



HELPING OUR MEMBERS SUCCEED

MNAFEE's mission is to promote, advocate for, and strengthen parent education, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), and early childhood programming in public schools.

Hosting Your Legislator, A "Lesson Plan" for ECFE by Katy Smith

Virtual Adaptations by Heather Cline

- **Call the office of the legislator(s) who represents your program.**
 - Call or email. You can find their contact info here: <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>
- **Ask them to visit, ideally during class time.**
 - Ask them to join a virtual session or tune in virtually to an in-person session
- **Do some research. What committees does the legislator serve on? How does that work impact early learning? What are the legislators' interests? What do you have in common?**
- **Assign a greeter, someone who can welcome them at the door and "shadow" them during the visit to answer questions and explain what we do.**
 - Assign a virtual host, someone who can be sure they have the link to join and to welcome them to the virtual call.
- **Do your best to make sure that the legislator sits in on a full session of ECFE. Give your class a heads up about the visit. Highlight parent education, often this is a new lens and new learning for legislators.**
 - Ask them to read a story to the children and chat with the parents about how ECFE in their community has supported them during the pandemic.
- **Take pics, lots of pics! Commit to tweet and post on a variety of social media using #ECFEOpenHouse as a hashtag.**
- **Try not to overload the visitor. Commit to follow up after the class to discuss the day and get a verbal commitment from the legislator.**
- **Thank them for coming! Ask for their continued support of parent and family education in our state.**
- **Make a take home packet from your program. You may want to include the ECFE information brochure, a CE catalog, a letter or two of testimony from parents, a list of staff members and their contact information, art from a child in your program, etc.**
 - Prepare an electronic packet that you can share via email, including photos of children's art projects and possibly screen captions of your virtual connections with children and families over the past year.
- **Ask a parent and a staff member to follow up with the legislator in person, or over the phone in the coming weeks.**
 - Make this a phone call or virtual meeting

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