



## Hand in Hand Program Fact Sheet

### Background Information

For over 20 years the Edina Family Center (ECFE) and the Edina Early Childhood Special Education Program (ECSE) have combined efforts to offer preschool classes called Hand-in-Hand. This partnership has been important to parents and children in both programs. We are delighted to offer the program again for the 2011-2012 school year. The two sections offered are: 1) a three-day-per-week AM 4s and 5s class (T, W, Th); and 2) a two-day-per-week AM 3 year old class (T, Th).

### The following are some important facts about the program:

1. The Hand-in-Hand program provides a learning environment for children with special needs and children who are typically developing.
2. The two programs combine staff and curriculum planning to make this a wonderful learning experience for children. Classes are team-taught by a licensed ECFE teacher, a licensed ECSE teacher and a special education paraprofessional. The program is housed in ECSE classroom space and uses the playground and the gym.
3. Each class has a maximum of 10 children from the Family Center (ECFE) and 8 children from ECSE.
4. Sometimes specialists such as speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists come into the classroom to work with individual children with special needs.
5. Children in ECSE attend one or two additional days of the week in a small group session.
6. The Hand in Hand calendar will follow the Edina Public School District schedule. All classes will start September 8, 2011 and end June 7, 2012. The Edina Family Center Classes and Child Care will end May 21 and their first session of Book Buddies will begin before the end of Hand in Hand Classes.
7. Specific information about individual children is confidential.
8. Parents who enroll through the Family Center pay tuition for Hand-in-Hand as with other ECFE classes. Children in Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) demonstrate special education needs and receive the service through the Edina Public Schools. Students in Hand-in-Hand receiving special education services qualify for transportation.