Child Connect for Family Success

Happy Valentines Day!

The Connection

Resources For Families and Early Childhood Professionals

FEBRUARY 2018

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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!

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Sponsored by … Kellogg Family Foundation

Random Acts of Kindness Day! February 17

Everybody has the potential to change the world. Child Connect wants to seize that potential by inviting you to celebrate **Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17th!** Early Childhood Professionals, children and families can live and breathe kindness, share knowledge and lead by example. We believe kindness can change the world, so … remind everyone around you how much love there is in the world, and inspire hope and generosity with your actions as much as your words! You know what to do...perform a few random acts of kindness. Almost any kind deed will do.

This is a favorite day of many people and groups. People like the idea of showing a little kindness to others. Its a fun and good thing to do. And, they like being on the receiving end of this day as well. It makes both the giver and the receiver feel good.

Need some inspiration to **teach kindness in the classroom**? Check out some of these resources designed to teach children to:

- learn to show respect and care to others
- learn about personal space and boundaries of others
- learn that feelings influence behavior
- learn why classroom rules are needed.

FREE Lesson Plans
Classroom Tools and Kindness Projects
25 Random Acts of Kindness for Preschoolers

random act of kindness

It's all about Quality.

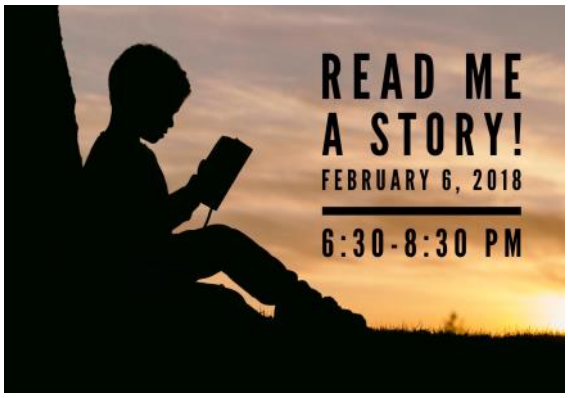
Child Connect for Family Success

2710 East Grand River
Suite 6
Howell, MI 48843
517-548-9112 or
800-260-0202
www.childconnectmi.org

Great Start Collaborative Livingston County
Live United United Way Livingston County United Way lcunitedway.org
Child Connect for family success
Great Start Collaborative Genesee

The Provider Connection

Professional Development Opportunities …



Read Me a Story! Shared Reading is an interactive reading experience that occurs when children join in or share the reading of a book or other text while guided and supported by a teacher. Explore shared Reading on **February 6, 2018 from 6:30—8:30 pm. $10.00 per person.**

Register for all classes online at: childconnectmi.org or by calling 517-548-9112

FREE Social & Emotional Support & Training with Holly Carter at Child Connect in Howell on February 20 from 6:30-8:30.

Anger is a strong emotion—learn ways to provide targeted social & emotional supports for children in your program.

Program Directors! This one is for YOU! Director's Training and Support on February 26th with **Jennifer Rountree** from the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, from 1:00—3:00 pm. Light refreshments are provided.

Across the country, people and programs are focusing on protective factors in their work with families. Protective factors are attributes of families that help them to succeed and thrive, even in the face of risk and challenges. Come and be introduced to the Strengthening Families Approach.

"**How Children Develop**," with Courtney Aldrich from MSU-E on February 27 from 6:30-8:30 pm - **FREE** thanks to collaboration with Great Start Livingston!

View the 2018 UPDATED Professional Development Calendar HERE!

Resounding Resources

Resounding Resources

NEW!!! Transportation play kits are available for you to enjoy with your children. Make believe is so much fun!

Follow the Child Connect GPS (Guided Professional Services) on your journey to quality!

Child Connect's GPS leads early childhood professional development in **Livingston County** to the next level by providing guided professional services including:

1) Intentional planning and customizing professional development for your program;
2) Customized training modules and regularly scheduled training modules;
3) On-site classroom evaluations (using the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT™ developed by the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) to help you identify areas for improvement;
4) Classroom Program Quality Assessment (PQA)
5) Professional consultations and coaching to model the skills taught during our research-based training modules to maximize the overall impact of professional development;
3) CDA Scholarship Program;
4) Hybrid CDA Program;
5) Ready, Set, Learn Kindergarten Readiness Program
6) Pediatric and General First Aid and CPR/AED Classes
7) Other compliancy classes including Blood borne Pathogens training, Safe Sleep, Shaken Baby Prevention and SIDs Prevention training.

Call **517-548-9112** to schedule your on-site classroom evaluation and consultation.

Sponsored by ... Kellogg Family Foundation

Family Connection

February— Its all about Children Feeling Loved!

The supreme happiness in life is the conviction that we are loved. —Victor Hugo

Certainly you care about your children. That is why you're reading this. And, like most parents, you probably make many sacrifices to feed, clothe, and educate your children. You may brag about them to anyone who will listen. Perhaps you even carry their pictures around to show off to your friends.

Yes, with few exceptions, all parents love their children. Yet not all children feel loved. Even when their parents love them, some children think that no matter what they do, they're not wanted. Others learn that their parents care about them only when they behave in certain ways. Clearly, being loved is not the same as feeling loved. It isn't enough to know you love your children. You have to be sure they know it, too. You have to show them you love them just the way they are, just because they are. Loving your children, then, is largely a matter of getting the message across.

Hidden messages

With children, it's often the little things that count. You may have scrimped and saved to buy a bigger and better home. But young children don't know that such acts express your love for them. Instead, simple, everyday events tell young children whether or not you value them. Your presence, a smile, a gentle touch, and a kind word spell "I love you" to a child. In the same way, day-to-day happenings can tell children they are not valued very highly. Unintentionally, your words and actions can convey to children that you don't care. Think about how some of the things you say and do might look from a child's point of view: ***Do you . . .***

- *Tend to feed, clothe, and bathe your baby hurriedly, never taking advantage of this time to touch, talk, and play with her?*
- *Show your affection for your child only when he does something that pleases you?*

If you are always in a hurry, or always on your cell phone, your children may be learning not that you are busy, but that they are not important. If you express your love only under certain conditions, your children may be learning that you love them if they obey or if they don't wet the bed or if they don't make any mistakes. If children receive many such messages, they may begin to think that you are not very glad to have them.

Successful signals

Children who feel unloved act very differently from those who feel loved. They spend lots of time trying to reassure themselves and other people of their worth. They are cautious about trying new things, for failure hurts them deeply. Children who know they are loved, on the other hand, don't have to waste time proving their worth. They aren't afraid to try out their wings. They know that even if they fall, they can still count on your love and respect. To be sure your children feel secure about your love for them:

- Look at what your words and actions may be telling your children about themselves.
- Find ways to show your children that, no matter what, you love them.

This does not mean that if you ever get angry or frustrated with your children they are ruined forever. Children do not need perfect parents. Ordinary people will do. If the overall climate you create is one of love and respect, your children will learn they are valued:

just the way they are,
just because they are,
no ifs, ands, or buts.

(continued on Page 5)

February— Its all about Children Feeling Loved! (continued from page 4)

Love letters

Few things will be more important in deciding your children's future than their sense of self-worth. How they feel about themselves will affect who they choose as friends, how they get along with others, and how well they make use of their abilities; in other words, all aspects of their lives. The strategies described below can strengthen your children's self-worth by letting them know you love and value them.

Pay attention to your children. Take time to talk to them, listen to them, and show interest in their activities. Try to find times when you aren't hurried or tense and can focus just on them.

Express your affection often through physical contact. With babies, this means holding and cuddling. As children get older, you can offer hugs, kisses, caresses, an arm over the shoulder, or a pat on the back. Sometimes the right words are hard to find, but a gentle hug says it all.

Treat your children with the same respect you show adults. Too often we reserve one set of manners for adults and another for children We may embarrass our children by scolding or criticizing them in front of others. Or we may get so involved in a conversation we forget their presence. Children are no less sensitive than adults and deserve the same kind of respect.

Tell your children from time to time they are appreciated. Don't wait until they get good grades, or limit your praise to their good looks or manners. Let them know you enjoy them and think they are great all the time.

Respond to your children with patience and understanding. When children spill their milk for the third time in a row, or hit their siblings over the head with a toy shovel, it is easy to react in a negative way. Try, instead, to see your child as someone who needs your help in controlling his or her body and emotions.

Respect children's feelings and abilities. Because of their size, we sometimes forget that children are people, too. They have a right to privacy and to feelings of their own. We may have to remind ourselves not to carry children when they can get there on their own steam or to speak for them when they can do this for themselves.

LET'S CONNECT!

Child Connect for Family Success is Online:

Our website: www.childconnectmi.org

Like us on FACEBOOK
Follow us on Twitter

Child Connect for family success

Great Start Collaborative Livingston County

FEBRUARY 23, 2018

6:00 - 10:00 PM

SALE ONLY $50.00!

CPR / AED / First Aid

Thanks to Great Start Livingston …
FULL CPR/AED/First Aid Training is On SALE!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership to Child Connect for Family Success is open to the public: parents, educators, health and human services representatives, businesses, community organizations, early childhood care and education personnel and anyone who cares for and about children and families. Yearly membership begins January 1—December 31.

Membership fees support Child Connect services. Child Connect is funded through private and public contracts, foundation grants, corporate and individual donations and membership fees. Child Connect is a private, nonprofit 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization with a mission to support children and families by developing a quality early childhood care and education system.

Child Connect is a partner organization of the Kellogg Family Foundation, Livingston United Way, Community Foundation of Flint, Howell Chamber of Commerce, Livingston Promise, and Great Start Livingston.

Become a member of Child Connect for Family Success to:

1. **Broaden your knowledge**: Staying informed about the trends in early childhood education will only help you in the long run and will put you one step ahead of the competition!

2. **Take charge of your career:** Take advantage of career resources through professional development and free resources.

3. **Build a better resume:** Listing your membership on your resume shows alignment with the National CDA Council recommendation and the Great Start to Quality system AND is impressive to current or future employers, showing that you are dedicated to staying connected in your profession.

4. **Build your network:** We all know that networking improves overall quality. Making connections is critical, and joining Child Connect will give countless opportunities to create professional relationships. Joining a group allows you to have a sense of security and trust. From this, you are able to support and help one another in reaching your professional goals.

5. **Be a Leader:** Professional association with Child Connect will give you an opportunity to develop your skills as a leader, and this is important not only for your personal growth, but for your growth in the field of early childhood education.

6. **Become a mentor:** Giving back can be the greatest reward and benefit.

7. **Stay Inspired and Stay Motivated!**

Join Child Connect and discover something new TODAY!

Child Connect Membership

2018 Child Connect Platinum Members:

Jennifer Lapa, Board Chair
Joyce Powers, Board Member
Janet Joseph, Board Member
Marian Krippes, Board Member

Jamie Miller, Director
IXL, Hamburg

Melissa Sell, Director
IXL, Howell

Kristen Zarycki, Director
IXL, South Lyon

Cathy Hengesbaugh, Director
Parker's Place Preschool
HS School Freshman Campus

Cindy Anderson, Director
Airport Road Childhood Learning Center, Waterford

Linda Byrd, Director
ASA Higher Learning Prep, Detroit

Holly Fowler, Director
Teddy Bear Playhouse

Julie Picano, Director
For Kid's Sake Early Learning

Lisa Guise, Director
First Steps Preschool

Julie Aramian, Director
First Presbyterian Children's Center

Jennifer Chambers, Director
Down on the Farm

Jackie Nanos, Consultant
Down on the Farm

Lynn Bilski, Director
Gateway Country Day

Holly Braidwood, Director
Learn and Grow

Janice Ramirez, Director
Tot Spot

Ready, Set, Learn!

If you are working with a young child with challenging behavior or have a child you are worried about (there seems to be a developmental delay or other special need) FREE services are available to you! Thanks to generous funding from the Michigan 32p Early Childhood Block Grant (with the approval of The Great Start Livingston Collaborative), our agency is able to provide the Ready, Set, Learn! Kindergarten Readiness Program, to parents and child care personnel in Livingston County.

Ready, Set, Learn! provides consultation for families and child care professionals caring for children ages birth-4 who are experiencing behavioral or emotional challenges that put them at risk for expulsion from child care. **Ready, Set, Learn!** strives to reduce expulsions, improve the quality of child care, and assist families and providers to successfully nurture the social and emotional development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Ready, Set, Learn! can help through observation of the child in the child care setting, assessment of the child and classroom environment, coaching, and providing supports, teaching strategies and educational resources for families and providers to learn new ways to interact with the child. Perhaps you need some information on a particular topic. The **Ready, Set, Learn** team can help with that too! We can talk over the phone about your concerns – we are here to listen! We can research information on the topic you are concerned about, and suggest resources from our lending library. We also hold monthly support and training meetings for providers and families.

To find out more, or to ask about a child or any concerns, contact
Child Connect for Family Success
517-548-9112

Holly Simmerson, Director
Garden Gate Montessori

Rachel Anderson, Director
Rosebrook Child Care Center

Zina Pettit, Owner & Director
Group Family Child Care

Linda Manson-Dempsey, Director
Little Country Kids

Cindy LaFountane, Director
Faith Lutheran Church

Lynn Bilski, Director
Gateway Country Day School

Paulette Silverson, Group Home Provider

Cassie LaButte, Owner
Roo's Corner

Livingston County's 11th Annual

Community Connect

A Free One-Day Event Connecting People to Information and Services

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Resources, Information, Financial Services,
Free Lunch, Legal Consultation, Haircuts,
Health Screenings, Baby Items, Books,
Clothing, Children's Activities

PARKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
400 WRIGHT ROAD
HOWELL, MI 48843