# 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

**ACCAP, Head Start ..... (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 families with children ages birth to five years old and pregnant women. Programs are free for eligible families in Anoka and Washington counties. Provides education, nutrition, mental health, school readiness and parent engagement services to children and families from income eligible households.

**Anoka County Child Care Licensing..... (763) 324-1235**
www.anokacountymn.gov/660/Family-Child-Care-Licensing Licenses in-home family childcare 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, printable applications, and more available online.

**Parent Aware ..... (888) 291-9811**
www.parentaware.org Provides families, childcare providers, and communities with information & support for quality childcare. We provide professional growth and development with educational programs, grants, training, consultation.

**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) 502-5124**
**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 Offers scholarships to increase access to high quality early childhood programs for children under the age of 5 with the highest needs, in order to improve school readiness. Priority for scholarships will be given based on family income, child poverty, and geographic region. Scholarship amounts are based on a child's age, location of program and the program's Parent Aware rating.

**Help Me Grow: Early Intervention ..... 1-866-693-4769**
www.helpmegrowMN.org Statewide 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 is available, including screening & evaluation, home-based services from teachers, speech/language clinicians, & occupational or physical therapists, and 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. See EDUCATION section for School District numbers.

**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. See EDUCATION section for School District numbers.

**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, and support they need. Children must be at least 3 years old and have not yet started kindergarten to be eligible for these programs. Your school district may offer transportation, and free or reduced tuition based on a sliding fee scale. See EDUCATION section for Community Education phone numbers.

**Small Talk ..... (612) 889-0780**
https://ammaparenting.com/ Sign language for you and your hearing baby. Babies hear and 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. Email: smalltalksign@aol.com

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

**University of Minnesota Extension, Anoka County ..... (763) 324-3495**
**www.extension.umn.edu/local/anoka** Provides a variety of educational opportunities.

# Child Care Subsidy

**Anoka County Child Care Assistance ..... (763) 324-2350**
**Call for eligibility** ..... **(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 & 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.

# 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 EDUCATION section for ECFE phone numbers.