



## CALENDAR

### Outdoor Explore

September 9th

9:30-11am

Drop in event

No registration required

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# Parents as Teachers

AUGUST 2023

We are so excited to be back from summer break and are feeling refreshed and excited to reconnect with families returning and meeting those who enrolled this summer. We have so many meaningful opportunities planned for this year and we look forward to sharing them with you and your family. Make sure to read the newsletter each month so you don't miss out on the fun!

As parent educators we know that the heart of your home and the key to your child's healthy development is your child's relationship with you. "The single most important factor in promoting positive psychosocial, emotional, and behavioral well-being in children is having safe, stable, and nurturing relationships with their mother, father, or other primary caregivers," according to The National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's *Vibrant and Healthy Kids: Aligning Science, Practice and Policy to Advance Health Equity*.

Parenting young children has always come with challenges, but the world has thrown a lot at us the past several years and many feel that they are hanging on by a thread. All parents want the most for their children but showing up day after day and moment by moment with energy and patience can feel overwhelming. This year, we will be weaving tools throughout our group connections and home visits designed to help you take care of yourself and find joy and connection with your child. Our goal is keep it simple and doable without adding stress. We will give you ideas that can be woven into your daily routines like mealtimes, car rides and bath times. We also want to remind you that your parent educator can be a great person to share concerns or challenges with so they can help you brainstorm solutions or connect you with resources in our community. No one has it all together, not even the fancy social media influencers I promise!

We consider it an honor that you chose to participate in our program and allow us to be part of your parenting journey, thank you for welcoming us into your homes.

On that note, we also are excited to welcome you back into our home here at Hilltop. Our weekly playgroups will be starting back up at the end of the month. Make sure to read the details in this newsletter to mark the date to register. There is a quick video on our webpage that gives you a glimpse of what a morning at playgroup is like.

Parent educators are working hard to get everyone on their caseload contacted and scheduled, so if you have received a call, email, or text, please respond as quickly as possible so they can make the puzzle all fit. If you haven't already, please take some time this weekend to complete the screening link they sent as well so they can individualize your visit around your child's development.

We still have a few spots open as we start the year, so if you have friends, family members, neighbors or coworkers with children prenatal-3, we would really appreciate you sharing our program with them!

Feel free to reach out to me anytime at the contact below.

Warmly,

*Michelle Kelly*

Program Coordinator  
[mkelly@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:mkelly@bluevalleyk12.org)



## Weekly 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 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 three 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 22nd.

**To kick things off, we will start with Sneak-a-Peek playgroups the weeks of August 21st and August 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 weeks so we can serve as many families as possible. The Saturday Sneak-a-Peek is for dual working families that cannot attend during the week. Sign up for Sneak-a-Peek [HERE](#)**

- Each group will be limited to 10-18 children depending on the 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 you or your child is ill.

## September Playgroup Dates and Times...

### **SIGN UP WILL BE EMAILED AUGUST 22nd**

#### **Baby Play-for non-walkers (4 to 12 months)**

Tuesdays 12:15-1pm: 9/12, 9/19, 9/26

#### **Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months)**

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

Thursdays 9:15-10am: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21

#### **Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24 to 36 months)**

Tuesdays 10:15-11am: 9/12, 9/19, 9/26

Wednesdays 9:15-10am: 9/13, 9/20, 9/27

#### **Playgroup for Birth to 3-years-old (0 to 36 months)**

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

#### **Wednesday, Sept. 13th Evening Playgroup 6:00-6:45pm (0 to 36 months)**

#### **Saturday Playgroup 9:15-10:00am (0 to 36 months) - Date to be determined**

## Outdoor Explore

Join us Saturday, September 9th, 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.

## DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Though local funding provided by the Kansas Children' 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 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 home county. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 2 million free books each month to children around the world.

Follow the steps to register your child by following this link:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/KSKCCJOHNSONCO/?chkAvalAddressData=eyJjYWxsYmFjayl6dHJ1ZSwiYWVWRkcmVzcyI6eyJib3VudHJ5Ijo1VVMiLCJ6aXAiOiI2NjlyMSIsInNOYXRlljoiS1MiLCJjaXR5Ijo1T3ZlcmxhbmQgUGFyayIsImNvdW50eSI6IkpvaG5zb24iLCJzdHJlZXQiOiIifX0%3D>



# TIME TO JOIN THE BLUE VALLEY EARLY CHILHDOOD PTA!

Now's the time to become a member of the Blue Valley Early Childhood PTA!

Why become a member? The BVEC PTA supports and enhances the PAT program by:

Providing members with exclusive playgroups, storytimes, and outings

Organizing appreciation events for Parent Educators as our way to say "Thank you"

Helping with events like Blocks & Socks and Touch-a-Truck

For an annual fee of \$25 you can begin your membership by filling out the form at this link

<https://www.bvecpta.com/sign-up.html>.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

Megan Dumas

BVEC PTA President

[bvearlychildhoodpta@gmail.com](mailto:bvearlychildhoodpta@gmail.com) "

