

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 County Child Care Licensing..... (763) 324-1235
www.anokacounty.us/660/Family-Child-Care-Licensing. 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

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.

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, Early Head Start, and parenting classes.

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

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) 506-1275
District 12, Centennial ECFE..... (763) 792-6120
District 13, Columbia Heights ECFE (763) 528-4515
District 14, Fridley ECFE..... (763) 502-5143
District 15, St. Francis ECFE..... (763) 753-7170
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. 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 \$10,000 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. 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. 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.

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.

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. 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.local.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. 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

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.