

SOUTH-CENTRAL EARLY LEARNING HUB

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

A NOTE FROM THE SCELH

Spring is here across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties, and May is a time to celebrate growth, learning, and the many ways families support young children every day.

This season brings many milestones. Some children are finishing preschool, some are getting ready for kindergarten, and many families are planning summer activities. These moments remind us how important early learning experiences are for building confidence, curiosity, and school readiness.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub continues to support families through Preschool Promise, Community UPLIFT, and early learning programs that promote literacy, and family engagement. Whether helping families find services, or providing simple learning activities to use at home, our goal is to make sure every family has the support they need. Thank you for all you do to help children learn, grow, and succeed. Together, we are building a strong foundation for the future.

Happy reading,
The SCELH Team



SOUTH-CENTRAL
EARLY LEARNING

HUB

DOUGLAS, KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

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STAY IN THE KNOW

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the history, cultures, and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islander communities. Families can take part by reading books from diverse authors, trying new foods, learning about different traditions, or talking with children about how every culture makes our communities stronger.

Learning about different cultures helps children build respect, curiosity, and a better understanding of the world around them.



The History of Origami

WHAT IS ORIGAMI?

Origami is the art of folding paper to make shapes.

The word origami comes from Japan.

- Ori means fold
- Gami means paper

People in Japan have been folding paper for hundreds of years. Today, people all around the world enjoy making origami.

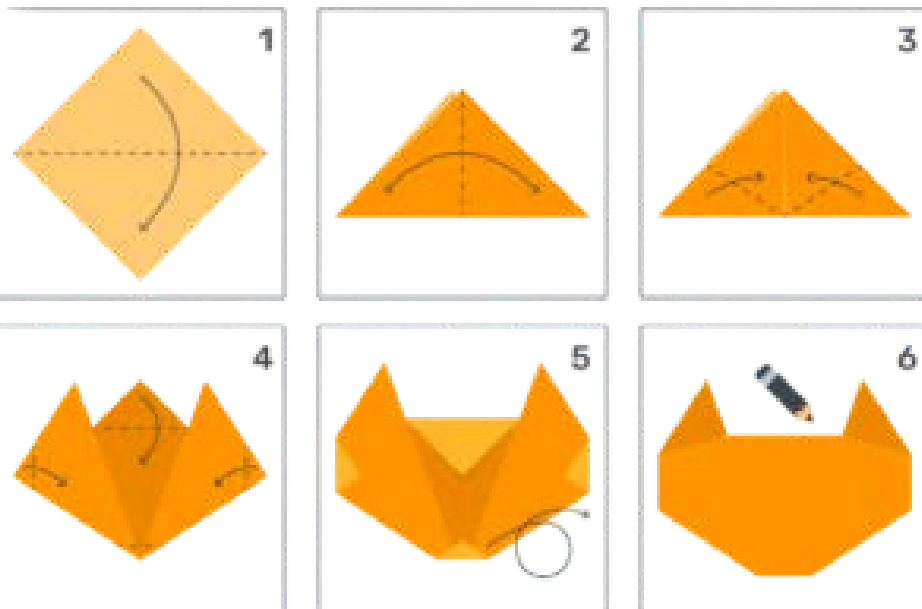
Origami can be made into animals, flowers, boats, and many other shapes. Folding paper helps children practice listening, following directions, and using their hands carefully.

WHY ORIGAMI IS GOOD FOR KIDS:

Origami helps children:

- Use their fingers and hands
- Learn shapes and directions
- Practice being patient
- Feel proud when they finish something

Doing activities together also helps children learn new words. Try the activity below as a family!



MAKE A SIMPLE PAPER CAT!

Supplies you need:

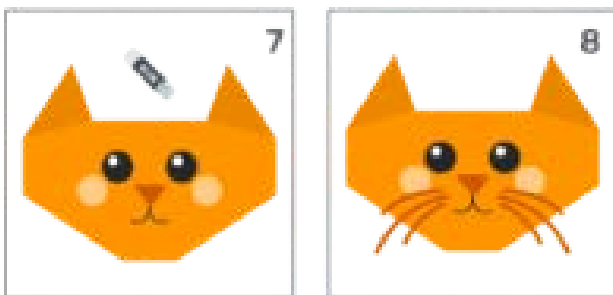
- One square piece of paper
- Crayons or markers (optional)
- Glue (optional)
- Googly eyes (optional)

Steps:

1. Follow steps 1–5 shown in the pictures.
2. Ask an adult to help if you need it.
3. When your cat is folded, color the face.
4. Draw eyes, a nose, and whiskers.
5. You can glue on googly eyes if you want.

Talk Together:

- What should we name your cat?
- Is your cat silly, sleepy, or playful?
- Talking during activities helps children learn new words.



Book of the Month: Cora Cooks Pancit by Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore

May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, a time to celebrate different cultures, traditions, and stories. This month's book shares a story about family, food, and working together.

In *Cora Cooks Pancit*, Cora wants to help cook in the kitchen just like her older sisters. One day, her mama lets her help make pancit, a special noodle dish from the Philippines. Cora learns that even small helpers can do big things.

This story shows how families can work together, try new things, and share traditions.

Reading Tips:

When you read with your child, ask different kinds of questions to help them talk about the story. Try the CROWD Method (Completion, Recall, Open-Ended, Wh-Questions, Distancing) during your next story time!

C – Completion

Let your child finish your sentence.

"Cora is cooking _____."

R – Recall

Ask about what happened.

"What did Cora make with her mom?"

O – Open-ended

Ask questions with many answers.

"What is happening in this picture?"

W – Wh- questions

Ask who, what, where, when, why.

"Who is helping in the kitchen?"

D – Distancing

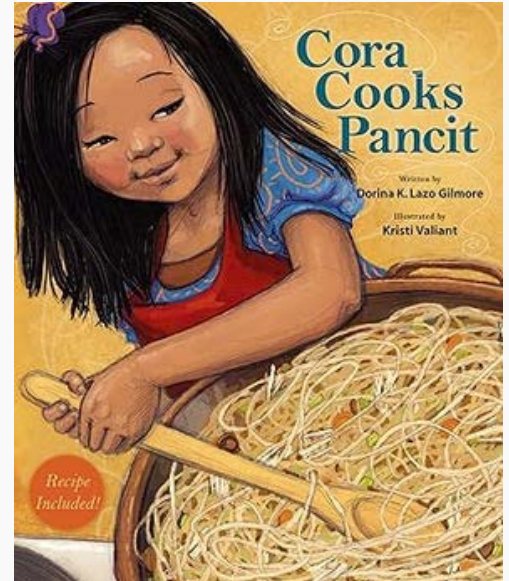
Connect the story to your child's life.

"Have you ever helped cook at home?"

Another Way to Read:

You can also enjoy this story by watching a read-along [video](#) of *Cora Cooks Pancit* with your child. Listening to stories together is another great way to build language and early reading skills.

As a fun bonus, stay until the end to find a simple pancit recipe you can try as a family. Cooking together helps children learn new words, practice following directions, and feel proud to help.



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: Getting Ready for Kindergarten—What Families Need to Know

Starting kindergarten is an exciting step!

Knowing when to enroll, where to go, and what you need can make the process easier for families.

When do I sign my child up?

Most school districts start enrollment in the spring or summer before school begins. Your child can usually start kindergarten if they:

- Are 5 years old on or before September 1
- Live in the school district where they will attend

Check with your local school district for exact dates.

How do I find my school district?

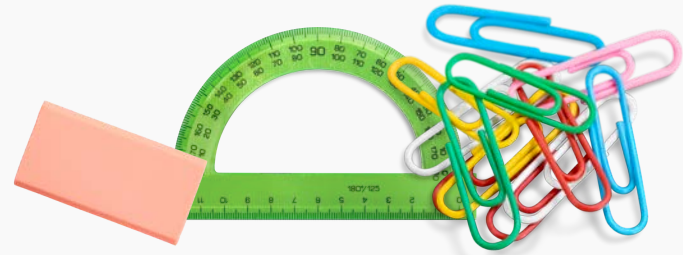
Your child goes to school in the district where you live.

You can:

- Visit your local school district website
- Call the nearest elementary school
- Ask your preschool or childcare provider
- Contact the South-Central Early Learning Hub for help
- Use [greatschools.com](https://www.greatschools.com) to search school districts by your home address

Help your child feel ready

Talk about what kindergarten will be like. You can say things like: you will have a teacher, you will make new friends, you will learn and play! Talking about school helps children feel safe and excited.



What do I need to enroll?

Schools may ask for:

- Birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Proof of address
- Parent or guardian ID

Having these ready helps enrollment go smoothly.



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



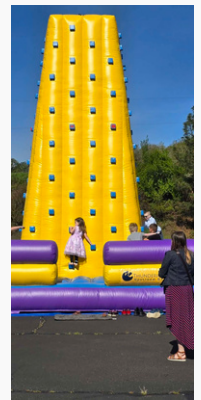
Community UPLiFT is taking referrals!

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 April, families enjoyed a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt hosted by FEATT Family Network, a special event designed for children with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families. The event created a welcoming space for families to connect, celebrate, and make joyful memories together. There were many fun activities for children and families to try, including a bounce house, climbing wall, bike track, Jenga, and more. Lunch was also provided free of charge for families attending the event. Our Community UPLiFT Family Resource Specialist had the opportunity to attend and support the event, connecting with families and lending a hand.

A big thank you goes out to Church on the Rise, Connections Northwest, Thundering Water, and Knife River Corporation for helping make this amazing event possible for local families. Partnerships like these help ensure that all children and families feel welcomed, supported, and included in our community.



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



LAKE COUNTY IN-PERSON SPRING EVENTS

April, May & June 2026

The Month of April

Family Engagement Boxes with Lake ESD and
Lake County Food Share
<https://tinyurl.com/FSboxTR>

April 18

Sensory Play Day with CODSN in Christmas
Valley
<https://tinyurl.com/CVsensoryTR>

June 16

Eat Together, Eat Better Cooking Class with
OSU Extension Office,
<https://tinyurl.com/eattogetherTR>

June 25

Red, White, and Tie-Dye
<https://tinyurl.com/redWHITEtr>

**View all events on our
Google Calendar**

<https://tinyurl.com/TakeRootActivities>



[lake.county.Take.Root.Parenting.Hub](https://www.facebook.com/lake.county.Take.Root.Parenting.Hub)



[Instagram: lakecotakeroot](https://www.instagram.com/lakecotakeroot)



FOR MORE INFO: EMAIL - BGUIDO@DESD.K12.OR.US
PHONE - 541.219.6100



2026

Spring
Take Root

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

BUILDING YOUR BOUNCE

Wednesdays
April & May 6
5:30-7:30pm

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

ONLINE ACTIVE PARENTING OF PRE-TEENS & TEENAGERS 6-WEEK SERIES

Tuesdays
April 14-May 18, 6:30-8:00pm

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/TRteens26>

YOUR INCREDIBLE INFANT

Thursdays
April 23-June 25
5:30-7:30pm

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/TRIncredible>

STRENGTHENING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PARTNER

April 30
6:00-8:00pm

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

SCREENS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

May 7, 6:00-8:00pm
Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/ScreenTRoot>

ABREINDO PUERTAS IN SPANISH

May 20-July 22 6:00-7:30 PM
Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/ys8bpjt3>

TEENS & ADDICTION

Tuesdays
June 2, 9 & 16
5:30-7:30pm
Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/TRTeenTalk>

CALL, TEXT, OR EMAIL FOR ANY ASSISTANCE

541-219-6100
takerootinfo@desd.k12.or.us



Scan the QR code for our full calendar of events
<https://tinyurl.com/ym7ax8h3>



SCAN TO REGISTER
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/TRINCREDIBLE](https://tinyurl.com/trinccredible)



YOUR Incredible INFANT

10 Week Series
Thursdays 5:30-7:30 PM
April 23-June 25

Online!

Join facilitator Lisa Austin to learn all about
Your Infant!

Some of our topics will include:

- Learning to respond to your unique baby.
- Exploring the importance of self-care and how your adult relationships have changed.
- Helping your baby grow a healthy brain through play and relationship.

As we move through the series, parents will start collecting gifts.

The more you attend, the more gifts you receive!

At the end of our series, we will host a **survey raffle!**

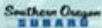
DAY OF DISCOVERY

May 4 & 5, 2026

An inclusive day of fun for adults and children with developmental disabilities.

Enjoy the drive thru safari, animal appearances, keeper chats, vendors and more!

SPONSORED BY:



CHECK IT OUT
↓



Art for All!



Pine Needle Baskets



MAKE PINE NEEDLE BASKETS!

CLASS DATES: 5/7, 5/14, 5/21

TIME: 6:00-7:30 PM

LOCATION: DOWNTOWN BRANCH

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE KLAMATH COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION. LEARN MORE AT KLAMATHCULTURE.ORG!

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!

