

Parents as Teachers

Reflections from the Coordinator...

Welcome to the 2025-26 program year! We are so excited to be back from summer break and are ready to hear about all your summer adventures. Parent Educators are just getting back into the office and sending out their welcome back emails. Part of their email to you includes [a link for you to complete the annual screenings for each of your enrolled children.](#)

These are an important tool for helping them plan your first visit of the year and to individualize it for your child's developmental level. It is also a requirement from our National Center for us to retain our funding and affiliate status. This is because research shows that when parents understand their children's developmental milestones and how to create environments that promote them, children's outcomes improve. Thank you for completing this promptly to help ensure a smooth start to the year.

Our theme this year is **PLAY!** Research is clear that play is the work of early childhood. Children need unstructured, unrushed time to explore, tinker and learn.

“Play is fundamentally important for 21st Century skills, such as problem solving, collaboration, and creativity.”

~The American Academy of Pediatrics

We look forward to providing opportunities to **PLAY** at home visits and at our many playgroups and larger Group Connections. Make sure to check out the newsletter for information about all the upcoming fun and make plans to join us!

Lastly, we have immediate openings for families to join our program. Please share your PAT experience with friends, neighbors, coworkers and families of children 0-3 who reside in Blue Valley and encourage them to enroll today!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Michelle Kelly

Program Coordinator
mkelly@bluevalleyk12.org

Calendar

Outdoor Explore
Saturday, Sept. 6th
9:30-11am Drop in
Event

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Teachers

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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 1's and 2's 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 5TH

- 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 1's and 2's 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) - Tuesdays: 9:15-10am on 8/19 & 8/26

Baby Play for non-walkers (4-12 months) - Thursdays: 12:15-1pm on 8/21 & 8/28

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Wednesdays: 10:15-11am on 8/20 & 8/27

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Thursdays: 9:15-10am on 8/21 & 8/28

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Tuesdays: 10:15-11am on 8/19 & 8/26

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Wednesdays: 9:15-10am on 8/20 & 8/27

Playgroup for 1's and 2's (0 to 36 months) - Thursdays: 10:15-11am on 8/21 & 8/28

Saturday Playgroup 8/23 9:15-10am

Outdoor Explore

Join us Saturday, September 6th, 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!



Participants Needed for Focus Group

We are looking for parents that participate in Parents as Teachers to take part in a focus group. The purpose of the study is to get feedback on a tool that can help educators identify and address social needs of parents. We would like to get your feedback on the screening tool as well as the screening and referral process.

Participants will receive \$50 for time and effort

If you'd like to learn more

Please contact Sarah Farabi by email or phone:

- ssfarabi@wustl.edu
- 314-556-4574

Or **Scan the QR code** below to provide your email or phone number for our study team to follow up with you!



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=eyJjYWxsYmFjayI6dHJ1ZSwiYWwRkcmVzcyI6eyJjb3VudHJ5IjoIiVVMiLmJ6aXAiOiI2NjIyMyIsInN0YXRRIjoIiS1MiLCJjaXR5IjoIiT3ZlcmxhbmQgUGFyayIsImNvdW50eSI6IkpvaG5zb24iLCJzdHJlZXQiOiIifX0%3D>

