



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating 50 Years of Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) in Minnesota

[St. Paul, MN, April 5, 2024] - The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE), the leading advocate for parent and early childhood education in Minnesota, proudly announces the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) in the state.

Since its inception in 1974, ECFE has been a cornerstone of parenting education programs, offering invaluable support to Minnesota families with children aged from birth to kindergarten entrance. Operating primarily through Minnesota public school districts in collaboration with community partners, ECFE provides a wide array of learning opportunities, including classes held at school district locations or in community locations, home visits, online parenting education and support/resource information.

Michelle Berscheid, MNAFEE Board of Directors Chair shared, “At its core, ECFE recognizes that parents are a child's first and most enduring teachers. This unique Minnesota-based educational program, supported by legislative backing, aims to equip parents and caregivers with the resources, community connections, and knowledge to guide and nurture healthy growth and development in their children.”

“As ECFE celebrates its 50th anniversary”, Berscheid continued, “MNAFEE reaffirms its commitment to innovation and excellence in parent and early childhood education. Embracing emerging research and fostering collaboration, we are dedicated to advancing the mission of ECFE and ensuring its continued success well into the future.”

To mark this significant milestone, MNAFEE invites partners, school districts, and families across Minnesota to join us in a series of celebratory events throughout the year. The festivities will commence with a kick-off celebration at the MNAFEE Annual Conference, taking place at the River's Edge Conference Center in St. Cloud, MN, on April 11 at noon.

During this special event, the governor's office will present a proclamation honoring ECFE's 50 years of service, educators from across the state will be recognized for their innovative programming and lifelong achievements, and attendees will enjoy a special performance by the beloved Teddy Bear Band, who have crafted a commemorative song for the occasion.

For those unable to attend in person, a live stream of the event will be available on MNAFEE's website (mnafee.org).

For further inquiries and information, please contact:

Linda Vukelich
MNAFEE
Email: lv4mnafee2@gmail.com
Phone: 651-278-4241

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of Early Childhood Family Education and embark on the next chapter of growth and success!

About MNAFEE

The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) is a non-profit association promoting parent education, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), and early childhood programming in public schools. Since 2003, MNAFEE has served as Minnesota's leader in professional development and advocacy for teachers in parent and early childhood education to ensure quality public-school programming. MNAFEE leads advocacy for Minnesota's parent education and early childhood programming in public schools because children thrive when their parents and earliest teachers are supported.

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