

Parents as Teachers

Reflections from the Coordinator

We are so excited to be back from Summer Break and reconnecting with each of you or welcoming you for the first time into our program. We have so many great things planned for this year, and we hope you will take part in as much as possible.

One of those opportunities will be on the evening of September 23rd. Last spring we surveyed parents on what topics they would like more information about, and the clear winner was “Strategies for Understanding and Managing Challenging Behaviors”. The district also surveyed parents of K-12 children and the topics they were most interested in were Anxiety, Behavior Management, Resiliency, Problem Solving, Healthy Relationship Skills and Screen/technology use. You can see the correlation. Birth to five is a key window for building the brain and how we respond to our child’s behaviors in these critical years will have a strong impact on their social and emotional development the rest of their life. Research shows that strong social emotional skills are one of the key indicators in our child’s future success in all areas including work, relationships, and their mental health. On the evening of September 23rd, we will be bringing in a national Conscious Discipline speaker to lay the foundation for a yearlong commitment to bringing you the information and practical tools you need through your monthly home visits to support your child as they build these important skills. Please mark your calendar now and make plans to join us for this important kickoff event. We will be sharing more details in the month to come. The event will be free and open to all families enrolled in BV PAT.

Your parent educators are excited to see you and are working hard to get your home visits confirmed for this month as well as having you complete your child’s annual developmental screenings. When you receive an email from them, please reply as quickly as possible as it helps them get everyone scheduled and prepare for each visit. As always, it is important that you treat your scheduled monthly home visit as you would a doctor’s appointment and only cancel if necessary. Each parent educator works part time and has around 30 families on their caseload, rescheduling is difficult and often requires them to work during periods they were not scheduled to work. We know life with young children is unpredictable and things happen, so we appreciate the effort you make to keep your appointments.

Make sure to read through the newsletter to find out more about our playgroups starting back up and our first large group event Outdoor Explore on September 7th.

Michelle Kelly
Program Coordinator
BV PAT



Calendar

Outdoor Explore
Saturday, Sept. 7th
9:30-11am Drop in
Event

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AUGUST PLAYGROUPS

BV PAT is excited to welcome families back to our playroom. In-person playgroups offer many benefits including connecting with other families, new activities for children to explore and children learning to interact with each other.

In order to help facilitate connections between children and families, we run playgroups in 2-4 week sessions. Starting in August, families have the opportunity to sign up for a group that will meet weekly at the same time for 2 weeks. You can choose to sign up for a group with children that are similar age to your child (Baby Play, 1-Year-Olds or 2-Year-Olds) or you can choose our multiage group (birth to 36 months) if you have more than one child or would like your child to be around children of all ages.

AUGUST PLAYGROUP SIGN UP WILL BE EMAILED ON AUGUST 6TH

- Each group will be limited to 10-18 children.
- Only one adult per child may attend. A nanny or grandparent is welcome to bring child in place of parent if necessary.
- No siblings are allowed in the Baby Play, 1-Year-Old or 2-Year-Old playgroups. Siblings under 36 months of age are allowed to attend the multiage playgroups, evening and Saturday playgroups. Non-walking/crawling babies are an exception.
- All adults must show a valid state issued photo ID or passport to enter any BV building. Please plan to bring ID with you every time you come to playgroup or you will not be allowed to attend.
- Strollers and car seats are not allowed in the playroom, please plan to wear or carry your baby while in the playroom when not on the floor playing.
- If a session is full please add your name to the waiting list. Waiting list families will receive priority registration for the next month.
- If you miss two sessions in a row, your spot will be given to the next family on the waiting list.
- Please stay home if you or your child is ill.

August Playgroups

Baby Play for non-walkers (4-12 months)– Thursdays: 12:15-1pm on 8/22 & 8/29

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Wednesdays: 10:15-11am on 8/21 & 8/28

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Thursdays: 9:15-10am on 8/22 & 8/29

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Tuesdays: 10:15-11am on 8/20 & 8/27

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Wednesdays: 9:15-10am on 8/21 & 8/28

Playgroup for birth to 3-Year-Olds (0 to 36 months) - Thursdays: 10:15-11am on 8/22 & 8/29

Saturday Playgroup 8/24 9:15-10am

Outdoor Explore

Join us Saturday, September 7th, to explore the outdoor space at Hilltop Learning Center (7700 W 143rd St). The play area will be open from 9:30-11am. We are planning additional activities that include tricycles, “car” washing, painting with water and blowing bubbles. These activities are most suitable for children that are 12 months or older. It will be a morning of family fun, a chance to meet other families and give your children an opportunity to run, jump, climb, balance, swing, slide and crawl by exploring the fabulous playgrounds at HLC. Please bring water for your family, however, no food will be allowed on the playgrounds. Please keep personal items in your car. This is a drop in event so no registration is required. Just come and have some outdoor fun! We will also be collecting items for SafeHome...please see the flyer on the next page of this newsletter for items needed.



It's a perfect time to join the Blue Valley Early Childhood PTA! Why join? The PTA offers members-only events like playgroups, story times, outings in the community and much more. The PTA also supports the Parents as Teachers program through stocking their break room, providing treats for meetings, or funding supplies or enrichment items. We make sure the amazing PAT Educators know how much they are appreciated! Members dues are \$30 per year. Click on the following link to sign up: www.bvecpta.com/sign-up.html

YEARLY DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS (ASQ'S)

If you have not had a chance to complete your child's Developmental Screenings for the year please click on the following link to begin:

<https://www.asqonline.com/family/341036>

Once you get to that website select "I am completing both the ASQSE2 and ASQ-3 questionnaires" to begin. Thank you!



Blue Valley's Outdoor Explore
with
Safehome

WELCOME BASKET DRIVE

- Towels/Hand Towels/Wash Cloths
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Lotion
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Razor
- Hair Brush/Comb
- Handsoap
- Journal
- Large Laundry Basket



***All items need to be full size and in new/unused condition. Our welcome baskets are provided to new residents when they arrive in our shelter.**

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Through local funding provided by the Kansas Children's Cabinet, all families in Blue Valley are now eligible to participate in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The program is free and will send your child a new book each month. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age 5, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and the Republic of Ireland. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started her Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her own home county. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 2 million free books each month to children around the world.

Follow steps to register your child by clicking on this link:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/KSKCCJOHNSONCO/?chkAvalAddressData=eyJyYWxsYmFjayI6dHJ1ZSswiYWWRkcmVzcyI6eyJjb3VudHJ5IjojVVMiLCJ6aXAiOiI2NjIyMyIsInN0YXRRIjojS1MiLCJjaXR5IjojT3ZlcmxhbmQUGFyayIsImNvdW50eSI6IkpvaG5zb24iLCJzdHJlZXQiOiIifX0%3D>

