



The

Connection

Resources
For Families and
Early Childhood
Professionals

MARCH 2019

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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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Child Connect
for Family Success

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Howell, MI 48843
517-548-9112
www.childconnectmi.org

Imagination Playgrounds!

A place where children want to be!

In 1888, psychologist Stanley Hall published a [story about a sand pile](#). A minor classic, it describes how a group of children created a world out of a single load of sand. These children were diligent, they were imaginative, they were remarkably well behaved! More than a century later, in quality child care programs all over the country, children scurry back and forth all day long, carrying “loose parts” from task to another. These children are intent, they are cooperative, they are resourceful. The scene resembles Stanley Hall’s sand pile—with an abundance of “loose parts.”

The resurgence of loose parts is an attempt to put the *play* back in playgrounds. Detroit’s [Arts & Scraps](#) and Ann Arbor’s [Scrap Box](#) are loose parts-focused organizations where the loose parts are, well, *scraps*. You can visit these treasure troves and take back a great assortment of materials to keep even the most discriminating child busy for hours on end. Early childhood educators, for their part, adore loose parts for the open-ended, spontaneous sort of play they encourage, which is very much in line with the concept of [how young children learn](#)—through active learning experiences. When you have loose parts, you do not have the same repetitive pattern of play, it’s much a more circuitous path. And that’s what you want from play. You see kids escape into this zone in which they lose themselves in a world of make-believe and discovery.

Of course, loose parts playgrounds are messier than plasticized play structures. At an imagination playground, there are parents and/or educators present, to facilitate play and to put out the loose parts and then put them away again. The rewards of an imagination playground are worth the extra work, planning and maintenance. Stanley Hall’s sand pile, it turns out, isn’t a portrait of the past. **It’s a vision of the future.**

[Follow the highlighted links above to learn more using “loose parts” and creating an imagination playground.] You can see an [imagination playground in action](#) (click on link)



It’s all about Quality.



2019 Child Connect Platinum Members:

Janet Joseph, Board Member
Marian Krippes, Board Member
Stacy Olesko, Board Member
Holly Carter, Board Member
Lisa Pecorilli, Board Member

Joyce Powers, Advisory Board Member

Holly Fowler, Director
Teddy Bear Playhouse

Lisa Guise, Director
First Steps Preschool

Julie Aramian, Director
First Presbyterian Children's Center

Tracie Crum, Director
Creative Learning Center

Janice Ramirez, Director
Tot Spot

Holly Simmerson, Director
Garden Gate Montessori

Chrissa Seigle, Director
First Baptist Child Care Center

Tamara Jefferson, Director
Joyful Tots Childcare and Learning Center

Jodie Hutcheson, Director
Creative Kids Learning Center

Lisa Zehnder, Director
Little Highlander's Childcare & Preschool Center

Tammy Sexton, Owner/Director
Make Believe Manor

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] to help you identify areas for improvement;
- 4) Classroom Program Quality Assessment (PQA) or PQA-R;
- 5) Professional consultations and coaching to model the skills taught during our research-based training modules to maximize the overall impact of professional development;
- 6) CDA Scholarship Program;
- 7) Hybrid CDA Program;
- 8) Ready, Set, Learn Kindergarten Readiness Program
- 9) Pediatric and General First Aid and CPR/AED Classes
- 10) 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.

Sue Cherry, Director
Maple Tree Montessori Academy

Cassie LaButte, Director
Roo's Corner

Jenny Chambers
Down on the Farm Child Care

Katie Sloan, Director
Little Glad Early Childhood Center

David Simancek, Director
Swartz Creek CDC Program



The Provider Connection

Professional Development Opportunities ...

Pediatric First Aid, CPR, and AED Training

March 16th, 2019 - 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

March 21, 2019 - 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

\$65.00 per person



Register online at childconnectmi.org
or call 517-548-9112

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

View the 2019 UPDATED
Professional Development Calendar
HERE! Including 18 FREE Classes!

LET'S CONNECT!

Child Connect for Family Success is
Online:

Our website: www.childconnectmi.org

Like us on [FACEBOOK](#)
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MARCH 5, 2019
6:30-8:30 PM - FREE!

**DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS
WITH PARENTS**

Interactive Professional Development
with Holly Carter, LLMSW at
Child Connect, 861 E. Sibley, Howell

**Moving past
Praise**

Jo Ann Cook, CFLE
\$10.00 per person

March 19, 2019 6:30-8:30 pm
Child Connect for Family Success



FREE Social & Emotional Training
"What is Social & Emotional Disorder"
March 12, 2019
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Child Connect - 861 E. Sibley-Howell
Holly Carter, LLMSW

DIRECTOR'S MEETING & SUPPORT

with Sean LaRosa, LESA

Introducing Literacy
Essentials



March 11, 2019
1:00 - 3:00 pm
861 E. Sibley
Howell

So many classes to choose from!

Register online at:
childconnectmi.org

Or call us at: 517-548-9112

Resounding Resources



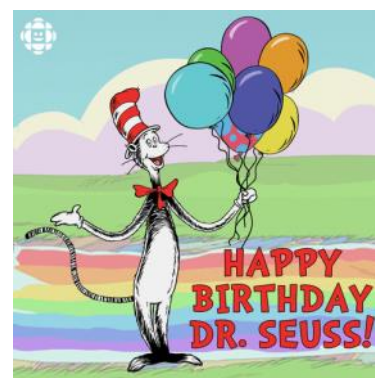
Resource of the Month: Check out the Germ Buster!

Flu season. What a great time to teach the children in your program the importance of washing their hands for a safe and healthy environment! Children can become official Germ Busters! Check out our official Germ Buster viewing light box activity. This fun activity is a great way for children and adults to “see” the germs on their hands. You can borrow our ultra violet germ viewing light box by coming in to our office filling out a check-out form. Amaze your children with glowing germs using the germ busting gel!

Check out the Germ Buster Machine!

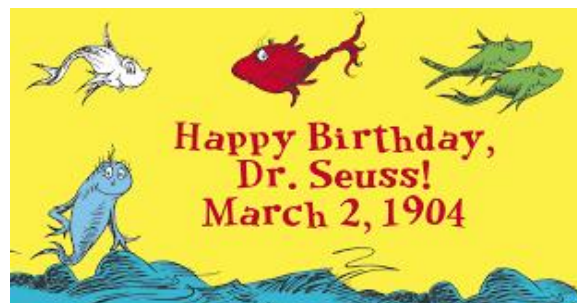
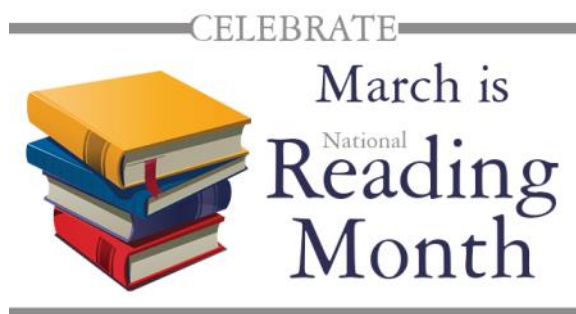


Check out Dr. Seuss books from Child Connect to Celebrate his birthday!



Sponsored by ...

Kellogg
Family Foundation



Each year at the beginning of March, school children kick off National Reading Month by celebrating the birthday of the beloved Dr. Seuss. Teachers will design contests, family literacy events, and even pajama & pillow days to provide cozy mornings of uninterrupted reading. Research findings outlined in a recent report of the National Early Literacy Panel highlight the fact that literacy skills begin to develop at birth. The panel identified a number of early skills that are related to—and may even help predict—a child's later success with reading and writing.

Skills closely related to later success with reading and writing:

- Alphabet knowledge—the ability to name letters and the sounds they make
- Phonological awareness—the ability to hear and manipulate the sounds of spoken language (such as hear the beginning sound of a word)
- Rapid letter or number naming—the ability to quickly name letters or numbers
- Rapid object or color naming—the ability to quickly name random series of colors or objects
- Phonological memory—the ability to remember spoken information for a short period of time
- Writing letters or one's own name

Activities to foster important early skills

- Sing the Alphabet Song. Have fun singing this familiar tune with different tempos or silly voices (monster voice, tiny mouse voice, robot voice).
- Hunt for environmental print. Start a game of I-Spy and have your child search for letters prominently displayed on signs, posters, billboards, even cereal boxes.
- Play with alphabet letters. Pull out the magnets, blocks, puzzles, whatever you have, and name the letters.
- Play with the sounds of language.
- Introduce nursery rhymes and sing-along games.
- Enjoy rhyming books.
- Go on a treasure hunt. Help your child search for items in your home that rhyme, or start with the same sound.
- Tune your child's ears to the rhythm of music. Clap or dance to the beat, or tweak lyrics by substituting new rhyming words, even silly ones. Music provides plenty of natural opportunities for children to appreciate and manipulate the sounds of language.
- Remembering what you hear
- Read it again...and again. When your child asks for repeated readings of the same book, rejoice! Eventually, you can encourage your child to "read" the story to you, using what she's memorized to retell the tale. You can also have your child retell the story using puppets, or by simply acting it out. Books with predictable, repetitive storylines are a good place to start.
- Read and discuss. This provides your child with a model of how to talk about books and enhances his ability to remember what he's heard.
- Writing letters, writing your name
- Paint with water. Grab a bowl of water and a couple of paint brushes or sponges and "paint" letters on the sidewalk or on a wooden fence.
- Scribble in the sand. Use fingers or small sticks to draw letters in the sand.

With the assurance that even the youngest children are on the road to reading, here's to embracing March as National Get-Ready-to-Read Month and building on these important foundational skills well beyond March 31st.



Register Online Now

April 13, 2019

Exploring Montessori Conference



Save the Date
November 2, 2019
29th Annual CSHC Regional Early
Childhood Conference
6 hours of PD!
Keynote: Jason Kotecki

with **new** eyes

ESCAPE ADULTHOOD



**Wonderful Opportunities
Designed for YOU!**
Call 517-548-9112
Register online at:
childconnectmi.org

FAMILY FUN DAY
CELEBRATE EARLY CHILDHOOD!
SATURDAY, MARCH 16
10AM TO 12PM



2142 CHURCH
7526 GRAND RIVER AVE
BRIGHTON, MI 48114

FREE CONCERT • 11AM
BEVERLY MEYER – THE MUSIC LADY

MEET STORYBOOK CHARACTERS
LLAMA LLAMA, COOKIE MOUSE,
AND PETE THE CAT!

FREE BOOKS!

CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES, STORYTELLING & MORE!

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EARLY LITERACY COLLABORATIVE

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Cromaine District Library,
Fowlerville District Library,
Hamburg Township
Library, Howell Carnegie
District Library, Pinckney
Community Public Library,
Child Connect for Family
Success, Great Start
Livingston, LEA Early
Childhood Programs, and
Michigan State University Extension



The 2019 Community Connect event was held Saturday, February 2nd at Parker Middle School in Marion Township. This successful event, hosted by Livingston County United Way and sponsored by the Livingston County Human Services Collaborative, is a one-day event to help Livingston County residents. Participants were able to connect to organizations who offered information and services such as housing assistance, health screenings, legal consultation, food services, haircuts, massages, clothing and other personal need items. Lunch was also provided at no cost to participants. Special thanks to **2019 Livingston CDA Students** who prepared activities for the children and to the former CDA students who served as advisors and observers. **Very special thanks to Pet Smart in Brighton** for their generous donation of stuffed animals for the children and to **Bennett's Beavers** for donating wooden toys. Community Connect was a great example of the Community working together for the good of children and their families!

