



The

# Connection

Resources

For Families and  
Early Childhood  
Professionals

DECEMBER 2016

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Visit our Resource and Lending Library Monday through Friday from 9:00 am—4:00 pm. You will discover FREE useful resources for teaching, parenting and activities for Quality time with your family!



## Give the Gift of Quality Time!



**Child Connect for Family Success**, along with our sponsors wish you a wonderful holiday season! What will YOU give your family this holiday season? After the fanfare of Thanksgiving dinner, you may feel like Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa with the family can be slightly more relaxed celebrations. After all, the gift of **quality family time** is the essential ingredient of every successful holiday.

**What is quality time?** "Quality time" is time spent doing an activity that is meaningful to the parent and child. It is time when family members really get to know each other. Quality time is spent focusing attention on the other person and sharing thoughts and feelings. Quality time helps children develop positive **self-esteem**. Communicating words of encouragement and love help give children the courage and persistence needed to try new things.

During **quality time**, children learn about **trust** at home from their parents. They learn trust from being trusted. When we trust the child to accomplish a task on his or her own, the child learns that he or she can do the task.

Spending **quality time** with our children can be fun and educational for us and for them. Much of the child's basic learning takes place in the many informal situations that occur daily in the life of the family. In addition to the daily interactions we have with our children, we plan special activities and learning times. These activities do not need to be costly, but rather activities that satisfy both the parent and the child.

At Child Connect for Family Success we encourage you to give the gift of **quality time** to your family this holiday season. Check out our **free quality learning kits** for children of all ages. You can come into our office, and take a learning kit home to create that **gift of quality time!** We have family game night kits, story time kits, play kits ... you name it, and we have it!

**Give your family the Gift of Quality Time this Holiday Season!**

**It's all about Quality.**

**Child Connect  
for Family Success**

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800-260-0202  
[www.childconnectmi.org](http://www.childconnectmi.org)



**2016 Child Connect  
Platinum Members:**

Joyce Powers, Board Member  
Janet Joseph, Board Member  
Marian Krippes, Board Member

Jennifer Lapa, Board Chair and  
Director  
Little Howellers

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Little Glad Childcare Center

Sue Cherry, Board Member and  
Director  
Maple Tree Montessori

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Wonder Care Daycare

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Tot Spot Child Programs

Linda Manson-Dempsey, Director  
Little Country Kids Daycare

Zina Pettit, Owner/Director  
Group Home Care Program

Jodie Hutcheson  
Creative Kids Learning Center

# Resounding Resources

## Two (2) New December Learning Kits



- (1) Santa Suit
- (2) Holiday Book Kits



Check out our NEW learning kits from the Kellogg Family Foundation!

We have a Santa Suit for your holiday parties—call first to reserve it. Check out our Holiday Book Kits for storytelling fun!

Come in to our office at 2710 East Grand River in Howell to check out your FREE learning kits today!

### LET'S CONNECT!

Child Connect for Family Success is Online:

Our website: [www.childconnectmi.org](http://www.childconnectmi.org)

Like us on [FACEBOOK](#)

Follow us on [Twitter](#)



**Please Note:** Child Connect for Family Success will observe the holidays by closing the office December 26-December 30. We will reopen on January 2, 2017!

The Provider Connection

30 Lessons  
30 Minutes  
30 Days!

Call 517-548-9112  
Over Your Cup (OOH)

MSW/MSW Social Children  
Staff Orientation  
Workbook

COOKING MATTERS!  
January 11, 18 & 25 at 6:30 pm  
Child Connect for Family Success  
Call 517-548-9112 to Register TODAY



## Fun Family Traditions to Enjoy!



**Visit a Tree Farm.** Start your family's holiday festivities off right by bundling up, packing hot cocoa and apple cider, and heading to a local Christmas tree farm to search for the perfect tree. Chances are, you will do more than find a tree: Many tree farms offer hayrides, sleigh rides, and other family-friendly activities.

**Trim the Tree.** Your Christmas tree will be your home's focal point for a few weeks, fluff the branches, then hang lights (make sure they are in perfect condition first!) starting at the base and working your way up before stringing garlands. Then carefully unpack your ornaments and hooks. Let each family member take turns hanging their favorites on the tree, evenly spacing them on branch tips or grouping like ornaments in clusters. If you have little ones who want to help, set aside non-breakable ornaments for them to hang on the lowest branches.



**Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas.** Make others' lives merry and bright during the 12 days of Christmas, beginning December 25 and ending January 5. Stuff decorated shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, and personal-care products for disadvantaged children. Ladle up nutrition at a soup kitchen. Or surprise your mail carrier, elderly neighbor, or child's teacher with an inexpensive yet meaningful gift, such as something homemade, a colorful coffee mug, or a cookie plate.

**PJ's & a Movie.** On Christmas Eve give the children a new pair of Christmas jammies, a holiday movie and some hot chocolate & popcorn.

**Holiday Lights.** One of my favorite childhood memories is bundling up and getting in our family's station wagon and cruising around town looking at lights, while listening to Christmas music. Give it a try!

**Baking.** Growing up, it would not have been the holidays without my mom baking various baked goods, cookies & festive treats. Baking is a fun way to get the kids involved.

**Advent Calendar.** Thanks to Pinterest there are a million fun ideas for this. Growing up our calendar was simple and we loved every second of it.

**Letters to Santa.** Do you remember writing a letter to Santa each year and then mailing it off to the North Pole?? And do you remember the magic when he actually responded and you got a letter in the mail from the man in red?

**Pay it Forward.** Another really cool idea is to give each of your children a little bit of money and use that to do something nice for a friend, class mate or stranger. Bring joy to others!

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## Fun Family Traditions to Enjoy! Continued from Page 4

**Video from Santa.** Try the website [Portable North Pole](#) to make a little video for your toddlers. Watch the excitement in their eyes as they watch him say their names!

**Christmas Caroling.** Christmas caroling is so much fun every year. Gather a group of neighborhood children or family members and go outside, enjoy the fresh air and carol at the neighbors homes.

Create a new tradition for Christmas with [The Kindness Elves](#), an alternative to the popular Elf on the Shelf idea, and place the focus instead on positive, character-building activities for kids. Teaching love, kindness and gratitude with a hope to raise kids who move away from the entitlement attitude which is creeping into our modern generation.



**“Plant” red hots** in the snow on Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning, they “grow” into candy canes.

**Track Father Christmas** using NORAD! Lots of fun, and we hang a special key on the outside of the door for Father Christmas to let himself in...

**Go to the library** and each child picks out a story about Christmas, or holidays in other cultures. Then on Christmas Eve everyone reads (or has an adult read) their story, finishing up with the story of Christ's birth.



**Celebrate the season of light.** In the middle of the darker winter days and the added stress and craziness from the holiday season, observing the winter solstice (December 22) -- the shortest day and longest night of the year -- can provide a much-needed moment to slow down and celebrate the light in our lives. Plan a family candle-lit dinner, stargaze in the backyard or create your own luminarias to line your porch, sidewalks or front steps with their lovely glowing light. These decorative paper bags are traditionally filled with sand and a small candle.

**Latke party!** Latkes, traditionally eaten during Hanukkah, are a great meal that the whole family can help in preparing. Some families are even taking it a step further by having Hanukkah "latke Top Chef" parties, where guests are asked to make the traditional latkes with an added mystery ingredient. Carrot latkes, anyone? Banana? Zucchini? The options are endless -- and hopefully just as tasty! [Recipe \(click here\)](#)

**Happy Holidays from the Staff at Child Connect  
for Family Success!**

## December 2016—January 2017 PD Classes

12/6/16	6:30-8:30 pm	<b>Holiday Fun!</b> Enjoy making a holiday arrangement with Kevin from Country Lane Florist. <b>Holiday treats provided.</b> Take some time for you!
12/12/16	1:00—3:00 pm	<b>Holiday Fun! for Directors ONLY</b> with Kevin from Country Lane Florist. Take some time to <b>network</b> and relax. <b>Lunch will be served.</b>
12/13/16	7:00—8:30 pm	Social & Emotional Training and Support with Holly Carter, MSW— <b><i>"Incarceration and the effects on children and families"</i></b>
1/11/17	6:30—8:30 pm	<b>Cooking Matters!</b> Shelly Frazier, MSU-E
1/17/17	7:00—8:30 pm	Social & Emotional Training and Support with Holly Carter, MSW— <b><i>"Developmental Disabilities/Autism"</i></b>
1/18/17	6:30—8:30 pm	<b>Cooking Matters! Part 2</b>
1/23/17	1:00—3:00 pm	Directors Training and Support, <b><i>"Including all of Us"</i></b> with Carrier Shrier, MSU-E
1/25/17	6:30—8:30 pm	Cooking Matters! Part 3

**CPR and First Aid Classes are held each month, call 517-548-9112 for current schedule. Register for all**



Child Connect for Family Success presents ...

## Holiday Fun!

December 6, 2016 - 6:30-8:30 pm

Celebrate the Season with other Early Childhood Providers!  
Relax, enjoy, network!

Create a holiday arrangement with Kevin from Country Lane!

Call 517-548-9112 to Register TODAY!