NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

BERRIEN RESA · parents as teachers · UNITED WAY Southwest Michigan

FAMILY CONNECTION

From Baby Babble to Child Chatter



Who doesn't get excited when baby's babbling begins to sound like words you recognize? These are incredible moments for sure! But remember that a strong indicator of your child's language development before they are two years old is not so much what they vocalize, but what they UNDERSTAND. This aspect of language development is called *receptive language*. Toddlers may understand as many as 40 words, even if they haven't yet spoken their first one!

Here are some ways to encourage development with infants and toddlers, as well as preschoolers:

- Talk often with your child. Look at them directly when you talk. Keep sentences and words simple.
- Notice what your child is noticing. Engage in "play-by-play" talk by describing what your child is doing. This is called parallel talk.
- Try to understand what your child is attempting to say. Your effort to understand will encourage them to try more.
- Ask your child questions and give them time to respond.

LITERACY FOR LITTLES

Sharing Books to Build Pre-literacy Skills



To read, children need to understand that the words in a story are made up of **letters**. In the book, ***Bear Says Thanks / Oso Dice Gracias***, invite your child to "read along" by saying the phrase "and the bear says THANKS!", which is repeated often. You can help your child learn letters by pointing out the letters in books as well as letters in their environment. Children often first learn the letters in their name. Make a thank you card together for someone special and help your child sign it, even if the "writing" looks like simple marks.

IT ALL ADDS UP!

Building Pre-Math Skills with Your Young Child



Life is full of **patterns**. Your child is learning how things work and will use that skill to predict what might happen next. Blocks are a great way to explore patterns. Provide materials like blocks, boxes, and containers. Join in the play and give them the excitement of knocking it all down!

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

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BERRIEN RESA

READ, PLAY & LEARN PLAYGROUPS!

November 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
2	3 Buchanan 9:30 – 10:30 AM St. Joe (Lincoln) 6 – 7 PM	4 Stevensville 10 – 11 AM	5 New Buffalo 10 – 11 AM **CANCELLED** See you in Jan!	6 Niles 10 – 11 AM
9	10 Watervliet 9 – 10 AM **CANCELLED** See you in Jan! Brandywine 6 – 7 PM	11 Berrien Springs 10 – 11 AM	12 Bridgman 9 – 10 AM	13 Eau Claire 10 – 11 AM
16	17 St. Joe (BH/SJ YMCA) 9 – 10 AM Berrien Springs 6 – 7 PM	18	19 Benton Harbor 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	20
23	24	25	26	27

REMINDER:
We'll be taking a short break from Playgroups in December. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Welcome Winter!
A family open house for children ages 0-5.
Choose one session.
Dec. 8 from 6 – 7:30 PM ***OR*** Dec. 9 from 10 – 11:30 AM

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