

2024 EDITION

Summer Fun Guide

Activities for families with young
children in St. Clair County




EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Prepared by the St. Clair County Great Start Family Coalition
Working together for children ages 0–8

THINGS TO DO:

Summer Bingo

<div><div>page 48</div><div>Complete an Ages & Stages Questionnaire</div></div>	<div><div>page 8</div><div>Attend a summer event</div></div>	<div><div>page 13</div><div>Visit a local beach</div></div>	<div><div>page 42</div><div>Host a family dance party</div></div>	<div><div>page 35,37</div><div>Try a rainy day activity</div></div>	
<div><div></div><div>Draw outdoors with sidewalk chalk</div></div>	<div><div>page 41</div><div>Go on a scavenger hunt</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Join the "Great Start Family Coalition- St. Clair County Facebook group</div></div>	<div><div>page 23</div><div>Visit a local park</div></div>	<div><div>page 43,45</div><div>Try a messy outdoor activity</div></div>	
<div><div>page 47</div><div>Test out a reading tip</div></div>	<div><div>page 43</div><div>Try rock painting</div></div>	FREE SPACE		<div><div>page 28</div><div>Visit a StoryWalk</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Follow "Help Me Grow St Clair" on Instagram</div></div>
<div><div>page 39</div><div>Make play dough</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Learn a silly song</div></div>	<div><div>page 19</div><div>Build something out of a cardboard box</div></div>	<div><div>page 17</div><div>Visit the library</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Draw a picture and deliver it to a friend</div></div>	
<div><div>page 20</div><div>Join the Library's Summer Reading Program</div></div>	<div><div>page 25</div><div>Visit a splash pad or pool</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Visit Hippy Dippy Creamery in Marysville</div></div>	<div><div>page 32</div><div>Let your child help in the kitchen</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Take a walk around your neighborhood</div></div>	



ENTER TO WIN: Take a photo of your bingo board, send it to GreatStart@sccresa.org by August 19 and you will be entered into a drawing to win one of several prizes! Watch our Facebook page for more information (Great Start Family Coalition–St. Clair County). Winners will be announced August 21.

Make this summer extra special for you and your child

KIDS ARE BUSY PEOPLE. The world is still new to them, with new things to see around every corner. Their energy level is high. They like to run and play and touch and taste. They are learning every minute.

PARENTS LIKE YOU are busy, too. And, frankly, you can run out of ideas far more quickly than your child runs out of questions. This booklet was created to help busy parents find new things to do with their children this summer.

NO MATTER WHAT activity you choose — and we hope you'll find more than a few in here — what's most important to your children is that you're spending time with them. The best activities are interesting for both of you.

THIS GUIDE WAS created by parents like you who participate in the Great Start Family Coalition. The coalition is made up of volunteers dedicated to helping parents connect with the programs, activities, services, and resources available to families with young children. We welcome you to join us.

YOU CAN HELP us improve this guide next year by keeping your eyes and ears open when you visit any of these sites. Tell us what you liked and didn't like. Offer your suggestions on what parents should know before they plan a visit. And we'd love to hear your ideas on anything not included that you think should be listed next year.

FIND OUT MORE about the Great Start Family Coalition. RESA's Jennifer Gunderson can answer your questions, and is happy to hear your suggestions. Contact her at 810-455-4443 or gunderson.jennifer@sccresc.org.

COALITION MEMBERS WHO helped create this guide: Sara Abalos, Liz Buckley, Veronica Dimick, Jazmin Fleury-Isla, Naomi Lyons, Maureen Webber, and Megan White-Noel.

– The St. Clair County Great Start Family Coalition



**Give your child
an advantage
when it's time
for them
to start school**

Great Start Home Visiting

The Great Start Home Visiting program is all about you, your child, and your family. Our focus is on discussing developmental milestones, identifying delays, and providing parents with knowledge and tools to support child development, and well being. We work with parents to enhance their child's intellectual, language, social, emotional, and physical development from birth to age 5.

Free Services

As a participating family, you receive all four components of our services:

- Personal visits from a parent educator
- Participation in early learning group activities
- Network of community resources
- Child health and development screenings

For more information or questions, contact:

Jennifer Gunderson, Family Liaison/Educator
810-455-4443 • gunderson.jennifer@sccresa.org

Early Learning Group Connections

Families can participate in free playgroups that are offered monthly at our Great Start Centers throughout the county. These groups give parents the opportunity to learn and share information on parenting issues and child development. Parents learn from and support each other, observe their child with other children, practice parenting skills and enjoy fun activities together with other children. Groups focus on music and movement, literacy, art, and child development.

Stay Connected

- [GreatStartStClair.org](https://www.GreatStartStClair.org)
- [@GreatStartStClair](https://www.facebook.com/GreatStartStClair)
- [@GreatStartStClair](https://www.instagram.com/GreatStartStClair)
- [/greatstartsc](https://www.pinterest.com/greatstartsc)



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE
ST. CLAIR COUNTY



parents as teachers
BLUE RIBBON AFFILIATE



The Great Start program is administered locally by the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency.

2024 Summer Fun Guide

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ST. CLAIR COUNTY RESA: YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNER

RESA coordinates a number of services for the families of children ages 0–5. The Department of Early Childhood Services can also refer families to additional resources, depending on each family's unique needs. Visit the RESA website for information about any of these programs at sccresa.org



Early On: **Answering questions about your child's development**

Early On is Michigan's system of coordinating early intervention services for children birth to age 3 who may have a developmental delay or a medical condition that could lead to a delay.

Growing and learning are your child's most important jobs. Sometimes, parents notice that their baby or toddler does not seem to be at the same stage of development as other children the same age. Identifying concerns can begin at home. Early identification of possible problems can lead to early help so each child can be more successful.

Submit an online referral form at: bit.ly/referralearlyon



Great Start Collaborative: **Offering support to all parents**

The St. Clair County Great Start Collaborative is a partnership of parents, child care providers, service providers, businesses and other community leaders who are committed to giving every child in St. Clair County a great start in life.

Great Start Home Visiting and Early Learning Groups

Great Start Home Visiting has five FREE centers for St. Clair County families of children ages 0–5. Families can get information on home visits with a parent educator, lending library, developmental milestones and screenings, parenting tips, family resources, and Early Learning Groups.

Great Start Family Coalition

The Family Coalition works to raise awareness and support for early childhood programming in the community. They give parents who are passionate about childhood issues a way to volunteer in their community.



Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP): Helping your child be ready for kindergarten

GSRP is Michigan's state-funded preschool program for 4-year-olds who have factors that may place them at risk. The program uses developmentally appropriate practices in a play-based curriculum with the goal of preparing children to successfully enter kindergarten. The program is free to eligible families. Children must be 4 on or before September 1 of the school year in which they are enrolling.



Help Me Grow: Learn more about your child's development

Help Me Grow–St. Clair County connects families to local programs and resources that help children thrive, including parent support, early learning programs such as child care and preschool, developmental information, and home visiting programs.

The program also offers free screenings for all children ages 0–5 that provide insight into a child's development.

Complete the Ages & Stages Questionnaires online at:
<https://bit.ly/HelpMeGrowSCC>



Imagination Library: Putting books in the hands of young children

The Imagination Library is a FREE program that provides books to children ages 0–5 in St. Clair County. The program provides registered children a new book each month from the month of birth until their fifth birthday. Each carefully selected book is mailed in the child's name directly to his or her home. Every child age 0–5 years old living in St. Clair County is eligible to register for Imagination Library.

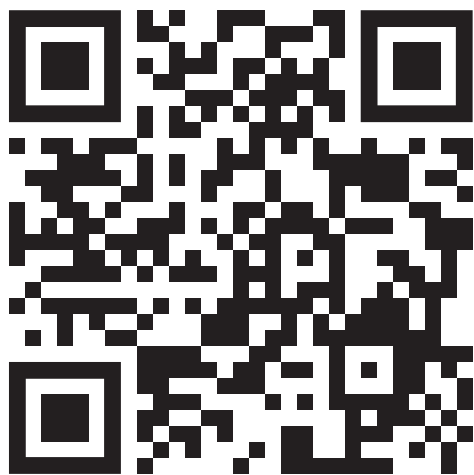


Visit our online summer calendar of events!

Our online events listing includes information about summer happenings in the Blue Water Area. We update the calendar throughout the summer, so check back often.

Scan the QR code to go directly to the calendar, or visit:

<https://bit.ly/SFGEEvents2024>



VISIT THESE WEBSITES FOR EVENT INFORMATION

Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce

bluewaterchamber.com

Discover the Blue

bluewater.org

City of Algonac

cityofalgonac.org

City of Capac

villageofcapac.com

City of Marine City

cityofmarinecity.org

visitmarinecity.com

City of Marysville

cityofmarysvillemi.com

City of Port Huron

porthuron.org

City of St. Clair

cityofstclair.com

stclairrec.com

Port Huron Recreation Department

porthuronrec.com

City of Yale

yalechamber.com

YMCA of the Blue Water Area

bluewaterymca.com

BOUNCE MATE

BOUNCE HOUSES, PHOTO BOOTHS

and introducing...

BELLY CRAVES FOOD CART

LOCATED IN WALES TOWNSHIP • SUPPORT LOCAL

ANGELA 810-305-4409

Peace and health to all!





News Stories for Families

Guides to Local Resources

Get Connected at BlueWater Parent.com

FREE

Huge Local Events Calendar

FAMILY-FRIENDLY BUSINESS AWARD

The St. Clair County Great Start Collaborative recognizes county businesses, agencies, and organizations that are “family-friendly.” A family-friendly business encourages and supports children and families through its business practices. An example of this may be a doctor’s office that provides an area with books or activities for waiting children or a restaurant that offers child-friendly menus, including healthy options.

WINNERS

- Four Star Grille
- Donut Girls LLC
- Kate’s Downtown
- Raven Café
- Casey’s Pizza & Subs
- The Children’s Room, St. Clair County Library Main Branch
- Neiman’s Family Market
- The YMCA of the Blue Water Area
- Roasted with Perks
- Hippy Dippy Creamery
- Megan Simmons – State Farm Insurance Agent

Family Friendly Business Award

Great Start Collaborative St. Clair County



Do you know a Family Friendly Business?

You can nominate a business or agency in St. Clair County that you think deserves to be recognized for their family-friendly business practices.

Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/4cSQxEc> to make a nomination.



Children's Special



Health Care Services

SCAN



WE CAN HELP.

We Partner and Assist Families of Children and Young Adults with Chronic or Complex Medical Conditions.

Program coverage from birth to age 26.

Families of all incomes are eligible including those with other health insurance.

More than 2,700 medical diagnoses are currently covered such as severe asthma, cancer, cleft plate, heart defects, and more.

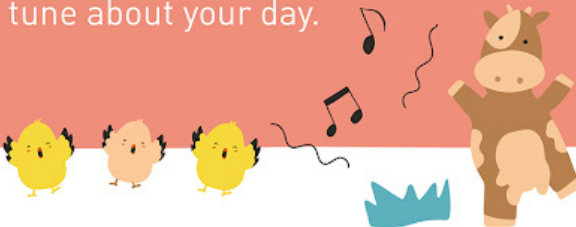
For Program Eligibility, Call Us at **810-987-6102**
or Call the Family Phone Line at **1-800-359-3722**



LET'S TALK AND

SING TOGETHER!

Silly songs capture attention. Sing a silly song with your baby to a favorite tune about your day.



#TALKINGISTEACHINGTIPS



SO SMALL TO FAIL

THINGS TO DO: FREE & LOW-COST ACTIVITIES



ADVENTURE PARK

SAWMILL CITY

5055 Lapeer Rd, Kimball

810-982-5090

sawmillcity.com

Amusement center with water slides, bumper boats, putt-putt golf, go-karts, train rides, batting cages, water wars, bankshot basketball, and more.



ARTS & CRAFTS

HOME DEPOT KIDS WOOD PROJECT

4195 24th Ave, Fort Gratiot

810-385-2932

First Saturday of the month, drop-in 9 am-12 pm

Cost: Free, but registration required.

Sign up at bit.ly/43lhHtg

Ages: All ages

Child must be present to receive project.

LOWE'S WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS

4200 24th Ave, Fort Gratiot

810-385-6600

Cost: Free, but registration is required.

Sign up online at Lowes.com

Wood craft kit to make and take.

Child must be accompanied by an adult.

ST. CLAIR ART ASSOCIATION

201 N. Riverside Ave, St. Clair

810-329-9576

stclairart.org

Hours: Thurs & Fri, 11 am-5 pm;

Sat & Sun 11 am-3 pm (if volunteers are available)

 @stclairart

Ages: All ages

Art classes for adults and youth.

Check website and Facebook page for information.



BEACHES

CHRYSLER BEACH

1160 River Rd, Marysville

Beach and boardwalk. Swim at your own risk. Free.

FORT GRATIOT COUNTY PARK

3325 Metcalf Rd, Fort Gratiot Twp.

Beach, picnic areas, playground, StoryWalk, and paved walking trails. Free.

LAKEPORT STATE PARK AND BEACH

7605 Lakeshore Rd, Lakeport

810-327-6224

Beach, picnic area, campground.

Park admission fee.

LAKESIDE BEACH

3670 Gratiot Ave, Port Huron

Beach, playground, grills. No lifeguard.

Parking fee. For parking passes and more information, call 810-984-9760.

LIGHTHOUSE PARK

2900 Conger St, Port Huron

900 feet of waterfront and beach on Lake Huron with a picnic area. Not recommended for swimming due to the swift current. For parking passes and more information, call 810-984-9760.

MARINE CITY BEACH

102 Pearl St, Marine City

810-765-8846

Playground, shady, grassy park next to the beach. Free.

FOR BEACH CLOSURES:

Call 877-504-SWIM or check on Facebook:

 @StClairCountyBeaches

THINGS TO DO: FREE & LOW-COST ACTIVITIES



BOWLING

CALL FOR OPEN BOWLING HOURS, COST, AND SHOE RENTAL INFORMATION.

ST. CLAIR RIVER LANES IN VOYAGEUR

525 S. Riverside Ave, St Clair

810-329-3331

Open: Weekends only

BOWL O DROME (ZEBRA LOUNGE)

522 Quay St, Port Huron

810-984-5138

thebowlodrome.com

Open: Wed-Sun



CAMPGROUNDS WITH PARKS

CALL FOR FEES AND TIMES OF DAILY ACTIVITIES

ALGONAC STATE PARK

Under construction summer 2024

8732 River Rd, Marine City

810-765-5605

Camping and trails. Park admission fee.

KOA EMMETT

3864 Breen Rd, Emmett

810-395-7042

RV sites, lodging, tent sites, aqua park, beach, and play area.

KOA PORT HURON

5111 Lapeer, Kimball

810-987-4070

RV campsites, camping cabins, deluxe cabins, tent sites, train rides, hay rides, shuffle board, beach volleyball, basketball, five playgrounds, two pools, and two pavilions.

CAMPGROUNDS WITH PARKS CONTINUED

Lakeport State Park

7605 Lakeport Rd, Lakeport

810-327-6224

Open: Daily 8 am-10 pm

For camping and summer programs, check website at

bit.ly/4cHthsY



FARMS, FARMERS MARKETS & ORCHARDS

CALL FOR FEES & TIMES

BLUERIDGE BLUEBERRY FARM

16276 Donald Rd, Capac

810-395-2245

Pick your own blueberries. Call for hours and berry conditions.

GREEN THUMB BLUEBERRIES

455 S. Stringer Rd, Sandusky (4 miles from Drive-In Theater)

810-648-2974

Pick your own blueberries. Call for hours.

City of Port Huron Farmers Market

Parking lot at the corner of Quay and Merchant streets across from the Port Huron Yacht Club.

810-984-9718

Open: Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm

MARVIN'S GARDEN

5385 Burtch Rd, Jeddo

810-327-2691

 Search: Marvin's Garden

Open: August-October

Hours: Call or check Facebook
Pick your own strawberries, red raspberries, black raspberries, blackberries, and peaches.

THINGS TO DO: FREE & LOW-COST ACTIVITIES



FARMS, FARMERS MARKETS & ORCHARDS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

MARYSVILLE FARMERS MARKET

Marysville City Park parking lot along River Road across from water treatment facility
Open: May-Oct
Saturdays, 8-11 am

PANKIEWICZ CIDER MILL AND FARM MARKET

10387 Lindsey Rd, Casco
586-727-9051
Fruit and Vegetable Store, Farmers Market, and Donut Shop.

RICKERT ORCHARD

11036 Metcalf Rd, Brockway
810-387-9638
Apple orchard. Cash or check only.



FITNESS PARK

OUTDOOR FITNESS COURT AT MORTON PARK

530 Busha Hwy, Marysville
Open: Year-round
Ages: 14 and up
Seven-station outdoor fitness court with 30 pieces of exercise equipment and a body-weight training wall.



GYMNASTICS & DANCE

CALL FOR FEES AND TIMES

ALL AMERICAN FLAMES GYMNASTIX

2915 Lapeer Rd, Port Huron
810-985-3547
flamesgym.com
Ages: 18 months and older.

CRAZY MOVES DANCE STUDIO

3035 Main St, Emmett
561-374-2860
crazymovesdance.com
Ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, and more for boys and girls.
Ages: 2 years to adult.

DANCE ACADEMY

4080 Lapeer Rd, Port Huron
810-985-5770



Fun and Flavor: Activities and Ideas to Enhance your Farmers Market Visit

Scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/3TSC5Um for fun ideas to extend and enhance the learning opportunities for your child before, during, and after a visit to your local Farmers Market.





Lead can cause growth and development delays, and learning problems, in young children.

Lead can be found in. . .



Paint



Dirt



Jewelry

What Can You Do for Your Child?

- Wash Hands
- Use Disposable Mop Pads for Floors
- Change Contaminated Clothes
- Eat Healthy Foods
- Know Lead Levels



A lead test is the only way to know if a child has lead in their body.

Testing Call
(810) 987-5300



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
Our Community. Our Environment.

www.scchealth.co | follow @sccdhmi

PUT ME TO SLEEP
alone ON MY
back IN A **crib.**

BECOME A SAFE SLEEP AMBASSADOR TODAY!



Cribs for Kids® provides safe sleep education in communities. They have a Safe Sleep Ambassador - Educational Outreach Program.

Any organization or person can commit to being an Ambassador!



LEARN MORE



THINGS TO DO: FREE & LOW-COST ACTIVITIES



LIBRARY SYSTEM, ST. CLAIR COUNTY

A child is never too young for their own library card. Library cards are free and with them children gain access to books, music, movies, and online streaming and educational services. All branches offer free programs and special events for children including ongoing opportunities in early literacy, art, and music. Visit the library website at sccl.lib.mi.us for program details.

Port Huron Main Library

210 McMorran Blvd, Port Huron

810-987-7323

Mon-Thurs: 9 am–8 pm

Fri, Sat: 9 am–5 pm

Algonac-Clay

2011 St. Clair River Dr, Algonac

810-794-4471

Mon-Thurs: 9 am–8 pm

Fri, Sat: 9 am–5 pm

Burtchville Township

7093 Second St, Lakeport

810-385-8550

Mon, Wed, Fri: 9 am–5 pm

Tues, Thurs: 12–8 pm

Capac

111 N. Main, Capac

810-395-7000

Mon-Thurs: 9 am–8 pm

Fri, Sat: 9 am–5 pm

G. Lynn Campbell

1955 N. Allen Rd, Kimball

810-982-9171

Mon, Wed, Fri: 9 am–5 pm

Tues, Thurs: 12–8 pm

Ira Township

7013 Meldrum Rd, Fair Haven

586-725-9081

Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9 am–5 pm

Tues, Thurs: 12–8 pm

Marine City

300 S. Parker, Marine City

810-765-5233

Mon-Thurs: 9 am–8 pm

Fri, Sat: 9 am–5 pm

Marysville

1175 Delaware, Marysville

810-364-9493

Mon-Thurs: 9 am–8 pm

Fri, Sat: 9 am–5 pm

Memphis

34830 Potter St, Memphis

810-392-2980

Mon, Wed, Fri: 9 am–5 pm

Tues, Thurs: 12–8 pm

St. Clair

310 S. Second St, St. Clair

810-329-3951

Mon-Thurs: 9 am–8 pm

Fri, Sat: 9 am–5 pm

Yale

2 Jones St, Yale

810-387-2940

Mon-Thurs: 9 am–8 pm

Fri, Sat: 9 am–5 pm

Storytime fun at the Library

All library branches host regular Storytime events for preschoolers. To find Storytime days and times go to sccl.lib.us, click on the “Events” tab, and then your local branch.



THINGS TO DO: FREE & LOW-COST ACTIVITIES



MUSEUMS

PORT HURON MUSEUMS SITES

phmuseum.org

Admission: Free for Huron Lightship, Thomas Edison Depot, and the Carnegie. **Special exhibits and Fort Gratiot Light Station Tours are not included in Free Admission.**

Summer Hours: May 27–Sept 15, Daily, 10 am–5 pm. Last entry for tours is at 4 pm. Museum stores are open until 5 pm.

CARNEGIE

1115 Sixth St, Port Huron
810-982-0891
Admission: FREE

FORT GRATIOT LIGHTHOUSE

2802 Omar St (East end of Garfield St), Port Huron
810-216-6923
Admission: Guided site tour, including tower climb:

- \$10 – Adults
- \$7 – Students & Seniors (60+)
- \$25 – Family Admission (2 Adults and 4 Children)

Tower climb is only available as part of the guided tour. **CLOSED TOE SHOES REQUIRED TO CLIMB THE LIGHTHOUSE.**

HURON LIGHTSHIP AT PINE GROVE PARK

800 Prospect Pl, Port Huron
810-984-9768
Admission: FREE

THOMAS EDISON DEPOT MUSEUM

510 Edison Parkway, Port Huron (Under the Blue Water Bridges)
810-455-0035
Admission: FREE

ALGONAC CLAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

1240 St. Clair River Dr, Algonac
810-794-9015
Admission: FREE

CAPAC COMMUNITY MUSEUM

401 East Kempf Ct, Capac
810-395-2859
Admission: FREE

HARSENS ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

3058 S Channel Dr, Harsens Island
Open: June–Sept,
Hours: Sat 10 am–3 pm, Sun 12–4 pm
Admission: FREE

HISTORICAL VILLAGE AT GOODSELLS PARK

8345 County Park Dr, Goodells
810-989-6960
Admission: FREE

LOG CABIN AND DETROIT URBAN RAILWAY EXHIBIT

4710 Pte. Tremble Rd, Clay Township (Clay Township Office Property)
810-794-9015
Open: Log Cabin Day (last Sunday in June) or by appointment
Admission: FREE

MARINE CITY PRIDE AND HERITAGE MUSEUM

405 S. Main St, Marine City
810-765-5446
Hours: Sat & Sun, 1–4 pm
Open: June–Oct
Admission: FREE

MARITIME MUSEUM

1117 St. Clair River Dr, Algonac
810-794-9015

MUSEUMS CONTINUED

MARYSVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

867 E Huron Blvd, Marysville
810-364-6613

RED BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE

696 Meisner Rd, East China
810-765-8879
Open: June 10, July 8, Aug 12, Sept 9,
and Oct 14, 11 am–3 pm
Admission: FREE

ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM

8310 County Park Dr, Goodells
810-325-1737
stclaircountymuseum.org
Check website for museum hours
and other events.

ST. CLAIR HISTORICAL MUSEUM

308 South 4th St, St. Clair
810-329-6888
historicstclair.com
Call to make an appointment
Admission: FREE

WILLS SAINTE CLAIRE AUTO MUSEUM

2408 Wills St, Marysville
810-388-5050
Hours:
• Year round: 2nd Sunday of the
month, 1–5 pm
• June–Aug: 2nd and 4th Sunday of
the month, 1–5 pm
Admission: \$6

NOT JUST A BOX!

Use all those extra cardboard
boxes (and some strong tape)
to build just about anything.
Can you build a castle? A rocket
ship? A boat? What else?



**TOO SMALL
TO FAIL**



KELLY BAKER
LMSW, PMH-C
Owner | Therapist

Virtual COUNSELING SERVICES

NurtureHer, PLLC helps pregnant and
postpartum women reach their full
maternal potential by teaching them
to prioritize and nurture themselves.

810.300.9619
NurtureHerPLLC@gmail.com
[Facebook.com/2NurtureHer](https://www.facebook.com/2NurtureHer)



ADVENTURE BEGINS AT THE LIBRARY

**Summer Reading 2024
June 17 - August 17**

**Looking for something fun to
do this summer?**

**Join your library's
Summer Reading Program!**

**Programs for all ages, from beginning
readers to the most experienced!
Childrens, teens, & adults**

Contact your library for more details!



SCCLS
ST. CLAIR COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM



www.stclaircountylibrary.org

THINGS TO DO: FREE & LOW-COST ACTIVITIES



NATURE AREAS

ALGONAC-OAK SAVANNA TRAIL

810-765-5605

2.4-mile hiking trail that loops through Algonac State Park. Trail can be picked up near campground.

ALGONAC STATE PARK

810-765-5605

Activities include wildflower viewing, hiking, bird watching, outdoor education, hunting, and fishing.

ALICE W. MOORE WOODS NATURE SANCTUARY

999 Stratford Rd, St. Clair

517-655-5655

Mature oak-hickory woods with a pond and a 1.5 mile long nature trail.

FORT GRATIOT NATURE PRESERVE & BIKE TRAIL

4778 Parker Rd, Fort Gratiot

810-385-4489

Approximately 3.4 miles of accessible 8' and 10' paved bike paths.

GREIG PARK NATURE TRAIL

547 Carney Dr, St. Clair

810-329-7121

1.5 mile nature/interpretative trail through the woods, with planked walkways over the marshy areas.

PINE RIVER STABLES

1200 Stein Road, St. Clair

586-894-2756

Public horseback riding through 100 acres of rolling wooded trails.

PINE RIVER NATURE CENTER

2585 Castor Rd, Goodells

810-364-5477

Over three miles of trails and a universally accessible treehouse.

PLAINS NATURE TRAIL

1979 Fred W Moore Hwy, St Clair, MI 48079

SANBORN NATURE AREA

Adjacent to Sanborn Park

810-984-9760

Features diverse plant and animal life, trails, and bridge.

SANBORN PARK MULTI-USE TRAIL

Natural and unpaved trail suitable for walkers, joggers, and bike riders. There is an outside loop for beginning riders and two inner BMX lines for experienced riders.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION TRAILS

810-989-6960

- Beards Hills Recreation Area
- Bridge to Bay Trail
- Wadhams to Avoca Trail
- Woodsong Nature Area
- Columbus Township Park

ST. JOHN'S MARSH WILDLIFE AREA

North of the North Channel of the St. Clair River, fronting on Lake St. Clair's Bouvier Bay, Clay Twp
Trails, fishing, hunting, and kayaking.

STEPHEN M. POLOVICH MEMORIAL NATURE SANCTUARY

Cribbons Rd, Clyde

517-655-5655

SUNNY FIELDS BOTANICAL PARK

5444 Welch Rd, Emmett

810-387-2765

visitsunnyfields.org

Open: April-Oct by appointment
Private botanical park promoting environmental education.



Great Start Family Coalition

People working together to give every
St. Clair County child a great start

WE WANT TO HEAR about your experiences as a parent. Your comments will help us better understand the needs and desires of parents and families in the county.

JOIN US to plan activities that support our families and their young children. We meet the second Thursday of most months from 5:30–7 p.m. at the St. Clair County RESA East Campus, 1111 Delaware, Marysville, 2nd floor. Dinner and on-site childcare are available free to those who RSVP.

RSVP TO: Jennifer Gunderson, Family Liaison
810-580-8400 • Gunderson.Jennifer@sccresa.org
Online: GreatStartStClair.org
(Scroll to the “Family Coalition” tab at the bottom)



Join our Facebook Group to connect with other parents, get details about coming events, and read the latest news.

Search: Great Start Family Coalition – St. Clair Co.



Find us on Pinterest for age-appropriate activities for your child, parenting information, and more.

Search: Great Start Family Coalition St. Clair County



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE
ST. CLAIR COUNTY

These materials were developed under a grant from the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

THINGS TO DO: FREE & LOW-COST ACTIVITIES



PARKS WITH PLAYGROUNDS

BROCKWAY TOWNSHIP PARK

Walking trails, fishing dock, playground, picnic tables, grills, park benches, soccer, baseball field.

CAPAC YOUTH SPORTS WALKING TRAIL AND PLAYSCAPE

Located on the southwest corner of the Capac Schools campus.

CLAY TOWNSHIP PARK

On Pte. Tremble Road next to the Clay Township offices and police department
Playground, walking path, splash pad, pavilion, sandbox, picnic tables, grills.

COTTRELLVILLE TOWNSHIP PARK

7008 Marsh Rd

EAST CHINA PARK

Located at M-29 and Recor Road
"Kid-E-Scape" playground, wooded nature paths, paved bike path, picnic pavilion.

FORT GRATIOT COUNTY PARK

Just off M-25 on Metcalf Road on Lake Huron
Beach access, restrooms, picnic areas, playground, paved walking trails.

FRED MEISELBACH PARK

1539 S. Bartlett, St. Clair

GOODELLS COUNTY PARK

Historical Village, butterfly garden, picnic pavilion, playground, splash pad.

GRATIOT PARK

2538 Gratiot Ave, Port Huron
Play structure with accessible features, splash pad, basketball court, baby swings

GREIG PARK, ST. CLAIR

Located on North Carney Dr
"Imagination Station" play structure, nature interpretive trails, picnic shelter.

IRA TOWNSHIP PARK

7085 Meldrum Rd
Beyond the library on Short Cut Road
Playground, nature trails, furnished picnic tables, grills.

KNOX PARK

2829 26th St, Port Huron

LAKESIDE PARK, PORT HURON

North of Holland and Gratiot avenues intersection
Beach access, playground, splash pad, restrooms, picnic areas with tables and grills. Parking fee.

LINCOLN PARK

2720 South Blvd Port Huron MI

MARYSVILLE CITY PARK, MARYSVILLE

Located at Huron and River roads
Playground, splash pad, covered picnic area, soccer field, train car for viewing.

MEMORIAL PARK

344 Beach Rd, Port Huron

OPTIMIST PARK

1400 Whipple St, Port Huron

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THINGS TO DO: FREE & LOW-COST ACTIVITIES



PARKS WITH PLAYGROUNDS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

PALMER PARK

2829 Armour St, Port Huron
810-984-9760
Play structure, swings, baby swings, ball field, basketball court, Gaga Ball pit, Sprout City, Super Slide.

RILEY TOWNSHIP PARK

At Belle River and Riley Center roads
Playground, covered picnic area, basketball courts, grills.

SUTHERLAND PARK

5000 Howard Rd, Smiths Creek

WALES TOWNSHIP PARK

1372 Wales Center Rd, Goodells



READING

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSELLERS

4325 24th Ave, Fort Gratiot
810-385-4849
barnesandnoble.com
Mon-Sat: 10 am-8 pm
Sun: 11 am-6 pm

ST. CLAIR COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Summer Reading Program
Fri June 16-Sat Aug 12
stclaircountylibrary.org OR
sccl.lib.mi.us
Visit a local branch near you to see how you can get involved or visit the library website for program details.

FREE LITTLE LIBRARIES

Boxes where anyone may take or bring a book to share. For a list of little libraries throughout St. Clair County:
<https://bit.ly/3u5ITOW>



SKATING

ALGONAC SKATE PARK

407 Clay, Algonac

FAMILY FUN AND SKATE

1080 Wadhams Rd, Kimball
810-367-4387
familyfunandskate19.biz

GLACIER POINTE ICE COMPLEX

4150 Dove Rd, Port Huron
810-364-9797

LAKEPORT STATE PARK

7605 Lakeshore Rd, Lakeport

MARYSVILLE SKATE PARK

596 Busha Hwy, Marysville

McMORRAN PLACE

701 McMorran Blvd, Port Huron
810-985-6166

OPTIMIST SKATE PARK

1400 Whipple St, Port Huron

ST. CLAIR BMX AND SKATE PARK

860 Carney Dr, St. Clair
All-terrain dirt track (pedal bikes only), skate pad, modular skate components, and a unique piece of skateable art.



SIGHTSEEING CRUISES

Huron Lady II Cruises

102 Huron Ave, Port Huron
810-984-1500
For prices and times, visit:
huronlady.com
Open: May 25-Sept 29
Hours: Daily, 10 am-2 pm
Daily narrated sightseeing cruises on the St. Clair River and Lake Huron.

THINGS TO DO: FREE & LOW-COST ACTIVITIES



SPLASH PARKS AND POOLS

BLUE WATER YMCA (Indoor)

1525 Third St, Port Huron

810-987-6400

bluewaterymca.com

ST. CLAIR COMMUNITY COUNTY POOL (Outdoor)

715 Orchard St, St. Clair

810-329-7121

CLAY TOWNSHIP SPLASH PAD

4768 Pointe Tremble Rd, Algonac

810-794-9303

Admission: FREE

COURT STREET POOL (Outdoor)

2025 Court St, Port Huron

810-984-9765

GOODELLS COUNTY PARK SPLASH PAD

8345 County Park Dr, Goodells

810-989-6960

Open daily 10 am–8 pm

Admission: FREE

LAKESIDE PARK SPLASH PAD

3870 Gratiot Ave, Port Huron

810-984-9760

Open: Daily, 11 am–7 pm

Admission: FREE, but there is a parking fee. Free street parking nearby.

MARYSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL POOL (Indoor)

555 East Huron Blvd, Marysville

810-455-1302

Open: Mon–Thurs, 6:30–8:30 pm

MARYSVILLE SPLASH PAD

1440 River Rd, Marysville

Located in Marysville City Park

Admission: FREE

ST. CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL POOL

(Indoor)

2200 Clinton Ave, St. Clair

810-329-6691

SANBORN POOL (Outdoor)

1919 Sanborn St, Port Huron

810-984-9764

STEBBINS FAMILY SPLASH PAD AT KNOX PARK

Located at 24th and Dove streets

Open: Daily 11 am–7 pm

Admission: FREE

Make a Healthy Splash: Stay Healthy and Safe in Splash Pads

Splash pads are a fun and refreshing way for families to enjoy the outdoors, especially on hot summer days. Here are some tips to ensure a safe visit:

- Always supervise children while they play.
- Familiarize yourself with posted rules and regulations.
- Apply sunscreen before your visit and reapply after swimming or sweating. Consider wearing sun-protective clothing.
- Bring plenty of water to keep everyone hydrated.
- Watch out for slick areas and remind your child not to run and walk carefully.
- Wash your hands before and after your visit and remind your child not to drink water from the splash pad.

Dance Academy

Where Big Dreams Begin Little

Whatever your expectation, we know you will love your dance experience at the Dance Academy.

You will walk in, but dance out!



Summer Six Week Classes

(ages 6 months through adult)



Technique classes

Barre classes

Princess camps

Fall semester begins September 2024
and ends in a beautiful spring recital.

Thank you for
your support!



Best Dance Studio/School
Best Locally Owned Business



4080 Lapeer Port Huron, MI 48060



thedanceacademyporthuron.com



810-985-5770



The Dance Academy Port Huron

THINGS TO DO: EARLY LEARNING GROUPS



GREAT START EARLY LEARNING GROUPS

Families of children ages 0–5 can participate in free playgroups that are offered weekly at our Great Start Centers throughout the county. These groups give parents the opportunity to learn and share information on parenting issues and child development. Parents learn from and support each other, observe their child with other children, practice parenting skills and enjoy fun activities together with other children. Groups focus on music and movement, literacy, art, and child development.

Families are asked to choose just one group location to attend. Some groups move to outdoor locations during the summer. Text or call for more information and schedule.

MONDAYS, 10–11 am

Ft. Gratiot–Lakeshore Presbyterian Church

5235 Lakeshore Rd, Fort Gratiot
Questions: Call or text Bre at
313-414-1957

MONDAY ONE-TIME PER MONTH, 10:30–11:30 am

Sunrise PACE

5229 Lakeshore Rd, Fort Gratiot
Questions: Call or text Bre at
313-414-1957

TUESDAYS, 10–11 AM

Pte. Tremble Early Childhood Center

9451 Phelps Rd, Clay Township
Questions: Call or text Deb at
810-650-2102

WEDNESDAYS, 9:30–10:30 am

Farrell–Emmett Elementary School

3300 Kinney Rd, Emmett
Questions: Call or text Bre at
313-414-1957

WEDNESDAYS, 11 am–12 pm

Capac Elementary School

351 W. Kempf Ct, Capac
Questions: Call or text Bre at
313-414-1957

WEDNESDAYS OR THURSDAYS, 10–11 am

RESA East Campus

1111 Delaware Ave, Marysville
Questions: Call or text Jen at
810-580-8400



GLASSY MOM

Tableware Rentals for Special Events

☎ 810-892-3266

✉ Melinda@glassymom.com

🌐 glassymom.com

📘 Facebook.com/GlassyMom

THINGS TO DO: OUTDOOR STORYWALKS



STORYWALKS

A StoryWalk is an innovative and fun outdoor activity that combines the joy of reading with the pleasure of walking in nature. Along a designated trail, a set of free-standing panels placed at intervals feature pages from a children's picture book. As families walk along the trail, they can enjoy the story unfolding before them, page by page. StoryWalks offer a unique way to engage children in reading while encouraging physical activity and exploration of the outdoors. Different books are featured at each local StoryWalk and are changed throughout the year.

LOCATIONS:

FORT GRATIOT COUNTY PARK
3325 Metcalf Rd, Fort Gratiot Twp.

MARYSVILLE CITY PARK
801 E. Huron Blvd, Marysville

PINE RIVER NATURE CENTER
2585 Castor Rd, Goodells



Megan Simmons, Agent

810-385-4466

www.MeganSimmonsInsurance.com

Outdoor activities are great for fostering children's curiosity about the natural world and building early science skills! Check out these age-appropriate science concepts you can explore with your child when playing outside: <http://bit.ly/2c1LrMv>



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Summer Essentials

FRUITS & VEGGIES BENEFIT

**Continued benefit levels
with cash values up to \$52!**



WIC Provides Free, Healthy Foods

- During and after your pregnancy
- While you breastfeed your baby
- For your little ones under 5

Tips for On-the-Go-Families

- Meet with caring nutrition experts
- Work with Breastfeeding Peer Counselors
- Help setting and meeting your nutrition goals

Services and Support

- On-line, time-saving education and recipes
- Mobile access to your real-time shopping list
- Solutions for picky eaters and much more

Call WIC Today to Get Started!
..... (810) 987-8222

THINGS TO DO: WEBSITES & APPS TO EXPLORE



ACTIVITIES ON THE INTERNET

1,000 HOURS OUTSIDE

Playing outside promotes developmental and health benefits. This website provides resources and inspiration for getting outside.
1000hoursoutside.com

ABCYA

Offers hundreds of fun, engaging preschool through 5th grade learning activities. Free on any desktop computer. A subscription is required for use on tablets and mobile devices.
abcya.com

COSMIC YOGA

Cosmic Kids Yoga is all about making yoga and mindfulness fun for kids.
cosmickids.com

DuoABC (App)

Educational learning app that offers immersive lessons to teach preschool to first grade kids to learn and love to read.
abc.duolingo.com

GO NOODLE

Go Noodle videos get kids moving to be their strongest, bravest, silliest, and brightest selves.
family.gonoodle.com

Khan Academy Kids (App)

Free educational app for children ages 2-8, including kids books, reading games, and math activities.
learn.khanacademy.org/khan-academy-kids/

THE LAURIE BERKNER BAND CHANNEL

Includes lots of music videos and fun things for your family to watch.
youtube.com/user/TheLaurieBerknerBand

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS

Educational games, videos, and other activities centered mainly on animals and the natural world.
kids.nationalgeographic.com/

PICKLE BUMS

This website provides a variety of fun activities. Download free templates for easy at-home crafts.
picklebums.com

PBS KIDS

Educational games and videos from Curious George, Wild Kratts, and other PBS KIDS shows.
pbskids.org

READING BRIGHT START

Includes milestones, a literacy screener, and activities supporting parents and children of different ages and levels.
readingbrightstart.org

READING ROCKETS

Reading Rockets offers information and resources on how young children learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help.
readingrockets.org

SCRATCH

Scratch is a free programming language and online community where you can create interactive stories, games, and animations.
scratch.mit.edu/

SUPER SIMPLE SONGS

YouTube channel streaming animated videos of traditional nursery rhymes and original children's songs.
supersimple.com

THINGS TO DO: GET COOKING

In the Kitchen

Cooking helps children learn and practice basic math concepts, build language skills, and strengthen motor skills. The experience of creating meals with you can build their confidence and encourage picky eaters to try new healthy foods.

Here are a few cooking jobs kids can do:
(Help them feel safe. Stay nearby!)

- Cut soft foods with a plastic knife
- Wash vegetables and fruit
- Sort and put away food items
- Tear lettuce
- Arrange food on serving dishes
- Wipe counters and table
- Wash unbreakable items
- Help measure ingredients
- Sift dry ingredients
- Stir and spread, and pour
- Get ingredients from the pantry or refrigerator
- Set a table
- Make a centerpiece



KID'S CRUNCH MIX

Ingredients:

- 1 cup animal crackers
- 1 cup bear-shaped crackers
- 1 cup mini pretzels
- 1 cup peanuts
- 1 cup M&M's, chocolate chips, mini marshmallows, yogurt-covered raisins or whatever other fun snack you have in your cupboard.

Directions:

1. Have your child scoop and pour ingredients into a measuring cup.
2. Pour into a larger bowl and mix.
3. Serve in a small fun bowl, ice cream cone, or colorful paper muffin cup.



BANANA PANCAKES

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup old-fashioned or quick oats
- 1 ripe banana
- 1 egg
- Pinch of cinnamon
- 1/4 cup milk (any type will work)

Directions:

1. Have your child chop up a banana using a butter knife.
2. Place all ingredients into a blender and blend until smooth.
3. Pour 1-2 tablespoons batter onto a warm, greased skillet.
4. Cook until the batter starts to form little bubbles, and you can easily get under the pancake with a spatula.
5. Flip the pancake and cook for another 1-2 minutes or until the pancake is cooked through.
6. Serve whole or cut up with fruit or nut butter.

Good nutrition combined with language-rich activities like talking, reading and singing supports children's early brain and language development. When you talk with your children about nutritious foods, you're helping to build both their vocabulary and healthy eating habits!



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ST. CLAIR COUNTY

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Adults \$28

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Scan to
Buy Tickets:



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THINGS TO DO: INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Ideas for a Rainy Day

GOOGLE ANY OF THESE IDEAS FOR TIPS



Arts & Crafts

- Make playdough or moon dough
- Google “How to draw...”
- Turn a cardboard box into a car, rocket, or boat
- Make a dollhouse or a whole town inside a cardboard box
- Paint with marbles or fingerpaint
- Make puppets out of paper bags or old socks. Put on a puppet show
- Make flowers out of coffee filters
- Learn origami
- Make friendship bracelets
- Build things with grapes and toothpicks
- Make “stained glass” with contact paper
- Try symmetry drawing
- Create with Perler beads
- Try papier mache
- Paint flower pots
- Make a fairy garden
- Make bookmarks
- Paint on construction paper with water
- Make art with crayons and a blowdryer
- Try paper weaving
- Make crafts with toilet paper rolls



Fun & Games

- Play board games
- Play hide and seek
- Play Duck, Duck, Goose
- Play Mother May I?
- Hold a treasure hunt
- Play balloon tennis
- Have a paper airplane competition
- Play Red Light, Green Light
- Make a kid escape room



Sensory Play

- Make an oil and water sensory bag
- Make a sensory tub with dried beans, rice and peas
- Play in a sink of water



Science

- Make a volcano
- Make elephant toothpaste
- Put a bar of Ivory soap in the microwave
- Make a tin can telephone
- Learn a magic trick
- Make rock candy



Get Cooking

- Bake together
- Make banana splits
- Have a “Chopped” cooking showdown
- Have an indoor picnic



Playtime

- Make a fort
- Sort cars, trains, or dinos by color
- Play hospital or vet with dolls or stuffed animals
- Have a toy car wash
- Go camping indoors
- Make a play food restaurant
- Play with water beads
- Take a bubble bath
- Build a tall tower out of anything
- Make an I-spy bottle
- Make a pom-pom kitchen
- Make balloon rockets
- Play with stickers
- Play with flashlights in the dark
- Make an at-home spa
- Create an indoor obstacle course
- Play indoor bowling
- String beads
- Sort buttons
- Make LEGO mosaics



Community *First* Health Centers

Improving the quality of life for our community.



Here for every stage of life

Here to offer you a range of health care and support services!

Primary Care & Women's Health Services: Our primary care team is lead by a team of family care experts ready to coordinate your health care needs through any stage of life. Our Women's Health Services provide obstetric and gynecological care for women from early adolescence to post menopause. Providers available at offices in Port Huron, Algonac and New Haven.

Dental Care: Our Dental team supports even the smallest patients as they develop! Our state of the art dental facility will help you with your oral health care needs, whether it's your first tooth or you're a seasoned brusher. Our dental offices are in Port Huron and New Haven.

Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP): The Maternal Infant Health Program is a home visiting program for qualifying pregnant women and infants. We provide information and support about having a healthy pregnancy and baby. Services include help with prenatal care, family planning, infant care and development, and community referrals.

Women, Infant & Children (WIC): WIC is the nation's most successful supplemental nutrition program, providing access to healthy food options for pregnant women, infants and children through an EBT card.

Learn more today!

Online: www.CommunityFirstHC.org

By Phone: 586-749-5173

THINGS TO DO: INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Ideas for a Rainy Day

GOOGLE ANY OF THESE IDEAS FOR TIPS



Movement & Music

- Form a rock band
- Practice yoga
- Make a ball pit in a laundry basket
- Jump on bubble wrap



- Visit the library
- Learn some words in sign language
- Make a reading cave, and read in the dark with flashlights
- Write a book
- Create a family newspaper
- Write a letter and mail it
- Have an alphabet scavenger hunt
- Write with shaving cream
- Create a comic strip
- Look up some jokes
- Solve some riddles
- Play sight word games



AND FINALLY...

- Have some snuggle time



START YOUR SUMMER WITH THE REC!

REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS AT
WWW.PORTHURONREC.COM.

COMING THIS FALL...

DISCOVERY CITY
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

317 GRAND RIVER AVE.



Maternal & Infant Health Program
Call to Enroll!
(810) 987-4903

SCAN ME



FREE Visits for Pregnant Women & Babies



We make sure pregnant women are on the road to a healthy pregnancy with positive birth outcomes.



We help babies meet growth and developmental milestones.



We provide referrals based on individual needs to services and programs in the area.



3415 28th Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

THINGS TO DO: MAKE IT YOURSELF



MS. JEN'S AWESOME PLAY DOUGH

Ingredients and Tools:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2½ teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups cold water
- Food coloring (enough to create desired color)
- Wooden board
- Plastic bag or container



Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan, mix together the flour, salt, vegetable oil, cream of tartar, water and food coloring.
2. Cook uncovered over medium heat for 7-10 minutes. Stir constantly until the dough forms a large clump and is extremely difficult to stir or turn over (like your "arm is about to fall off" hard to stir!)
3. Knead the dough. The kids can help with this part!
4. If you store the play dough in a plastic bag or airtight container, it will stay soft and last for years.



COLOR MIXING SENSORY JAR

Ingredients:

- Water
- Food coloring or liquid watercolor
- Mineral oil
- Water bottle

Directions:

This sensory bottle is half colored water and half mineral oil. The mineral oil keeps the water clear. Other oils can be substituted, but will change the coloring.

1. Fill the bottle half way with water and food coloring (cake decorating gel works best).
2. Add the mineral oil.
3. Shake and watch!



Follow our Pinterest page for more fun ideas.

SEARCH: Great Start Family Coalition St. Clair County or @gsfcscc

BEING IN
FOSTER
CARE IS
HARD
ENOUGH.



Separation from siblings can make the experience even more difficult. Become a foster parent to keep siblings together and help preserve life's longest relationships.

To learn more about foster care in Michigan, text "MDHHS FOSTER" to 468-311.

1-855-MICHKIDS | **RAISE HOPE &
FOSTER DREAMS** | **MICHIGAN.GOV/HOPEFORAHOME**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) does not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, national origin, color, sex, disability, religion, age, height, weight, familial status, partisan considerations, or genetic information. Sex-based discrimination includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, and pregnancy.

MDHHS-Pub-1719-B (6-23)

THINGS TO DO: OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

				
LEAF	WATER	SAND	BIRD	FLOWER
				
FLYING BUG	ROCK	BUG	SWING	BUTTERFLY
		<div>SOMETHING YOU THINK IS A TREASURE</div>		
MAILBOX	FENCE		STOP SIGN	TREE
				
CAR	BIKE	DOG	BALL	PINECONE
				
SOMETHING FUZZY	SOMETHING BUMPY	A PIECE OF LITTER	SOMETHING COLORFUL	SQUIRREL

LET'S GET MOVING!

When you're stuck indoors, moving and dancing can help get everyone's wiggles out. It's also a great way to keep our bodies healthy and strong!

FAMILY DANCE PARTY

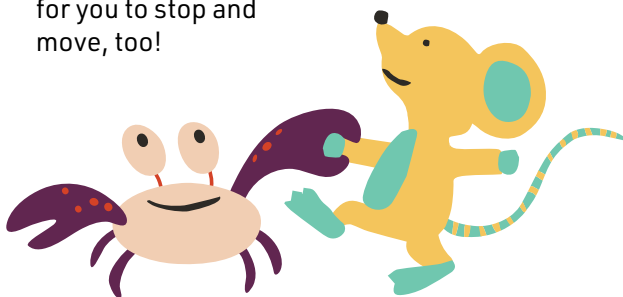
Turn on some music and have fun dancing together. You can even dance from room-to-room in a conga line. Stop the music every once in a while to play "Freeze Dance!"

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

Find an open area. When you say "green light," your child has to run fast, then stop when you say "red light." Allow your child to say "red light, green light" for you to stop and move, too!

ANIMAL MOVES AND GROOVES

Take turns pretending to move like different animals and guess which animals they are!



INDOOR ACTIVITIES KIT

Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/4aJrXE3> for 10 ways you can talk, read, sing, and play your way through the day with items you already have on hand.

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ST. CLAIR COUNTY

[GREATSTARTSTCLAIR.ORG](https://www.greatstartstclair.org)

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THINGS TO DO: TAKE THE MESS OUTDOORS



RAINBOW RICE SENSORY BIN

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of inexpensive long grain rice
- ½ teaspoon vinegar
- Several drops of liquid food coloring
- Large zipper storage bag
- Large shallow bin with a top

Directions:

1. Pour a cup of rice into a zipper storage bag
2. Add several drops of food coloring into the bag
3. Drizzle ½ tsp of vinegar over the rice
4. Close the bag, hold the seal firmly, and shake to combine ingredients
5. Spread each batch of colored rice out onto a plate or baking sheet to dry (place rice trays in the sun to dry faster)
6. Add to a large bin and include anything from measuring cups to spoons, funnels, sifters, and cars, and play!
7. Sensory rice play encourages learning through exploration, curiosity, problem solving, and creativity.



ROCK PAINTING

Ingredients:

- Smooth flat rocks
- Paint or water and brushes

Directions:

1. Wash and dry the rocks.
2. Design and paint your rock (Water or washable paint works great for younger children. Acrylic paints work best for bigger kids.)
3. Let it dry. (For water-painted rocks, after the water dries, you can keep painting.)
4. Have fun with your painted rocks and hide them around your neighborhood for friends to find.



Talking and singing together can boost children's early brain and language development. Talk with your child about the sunshine! As you play outside together, ask questions like "How does the sunshine feel?" or "How far away is the sun?" Sing along with your child while taking a walk in the sunshine!



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TALK
READ
SING

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THINGS TO DO: OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



WATER SPRAY BOTTLES

Materials:

- Water
- Spray bottles
- Added fun: food coloring

Directions:

1. Get some old spray bottles and fill them with water.
2. Make patterns on outdoor walls, fences or sidewalks with the water spray.
3. Try adding food coloring to the water for added fun (and mess!). This is a great fine-motor activity for little ones.



EMPTY THE RECYCLE BIN

Materials:

- Recycle bin boxes and containers
- Tape
- Markers
- Glue

Directions:

Let your kids create, glue, build, paint and decorate structures, creatures, flowers, and more with items rescued from the recycling bin



OUTDOOR KITCHEN

Materials:

- Pots, pans, and bowls
- Kitchen utensils
- Natural materials such as pine cones, grass, sticks, and rocks
- Sand or mud

Directions:

Let your children use the outdoor environment to create an outdoor kitchen. Let them cook, bake, serve, and pretend to eat their creations



Introducing Our Sensory-Friendly Waiting & Clinic Rooms!



CSHCS Vaccine Initiative (CVI) funding was used for this publication. CVI supports efforts to increase vaccination rates among children with disabilities and special health care needs.

LET'S TALK ABOUT

FEELINGS!

Make funny faces and use words to label them. Say things like "We're smiling because we're so happy! What about a frown? How do you feel?"



#TALKINGISTEACHINGTIPS



**SO SMALL
TO FAIL**



THINGS TO DO: LANGUAGE AND LITERACY



BACK-AND-FORTH CONVERSATIONS

Beginning at birth, babies can be part of back-and-forth communication with their loved ones. Families support children's language when they turn babies' coos and toddlers' talk into conversations by:

- Looking at their baby when they coo
- Copying and adding to their children's sounds and words
- Translating children's actions and sounds into words
- Asking questions
- Waiting for answers
- Keeping the conversation going



Talk, Point, and Sing

Scan the QR code to learn more



FUN WITH BOOKS AND STORYTELLING

Babies and toddlers who share books and listen to stories with their families have stronger language and literacy later in life. You can help build these skills by:

- Reading books with babies and toddlers from birth
- Looking at and talking about picture books
- Telling stories out loud
- Using books as prompts to talk, sing songs, and share memories



Read and Discuss Stories

Scan the QR code to learn more



ST. CLAIR COUNTY'S SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS



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Help Me Grow connects families to:

- Resources and referrals
- Home visiting services
- Parent phone line
- Developmental information

Learn more about your child's development

Help Me Grow-St. Clair County offers free screenings for all children ages 0-5 that provide insight into your child's development.



Scan the QR code
to complete the
Ages & Stages
Questionnaires

For more information go to: www.helpmegrow-mi.org/stclaircounty

THINGS TO DO:

Road Trip Entertainment

Long road trips can be challenging, and children, especially young ones, can get bored easily in the car. While the simple solution is to turn on a movie or give them a tablet, there are plenty of ways to keep the ride screen-free. Interactive games tailored to the passing scenery can help pass the time and add excitement to the trip.



I SPY

Decide who starts. The player who starts picks an object that everyone can see and offers a clue. For example, a player might choose a road sign and say, "I spy with my little eye something blue." Players take turns calling out guesses until someone gets the right answer. The first person to guess correctly goes next.



ALPHABET HUNT

Challenge your child to find letters on road signs, license plates, store signs, and billboards from A to Z. Start with A and work through the alphabet until you find every letter in order. Teach your child tricks to find all the letters, tough ones like Q, X, and Z (Hint: these letters are more common on license plates).



ONCE UPON A TIME

Create a story together. Pick a person to start the story. The following person continues the story by saying a word, phrase, or sentence. The next person continues the story until each person has had 2-4 turns, and you have one long story.



MAP FUN

Print out a map of your travel route or buy a state paper map and let your child follow along. Mark off your stops along the way with a star so your child can see how far there is to go. Add in a toy car for some pretend driving fun.

Receive free children's books

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for children age 0-5

The Imagination Library is a gift to every child enrolled. Each month a new, carefully selected book is mailed in the child's name directly to his or her home. Children graduate from the program on their 5th birthday.



How to enroll a child

If you live in St. Clair County and have a child under 5 years of age, you can register online at www.greatstartstclair.org or call (810) 455-4015.

Imagination Library is funded locally by the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency, the United Way of St. Clair County, grants and donations.



Help us make a difference in the lives of St. Clair County's youngest children

Bringing books into the homes and lives of youngsters would not be possible without the contributions we receive from generous donors. Just \$25 provides one child a book a month for one year. Every gift we receive—no matter how small—is greatly appreciated.

To make a donation, visit tinyurl.com/ILdonate
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