

# EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE / EDUCATION

*Parents are their child's first & most important teacher & caregiver. Families need quality early childhood programs while parents are at school, work, or to enhance the work of a stay-at-home parent/guardian. Included in this section are programs & services, which support young children & families by providing information, education, and/or direct childcare.*

## Child Care & Education

### **Anoka & Washington County Parent Aware ..... (763) 783-4881**

Minnesota's Quality Rating & Improvement System. Parent Aware's Star Ratings help parents find programs that go above and beyond to prepare children for school and life. Our 1-4 star rating system – a free service- measures best practices identified by research that help children succeed. Providers can work with a quality coach to achieve their rating. Providers interested in becoming quality rated should call.

### **Anoka County Child Care Licensing..... (763) 324-1235**

**[www.anokacounty.us/childcarelicensing](http://www.anokacounty.us/childcarelicensing)**. Licenses in-home family child care providers, responds to community inquiries and concerns, and provides support and resources to providers and parents.

### **Bridge To Benefits [www.bridgetobenefits.org](http://www.bridgetobenefits.org)**

Find out if you qualify for public programs that can help stretch your family budget. Information on how and where to apply, print applications, and learn more.

### **Child Care Aware MN/Metro East ..... (763) 783-4881**

**[www.parentaware.org](http://www.parentaware.org)**. CCAMN provides families, childcare providers, and communities with information and support for quality childcare. We provide professional growth and development with educational programs, grants, training, consultation and coaching with **Parent Aware**. If you are searching for childcare in Minnesota, call 1-888-291-9811.

### **CAPE (Child & Parent Education) Centers ..... (763) 506-1561**

Provides childcare while student parents attend classes at their own schools. Transportation for child & parent is provided free for residents of Anoka-Hennepin School District 11. Students out of district may be eligible, but would need to provide own transportation. Must attend school within District 11 to qualify. Serving young parents up to age 21. Programs include ECFE & parenting classes.

### **Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)**

Each school district offers many different fun & educational experiences for children ages birth to 5 & their families. Many ECFE programs also have “drop-in & play” opportunities for children & parents. Sliding fees.

**District 11, Anoka-Hennepin ECFE ..... (763) 528-4517**

**District 12, Centennial ECFE..... (763) 792-6120**

**District 13, Columbia Heights ECFE ..... (763) 528-4515**

**District 14, Fridley ECFE..... (763) 502-5124**

**District 15, St. Francis ECFE..... (763) 753-7040**

**District 16, Spring Lake Park ECFE ..... (763) 600-5900**

**District 831, Forest Lake ECFE ..... (651) 982-8300**

**Early Learning Scholarships Pathway I..... (763) 783-4711**

[www.accap.org](http://www.accap.org). Scholarships increase access to high quality early childhood programs for three and four-year old children with the highest needs, in order to improve school readiness for all young children. Priority for scholarships will be given based on family income, child poverty, and geographic region. Up to \$7,500 per scholarship will be awarded.

**Families in Safe Hands: Raising Relatives children ..... (612) 879-5307**

Offers information & emotional support through support groups, recreation, & free phone consultation.

**Head Start, ACCAP..... (763) 783-4300**

[www.accap.org](http://www.accap.org). A free preschool program for children ages birth to 5 of income eligible families. High quality early learning programs serving income-eligible children birth to five years old and pregnant women who are residents of Anoka and Washington County. This program concentrates on child development and parental involvement. Home Based, Center Based and Early Child Care Partnership programs available. Call for an application.

**Help Me Grow: Early Intervention..... 1-866-693-4769**

[www.helpmegrowMN.org](http://www.helpmegrowMN.org). State wide referral for children birth to 3 years old with known or suspected delays in development such as walking, talking, playing, or behavior. Help with your child's development available, including screening & evaluation, home-based services from teachers, speech/language clinicians, & occupational or physical therapists, & referral to community resources.

**Minnesota Communities Care for Children.....1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)**

[www.pcamn.org](http://www.pcamn.org). Mission: To empower parents and communities to build supportive relationships, nurture children, and prevent child abuse and neglect. Home of Circle of Parents.

**Preschool Screening..... Contact your local school district**

All children are required to have a preschool screening after they are 3 years old and before entering kindergarten. Contact your local school district to find out how to have your child screened.

**Professional Learning Alternatives, Inc..... (651) 464-8777**

[www.pla-inc.org](http://www.pla-inc.org). Nonprofit education and advocacy resource for caregivers, parents, and those interested in supporting the development and education of young children. Offers in-service seminars, conferences, phone and on-site consulting, mentoring, and referrals. Call for more information.

**School Age Child Care ..... Contact your school district**

Area school districts offer programs for before & after school care. For more information check with your child's school or call Child Care Resource & Referral at (763) 783-4884.

**School Readiness Programming ..... Contact your school district**

Each school district has School Readiness funds, which offer opportunities for all eligible children to participate in programs that enable children to enter kindergarten with the necessary skills, behavior, & support they need. Children must be at least 3 years old & have not yet started kindergarten to be eligible for these programs. Your school district may offer transportation & free or reduced tuition based on a sliding fee scale. See EDUCATION section for Community Education phone numbers.

**Small Talk..... (612) 889-0780**

[www.signlanguageforbaby.com](http://www.signlanguageforbaby.com). Sign language for you & your hearing baby. Babies hear & understand language before they are able to speak. Use baby sign language as a method to communicate with your

baby. Using baby signs will enhance interaction with baby & help adults to understand what baby wants, as well as what baby is thinking.

**Specialized Child Care Services..... Contact your school district**  
Some school districts offer childcare services for teen parents who are attending High School. See the EDUCATION section for School District numbers.

**University of Minnesota Extension, Anoka County ..... (763) 324-3495**  
Website: [www.extension.umn.edu/county/anoka](http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/anoka).

## **Child Care Subsidy**

**Anoka County Child Care Assistance ..... (763) 324-2350**  
**Call for a free eligibility screening ..... (763)-324-2360**  
[www.accap.org](http://www.accap.org). DHS Child Care Assistance Program provides low-income, working families with access to quality, affordable childcare that allows them to continue working and contributes to the healthy, emotional and social development of the child. Families are required to cost-share on a sliding scale based on family size, income and number of children in care. Call for a screening to see if you are eligible for this service.

## **Equipment**

**Assisted Living Store ..... (651) 769-1574 or 1-888-388-5862**  
[www.assistedlivingstore.com](http://www.assistedlivingstore.com). 199 Bridgepoint Dr S, St. Paul 55075. Medication management. Linen products, garments, and textiles. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am-4 pm.

**Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)..... Contact your school district**  
Some ECFE's have resources & toy lending libraries available to their local residents. Call your ECFE for more information. See the Parenting/Child Development section under the EDUCATION section for phone numbers.