

CALENDAR

Saturday Playtime

October 9th

9:30-10:15am

Evening Playtime

Wednesday, Oct. 13th

6-6:45pm

Discipline Class

Saturday, Oct. 16th

9-10:30am

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Parents as Teachers

SEPTEMBER 2021

Reflections from the Coordinator...

What a treat it has been to welcome families back into our playroom here at Hilltop. We love watching the children explore new places and activities and providing an opportunity for parents to connect with one another. I am passionate about helping families build strong connections with their children and also develop a social circle of other parents with similar age children. These connections are so important for your child's healthy development. This month, I dropped my first born off at college 8 hours away for the first time. I am asked often due to my job and my children's ages what advice I have for new parents. From what I have learned through research and through hands on experience, hands down I would say to foster the parent child connection and be present. In a world of distractions, it is easy to miss every day moments and opportunities to connect. My advice is to set aside time each day that you can give your child the gift of your undivided attention. Some of my favorites with young children are reading books together and sitting down for family mealtime. Even if your child is not yet able to verbally participate, start the routines while they are young. This connection with you is what will ground them, help them feel safe and open to learning and exploring. Help make your home a place where your child feels safe, loved, and seen and you will be well on your way to successful parenting!

We have made a few adjustments to the playgroup schedule for October based on enrollment numbers. We will continue to adjust as needed to hopefully provide the groups families want at times that work. We want to clarify that our birth to three groups (previously multiage) are for any enrolled family with any age child or multiple children under three. If you plan to bring more than one child with you, then the birth to three groups are for you! They are also open to families with one child of any age 0-3 who would like to be around children of different ages or if that is just the time that works best. Please feel free to reach out with questions.

As always, if you have questions please reach out, we hope to see you at a group connection soon!

Michelle Kelly

Program Coordinator
Blue Valley Parents as Teachers
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Reimagining Learning/Changing the World

October 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 October, 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 birth to 3 years old 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.

- 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 the birth to 3 years old 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 14 days or if someone in your home is experiencing symptoms.

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

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

Tuesdays 12:15-1pm: 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26

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

Tuesdays 10:15-11am: 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, October 13th Evening Playgroup 6:00-6:45pm-Registration required

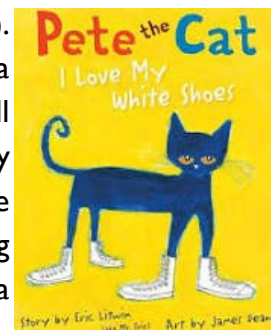
Saturday, October 9th Playgroup 9:30-10:15am-Registration required

Parenting Class: Guiding Behavior-Registration Required

According to Dr. Becky Bailey, “Discipline isn’t something you do to children. It’s something you develop within them” Join us at Hilltop Learning Center on Saturday, October 16th, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as we explore the challenges and rewards of parenting. We will look at brain development, temperament style, attachment and emotional regulation. Parent Educators will share information from Conscious Discipline, the Parents as Teachers curriculum and the Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation. The presentation will include time for discussion with other parents attending the workshop. We are unable to provide childcare so please plan accordingly. Registration is required for this event. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Outdoor Explore & Walk and Read Event-Registration Required

Join us for Outdoor Explore on Saturday, Sept. 25th 9:30-11am (registration is required). Come explore the outdoor space at Hilltop Learning Center. We will have bubbles, a carwashing station, fishing pond, sidewalk chalk, ride on toys and balls! In addition all weekend we will have a Walk and Read which is a fun interactive activity involving early literacy development and fun physical exercise. The story of “Pete the Cat, White Shoes” by Eric Litwin and James Dean, will be posted page by page along a walking path. Each page will have an activity that correlates with the page of the book. It’s a great way to get outside, read a book and get some exercise. Click [HERE](#) to register.



PTA Corner

Upcoming Events!

- **Friday, September 10th, Outdoor Playgroup—Join us for Bubbles, Balls and Beats!** Come meet other PTA families while little ones enjoy bubbles, playground balls and music as they explore the Hilltop Playgroup. Two sessions, register here:

[Session 1 - 9:15 - 10:00 a.m.](#)

[Session 2 - 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.](#)

- **Monday, September 13th, 6:30pm—General Membership Meeting via Zoom;** The Speaker Topic is Literacy at Home. All members are invited!

<https://bluevalleyk12.zoom.us/j/92530897765>

- **Friday, September 24th, 9:30am—Outing to Gezer Park—**This is another great opportunity to meet other families! Kids will love exploring this amazing park with tons to offer.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544A8A823A5F58-gezer>

Get Involved!

We are hard at work planning an exciting year, but we need your help! Joining the PTA Board is a great way to get involved and be the first to know about PTA happenings. The following two positions are available:

Vice President of Parents as Teachers- Coordinates and oversees the following committees: Outings, Playgroups, Preschool Fair, and Touch a Truck

Secretary- Records minutes of all Board Meetings and oversees the Communications committee.

If you or someone you know can help, or you'd like to learn more, please contact us at byearlychildhootpta@gmail.com.

Support Your Educators!

Let's brighten the day for Parent Educators and Early Childhood Staff by stocking their breakrooms with snacks and drinks! Items may be brought to the Hilltop office during regular business hours. Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544A8A823A5F58-stock2>

[Join the Blue Valley Early Childhood PTA](#)