



BEAR NECESSITIES FOR FAMILIES

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

an
Atwater Cosmos Grove City
Community Education Program

Hello from all of us on the ACGC Early Childhood staff! We are looking forward to greeting your family at School Readiness, ECFE classes and Special Events.

Last year we were pleased to be able to offer over \$90,000 in preschool scholarships. We thank the MN Pathway Scholarship program and the United Way of West Central MN and their donors for their financial support! Scholarships make our program affordable and accessible to everyone.

Parents are the backbone of our program, and we appreciate your willingness to volunteer, serve on the advisory council, and support our many programs focused on children.

Sincerely,
Peggy Starz, Coordinator

To register for classes or special events, please fill out this form and return with fee to:



ACGC Public Schools -
Attn: Peggy Starz
302 South 2nd Street
Atwater, MN 56209

ECFE REGISTRATION

Child's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Register for:

Class letter	Day/Time	Location	Fee
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____

Waive Fee _____ Total Fee _____

ECFE Class Fee Scale

Family's Yearly Gross Income	One child in one class 4 week session
\$50,000 +	\$40.00
\$30,000 - \$50,000	\$30.00
\$15,000 - \$30,000	\$ 20.00
below \$15,000	\$ 10.00

Payments are confidential. Consider the sliding fee scale and choose what your family can afford. No Atwater, Cosmos or Grove City resident will be denied participation due to inability to pay.

We reserve the right to combine, cancel, or relocate classes. All classes are canceled when school is closed due to weather conditions.

The Home-School



Connection



At ACGC, we focus on building family literacy with parent involvement activities. Building Language Together (BLT) and Early Building Language Together (EBLT) are part of the preschool curriculum for all parents and children. BLT is part of Kindergarten Connection classes and EBLT is part of Hop, Skip and Jump classes.

We thank the following for their contributions to our Early Childhood Programs:

Parents	ACGC Sports Boosters
Harvest Bank	Southwest Initiative Fund
United Way	Meeker Power Trust
PACT4	



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Atwater, MN 56209
Permit No. 30

**Early Childhood Family Education
Bear Necessities for Families**
ACGC Public Schools
302 South Second Street
Atwater MN 56209-0760

Return Service Requested





WHY IS PARENT INVOLVEMENT ESSENTIAL IN SCHOOL READINESS?

Children learn a lot from their first and most important teachers - their parents. The State of Minnesota expects all families with a child in School Readiness to be involved in their education. Each family who registers for ACGC's Hop Skip and Jump or Kindergarten Connection classes commits to attending special events or ECFE Classes, volunteering in the classroom, or reading and enjoying activity kits for a minimum of 32 hours during the school year.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL READINESS



OPEN HOUSE

Come to our Preschool Open House and enjoy games and activities along with information about preschool for the year. You must be pre-registered for preschool to attend.

Parents will meet for an hour to hour and a half with our coordinator, Peggy Starz.

KINDERGARTEN CONNECTION

Tuesday, September 11

AM 8:00-9:30 Parent/child activities and meeting

9:30-11:45 Children only

PM 12:30 -2:00 Parent/child activities and meeting

2:00-3:45 Children only

HOP, SKIP AND JUMP T/TH

Tuesday, September 11

8:00-9:00 Parent/child activities and meeting

9:00-11:45 Children only

HOP, SKIP AND JUMP W/FR

Wednesday, September 12

8:00-9:00 Parent/child activities and meeting

9:00-11:45 Children only

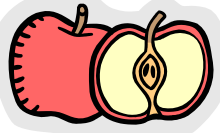


CHILDREN'S PAGE



APPLES

HOW MANY SEEDS?



Ask your child to predict the number of seeds that will be found inside an apple. Cut the apple open and count the seeds with your child. Compare the number of seeds with their prediction. Try the experiment with another apple. Does it have the same number of seeds as the first one?

APPLE FINGER CUBES

Pour 2 envelopes of unflavored gelatin into a bowl. Add 2 cups boiling water and stir until gelatin is dissolved. Add one 6 oz. can of frozen apple juice concentrate. Pour mixture into a lightly greased 9 x 13 pan and chill. Cut into squares when firm.



PLAYDOH (Julie's famous ECFE playdough)

- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 C. flour $\frac{1}{2}$ C. salt
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. Alum 3 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 C. boiling water

Mix and knead with flour. Variation: Add red food coloring and cinnamon for apple playdoh.

TEN RED APPLES

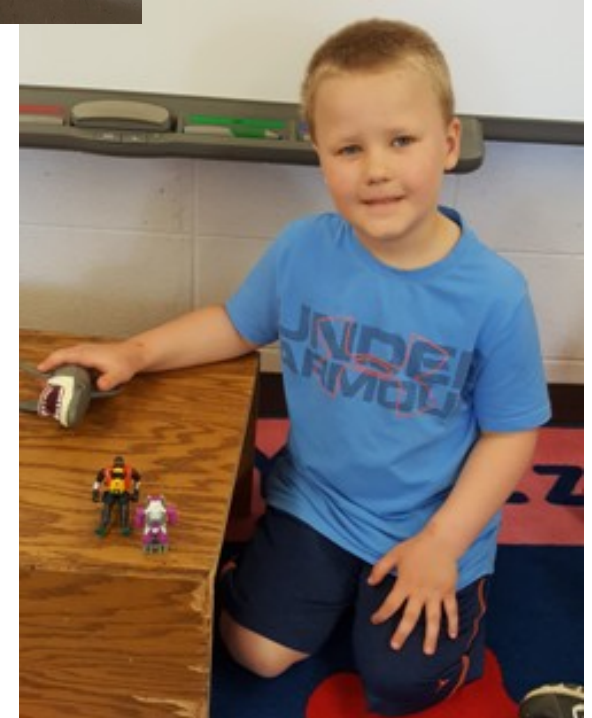
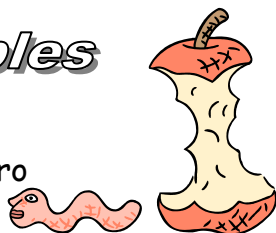
- Ten red apples growing on a tree, (Hold hands up high)
- Five for you and five for me. (Shake one hand, then the other)
- Help me shake the tree just so, (Shake whole body)
- And ten red apples fall down below. (Lower hands while waving fingers)
- One, two three, four five, (Count fingers on one hand)
- Six, seven, eight, nine ten. (Count fingers on other hand.)

Books About Apples

Apples by Ken Robbins

How Do Apples Grow? by Betsy Maestro

Dappled Apples by Jan Carr



ACGC SCHOOL READINESS PRESCHOOLS



HOP SKIP and JUMP

for 3 and 4 year olds

or

KINDERGARTEN CONNECTION

for students entering school in Sept. of 2005

Where: ACGC Elementary

Cost: \$40 registration fee
\$125.00 per month

see information on
scholarships below

Instructors: Michelle Behm
Lissa Borchert

Assistants: Pam Narragon, Tracey Rogers

When: September through May

To Register: Call 244-4641 and ask for Peggy Starz

Hop Skip and Jump

ACGC Elementary
Tues. and Thurs.
8:00-11:30 a.m.

**KINDERGARTEN
CONNECTION**

ACGC Elementary
Tues. - Fri.
8:00 - 11:30a.m.

ACGC Elementary
Wed. and Fri
8:00-11:30 a.m.

ACGC Elementary
Tues. - Fri.
12:30 - 3:45p.m.

Fees: A \$40 registration fee is required along with a registration form. This registration fee is not refundable. Tuition is \$125 monthly and is due by mail or PaySchool the first of the month. Scholarships are available for families who qualify—fill out a financial aid application when you register.

STAFF

The staff for Early Childhood Education Programs are:

- Peggy Starz.....Coordinator
- Michelle Behm.....Early Childhood Teacher
- Lissa Borchert.....Early Childhood Teacher
- Sally Belgum-Blad.....Parent Educator
- Pam Narragon.....Aide and Toy Librarian
- Tracey Rogers.....Aide

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Early Childhood Family Education Advisory Council serves as a liaison between the community and the program and assists the staff in planning and promoting program services. If you have any suggestions or ideas for activities, please contact a council member. These council members generously donate their time and efforts for the smooth running of the program. We appreciate their efforts!

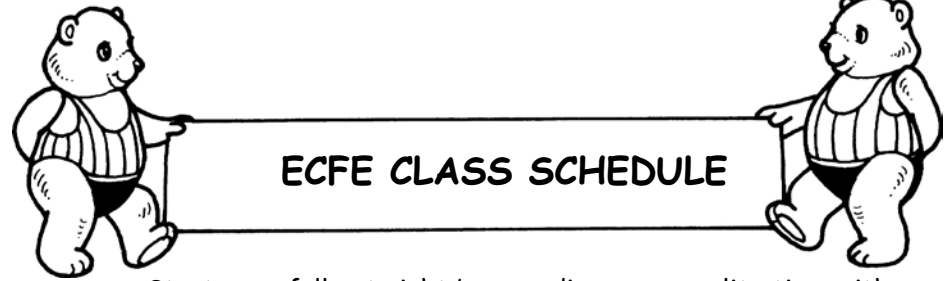
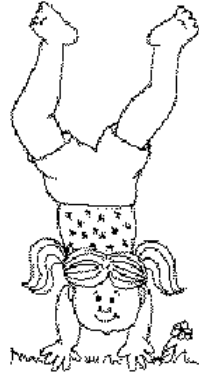
Advisory Council members serve a three year term. If you would enjoy being an advisory council member, we meet twice a year for one hour to discuss ACGC's ECFE program. Call Peggy if you have time to serve on the Advisory Council.

Current Members Include:

- Christa Forsythe
- Morgan Litzau
- Krystle Chase
- Marj Maurer
- Ashley Boeyink
- Ashley Iverson

What is Early Childhood Screening?

The early childhood years from birth the start of kindergarten are an important time of rapid learning and growth. Early Childhood Screening is a simple check of how your child is doing at 3 or 4. It identifies, at an early stage, possible health or learning concerns, so that children can get help before starting school.



Start your fall out right by spending some quality time with your child. ECFE classes are special activities for parents and children that allow children to develop friendships and expand social skills. Parent discussions give adults time to share ideas and assist each other in their challenging role as a parent.

Classes have a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 children enrolled.

You must Register by MAIL by October 1.

Session B

Dates.....Tuesdays, Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30

Time.....6:15 to 7:45 PM

Location.....ACGC Elementary

Cost.....See sliding fee scale on reg. form

Session IYA

Dates.....Thursdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29

Time.....5:30 to 7:30 PM No class 11/22

Location.....ACGC Elementary

Cost.....See sliding fee scale on reg. form

Session IYB

Dates.....Thursdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31

Time.....5:30 to 7:30 PM

Location.....ACGC Elementary

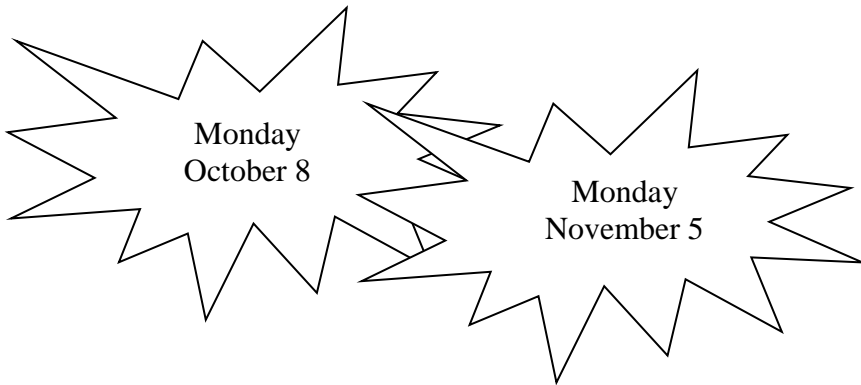
Cost..... See sliding fee scale on reg. form

Suggested Class Fee Scale

Gross Family Income	Fees per class
\$50,000 +	\$40.00
\$30,000 - \$50,000	\$30.00
\$15,000 - \$30,000	\$ 20.00
below \$15,000	\$ 10.00

Fees cover about 3% of program cost. Choose the fee your family can afford. Fees waived upon request

Atwater Cosmos Grove City Schools will be holding Early Childhood Screening



In order for your child to start kindergarten in any Minnesota public school, you will need to provide your school with your child's Early Childhood Screening Summary and an Immunization Record.