

# Parents as Teachers

## Reflections from the Coordinator

Whew! What a winter it has been. I hope you have survived our arctic blasts and found some fun ways to burn off energy inside with your littles. We loved seeing so many of you at our Roll and Read event and were so grateful the weather cleared in time! We also want to say thank you for all the flexibility you demonstrated as we worked to move home visits online or rescheduling them. We know how valuable your time is and appreciate you working so hard to fit us in.

This past month your parent educator may have talked with you about setting aside “Just 10 Minutes” of undistracted time to play with your child and shared *29 Things* that you can do to promote positive outcomes for your kids. The next few months, we will be sharing more opportunities to put this into practice in your homes. The best part is the ten minutes can be part of normal routines you are already doing. Things like bathtime, mealtime, and diaper changes. All you do is add the 4 ingredients for building connection which are presence, playfulness, touch and eye contact. By being a little more intentional, we can take seemingly mundane parts of our day and transform them into times of connection with our children. Be watching for a new “Just 10 Minutes” website coming in April that will have loads of ideas to help you spend 10 intentional minutes with your child each day.

The two biggest obstacles I see to creating these moments with our children are business and screens. The new website will help you to find spaces to fit 10 minutes into routines you are already doing so that you are not adding one more thing. Then, on April 3rd, we will be offering a parent night at Hilltop to discuss how to navigate the ever-growing dependence we have on screens. We know that our devices are an important tool in our lives, we also know the impacts that screentime is having on our children. Our goal will be to come together to learn how to be intentional with our attention. “Our lives are what we pay attention too”. The people who design our phones are some of the smartest people in the world and they make money from stealing our attention and doing everything they can to keep us on our phones. This night will be designed to offer you information and tools to stay in control of your attention.

My shirt today says, “Do more things that make you forget to check your phone.” As we move into spring, this is our wish for you and your family. Let’s go out and create moments with your children that overtime will build the secure attachment and the foundation for all their future learning.

We wish you well,

Michelle Kelly

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CODE TO BEGIN.**



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BlueValleyParentsas  
Teachers

**Twitter:**

@BlueValleyPAT

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# SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Worm Walk

Mark your calendars for a fun spring event! We will host our annual Worm Walk and Nature Play on Saturday, April 12th from 10-11am. This will take place at the Wilderness Science Center (5001 W 163rd Terrace). We will enjoy story time together, explore the environment for worms in their habitats and explore a sensory-rich art making experience. This is most appropriate for children 20 months and up.

## 2025 Blue Valley Special Needs Resource Fair

This is our 15th annual Resource Fair and we hope you can join us. This fair has become one of the largest resource fairs in the Kansas City metro area, providing wonderful resources to self-advocates and to families who care for individuals with intellectual/developmental and/or physical disabilities. The Resource Fair will be held the evening of Thursday, April 10th from 5-8pm. This in-person event will be held at the spacious Hilltop Conference Center (7700 W 143rd St).

## PTA

Have you been curious to try the PTA? Well now is your time to do that and save some money! The PTA is running a **Spring Membership Special until March 31, 2025**. We have reduced our membership to **just \$20** per family. That means your entire family will have PTA membership (access to our playgroups, music times, and more) until July 1, 2025. So what are you waiting for? [Click the link here](#) to join today!

## SUMMER STARS CAMP AT WOLF SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Early Childhood Teachers Christy Hill and Carrie Wright provide a developmentally appropriate summer enrichment program! Carrie and Christy both have their Masters in Early Childhood Special Education and have been teaching in the field for many years! The program will target preschool and kindergarten readiness skills with lots of summer fun!! *Summer School Stars* is for students ages 3-6. Activities will be literacy based and supported by a variety of music, movement, motor, cognitive, language, and social opportunities. We've had a very successful summer program for the last several years and we look forward to another great summer!!

**Sign up for as many sessions as you want! Enrollment is limited!**

**LOCATION: Wolf Springs Elementary** 9300 178th, Overland Park, Kansas

**Each session \$175 Days/time - Mon-Thurs 8:30 - 11:30**

Session 1: **Once Upon a Time (knights & princesses)** - June 2-5

Session 2: **Super Heros** - June 9-12

Session 3: **Out of this World (outer space)** - June 16-18 & 20

**(Session 3: This week camp is: Mon, Tues, Wed & Friday due to Juneteenth)**

Session 4: **Dinosaur Stomp** - June 23-26

Session 5: **Under the Sea** - June 30 - July 3rd

**Please note enrollment will not be held until payment is received! Thank you!**

**TO REGISTER:**

click on the link to registers for sessions

LINK: <https://forms.gle/AyzoeWTJRdTqws1a9>

Submit payment: Checks payable to Carrie Wright or Christy Hill

mail to: 11354 South Pflumm Road, Lenexa KS 66215

QUESTIONS CONTACT: Carrie Wright - [cwright@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:cwright@bluevalleyk12.org) or Christy Hill [cmhill@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:cmhill@bluevalleyk12.org)

## APRIL PLAYGROUPS

In order to help facilitate connections between children and families, we run playgroups in 2-4 week sessions. In April, families have the opportunity to sign up for a group that will meet weekly at the same time for 4 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 (1's and 2's) if you have more than one child or would like you child to be around children of all ages.

### **APRIL PLAYGROUP SIGN UP WILL BE EMAILED ON MARCH 11th**

#### **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.

#### **April Playgroups**

Baby Play for non-walkers (4-12 months)– Thursdays 12:15-1pm: 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24

Baby Play for non-walkers (4-12 months) - Tuesdays 12:15-1pm: 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Wednesdays 10:15-11am: 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Thursdays 9:15-10am: 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Tuesdays 10:15-11am: 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Wednesdays 9:15-10am: 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23

Playgroup for 1's and 2's (9-36 months) *This is a playgroup for children 9 to 36 months of age and/or families with more than one child under 36 months*– Thursdays 10:15-11am: 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24

Evening Playgroup Wednesday, 4/9 6-6:45pm

Saturday Playgroup, 4/5 9:15-10am



# SEEKING TODDLER SCIENTISTS!

## What is this study about?

A study about learning and memory with toddlers from 18 to 40 months, with or without a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder

## Learn More

✉ [brainlab@ku.edu](mailto:brainlab@ku.edu)

☎ 785 - 864 - 4461

🌐 [brainlab.ku.edu](http://brainlab.ku.edu)



Testing will be conducted at the KU Edwards Campus. All procedures have been approved by our local Institutional Review Board. Participants will be compensated for their time.



**GO CCHAT:  
Growth Of  
Communication  
in CHildren  
with AuTism**

## Help us learn more about how young children with autism learn to talk

**Who:** 18- to 30-month-old children who have concerns for or have been diagnosed with autism

**What children will do:** Complete research assessments that evaluate communication and language skills every 3 months (1-2 hours per visit) until they turn 3 and then one final session when they turn 5 (1.5 to 2 hours)

**Where:** Testing locations available in Lawrence, Topeka, and the greater Kansas City area

Participants receive \$75 at the initial visit and follow-up, and \$100 for the final visit. Participants traveling more than 25 miles will receive an additional \$15 compensation per visit.

**Contact the Communication Success Lab to learn more:**

**Suzanne Martell, Project Coordinator**  
785-813-1862 or [martell.s@ku.edu](mailto:martell.s@ku.edu)

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