SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

BERRIEN RESA · parents as teachers · UNITED WAY Southwest Michigan

FAMILY CONNECTION

The Learning Journey Begins with Play!



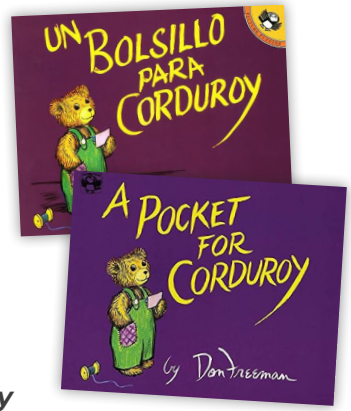
Berrien RESA Read, Play, and Learn Playgroups are opportunities for you and your child to share in learning fun. These early years of life mark the beginnings of your child's learning journey with small (and sometimes big!) steps along the way. As your child engages in what can seem like simple play, these activities are significant moments that can develop thinking, language, physical, social and emotional skills. When you join in and support your child's play, their learning is enhanced!

The Berrien County school district Superintendents have established three countywide goals focused on literacy, math and well-being. These goals strive to provide an educational setting where all students succeed and thrive. Our playgroups are also designed with these three goals in mind. Every session includes activities that support language and literacy development and fundamental pre-math skills. Each month also features a topic that promotes well-being to support your family as you care for your child.

We look forward to a new school year with you and your child as you begin this exciting year of growth and learning together!

LITERACY FOR LITTLES

Sharing Books to Build Pre-literacy Skills



One of the very best ways to support language and pre-literacy skills in infants and young children is to share books together. Take home a **FREE** copy of this month's featured book, ***A Pocket for Corduroy / Un Bolsillo Para Corduroy*** by Don Freeman. When enjoying this story together, take time to talk about the book. Corduroy is an adventurous teddy bear who gets separated from his friend, Lisa. Talk with your child about a favorite toy and recall a time that favorite toy went missing! Relating this story to your own child's experience increases reading comprehension, a key literacy skill.

IT ALL ADDS UP!

Building Pre-Math Skills with Your Young Child



Counting is a fun way to introduce math to your child. When you match numbers to objects, your child learns how counting works. Try making it hands-on by counting the buttons or snaps on their clothes. You can also count things like blocks, pieces of cereal, and, of course, fingers and toes!

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

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BERRIEN RESA

READ, PLAY & LEARN PLAYGROUPS!

September 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	3	4
7	8	9 Berrien Springs 10 – 11 AM	10 New Buffalo 10 – 11 AM	11 Niles 10 – 11 AM
14	15 Buchanan 9:30 – 10:30 AM St. Joe (Lincoln) 6 – 7 PM	16 Stevensville 10 – 11 AM	17 Bridgman 9 – 10 AM	18 Eau Claire 10 – 11 AM
21	22 Watervliet 9 – 10 AM Back-to-Playgroup Night! Brandywine 5:30 – 7 PM	23	24 Benton Harbor 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	25
28	29 St. Joe (BH/SJ YMCA) 9 – 10 AM Berrien Springs 6 – 7 PM	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