OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

BERRIEN RESA | parents as teachers | UNITED WAY Southwest Michigan

FAMILY CONNECTION

Play it Safe



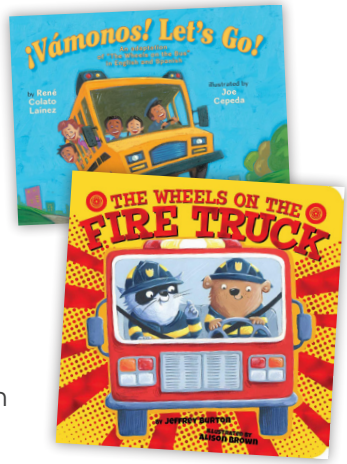
This month, we're exploring our world and the community helpers who keep us safe and healthy! Teach your child how to be safe as they learn about the world around them.

- **Riding in a Vehicle** – always buckle your child in a car seat. It should be properly installed and the right size for your child's weight and age. Know the guidelines for rear-facing and forward-facing seats.
- **Near Water** – always stay close by when your child is near or in water, no matter how shallow. Drain small wading pools when you're not using them.
- **At Playgrounds** – Falls are the number one injury at playgrounds. Watch your child at all times. Playgrounds with surfaces of at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, pea gravel or rubber mats are best for preventing injury from falls.
- **At Home** – prepare for emergencies with a home fire escape plan with two ways out of every room. Keep all household cleaning products out of sight and out of reach from your child. Install cabinet and door safety devices. Add the Poison Help Hotline number onto your phone for quick access: 800-222-1222.

For more safety tips, visit: **SafeKids.org**.

LITERACY FOR LITTLES

Sharing Books to Build Pre-literacy Skills



Does this scene sound familiar? You've just finished reading your child's favorite book and ready to do something else, when your child yells out, "AGAIN!" Young children are wired to seek out **repetition** because it helps the brain form stronger connections and spurs further development. Take home a **FREE** copy of this month's featured book, ***The Wheels on the Fire Truck*** or ***¡Vámonos! Let's Go!*** Both books are based on the classic "The Wheels on the Bus" song which involves a lot of repetition and a great way to build language skills.

IT ALL ADDS UP!

Building Pre-Math Skills with Your Young Child



The world is full of **shapes** for your child to discover. Learning basic shapes is a fundamental pre-math skill and leads to understanding geometry. Point to shapes around you, like the wheels on the fire truck! Play "I Spy" with your child to make learning fun.

Learn more at BerrienRESA.org/playgroups or facebook.com/BerrienRESA.EarlyEd

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BERRIEN RESA

READ, PLAY & LEARN PLAYGROUPS!

October 2026

Enjoy activities, play centers, story time and more at these FREE events for all families with infants and children ages birth to 5. No registration needed, just show up!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5	6 Buchanan 9:30 – 10:30 AM St. Joe (Lincoln) 6 – 7 PM	7 Berrien Springs 10 – 11 AM	8 New Buffalo 10 – 11 AM	9 Niles 10 – 11 AM
12	13 Watervliet 9 – 10 AM Brandywine 6 – 7 PM	14 Stevensville 10 – 11 AM	15 Bridgman 9 – 10 AM	16 Eau Claire 10 – 11 AM
19	20 St. Joe (BH/SJ YMCA) 9 – 10 AM Berrien Springs 6 – 7 PM	21	22 Benton Harbor 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	23
26	27	28	29	30

Join the fun!

Follow us on Facebook – facebook.com/BerrienRESA.EarlyEd

Check **BerrienRESA.org/playgroups** or our facebook page for weather related updates and/or cancelations!

LOCATIONS

BENTON HARBOR
Sammie Smith Investment Center
301 S. Martin Luther King Dr.

BERRIEN SPRINGS
Berrien RESA Admin Center
711 St. Joseph Avenue
Enter through door #7

BRANDYWINE
Merritt Elementary
1620 LaSalle Avenue in Niles

BRIDGMAN
Bridgman Elementary
3891 Lake Street

BUCHANAN
Ottawa Elementary
109 Ottawa Street

EAU CLAIRE
Student Activity Center
6305 W. Main Street

NEW BUFFALO
New Buffalo Twp. Library
33 N. Thompson Street

NILES
Northside Child Development Center
2020 N. Fifth Street

ST. JOSEPH
BH/SJ YMCA
3665 Hollywood Road (Morning)

Lincoln Elementary
1102 Orchard Avenue (Evening)

STEVENSVILLE
Christ Lutheran School
4333 Cleveland Avenue

WATERVLIET
North Elementary
287 Baldwin Avenue