



CALENDAR

Inspired Play Café Playgroup

August 10th

8:30-10:30am

Registration required

PTA PLAYGROUP

August 11th

9:15-10am

Registration required

Outdoor Explore

September 10th

9:30-11am

Drop in event

No registration required

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Parents as Teachers

AUGUST 2022

Welcome Back!!

We are so excited to resume home visits and playgroups this month and to hear all about your summer adventures, even if they were just in your own backyard! Our staff spent the summer with their families and taking time to rejuvenate and rest and hope you have had some time to do the same.

As I look forward to a new program year, I want to focus on **JOY!** These past few years have wreaked havoc on our world, our routines, and our collective mental health. As I looked back over my August email last year, I was hoping to be getting back to normal...I think we are all giving up on that plan. Through the unpredictability of these crazy years, I have been learning a lot about what a control freak I was in certain areas of my life. I am learning to understand what things in life I do have control over (mostly just myself and my responses to life) and what things I do not have control over (other people, including my children-hard I know!). As I learn to put more of my focus and energy on what I can control and not trying to control things that I can't, I have found that it lessens my expectations on others and lightens my own mind and heart and I am better able to find **JOY!** I want to share a quote that can be applied to how we interact with our spouse, children, coworkers, and neighbors.

"Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and freedom." `Viktor Frankl

Below are two new favorite follows on Instagram that align with what I am learning and spark **JOY** for me. Feel free to check them out and discuss topics with your educator. If you have a social media account or podcast you love, share it with us!

Suggested on Instagram:

For Parenting: www.caleykukla.com/instagram

www.instagram.com/tinapaynebryson

For Self: www.instagram.com/drjulie/

A few reminders as we kick off home visits this month, please treat these appointments as you would a doctor's appointment and only cancel for an emergency. Parent educators work parttime and juggle 30 families' different schedules, so rescheduling can cause stress. To help with not having to reschedule, should your family become ill, we are able to offer a visit virtually that month. To get the most out of your visit, please help eliminate distractions by turning off the television, putting cellphones on mute and putting pets in another room or kennel during the visit.

It brings us **JOY** to reconnect with you this month! Can't wait to see you soon!

Michelle Kelly

Program Coordinator

Blue Valley Parents as Teachers



Weekly Playgroups

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

In order to help facilitate connections between children and families, we run playgroups in 3-4 week sessions. Starting in September, families have the opportunity to sign up for a group that will meet weekly at the same time for four weeks. You can choose to sign up for a group with children that are a similar age to your child, (baby play, 1-year old or 2-year-old groups) or, you can choose to opt for our multiage group if you have more than one child or would like your child to be around children of all ages. We will continue to offer one Saturday and one evening playgroup a month for dual working families who cannot attend during the week.

September playgroup signups will be emailed out on August 15th.

To Kick things off, we will start with a sneak-a-peek week the week of Aug 29th. These are one-time groups to come in and check out the playroom and see what the playgroup is all about. Each family can sign up for one playgroup during the Sneak-a-peek week. Sign up for sneak-a-peek [HERE](#)

- Each group will be limited to 12-18 children depending on group
- Only one adult may attend per child. A nanny or grandparent is welcome to bring child in place of parent if necessary.
- No siblings are allowed in the baby play, one year old or two-year-old playgroups. Siblings may attend multiage playgroups, evening or Saturday groups. Please indicate name and age of sibling attending at time of enrollment. (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 to each playgroup session or you will not be able 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 you miss two sessions in a row, your spot will be given to the next family on the waiting list.
- Please stay home if your family has been exposed to COVID within past 10 days or if someone in your home is experiencing any symptoms of illness.

We are so excited to welcome you back and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

September Playgroup Dates and Times...

SIGN UP WILL BE EMAILED AUGUST 15TH

Baby Play-for non-walkers (4 week session)-Registration required

Tuesdays 12:15-1pm: 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (4 week session)-Registration required

Wednesdays 10:15-11am: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28

Thursdays 9:15-10am: 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (4 week session)-Registration required

Tuesdays 10:15-11am: 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27

Wednesdays 9:15-10am: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28

Playgroup for Birth to 3 years old (4 week session)-Registration required

Thursdays 10:15-11am: 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29

Wednesday, Sept. 14th Evening Playgroup 6:00-6:45pm-Registration required

Saturday, Sept. 17th Playgroup 9:15-10:00am-Registration required

Outdoor Explore

Join us Saturday, September 10th, 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 and 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!

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.

Inspired Play Café Opportunity

Inspired Play Café will be hosting a BV PAT only discounted playgroup session for our program August 10th from 8:30-10:30am at their location on 119th St. BV PAT families will be offered the following discounts for that morning:

- \$10 per child, normally \$19 1st child in family and \$6 each additional sibling (must be per household only)
- \$5 off first month of a 1 month membership if purchased that day
- \$20 stored credit if you sign a 6 month membership the day of the event
- Punch cards available for purchase for guests who do not want a membership- this saves them \$20 (on a 1 child pass) and \$25 (on a 2 child pass)

INSPIRED play cafe LLC brings together an educational environment for the whole child and a cafe with nutritious food and beverage for the engaged community. You can find out more about their vision here: <https://www.inspiredplaycafe.com/>

Sign up for the August 10th playgroup here: [here](#)



OPEN-PLAY ENVIRONMENT
+ FULL SERVICE CAFE

- + full-service nutritious cafe open all-day
- + ways to play: daily passes, memberships, & punch cards
- + educational classes held weekly and monthly at no additional cost
- + extra adults (caregivers, grandparents, babysitters) are welcome at no additional ticketed price
- + private celebrations, event space rental, meeting space with catering menu available / open cafe option



POSITIVE + NUTRITIOUS + EDUCATIONAL

6527 W. 119th St.
Overland Park, KS 66209
913.416.5845

WWW.INSPIREDPLAYCAFE.COM

  @inspiredplaycafe
info@inspiredplaycafe.com

Join the BVEC PTA!

What exactly is the BVEC PTA (Blue Valley Early Childhood PTA)?

The BVEC PTA is composed of families in the Blue Valley school district with children under the age of 5. Most members are in the PAT Program or have children in the Blue Valley Early Childhood Program.

How do I become a member?

Visit our website using the QR code below to fill out the Membership Form. You may pay the \$25 annual dues via PayPal or by bringing a check or cash to Hilltop Learning Center.

What are member benefits?

Attend members-only events like Playgroups and Story Times as well as organized monthly outings to various locations around our community. These events are a great way to meet other families!

What else does the BVEC PTA do?

One of the most important things we do is support your Parent Educators! Whether it's stocking the Hilltop Breakrooms with snacks, providing treats for meetings, or funding supplies or enrichment items, we make sure the amazing PAT Educators know how much they are appreciated!

We also help plan and fund larger events such as Blockfest and Touch a Truck.

Do you have more questions?

Contact Kristen Hilgers, BVEC PTA President, bvearlychildhoodpta@gmail.com.

**Sign Up
Here**



Please join us for the first BVEC PTA Playgroup of the school year on **Thursday, August 11th from 9:15 - 10:00** [**Sign up for 8/11 Playgroup here.**](#)

Show your Parent Educators how much they are appreciated by helping us **Stock the Breakroom!** Items may be brought to the Hilltop Early Learning Center Office any time during regular business hours. Thank you!