



CAL

ENDAR

Saturday Playtime

Sept. 11th

9:30-10:15am

Evening Playtime

Wednesday, Sept. 8th

6-6:45pm

Virtual Toilet Learning Class

Thursday, Sept. 30th 8pm

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Parents as Teachers

AUGUST 2021

Reflections from the Coordinator...

PAT Family,

Welcome! We are so excited to be kicking off the 2021-22 program year with the ability to be in person with you. We have so appreciated everyone who has connected with their educator, completed the online screenings and been working to keep appointments. We know we are in crazy times and that we may face some changes and challenges at times this year, but the past year has made us so grateful for every opportunity that we have to be with people.

We know families are stressed and worn out and also worried about the effects the pandemic is having on their children and their development. Our educators are on a mission to come alongside you and encourage you. We will help connect you to resources you may need as well as ways to continue to promote your child's development. Our goal as always is to help children reach their full potential, and we commit to partnering with you as you become your child's first and most important teacher.

What kids need most is to know they are loved and that they belong. Through home visits, playgroups and group connections this year, we will be focusing on helping you to build connections with your child that will lay the foundation for their learning. When kids feel loved and safe they are able to explore and learn.

We are excited to be bringing back in-person playgroups. These will look a little different than in years past. We have been intentional in our planning to provide an environment that is not only safe, but one that will foster connection with other families. Life is better when we do it together. This year, we will be requiring sign-ups for all playgroups. You will have the option to sign up for a group that meets weekly for 4 weeks, or for just one. Please consider making the 4-week commitment if possible to have the opportunity to build some community with other families with young children.

Thank you to everyone who has shared our program with friends and neighbors, our enrollment has picked up and we appreciate every referral! Please find us on social media to take part in our monthly recruitment challenge as we continue to get the word out to the community.

As always, we are here to serve and support your family so please communicate with your parent educator what you hope to get out of your visits so we can prepare and meet your unique needs and help you reach your goals.

Michelle Kelly

Program Coordinator
Blue Valley PAT
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Return to In-Person Playgroups

BV PAT is excited to announce that we will be welcoming families back into our playroom this year. 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.

We will be structuring our playgroups a little differently this year. In order to help keep our groups a safe size, we will be requiring families to sign up in advance. We are always looking at ways to help families make connections with one another during playgroups. In order to help facilitate ongoing interaction as well as less exposure, we will be running playgroups in 3-4 week sessions. For August/September, you 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 also offer one option a week for families who would like to attend one group and not make the 4-week commitment. We will continue to offer one Saturday and one evening playgroup a month for dual working families who cannot attend during the week. We will adjust for the following month based on attendance trends. Please see below for days and times for each group.

To Kick things off, we will start with a sneak-a-peek week the week of Aug 23rd. These are one-time groups to just come in and check it out and see what the playroom is all about. Each family can sign up for one playgroup during the sneak-a-peek and then one group ongoing.

- Each group will be limited to 15 families
- Everyone ages 2 and up will be required to wear a mask inside Hilltop Learning Center.
- 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.
- No playgroup the week of Labor Day
- Please stay home if your family has been exposed to COVID within past 14 days or if someone in your home is experiencing symptoms.

We are so excited to have children in our playroom again and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Playgroup Dates and Times... Click [HERE](#) to register

Sneak-a-Peek Playgroup Week-Registration required

Tuesday, August 24th 10:15-11am Multiple Ages, Wednesday, August 25th 9:15-10am 2-Year-Olds, Wednesday, August 25th 10:15-11am Multiple Ages, Thursday, August 26th 9:15-10am 1-Year-Olds, Thursday, August 26th 10:15-11am Weekly Multiple Ages

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

Tuesdays 12:15-1pm: 8/31, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28

Playgroup for Multiple Ages (4 week session)-Registration required

Tuesdays 10:15-11am: 8/31, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28

Wednesdays 10:15-11am: 9/1, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29

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

Wednesdays 9:15-10am: 9/1, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29

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

Thursdays 9:15-10am: 9/2, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30

Weekly Playgroup for Multiple Ages -Registration required

(register for one playgroup, not a 4 week session)

Thursdays 10:15-11am: 9/2, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30

Wednesday, Sept 8th Evening Playgroup 6:00-6:45pm-Registration required

Saturday, Sept. 11th Playgroup 9:30-10:15am-Registration required

Virtual Toilet Learning Class

If you are a parent contemplating the move from diapers to big kid underwear, you will want to put this Zoom group meeting on your calendar. We will answer questions such as when will my child be ready, what do I need, when do I start, how do I go about potty training. Blue Valley's Parents As Teachers Potty Training/Toilet Learning Class will answer these questions and many more. The class will last about an hour with question and answer after. Join us over Zoom on Thursday evening, September 30 at 8:00 PM.

* We chose to start this late in order for it to be a parent only event. If your child is not yet in bed at 8pm, it would be helpful to have another adult handling bedtime and then joining over Zoom afterwards. Thank you for joining us and we look forward to seeing you on September 30th. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Baby Play



A new session of Baby Play (for babies 4 months-12 months old) will begin August 31st and will run for 4 weeks (not including the week of Labor Day). Every Tuesday Amy Scavuzzo creates a lesson plan of fun activities for non-walking babies and their caregivers. The playgroup runs from 12:15-1pm. This is a great opportunity to bond with your baby and meet with other parents. Because space is limited we are asking families to register online for this playgroup. Click [HERE](#) to register. Since this is a special time for you and your baby we also ask that you make other arrangements for older siblings. Hope to see you at BABY PLAY!

Kansas Can Lead the World—Success Tour

Join us for a community conversation on Kansas education. Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson is once again facilitating community conversations across the state to gather feedback on the state's vision for K-12 education.

The Kansans Can Success Tour is a 50-city event that kicks off July 26. Commissioner Watson, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Brad Neuenswander and members of the Kansas State Board of Education will gather community input on the current direction for Kansas K-12 education and share progress made toward achieving the vision established by the Kansas State Board of Education.

The 2021 tour is a follow-up to the Kansas Children. Kansas' Future. community conversations tour that took place in 2015. Using the feedback gathered from more than 2,000 parents, educators, legislators, school board members, business community members, and more, the State Board created a new vision for education: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Now, nearly six years later, we are again asking you to lend your voice to the conversation. Please join us at Hilltop Conference Center (7700 W 143rd St.) on Thursday, September 2nd from 6-7:30pm. If possible attendees are asked to bring a laptop, cell phone or tablet for an interaction portion of the presentation.



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