

MIZIWEGIN

Manidoo-giizisoons 2025



welcome to our

CCS NEWSLETTER

♦ MIZIWEGIN SPOTLIGHT



Amarin Chanthorn is the School Age Care Center Manager for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Child Care Services Program, a role in which he oversees programming that supports the academic, cultural, and emotional growth of tribal children and youth. With more than ten years of experience in education and training; and nearly two decades of dedicated service to the Leech Lake community, Amarin has become a trusted and steady presence across the reservation.

Born in Thailand, he spent his youth on the Leech Lake Reservation, Amarin's work is deeply rooted in a lifelong commitment to the well-being of Ojibwe children and the strength of Anishinaabe families. He believes that every child deserves a safe, nurturing space where they can learn, play, and grow while staying connected to their language, traditions, and community.

Amarin approaches his work with quiet determination, patience, and genuine care. Colleagues and families describe him as someone who listens deeply, solves problems thoughtfully, and always puts children first. He is excited to coordinate summer programming, welcoming community partners to share knowledge with the kids, or advocating for resources that benefit the community's youngest members, his focus remains on building a brighter future—one child and one family at a time. Outside of work, Amarin treasures time with his own family, fishing, picking mushrooms, playing with dog "George", and being outside whenever northern Minnesota allows. He is humbled by the trust the Leech Lake Band has placed in him and remains steadfast in his belief that strong, culturally grounded children are the heart of a strong nation.

↓ IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:

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



DEVELOP TRAININGS

Currently no develop trainings are posted. you can check the develop website for updates.

LL Early Childhood hosts mandatory trainings quarterly, flyers will be sent out to providers and posted onto the website and Facebook pages.

Baby proofing your home

What Is Baby Proofing?

- Baby proofing is creating a safe environment free of dangers and hazards, to allow children to play and roam safely no matter where they are. This includes childproofing anything baby could yank, grab, reach or swallow
- Babies are naturally curious and like to put everything into their mouths, tugging on items, pushing buttons and playing with various objects to figure out how they work. From baby's perspective, this is all developmentally appropriate, as they're simply trying to learn more about the world around them

General Areas

- Lock up firearms & put them in safety
- Cover all electrical outlets with outlet covers
- Remove blinds with looped cords
- Place baby gates at the top and bottom of stairs
- Install safety locks on the doors & windows leading out of the house
- Install smoke detectors carbon monoxide detectors on every floor

The Kitchen

- Place lockable covers on garbage can
- Install stove knob covers
- Keep knives, dishes, & glasses out of reach
- Unplug small appliances when not in use
- Cook on back burners
- Remove tablecloths

The Living Room

- Anchor TV to wall and hide electrical cords
- Cover all sharp furniture edges and corners with safety covers
- Move tall, wobbly lamps behind furniture
- Install fireplace screens around hearths
- Install carbon monoxide and smoke detectors on every floor

The Nursery / Bedrooms

- Secure dressers and bookshelves on the wall
- Move crib away from other furniture
- Remove soft bedding & toys from crib
- Lower the crib mattress

The Bathroom / Laundry Room

- Place medications, detergent, bleach and other laundry essentials in a locked cupboard
- Install safety lock on toilet seat
- Place soft covers on bathtub spout and knobs
- Unplug and store hot items like hair dryers

LICENSING, COMPLIANCE, & GRANTS COORDINATOR

Are you thinking about becoming a child care provider?

- Licensed child care center,
- Family child care,
- 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



ANYTHING THAT FITS THROUGH A TOILET PAPER TUBE IS A CHOKING HAZARD

Tonya's Tips

Aaniin! I've recently taken on a new position here at Miziwegin. I am now the Family Engagement & Enrollment Coordinator for our infant and toddler child care center (Maajiigin) along with our new school age child care center (SACC). We are accepting applications for children ages 5-12 years old and children under 3 years old. Please reach out if you are looking for child care in Cass Lake.



Tonya Morris, Family Engagement & Enrollment Coordinator
Tonya.Morris@llojibwe.net
218-335-8249



EARLY LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP

Leech Lake can serve Leech Lake affiliated children throughout the entire state of Minnesota and can serve all children within 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

For more information contact:

Destiny Jourdain
Destiny.jourdain@llojibwe.net
218-335-4430

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



FROM THE DESK OF THE MAAJIGIN CENTER MANAGER

Reminders for all parents: Families should keep children at home if they are sick enough that they are unable to participate in regular activities and/or if they might be contagious. If a child becomes sick with a communicable disease the parent/legal guardian must notify the program within 24 hours to allow the staff to notify the families at the program.

Classrooms:

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

The youngest infants are becoming more mobile by the day. One has begun to take his first steps.

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

All the older infants but one is walking really well. They are getting to and from the gym and out doors much faster. One of their classmates is transitioning to Zaagibagaa so soon they will have room for more student.

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

The newest members the Tod Squad are doing well and hope to have new classmates soon. A student from Nitaawigin is in the process of transitioning to the room. We hope to add three more students to this room soon.

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

This oldest students in the building are working on their social emotional skills. They are masters of using the bug rope when transitioning and moving about the hallways. We hope to add two more students to this room soon.

Upcoming days of no school:

No school, Dec 19th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st, Jan 1st, and the first and third Friday.

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.

Winter Wonderland FFN event will take place on December 11th, from 3:30pm until 5:30pm.

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

All teachers are working hard at speaking in Ojibwemowin to your child and other staff every day. We know that babies learn by watching us.

Zoogipaan – It is snowing

Biinichige – Clean up

Bimose – Walk

Aaniin ezhiyaayan? – How are you



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

SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE CENTER

The Center can accommodate up to 45 children specifically within the ages between 5 - 12 years old. The facility includes three classrooms, commercial kitchen, administrative workspaces, and a full-size gymnasium. The Center is directly connected to the Dream Catcher Park as well as its own contained play area for outdoor activities. The Center is staffed with local teachers, youth assistants, and summer interns from local schools and communities. Programing will incorporate local existing youth programs, organizations, clubs, and individuals to provide a holistic-community approach to care and education. The Center is an extension of the Child Care Services Program and under the oversight of LLBO's Education Division: Early Childhood Development Department.



What Your Child Can Expect

- Anishinaabe language and culture integration in all areas of learning
- STEAM learning
- Creative activities through painting, crafting, and building concepts
- Physical activities with indoor and outdoor games and learning
- Teambuilding and social interaction
- Homework assistance from teachers and youth assistants
- Healthy tasty snacks [after-care, school releases, summer] and meals [school releases, summer]
- Field Trips and nature activities [summer]

**Updates on the
llboearlychildhood.com
or Miziwegin Facebook
page**

What You Can Expect

- Year-round program includes after-school, school-release days, summer, and seasonal breaks
- Convenience collaboration with local schools and organizations for drop offs during school year
- Culturally based curriculum
- Health and safe environment with locked entries, emergency lockdown ready, and other safety features
- Build partnership with local programs and practitioners including LLBO Youth Program, B&G Club of Leech Lake, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig Schools, Cass Lake-Bena Schools, area clubs, and educational role-models.
- Local teachers and mentors - the center employs teachers, mentors, and interns from the local community and schools. Your child will grow and learn with those who they'll see and are familiar to in the community.

MEET THE STAFF

SACC Team Lead: Jenni Wind
SACC:Team Lead Arionna Lussier

The school age center is currently looking for youth assistants to fill positions. High school students watch out for summer internship opportunities.



Amarin Chanthorn,
School Age Center Manager
and Team Lead
Amarin.Chanthorn@llojibwe.net



MAAJIIGIN NEW STAFF:

CULTURE & TRAINING COORDINATOR: SHERRI SEELYE

Aaniin. Miigwan indigo, Sherri nindizhinikaaz. Makwa nindoodem, Gaa-zagaskwaaajiimekaag nindoonjii.

Aaniin, my name is Sherri Seelye. I am from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and reside on the Leech Lake Reservation. I am a mother of two children, Sage and Shadow, both 10 years old and keep me on my toes every day. I am currently in the process of starting school again to obtain my degree, I enjoy being active in our community, being part of the Cass Lake community committees, watching and helping with my kids sports and traveling with my family. I have lived on the reservation for the past 11 years and have worked with the Leech Lake Early Childhood program for many years before becoming an educator with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe SNAP-Ed program, where I worked for 8 years.

I am excited to begin this new journey as the Culture and Training Coordinator. Being able to support and strengthen our Ojibwemowin and culture within the Maajiigin center is one of my goals. I am committed to learning the Ojibwe language myself and helping to share it not only with the Maajiigin staff, but also with the children and families we help. Miigwech.

EARLY LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP AREA ADMINISTRATOR: DESTINY JOURDAIN



Boozhoo! My name is Destiny Jourdain and I am the new Early Learning Scholarship Administrator (ELSA) here at the Maajiigin Child Care Center. Before taking on this new position, I was a Teacher/FSA. I have been working with children and families for the last 6 years.

I am from Red Lake, MN but have been living in Cass Lake, MN since 2019. I have three children of my own with my significant other. Michael (7), Malia (4), and Mavyn (2). As a family we love to be outside, explore new places, and have movie nights together.

I am so excited for this new journey as the new ELSA and cannot wait to continue working and supporting our families.

SENIOR MAINTENANCE SAFETY TECHNICIAN: ETHAN BROWN

Ethan just started as the Senior maintenance safety technician here at miziwegin. He will spend most of his time at the new school age building.

GEKINWAA'AMAAGED: LIDEAH ISHAM

Lideah is the new teacher in the nitawigin room.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- School age youth assistant 25-183
- Gekinwaa'amaaged 25-182



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
Manager
(218)335-8257

Sharlene Roy
Administrative Assistant
(218)335-4568

Sarah Jones
Maajiigin Center
Manager
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Becca Tibbetts
Licensing, Compliance &
Grants Coordinator
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Sherri Seelye
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