



The

Connection

Resources

For Families and
Early Childhood
Professionals

SEPTEMBER 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!



Child Connect
for Family Success

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

The Power of Purposeful Early Childhood Environments

“The environment is the real curriculum. To assume it is neutral is illusory.”
-Anita Olds

As the new school year begins, it is important to take a look at your classroom from a fresh angle. The environment must be a dynamic and living space which continually engages your students and conveys the quality of your program to parents. Get down on a child’s eye-level and ask yourself, “What the room communicate?” Does the classroom entice you to enter and explore? Or is the clutter overwhelming and confusing?

What about the families? Step back to the doorway and imagine entering the room through their eyes. Does the décor convey that families and community are appreciated here? Would you send your child to this center?

For the environment to take on the role of the “third teacher,” every article present must have a purpose. Dare to take action to improve your environment—whether it be de-cluttering, rearranging, or finding a new way to display your open-ended materials. There are three major elements to consider when creating a learning environment for children: (1) Safety; (2) Culture, (3) Zoning; and how the materials are presented to encourage learning. Careful attention to these elements reduces how much time the teachers spend maintaining safety and order, freeing up time for higher levels of teaching, which ultimately increases learning.

Safety: Ensuring the well-being of those in the classroom

The furniture in the room should be child-sized, stable, well designed and securely fastened to the wall where necessary. Electrical outlets should be covered, there should be no dangling cords anywhere in the room. Trash cans need to have lids. All equipment should be in good repair. (continued on page 2)



It’s all about Quality.



**2016 Child Connect
Platinum Members:**

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Little Country Kids Daycare

The Power of Purposeful Early Childhood Environments (continued from page 1)

Culture

In order to make everyone in the classroom as comfortable as possible, it is helpful to visually reflect the children and families you care for. Are there family photographs at the children's eye level? Are there home-like touches—soft spaces where children can retreat to, baskets, live plants, natural lighting? Do you have dedicated space at children's eye level to display their work?

Zoning

Is your environment designed so even the youngest learner can become independent? Interest areas: an orderly display of accessible materials grouped together will help children understand they are capable of making decisions. They are not dependent on the teacher and constantly asking for every material they need. Remember, too, that the environment tells children how to act and respond. A large open space invites young children to run! If very few materials are available for children to use, children will create their own interesting happenings, including conflict and challenging behavior. If the daily schedules and routines are not predictable, the children will wander in and out of the areas with little involvement in play. Carefully arranged, well labeled interest areas with many open-ended and interesting materials will engage children and prevent many classroom difficulties. Materials should include natural materials, found materials, real things (vs. plastic replicas) in addition to the standard playthings.

An effectively designed classroom has the potential for positively influencing all areas of children's development. Language and learning are nurtured in an environment that values and plans developmentally appropriate opportunities for children to explore. An aesthetically pleasing space can develop a child's appreciation for the beautiful world around them!

**CALL 517-548-9112
or go to:
childconnectmi.org**

Become a 2016 Platinum Member of Child Connect TODAY for your name and program to be featured in our monthly Newsletter and to have a link to your program from our newsletter AND website

Does your classroom inspire learning? Here are some ideas for you to explore from Community Playthings:

[http://
www.communityplaythings.com/
inspiration/room-inspirations/
learning-through-play](http://www.communityplaythings.com/inspiration/room-inspirations/learning-through-play)

Resounding Resources

Two (2) New September Learning Kits



- (1) Toads & Frogs! (with puzzles & games)
- (2) Back to School Kit Books & Fun Galore!

Check out our NEW back to school learning kits thanks to the Kellogg Family Foundation!

It's the first day of kindergarten and Miss Bindergarten is hard at work getting the classroom ready for her new students. Miss Bindergarten puts the finishing touches on the room just in time, and the students arrive. Now the fun can begin! This rhyming, brightly illustrated book is the perfect way to practice the alphabet and to introduce young children to kindergarten.

The Provider Connection

November 12, 2016



**26th Annual Community
Sharing for Healthy Caring
Regional Early Childhood
Conference**

Register at:
www.childconnectmi.org




First Day of School Success

6 Ways to Start Preschool on the Right Foot (follow the links!)

By Amanda Rock

It's been what you've been looking forward to all summer. And now that the first day of school is nearly here, it's time for the final preparation. There are some steps you can take ahead of time to help your little one have a great day at preschool -- from getting a good night's sleep to making sure her backpack is well stocked with the proper supplies:

1. [Setting a Bedtime Routine](#)
2. [Read Starting Preschool Books](#)
3. [Preschool Supplies for the First Day of School](#)
4. [What Not To Bring on the First Day of School](#)
5. [Top Preschool Supplies](#)
6. [The Night Before the First Day of Preschool](#)
7. [Helping Your Child Have a Great First Day of Preschool](#)



LET'S CONNECT!

Child Connect for Family Success is Online:

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View 2016
Professional Development Calendar
(including First Aid and CPR Classes!)

Right "click" on calendar icon to open!

Back to School Picture Ideas!

Back-to-school season is in full swing, and families and children are getting ready for the big day. School supplies are bought, tees and socks are in good supply, and mom's even preparing a few special surprises for the first day at school. Now is the time to get the cameras ready to capture the special occasion for memory books, grandparents, and (of course) your Facebook page. Check out these creative ideas to make your back-to-school photo session a memorable one.



If you need CPR or First Aid—we can help. Child Connect has CPR and First Aid Classes every month in Howell and Flint. To register go to our website at:

childconnectmi.org

It's All About Quality!



Child Connect Membership
 Learn the Benefits of Professional Membership and join our team of Child Care Professionals TODAY!
 Call: 317-548-9112 or join online at childconnectmi.org

Professional Development




COOKING MATTERS!
 Tuesdays, September 20 & 27 at 6:30 pm
 Child Connect for Family Success
 Call 517-548-9112 to Register TODAY





**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 9/6/16
 9/13/16, 10/6/16 AND 10/12/16**

STORY TIME SCIENCE

HANDS ON FOUR-PART SERIES COMPLETE WITH SCIENCE KIT
 EVERY WEEK! LINK SCIENCE WITH LITERACY = FUN!!!!

All trainings held at Child Connect in Howell
 Register online: www.childconnectmi.org






SAVE THE DATES

2016-17 Director's Support & Training!

09•26•16	Pizza Lunch AND Important Updates from the Health Department
10•17•16	Technology and Early Childhood
11•21•16	Resilience Tool Box
12•12•16	Holiday Fun with Country Lane!
01•23•17	Including all of Us! (Inclusive Care)
02•27•17	Mindfulness for Young Children
03•27•17	Positive Discipline Strategies
04•24•17	Working with Families
05•22•17	Appreciation Luncheon

1:00 - 3:00 PM

