Skill in a Small Routine!)

Kindergarten is not just about letters and numbers. It’s also about being able to think ahead, try a task, and talk about what happened. A fun way to practice this at home is called Plan + Do + Tell. It helps children build strong thinking, speaking, and problem-solving skills.

1. Plan

Ask your child to choose one small plan, like:

- “I will build a tower with 10 blocks.”
- “I will draw a picture of our family.”
- “I will make a snack with you.”
- “I will get dressed all by myself.”

Have them say their plan out loud.

2. Do

Let your child do the task. If it gets hard, encourage them with phrases like:

- “Try a different way.”
- “What could you do next?”
- “You’re working hard, keep going!”

Mistakes are okay. That’s how kids learn.

3. Tell

After, ask your child:

- “What was your plan?”
- “What went well?”
- “What was tricky?”
- “What would you do differently next time?”

This helps your child practice speaking in full sentences and remembering steps, both important for kindergarten.

Why This Helps for Kindergarten

Plan + Do + Tell builds skills your child will use every day at school, like:

- Following steps
- Solving problems
- Staying with a task
- Talking about their ideas
- Building confidence

Try it a few times each week. Keep it short, fun, and positive, just like spring learning!



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 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 2025–2026 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, and up to the age of 21 with special needs, to resources in the community.

Coming Together

In March, our Family Resource Specialist in Douglas County attended the Douglas County Community Baby Shower, which welcomed over 300 attendees and featured 31 community partners hosting tables. Many of the partner tables offered raffle prizes for families, creating a fun and welcoming environment while also connecting families to valuable community resources. The South-Central Early Learning Hub was proud to contribute to the event by donating a car seat for the raffle, helping support the safety and well-being of local children.

The event provided a great opportunity to talk with families about Preschool Promise and Community UPLiFT, answer questions, and share information about services available to support families with young children. Through these conversations and connections, 25 Community UPLiFT referrals were received at the event, allowing our team to follow up with families and connect them to helpful programs, resources, and community partners.

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



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Honoring expecting parents, guardians, and families with children up to age one

Saturday, April 4, 2026
11:30 am - 1pm

North Lake Health District
Conference Room
87520 Bay Road
Christmas Valley, OR 97641

Hosted by Community Partners

ROSEBURG

STEM Like a Girl Workshop

All 3rd- 5th graders and an adult for an afternoon full of hands-on STEM activities!

- Saturday, April 11th 1 - 4 PM
- Umpqua Valley Arts Center
- \$5 - \$30 per girl on a sliding scale

MORE INFO
STEMLIKEAGIRL.ORG

**Navigating Special Education:
Basics, Behavior, Parent
Participation, and Resolving
Disagreements**

**Saturday, April 4
8:45 AM - 1:00 PM**

qrco.de/SPED2026

PARENTING CLASS

APRIL 6TH-JUNE 29TH

EVERY MONDAY
5:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

12 WEEK PROGRAM

ACTIVE
PARENTING
4TH EDITION

OUTBACK STRONG
103 N G. ST.
LAKEVIEW, OR 97630

Please call
541-947-6021 option#1
to sign up or for any questions.

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER.

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

QR Code

Oregon State University

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

Sensory Friendly Play Day

With CODSN and Take Root

in Christmas Valley

Saturday
April 18, 2026



11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Come enjoy a variety of activities such as sand table, ball pit, playdough, and painting. We will have music and a calming area. Headphones available for sensory needs. Healthy snacks and water provided.

Free for all families and their children with special needs, fun for all ages, and open to the public.

**LOCATION: Christmas Valley
Community Hall 87345
Holly St, Christmas Valley, OR**

Register Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/CVsensoryTR>



More info:
abradbury@lakeesd.k12.or.us
bguido@desd.k12.or.us
541-219-6100



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,
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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!

