



Blue Mountain Early Learning HUB

bluemountainearylearninghub.org

Newsletter

MORROW UMATILLA UNION COUNTIES

Early Childhood Partnership Team Meetings (ECPT)

Umatilla County

Tuesday, June 9

1:00 - 2:30 pm via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/99861121017>

Meeting ID: 998 6112 1017

Union County

Wednesday, May 13 · 1:00 - 3:00 pm via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81233617533>

Meeting ID: 847 0277 0140, Password: m8pb6yqSM3

<https://www.facebook.com/Union-County-ECPT-836224543130112/>

Morrow County

Thursday, June 11

12:00 - 2:00 pm:

TBD



Conscious Discipline Institute Scholarship Deadline Extended to May 15

We are moving forward with our plans for the Conscious Discipline Summer Institute July 6-10 in Hermiston, OR. This training will include in-depth learning about the 7 powers and 7 skills, practicing what you have learned in a fun and relaxing atmosphere, and discussion with others on how to put it to work for you. This is a private institute so registration is closed to school districts and early childhood partners in our region.

We have scholarship opportunities available for those who work with children and families. These scholarships are available to both Early Education Staff (Prenatal thru 3rd grade) and Home Visitors/Parent Educators who have not previously attended an Institute. Applications are available on our website. **The scholarship application deadline has been extended to May 15.** Those who have attended a Conscious Discipline Institute and are looking to further their knowledge and skills may apply to be a helper at the Institute. Helper applications are also available on our website: <https://bluemountainearylearninghub.org>



Preschool Development Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Needs Assessment

In 2019, the Early Learning Division received a one-year Preschool Development Grant Birth through 5 (PDG B-5) from the Administration for Children and Families, in coordination with the Department of Education. The ELD contracted with Portland State University and OSLC Developments, Inc. (ODI) to conduct a statewide strengths and needs assessment to determine the current strengths and challenges of services and supports for families with children from birth through five years. This data will help inform planning for expansion and improvement of Oregon's early learning system.

The final **findings from the PDG B-5 Needs Assessment** (<https://oregonearlylearning.com/PDGAssessment>) through a series of reports and an interactive map tool have now been shared by the Early Learning Division. The resources now available include:

- ELMO: the Early Learning Map of Oregon
- Statewide Household Survey Results
- Family Listening Sessions Findings

Please note: These resources are not designed for families to use to get information about child care resources, facilities, eligibility, etc. The reports

and interactive map provide guidance for planning and decision-making. ELMO is not designed to be a monitoring or accountability tool.

We are here to help! Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions on how to transform this data into action and help young children and their families thrive. Also, if you have any specific questions regarding the map, please email EarlyLearningMap@state.or.us.



Last Call for Kindergarten Jumpstart Applications

The Blue Mountain Early Learning (BMEL) Hub now has 11 communities offering Kindergarten Jumpstart this summer. This 2 to 3 week, ½ day summer program focuses on teaching children listening, learning, and behavioral skills while preparing them for the full-day schedule ahead. It helps familiarize children with the school and allows for a much smoother start to the school year. Priority goes to children who have not received previous early education services. Registration forms are available on the Hub's website: <https://bluemountainearylearninghub.org>.

Scheduled Sessions:

Umatilla County			
Athena-Weston	Athena Elementary	August 3-14 (M-F)	8:00-12:10
Pendleton	Pendleton Early Learning Center	August 10-21 (M-F)	8:15-12:30
Milton-Freewater	Gib Olinger Elementary	August 3-20 (M-Th)	7:45-12:15
Umatilla	McNary Heights Elementary	August 3-14 (M-F)	8:00-12:10
Stanfield	Stanfield Elementary	August 17-28 (M-F)	8:00-12:00

Morrow County			
Heppner	Heppner Elementary	July 29-August 13 (M-F)	7:15-12:15
Boardman	Sam Boardman Elementary	July 29-August 13 (M-F)	7:15-12:15
Irrigon	A.C. Houghton Elementary	July 29-August 13 (M-F)	7:15-12:15

Union County			
Elgin	Stella Mayfield Elementary	August 10-20 (M-Th)	7:30-12:30
Imbler	Imbler Elementary	August 3-13 (M-Th)	8:00-12:20
La Grande	Greenwood Elementary	August 10-21 (M-F)	8:30-12:30
La Grande	Central Elementary	August 10-21 (M-F)	8:30-12:30
La Grande	Island City Elementary	August 10-21 (M-F)	8:30-12:30

Other districts interested in participating, please complete an application or contact Amy Hoffert.



Blue Mountain Early Learning HUB

bluemountainearlylearninghub.org

MORROW UMATILLA UNION COUNTIES

This Month's Parenting Article: *Exploring Nature with Preschoolers*

When thinking about playing in nature I'm immediately taken back to my childhood and the freedoms I was given. I was the kid that was outside all day and only came home when I heard my mother calling me in for dinner. My parents gave me a lot of opportunities to explore in our neighborhood, surrounded by forests and fields, and also on our family vacations that were often in the family camper. I would not change those experiences for the world. I explored using all my senses.

In the book *Natural Playscapes*, author Rusty Keeler writes, "Children experience the world with their whole being – body, spirit, energy, minds, hearts, compassion, tears, laughter, anger, pride, learning, understanding, love and soul." On the subject of health, one can research on the internet "Health benefits of Children Playing in Nature" and be inundated with articles of research promoting children playing in nature. I believe children and nature belong together.

One of the first questions the students ask in the morning is "Where are we going today?" As an educator, that is music to my ears. They love the adventure and discovery as much as I do. There are several places we go like a field, a seasonal creek, a rock pile, a mountain hike or a trip to an old elementary playground with an arboretum.

One example of our exploration happened about a month ago. We walked to the creek bed that was dry and climbed on the rocks, walked through irrigation tunnels, threw sticks...and then the floods came. We went to check out the creek that we could hear rushing a block away. The look in their eyes was incredible. The snow and rain created flood waters, and it was amazing to see the amount of water flowing that was not there the week before...You can't plan something like that...it takes investigation.

One thing that has always stuck with me as a teacher is that I need to lead by example. By playing with them you are actually encouraging investigation and exploration. If the teacher is excited by what they are teaching, the students will follow. This is true for parents as well. If you as a parent are PRESENT, PLAYFUL and INTENTIONAL, that is all you need to make an outside activity successful.

A local opportunity for parents is an organization called "Hike It Baby." It is an organization that works to create a community that inspires all families with babies and young children to get outside and connect with nature. You can also look into your local Parks and Rec. department to find out what local trails there are in your community.

Things to do outside when you can't make it to the park:

1. Go on A Rhyming Walk..."A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go.... We'll catch a fox and put him in a box and then we'll let him go..." We'll catch a bug and put him in a rug and then we'll let him go. Any rhyme will work as you see things on your walk...a rock, dirt, cloud, sun, grass etc. It doesn't even need to make sense but lets you focus on what you see around you. Also, remember that children are lower to the ground and can spot things you won't even realize are there.
2. Find a special spot or secret place to sit together. Take some cookies...play "Who took the cookie from the cookie jar" and in the end the parent decides they took the cookie but will share. Have a cookie together! Just enjoy being in nature together.
3. Play with sidewalk chalk, bubbles, and paint brushes with water. This can be done right outside your house. Talk about the colors they see and how the materials feel when using them.
4. Be a good citizen. My students often point out garbage at the places we visit. We take protective gloves and clean-up. This can be done in every neighborhood!

These are just a few ideas of things to get started, but remember "Be Playful," "Be Present," and "Be Intentional."

Colleen Tooke is the owner of Stepping Stones preschool in La Grande, a partner of the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub.



Free Distance Learning Resources from Lakeshore

Lakeshore Learning would like to share their Learning at Home Link for quick and free educational activities to supplement children's learning. Over 1,000 free resources are available that may help to make things just a bit easier. Their social media channels are another good source for at-home educational activities that are updated daily. Please share all of these resources with your colleagues, friends, family and anyone in need: <https://www.lakeshorelearning.com/l/learning-at-home>

Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub Governing Board:

Umatilla County:

Lori Hale, *Education*
Lidwinner Machado,
Human & Social Services
Katy Mabry, *Parent*

Morrow County:

Sheree Smith, *Health*
Marie Shimer, *Education*
Dorothy Powell, *Migrant &
Second Language Education*

Union County:

Robert Kleng, *Chair, Education*
Kathy Bonney, *Business*
Carrie Brogoitti, *Health*

Other:

Dr. Mark Mulvihill, *InterMountain ESD Lead*
Maureen McGrath, *Umatilla-Morrow Co.
Head Start Lead*
Linda Watson, *Eastern Oregon Coordinated
Care Organization Rep*
Lloyd Commander, *Tribal Representative*



Blue Mountain Early Learning HUB

bluemountainearylearninghub.org

MORROW UMATILLA UNION COUNTIES

Libraries continue to find ways to provide services yet keep their customers and staff safe during the COVID-19 virus.



Morrow County:
Oregon Trail Library District
<https://oregontrail.ploud.net/>

Visit the Oregon Trail Library District website for online digital resources and to request a library card. Library staff are available via phone and email at each branch.

Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm • Saturday 10am-2pm

Connect with your local library:

Boardman Branch 541-481-2665 boardman@otld.org

Heppner Branch 541-676-9964 heppner@otld.org

Irrigon Branch 541-922-0138 irrigon@otld.org



Umatilla County:
<https://ucsld.org/>

The 12 libraries in Umatilla County work within a different municipality in the county and their cities determine when and if they are open, so each library has a little different service plan during this time. Because things are changing daily, check the library's website, Facebook page or call the library for up-to-date information. This page — www.ucsld.org/member%20libraries — on the Umatilla County Special Library District's website has links to each library's website, Facebook page, email address and phone number.



Union County:
<https://cookmemoriallibrary.org/>

Online registration for a Cook Memorial Library card is open to La Grande residents and residents of Union County who do not receive library services from another town within the county (Elgin, North Powder, and Union). If you already have a regular library card, you do not need an eCard. Complete the Request Library Card form (<https://lpl.sage.eou.edu/eg/opac/register>) to register for an eCard. A valid email address or telephone number is required to receive your eCard number.

Your Cook Memorial Library eCard provides access to:

- eBooks (OverDrive/Libby & Freeding)
- eAudiobooks (OverDrive/Libby)
- Streaming Movies (Kanopy & Kanopy Kids)
- Streaming Music (Freegal)
- Online Test Prep (Learning Express)
- The Great Courses (Kanopy)
- Genealogy Research (MyHeritage)

To convert your eCard to a regular library card, visit Cook Memorial Library in person, once the library has reopened, with appropriate identification and proof of address.



You may also want to check out the new app "Libby" by OverDrive.

Did you know your local library has thousands of ebooks and audiobooks? You can borrow them, instantly, for free, using just the device in your hand.

1. Fish out your library card
2. Open the Libby app
3. Find your local library
4. Search, sample, borrow, enjoy

It takes just a few taps to find and borrow a book. Libby has a groundbreaking built-in ebook reader, and a beautiful audiobook player. If you prefer, you can send books to your Kindle for reading.

- Sign in to multiple libraries, with one or more library cards
- Stay signed in for as long as you like
- Download books and audiobooks for offline reading, or stream them to save space
- Sample any book with a tap — nothing to download or delete
- Try a zoomable graphic novel, or a picture book with readalong audio
- All your holds and loans are consolidated on a single shelf
- Tag titles as read, loved, hated, wishlist, schoolbook, beach-reading, whatever you like
- Your loans, holds, reading positions, bookmarks and notes are synchronized automatically across all your devices
- Keep track of your reading history in the Activity tab

Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub Staff:

Jon Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of the IMESD
jon.peterson@imesd.k12.or.us

Kim Thul, Administrative Assistant
kim.thul@imesd.k12.or.us

Amy Hoffert, Operations Coordinator
amy.hoffert@imesd.k12.or.us

Erin Bartsch, P-3 Coordinator
ebartsch@umchs.org

Cade Burnette, Data Specialist & EI/ECSE Deputy Director
cade.burnette@imesd.k12.or.us

Hannah Williams, Parent Engagement Coordinator
hannah.williams@imesd.k12.or.us