

# MIZIWEGIN

Waatebagaa-gizis 2025



welcome to our

## CCS NEWSLETTER

### ♦ MIZIWEGIN SPOTLIGHT



Boozhoo aaniin/hello

I am Gwen Williams, owner of Milestone Daycare. I graduated from Bemidji, MN in 2004 and have two daughters. I attended the Northwest Technical College for my CNA and later my AAS in Early Childhood Development and worked 5 years as a para educator for CLB Middle School.

Outside of school and being a mother, I enjoy fishing, camping, traveling, hunting, cooking, baking, crafts of all sorts, painting and Holidays with family. My family and I are close and still plan time together including movies, trips, dinners to say the least even though we are all busy with our lives. My long-term significant other is a welder, whom I moved in with 16 years ago here to Cass Lake, MN. My oldest is a licensed chef and currently a baker in Walker, MN. My youngest is still in school and is pre-learning in becoming a licensed piercer.

With starting Milestone Daycare, it has been a journey. With support and help from family, friends and the community. Our main goal with the daycare is to provide support for families in the community. All while in a family setting where my children, spouse, mother and nieces and nephew are a part of with help of developing positive social emotional skills and becoming used to a school schedule in helping with transition.

Miigwech and we are thankful to be here.



### ↓ IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:

Program services, Trainings, Helpful tips, staff directory, and Job opportunities





## DEVELOP TRAININGS

Pyramid Model: Family Partnerships  
Supervising for Safety for FCC  
Active Supervision: Minnesota's Diverse Communities  
SUID/AHT

Bemidji	10/2/25	6:30-8:30pm	2hrs	\$10
Bemidji	10/18/25	9am-3:30	6hrs	Free
Bemidji	10/29/25	6:30-8:30	2hrs	\$10
Bemidji	11/17/25	6:30-8:30	2hrs	Free

## REGISTER ONLINE

### Preventing illness as kids start the new school year.

It is that time of year again when we are getting our kids ready for school. Most child illnesses are caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi that are transmitted from one person to another. Droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person goes through the air and lands on a surface like a desk. Germs are easily spread when someone touches the object that has been contaminated with germs and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth.

Whether your kids are attending kindergarten this year or they are off to college, there are some little, but important things that you can do to help prevent them from getting ill, spreading germs or other harmful bacteria.

- Keep Vaccinations Up-to-Date

Make sure your children are up-to-date on their vaccinations and health physicals.

- Practice good hand hygiene

- Washing your using soap and warm water for 20 seconds

- Wash your hands after using the bathroom, blowing your nose, handling trash, touching animals, and prior to touching food will help eliminate germs.

- Use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol when soap & water are unavailable

- Getting enough sleep – Lack of sleep can weaken the immune system

- These are the general guidelines for sleep according to Mayo Clinic;

- 0-12 months ----- 12 to 16 hours per 24 hours, including naps

- Age 1 to 2 ----- 11 to 14 hours per 24 hours, including naps

- Age 3 to 5 ----- 10 to 13 hours per 24 hours, including naps

- Age 6 to 12 ----- 9 to 12 hours per 24 hours

- Age 13 to 18 ----- 8 to 10 hours per 24 hours

- Adults 18+ -----7 or more hours per night

- Stay home if sick

- Don't send your child to school if they are not feeling well or have symptoms such as;

- Fever above 100.4

- Diarrhea

- Vomiting

- Unexplained Skin Rashes

- Open sores with weeping fluid



On average, young children under age 6 get 6-8 colds per year, this is because their immune systems are still developing and they are more susceptible to viral infections. As children get older, their immune systems become stronger and they tend to get fewer colds. By the time they are teenagers, most adolescents get only 2 to 4 colds per year.

## LICENSING, COMPLIANCE, & GRANTS COORDINATOR

Are you thinking about becoming a child care provider? There are 3 to choose from

- a. Licensed child care center,
- b. Family child care,
- c. Legal non licensed.

When applying through us, we offer start up grants, health & safety items, and other great grant opportunities so you feel supported. If that is something you are interested in reach out to Rebecca "Becca" Tibbetts  
Rebecca.Tibbetts@llojibwe.net  
(218)335-8338



## Tonya's Tips

### Routines Are Great For Children

Fall is almost here! A new school year brings big changes for children and their families. Our kids are heading off into many different directions and one of the best thing's parents can do is to build a routine. Routines help kids with structure and predictability which are both good for healthy development. Here are few tips to help your family create a good routine in your busy lives.

- Create a family calendar that includes all activities.
- Plan enough time in the schedule for healthy meals, teeth brushing, and a good night's sleep.
- Talk with your kids about that day's schedule- even if they don't remember everything, it's a good habit to get into for when they get older

Happy Fall!

## EARLY LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP

Leech Lake can serve Leech Lake affiliated children throughout the entire state of Minnesota and can serve all children with in our service area.

- Your child must be between the ages of 0-5 and not kindergarten eligible.
- Eligibility is based on income, or if you are receiving any public assistance like Snap, Headstart, MFIP, CCAP, ETC
- Online applications are available at: [Earlylearningscholarshipshub.mn.gov](http://Earlylearningscholarshipshub.mn.gov)

### For more information contact:

Tonya Morris, Early Learning Scholarship Area Administrator  
[Tonya.Morris@llojibwe.net](mailto:Tonya.Morris@llojibwe.net)  
218-335-8249



## LEECH LAKE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Does your family need assistance helping pay for childcare? Our Leech Lake Subsidy Program is taking applications for families with children who meet our eligibility requirements. Our eligibility requirements are:

- Your family must live on the Leech Lake Reservation or within 10 miles of the boundaries
- Have a child age 0-12 years old
- Be employed or attending job training
- Meet income eligibility based on your household size
- Yourself or child must be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe

If you have any questions or are interested in an application please reach out to me.

Rosella Headbird (218)335-4431 or [Rosella.Headbird@llojibwe.net](mailto:Rosella.Headbird@llojibwe.net)

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE MAAJIIGIN CENTER MANAGER

### Reminders for all parents:

Maajiigin drop off hours are 7:45a.m. through 9:00a.m. Per the Maajiigin Family Handbook:

### Late Arrival Policy:

- Arrivals after breakfast disrupt the center routines and create stressful situations for the children and teachers. Please plan to routinely drop-off your child by 9 AM for breakfast.
- Exceptions may be made to accommodate appointments or doctor's visits. Program staff must be notified in advance and a doctor's note must accompany a child arriving late to the program.

Maajiigin pick up hours are no later than 4:45p.m.

### Late Pick-up Policy:

- Our programming hours are from 7:45-4:45 pm. Staff are unable to provide child care beyond this time. In order to respect our program staff's obligations, children must be picked-up no later than 4:45 pm closing time. Parent/Guardians must make prior arrangements if they're unable to make it by that time.

As an outdoor based center your child will be spending at least three hours outdoors if weather and air quality permits. Please ensure they are dressed for the days weather and have an extra set of clothes as they will get dirty and possibly wet. Beginning September 2nd our children will be transitioning to a new classroom set up for their age group and specific developmental and learning needs. New parents and returning parents please be mindful of our drop off and pick off times. If your child will not be here for a scheduled school day please text your child's classroom phone listed below.

### Classrooms:

Zaagikii – It buds Classroom cell phone: 218-508-3560

The fabulous four are all new to Maajiigin. They are getting in sync with routines and schedules.

Nitaawigin – It grows Classroom cell phone: 218-508-3830

This classroom is up and running at capacity. We look forward to helping our mobile infants reach new milestones.

Minogin – It grows well Classroom cell phone: 218-508-3296

This classroom has one new student and hopes to gain one more soon. They are happy to be back and eager to learn and grow together.

Zaagibagaa – It sprouts Classroom cell phone: 218-508-3312

The Tod Squad aged out and began their new journey at Headstart. We have four new kids and hope to enroll three more soon.

### Upcoming days of no school:

No school Sep 6th, and 19th, Oct 3rd 6th, 13th and 17th, Nov 7th 11th, and 21st, and 29th. These days fall on a first and third Friday or a Holiday.

### Parent Engagement:

Parent engagement activities will be posted for each classroom. Parents are always welcome to join their child for Monday Morning Drum, and mealtimes.

Feel free to check out our garden beds outside the classrooms door, we have tomatoes, peppers, watermelon, carrots and mint for you to pick and take home.

Your child's enrichment activities include culture and Ojibwemowin daily:

Smudging and tobacco offering every Monday. Smudging is also available in the classrooms throughout the week.

Aaniin ezhi-ayaan? – How are you?

Niminwendam waabaminaan – I am happy to see you

Gi giizhishig ina – Did you pee?

Gidipaabaawe na? – Are you wet?

Bannik Gidaanziyaan gibiizikoonin – I am putting a new diaper on you.



Sarah Jones  
(218)-335-8286  
Sarah.Jones@llojibwe.net





## THE CHEF'S CORNER

### Wild Rice Porridge

- 1 ½ cups uncooked wild rice
- 3 cups of water
- ¼ teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 cup milk or heavy cream
- ¼ cup pure maple syrup

#### Toppings:

- Fresh strawberries, blueberries, raspberries (optional)
- Whipping cream or heavy cream (optional)

#### Directions:

1. Rinse rice, drain, repeat
2. In a medium saucepan bring 3 cups of water to a boil, add salt to water. Slowly add wild rice. Return to boil; reduce heat, simmer cover for 40-45 minutes or until most of the water is absorbed, grains have burst and rice is tender. Drain if necessary. Set aside.
3. Stir in wild rice, milk, maple syrup., bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 3 minutes or until mixture thickens,

*"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."*

– Virginia Woolf



*"My favorite exercise is a cross between a lunge and a crunch... I call it lunch."*



### Julia's Beefy Macaroni

- 1 lb ground beef
- ½ cup diced onion
- 1 (8oz) can tomato sauce
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 2 cups beef broth
- 4 oz (1 cup) dry whole wheat macaroni pasta
- Salt (optional)

#### Directions:

1. In a large skillet, cook ground beef and onions over medium-high heat for 5-10 minutes.
2. Once fully cooked, add the tomato sauce, Worcestershire sauce, beef broth, and macaroni pasta. Season with a pinch of salt to taste. Mix ingredients then bring to a boil.
3. Cover skillet and lower heat to a simmer. Cook for 20 minutes or until macaroni is tender. add more broth or water if needed.

## Front Desk with Shar



Sharlene Roy  
Administrative Assistant  
(218)335-4568

Boozhoo! As we welcome the magnificent month of Waatebagaa-giizis (Leaves Turning Moon), September, we extend our warmest wishes to all students for a truly exceptional and safe school year. This time of year, has always been a particularly inspiring season, characterized by crisp, cool evenings and waking each day with the vibrant changing of colors each morning that uplifts the spirit

I am thrilled to see the children adapting wonderfully to the Child Care Center routing. It's always so enjoyable to get acquainted with the new families and their children.

I would like to share some Ojibwemowin words and phrases for you to share with your children and families at home, inspiring them to embrace the beauty of our language.

Giminochige – You do good things

Onizhishin – That's nice

Niinitam \_ My turn

Giinitam \_ Your turn

Gego \_ Don't

Wewiib – Hurry

Bekaa \_ Wait

Gigizhewaadiz – You are kind

Gizhawenimin – I love you! (My favorite word)

## MAAJIIGIN NEW STAFF:

### GEKINWAA'AMAAGED: ASHKII JACKSON

Hello! My name is Ashkii. I like to play video games and watch horror movies. Fun fact about me is that I love solving puzzles and riddles,

### GEKINWAA'AMAAGED: THEREASA JOURDAIN



Boozhoo! My name is Theresa and I am a lifelong resident of the Leech Lake reservation. I was born in Canada many many moons ago. I have four children and nine grandchildren. I previously worked for the Cedar lakes Hotel front desk but I felt I needed a change, and I'm glad I was hired to help with our little ones. I love laughing with them it does a spirit good, aye?! Miigwech for trusting me with all my new little friends

### GEKINWAA'AMAAGED: DACIA STAPLES



Boozhoo, Dibiko Gii ZheGook indizhinikaaz, Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag nindoonjibaa. Bemidjigamaag indaa.

Hello, my name is Dacia Staples (Night star women), I am from Leech Lake, but I live in Bemidji. I am the new teacher for the Zagaakii classroom, I am excited to get to learn and grow with your children. Little about me, I have four children; Johnathan Jr (6), Jayvion (3), Jerome (1) and Memengwaa (1). I grew up in Bemidji then moved and switched school to Cass Lake in 10th grade and graduated in 2018. I love to be outside and adventuring with my kids, we spend most of our free time traveling or relaxing together. I love to cook and bake. I am going to school for early childhood development.

### CCS PROGRAM MANAGER: PATTI TURNEY

Aaniin, my name is Patti Turney and I am the newly hired Child Care Services Program Manager, I have worked in Early Childhood for a total of 34 years in many different capacities. Mostly with the Leech Lake Early Childhood Program. I was also a previous MNTRECC Program Manager, which provided resources for all of the tribal child care programs throughout the state of MN. This position is right up my alley. It is a busy position with a lot of moving parts, but I am really enjoying the work.

A little bit about my family; I am married to Lee Turney and together we have a blended family, I have 4 biological children and have been blessed with 6 bonus children. All of our children are grown adults and many have children of their own. Together we have 21 grandchildren and one more on the way.

I really don't have many hobbies, I like to clean, not sure if that's a hobby, maybe just a little OCD I like to play Bingo when I can find it, and of course playing the slots. My favorite TV shows are Survivor and Big Brother. Of course, any time I can spend time with our grandchildren is the highlight of my day.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Training & Culture Coordinator 25-137
- CCDF Grant & Budget Coordinator 25-138
- School age center team leader 25-136
- School age center manager/lead 25-135
- Family Engagement & Enrolment Coordinator 25-171



We are looking for individuals that are dedicated to speaking and learning Ojibwe and providing opportunities for our children to learn in there natural environment.

For information visit the LLBO employment page or call the front desk 218-335-4568

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**Patti Turney**  
CCS program  
manger  
(218)335-8257

**Sharlene Roy**  
Administrative Assistant  
(218)335-4568

**Sarah Jones**  
Maajiigin Center  
Manager  
(218)335-3286

**Becca Tibbetts**  
Licensing, Compliance &  
Grants Coordinator  
(218)335-8338

**Rosella Headbird**  
Subsidy & Outreach  
Coordinator  
(218)335-4431

**Tonya Morris**  
Early Learning Scholarship  
Administrator  
(218)335-8249

**Naykota Jackson**  
Lead Cook  
(218)335-3597



### Contact/website

[www.llboearlychildhood.com](http://www.llboearlychildhood.com)  
Phone: (218)335-4568  
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### Mailing:

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### Physical

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