

Early Childhood Reference Guide

2020-2021 School Year

Welcome to Linn-Mar Early Childhood! This information is meant for families enrolled in our Little Lions (LL) Preschool or our Early Childhood Blended Program (ECBP). This year presents us with a lot of uncertainty and modifications to our normal procedures in order to provide a conducive learning environment for students, families and staff . Please take a moment to review these items, and use this information as a reference if need be. Please note that as regulations, guidelines, and mandates change, all items are subject to change.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- **Little Lions** is our Preschool program which provides a quality learning environment for students to exercise their social and emotional skills while learning academic content. This program meets Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week. **There are no classes on Mondays.** If there are changes to the schedule, your child's teacher will let you know. A list of important dates is also located at the end of this document. Little Lions is housed out of Bowman Woods, Echo Hill, Linn Grove and Wilkins Elementary Schools. Morning sessions are from 8:30- 11:15pm and Afternoon sessions are from 12:15-3:00pm.
- **Early Childhood Blended Program** offers a blended approach to learning that includes a mix of early childhood education and elementary education. The school day will focus on social, emotional and behavioral growth as well as have a literacy and math focus. Children need to be screened to be considered from this program. ECBP has class Monday through Friday and follows the Elementary School schedule of 8:30am-3:15 pm. All ECBP classrooms are now located at Novak Elementary School. **ECBP does not have class on the first student attendance Monday of each month for Early Childhood Professional Development.**

START DATES:

Little Lions:

Group B: Starts on Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Group A: Starts on Wednesday, September 16, 2020

When your child's teacher contacts starting August 31, 2020, you will have a discussion around which Hybrid B Group you would like your child to be in. We are offering this to LL families as we understand that the flexibility may be invaluable as you are trying to balance home learning with older students. Once your child is put into Group A or Group B, you will follow the district schedule listed below. All students will resume on-site instruction effective September 28 unless otherwise notified.

ECBP:


Group B: Starts on Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Group A: Starts on Wednesday, September 16, 2020

The entire district will begin the school year in a Hybrid B model. Students will be divided into two groups based on the first letter of their last name. A-K will be Group A and L-Z will be Group B. The district calendar shows September 14th as the start date for ECBP, however, this is considered the first Monday of the month and is Early Childhood Staff Professional Development. All students will resume on-site instruction effective September 28 unless otherwise notified.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Sept. 14 K-9: A	Sept. 15 K-9: B	Sept. 16 K-12: A	Sept. 17 K-12: B	Sept. 18 K-12: A	A Group Last names that start with A-K
Sept. 21 K-12: B	Sept. 22 K-12: A	Sept. 23 K-12: B	Sept. 24 K-12: A	Sept. 25 K-12: B	
Sept. 28 K-6: all students on-site 7-12: A	Sept. 29 K-6: all students on-site 7-12: B	Sept. 30 K-6: all students on-site 7-12: A	Oct. 1 K-6: all students on-site 7-12: B	Oct. 2 K-6: all students on-site 7-12: A	B Group Last names that start with L-Z

*Please note: Families can choose either Hybrid Option A or B. Preschool teachers will contact families to determine days of attendance.

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HOME VISITS:

Each year, our Little Lions and ECBP teachers reach out to families prior to the school year starting. This is a meeting which is intended for children and guardians to become familiar with the teachers in the classroom as well as gather important information.

This year, all home visits will be done virtually. This can be done via Zoom, Facetime, phone call, etc.

Teachers are scheduled to return on August 31, 2020, and will be in contact with you to schedule this appointment.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- **Paperwork-** The following items need to be sent to your child's school prior to the beginning of the school year.
 - [Student Information Registration Form](#)
 - [Home Language Survey](#) (this was sent to the home in July)
 - Yellow Emergency Contact Card (this was sent to the home in July)
 - KidsSight Permission Form (provided by your teacher)

- [Proof of Residency](#)
 - Most recent Immunization records signed by a physician
 - Copy of a birth certificate
- **PowerSchool-** Depending on which school your child's early childhood program is housed out of, you will receive information on registering your child through PowerSchool. This system is part of our District Management System and houses information on your child throughout their educational journey. If you have not received your PowerSchool ID and Login information, please contact your child's school secretary.
 - **Schoology-** Schoology will be the district's new Learning Management System. This system will allow us to flow between on-site and virtual learning as well as track student progress and work. All students will receive a Schoology Account for teachers to post activities, reply to submitted work, track attendance, and correspond. You will log into this system in order to access the tool, SeeSaw, which is the predominant tool used in our Little Lions and ECBP classrooms.
 - **SeeSaw-** SeeSaw is a user friendly learning software that allows teachers, students and families to communicate with each other about student progress. It also allows teachers to assign age appropriate activities and progress monitor. This is the app that our early childhood teachers will use to communicate with you throughout the school year. Your child's teacher will provide you with instructions on how to log in and get started!

PRECAUTIONS RELATED TO COVID:

- Masks and face coverings- *the district will provide one mask to each student. Please make sure your child comes to school each day with a mask that properly fits them to help us reinforce and teach this precaution.*
 - **Little Learners-** face masks will be strongly encouraged during drop off and pick up times for students as they will be around other children during this time. Face masks will be modeled and strongly encouraged in the preschool setting. Our goal is to have all students wearing their masks as often as possible without causing trauma around the topic.
 - **ECBP-** ECBP students will be required to wear masks anytime they are outside of the classroom (going to specials, lunch, arrival, dismissal, etc.) Face masks will be modeled and strongly encouraged in the classroom.
 - **Teachers-** per the Return To Learn District Plan, teachers will always wear a face mask. They may also wear a face shield, but may not wear a face shield without the face mask.
- Meal Times/Snack
 - Students will need to bring their own snack this year. There will not be a snack calendar for families to donate or provide snacks on a given day for the entire class.

- Water Bottles: Teachers may request that your child bring a see-through water bottle to school. This will make it easier for students to access water as they need it without sharing a water source.
- During snack time, students will be spaced out as possible, or offered staggered times to enjoy their snacks to honor social distancing.

VIRTUAL LEARNING:

- **iPads-** All Little Lions and ECBP students will be issued an iPad for the school year. These iPads will be kept at school, and students will be taught how to properly use and care for them should they need to use them for virtual learning.
- **What will this look like?** Should it be necessary, an individual classroom, an entire school, or the entire district may need to quarantine or go to a Virtual Model. Teachers will provide parents with an At Home Learning Schedule to when live online learning will be taking place and other expectations to be fulfilled while away from school. Please see the Sample Schedules below. **These are not the actual schedules, just a sample of what it may look like.**

Little Lions AM Sample Schedule	
8:30-8:50 am	Live Morning Group Learning- students will log on to receive LIVE instruction from their teacher. (Times may vary)
9:00-11:00 am	Off-line and Online Learning at Home- Teachers will schedule times for students to receive individualized LIVE instruction with the teacher. The Teacher will also provide activities for the student to complete and submit during this time.
	Small Group/Individualized Instruction- Teachers will schedule times for students to receive individualized LIVE instruction with the teacher.
11:00-12:00	Office Hours- parent/teacher meeting times
12:00-1:00	Lunch Break
Little Lions PM Sample Schedule	
1:00-1:20	Live Morning Group Learning- students will log on to receive LIVE instruction from their teacher. (Times may vary)
1:30-2:30	Off-line and Online Learning at Home- Teachers will schedule times for students to receive individualized LIVE instruction with the teacher. The Teacher will also provide activities for the student to complete and submit during this time.
2:30-3:00	Small Group/Individualized Instruction- Teachers will schedule times for students to receive individualized LIVE instruction with the teacher.
3:00-3:30	Office Hours- parent/teacher meeting times

Early Childhood Blended Sample Schedule

8:30-9:00 am	Live Morning Group Learning- students will log on to receive LIVE instruction from their teacher. (Times may vary)
9:00-11:15 am	Off-line and Online Learning at Home- Teachers will schedule times for students to receive individualized LIVE instruction with the teacher. The Teacher will also provide activities for the student to complete and submit during this time.
	Small Group/Individualized Instruction- Teachers will schedule times for students to receive individualized LIVE instruction with the teacher.
11:15-12:00	Office Hours

STUDENTS WITH AN IEP:

If your child has an Individualized Education Plan, we will be setting up times to hold a meeting with your child's team to discuss what services would look like in the home should we need to teach your child virtually. This is not an amendment or change to your child services, it is a document that the team will use to come to a consensus on what temporary changes may look like due to a quarantine or school shut-down.

If you have questions regarding this, please contact Michaela O'Connell at 319-799-3627 or michaela.oconnell@linnmar.k12.ia.us.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Below are lists of important dates to have marked on your calendars for the Little Lions and ECBP Programs. For Little Lions, we do not have class on scheduled early dismissal days and hold school on a Monday to make up that learning time. These are the only times when Little Learners will have class on a Monday.

For ECBP, there are two dates in February where there is no school as we, as an ECBP team will be screening incoming ECBP students for the 2021-2022 school year. Please note, ECBP DOES NOT have class on the first scheduled student Monday of the month for Early Childhood Professional Development.

Please know that all dates are subject to change based on Linn-Mar School Board decisions, Covid related reasons, or other unforeseen circumstances. These changes will be communicated out by your child's classroom teacher as soon as we are aware of them.

Important Dates for Little Lions Preschool
2020-2021

August 31 - September 11, 2020-Teachers return and complete Virtual Home Visits

September 15, 2020- First Day of Little Lions Group B
September 16, 2020- First Day of Little Lions Group A
September 28, 2020- Tentative End Date to A/B Model

October 19, 2020- Little Lions in Session due to November 5 early dismissal

November 5, 2020- NO Little Lions due to district 2 hour early dismissal and conferences

November 9, 2020- Little Lions in Session due to November 10 early dismissal

November 10, 2020- No Little Lions due to early dismissal and conferences

November 25, 2020- NO SCHOOL Teacher Comp Day

November 26-27, 2020- NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Break

December 23-31, 2020- NO SCHOOL- Winter Break

January 1, 2021- NO SCHOOL- New Year's Day

January 5, 2021- Return to Little Lions from Winter Break

January 18, 2021- NO SCHOOL for MLK Day

February 15, 2021- Little Lions in Session due to March 4 early dismissal

February 19, 2021- 2021/2022 ECBP Screening Day #1

February 22, 2021- 2021/2022 ECBP Screening Day #2

March 4, 2021- NO Little Lions due to district 2 hour early dismissal and conferences

March 8, 2021- Little Lions in session due to March 9 early dismissal

March 9, 2021- NO Little Lions due to district 2 hour early dismissal and conferences

March 15-19, 2021- NO Little Lions for Spring Break

April 9, 2021- NO SCHOOL for Teacher Collaboration

May 31, 2021- NO SCHOOL for Memorial Day

June 10, 2021- Last Day of Little Lions Preschool

Important Dates for Early Childhood Blended Program

August 31- September 11, 2020- Teachers Return and Virtual Home visits are completed

September 14, 2020- No ECBP for Professional Development

September 15, 2020- First Day of ECBP for Group B

September 16, 2020- First Day of ECBP for Group A

September 28, 2020- Tentative end to Hybrid A/B model

October 5, 2020- NO ECBP for Professional Development

November 2, 2020- NO ECBP for Professional Development

November 5, 2020- 2 hour early dismissal and conferences

November 10, 2020- 2 hour early dismissal and conferences

November 25, 2020- No school- Teacher Comp Day

November 26-27, 2020- No School- Thanksgiving Break

December 7, 2020- NO ECBP for Professional Development

December 23-31, 2020- NO SCHOOL- Winter Break

January 1, 2021- NO SCHOOL- New Year's Day

January 4, 2021- NO ECBP for Professional Development

January 5, 2021- Return to School from Winter Break

January 18, 2021- NO SCHOOL- MLK Day

February 1, 2021- NO ECBP for Professional Development

February 19, 2021- No ECBP due to 2021/2022 ECBP Screening Day

February 22, 2021- NoECBP due to 2021/2022 ECBP Screening Day

March 1, 2021- NO ECBP for Professional Development

March 4, 2021- 2 hour early dismissal and conferences

March 9, 2021- 2 hour early dismissal and conferences

March 15-19, 2021- NO ECBP due to Spring Break

March 29, 2021- No school- Teacher Collaboration Day

April 5, 2021- NO ECBP for Professional Development

April 9, 2021- NO ECBP for Teacher Collaboration

May 3, 2021- NO ECBP for Professional Development

May 31, 2021- NO SCHOOL for Memorial Day

June 10, 2021- Last Day of School