It's never too early to start learning!

One of the most exciting days for you and your child is the first day of kindergarten. But learning begins at birth. It’s never too early to start reading to your child. Even newborns learn from hearing you read to them. Let’s get started!

- Many of the activities in this calendar can be done with very young children.
- The calendar runs from March 2022 to February 2023. Each month focuses on a different topic with suggested daily activities based on strategies developed by early learning experts.
- Use this calendar as a guide for fun activities. You do not have to do the activity on the day it appears in the calendar.
- The activities are meant to help build your child’s vocabulary, as well as math and literacy skills.
- Include friends and family members in the activities including older and younger siblings.
- Remember that play is an important part of learning.
- Your child learns best when he/she is spending time with you and doing activities that are fun and interesting.
social emotional
my child:
- controls strong emotions most of the time.
- can easily separate from parents/guardians.
- can ask adults for help when needed.
- can play with toys, use materials respectfully and put away.
- can follow a daily routine and rules with occasional reminders.
- recognizes basic emotions of others and their causes accurately.
- can interact with a small group of 2-3 children.
- can share materials in classroom & outdoors.
- can participate in solving their own social problems.

language literacy
my child:
- follows directions of two or more steps.
- uses complete 4-6 word sentences.
- matches beginning sounds of some words.
- recognizes at least 18 letters.
- recognizes at least 20 letter sounds.
- writes strings of letters, not necessarily words.
- recognizes first name in print.
- will listen to an entire children’s book read to them.
- names everyday objects (nouns).
- shares back and forth conversations.
- exposed to rhymes.
- answers simple questions relating to book/story.

fine/gross motor skills
my child:
- can hold scissors with proper grip and make cuts in paper.
- is independent in using the bathroom/self-care.
- can use writing tools (pencils, crayons, markers) on paper.
- is independent getting dressed and putting on outdoor gear.

math
my child:
- can recognize numbers 0-10 in writing.
- can count objects to 10 assigning one number to each object.
- uses and responds appropriately to positional words indicating location, direction, and distance (under, over, between, close, far, behind, in front, etc.)
- extends & creates simple repeating patterns.
- can identify some colors.
- can identify basic 2-3 shapes (square, triangle, circle, rectangle, oval, etc.) and describes them (round, has four sides, has three corners, etc.)
- compares and orders a small set of objects according to size, length, weight; knows usual sequence of basic daily events.

science, technology, art
my child:
- explores dance and movement concepts.
- explores the visual arts.
- explores drama through actions & language.
- explores a variety of art materials (watercolors, glue, playdough, markers, pencils, scissors).
- demonstrates knowledge of characteristics of living things (pretend to feed a baby doll or animal, puts baby doll to sleep, etc.).
- understands physical properties of objects (heavy, light, rough, smooth).
- demonstrates knowledge of earth’s environment (seasons, weather, day & night)
- demonstrates scientific inquiry skills (observing, planning, predicting, sharing ideas about what happened, using tools such as magnifying glasses, rulers, scales to make observations)

for more information, contact: mmonroe@giresd.net, mwalker@giresd.net or like us on facebook @ gratiot/isabella great start collaborative.
- Rhymes are words that sound the same at the end. Introducing children to rhymes and rhyming words gives children a head start in reading and spelling.
- Read or say Mother Goose rhymes with your child. After you’ve read one a few times, ask your child to complete the rhyme with the correct word: “Hickory, Dickory, Dock. The mouse ran up the ____ (clock).”
- As your child becomes more familiar with the rhymes, encourage them to join in and say parts of the rhyme themselves (it will take a while before they can recite the whole rhyme independently).
- Make up rhyming guessing games. For example, “Listen; mop and top sound the same. Find a word that rhymes with mop.”
- Read rhyming books such as Dr. Seuss and Llama, Llama books.

### MARCH 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remember to visit your local library this month to borrow nursery rhyme books.</td>
<td>National Cereal Day: Create letters using pieces of cereal and talk about them with your child.</td>
<td>Sing the ABC song.</td>
<td>Read Across America Day</td>
<td>Practice writing numbers 1-5.</td>
<td>Bake cookies together. Count the number on each tray.</td>
<td>Read a simple poem with your child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daylight Savings Time Begins</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have your child practice jumping, hopping on one foot, and throwing and catching a ball.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Say the wrong words to a familiar song or rhyme and let your child correct you.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Count to 50 (or higher) together with your preschooler. Count to 10 with your infant or toddler.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read a book with your child. Have them hold the book and turn the pages if she or he is able.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name a letter and have your child find items beginning with that sound.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Begins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a walk and look for signs of spring. Talk about them with your child.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find things that begin with the first letter of your child’s name.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue teaching your older child his or her phone number and address. Teach your infant or toddler his/her whole name.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find things around the house that begin with the sound of the letter “J.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick objects around your house that rhyme: rock-sock; hat-cat; chair-bear.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make up silly words that rhyme with your child’s name.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice opposites with your child (up/down, in/out, over/under).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sing songs with rhyming words.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Crayon Day: Talk about colors you see with your child.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Good books to read with your child:**
- *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors* by Joyce Sidman, Illustrations by Pamela Zagarenski
- *The Book With No Pictures* by B. J. Novak
- *Tanka Tanka Skunk: Rhythm and Rhyme* by Steve Webb
- *Ol’ Mama Squirrel* by David Ezra Stein
- *Cock-A-Doodle-Doo, Creak, Pop-pop, Moo* by Jim Aylesworth, Illustrations by Brad Sneed
- *Frog on a Log?* by Kes Gray, Illustrations by Jim Field
- *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
- *Make Way for Readers* by Judy Sierra, Illustrations by G. Brian Karas
- *Ah Ha!* by Jeff Mack
TECHNOLOGY AS A TEACHING TOOL

April 2022

- Preview age-appropriate TV programs, videos, music, computer games, websites and apps to be sure they teach what you want your child to learn.
- Turn devices off (or on vibrate) during dinner and driving time.
- Make your child's bedroom a no screen zone.
- Talk to your child about staying safe online by not sharing personal information with others.
- Talk to your child about being kind and respectful (online and offline).
- 0 to 18 months — no screen time (TV, tablets, phones) except for video chatting.
- 2 to 5 years — limit screen time to 1 hour per day of high-quality programs (like *Sesame Street*). Parents should watch with their children & talk about what they see.
- 6+ years — place consistent limits on total screen time. Make sure screen time does not take the place of adequate sleep or physical activity.
- Set time limits on all electronics.

Alma Public Library
Alma, Michigan

Library Day!
Let your child pick out a video the whole family will enjoy.

- Practice writing the ABCs.
- Paint or draw a picture today.
- Name letters and point at them on cereal boxes, cans, or wherever.
- Practice writing numbers 6-10.
- Take a walk and talk about the different sounds you hear.
- Play shape scavenger hunt. (“Find something that is round, find something that is oval,” etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read two books today. Have your child choose the books.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Name letters and point at them on cereal boxes, cans, or wherever.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Paint or draw a picture today.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Practice writing the ABCs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Practice writing numbers 6-10.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Take a walk and talk about the different sounds you hear.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Play shape scavenger hunt. (“Find something that is round, find something that is oval,” etc.)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep the TV off today. Read books and play games instead.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Put on music and dance and clap to the beat with your child.

Is your child happy or afraid? Talk to them about how they feel.

Take a walk and talk about the colors of plants and flowers.

Create a story with your child.

Library Day! Bring a friend to the library and check out a movie together.

Talk about kitchen safety together.

Good Friday Use descriptive words when talking to your child. (“The peach is soft.”)

Earth Day Go for a walk and pick up trash. Talk to your child about why this is important.

Sing a favorite song with your child.

Color or create something together.

Practice writing numbers 1-10.

Practice printing by tracing the letters of your child’s name on a piece of paper.

Good books to read with your child:
- *Bedtime Is Canceled* by Cece Meng, Illustrations by Aurélie Neyret
- *Hello! Hello!* by Matthew Cordell
- *Tea With Grandpa* by Barney Saltzberg
- *Doug Unplugged* by Dan Yaccarino
- *Blackout* by John Rocco
- *Look!* by Jeff Mack

Websites:
- [www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)
- [www.pbs.org/parents](http://www.pbs.org/parents)
- See How They Grow series from DK and Sony Wonder
- PBS Series (Sid the Science Kid, Super WHY, WordWorld)

Get free support delivered to your phone! When you sign up for Bright by Text, you’ll receive 2-4 text messages per week to support your child’s learning and development. Plus, you’ll hear about family-friendly events happening in Gratiot & Isabella Counties. Text the word “YouGotThis” to 274448 to get started today.

Easter Sunday

Library Day!

Good Friday

Use

descriptive
words when

signing to
your child.

Earth Day

Sing a
favorite song
with your
child.

Good books to read with your
togethertogether:
- *Bedtime Is Canceled* by Cece Meng, Illustrations by Aurélie Neyret
- *Hello! Hello!* by Matthew Cordell
- *Tea With Grandpa* by Barney Saltzberg
- *Doug Unplugged* by Dan Yaccarino
- *Blackout* by John Rocco
- *Look!* by Jeff Mack

Websites:
- [www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)
- [www.pbs.org/parents](http://www.pbs.org/parents)
- See How They Grow series from DK and Sony Wonder
- PBS Series (Sid the Science Kid, Super WHY, WordWorld)

Get free support delivered to your phone! When you sign up for Bright by Text, you’ll receive 2-4 text messages per week to support your child’s learning and development. Plus, you’ll hear about family-friendly events happening in Gratiot & Isabella Counties. Text the word “YouGotThis” to 274448 to get started today.
• Turn household chores into learning games — match socks as you fold laundry or line up canned goods by size. These activities can build math and cooperation skills. Feeling useful also helps children feel good which encourages them to continue to want to be helpful.
• Use LEGO® to create color patterns. Have your child continue the pattern: red, yellow, black, red, … what comes next?
• Children can help set the table. Extend their memory by giving 3 step directions (Please get the milk from the refrigerator. Set it on the table. Get the napkins).
• Make matching pairs of cards with stickers, drawings or pictures cut from magazines.
• Play seek and find. “Find something yellow in the kitchen.” “Find something that is square.”
• Pour and measure together in the kitchen, the bathtub or use a bucket of water outside on a hot summer day filled with measuring spoons and cups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play with measuring cups and water outside.</td>
<td>Find things that begin with the sound of the letter “L.” Say the name of the letter.</td>
<td>Count from 1 to 10 or as high as your child can count.</td>
<td>Make up nonsense rhymes and laugh together with your child.</td>
<td>Cinco de Mayo</td>
<td>Encourage your child to say “please” and “thank you” today.</td>
<td>Play Simon Says. Focus on exercise activities (hopping, bending over, touching toes).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAY 2022

Mother’s Day 8

Play AND Learn

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
| 15 | Color a picture together. Cut it into puzzle pieces and try to put it back together with your child. |
| 16 | Help your child practice shoe tying. |
| 17 | Practice writing numbers 1-10. |
| 18 | Practice singing the ABC song. |
| 19 | Help a neighbor today. Talk to your child about giving and getting help. |
| 20 | Sort socks into groups by color or size. |
| 22 | Black Week: look for things that are black this week. |
| 23 | Write the names of people in your family. |
| 24 | After listening to a story, talk with your child about what happened first, next, and last. |
| 25 | Find things around the house that are square, circular, and rectangular. Talk to your child about the differences. |
| 26 | Library Day! Ask your librarian to recommend a Caldecott Medal children’s book to read together. |
| 27 | Play a game together such as Memory, Go Fish, Peekaboo, or Itsy Bitsy Spider. |
| 28 | Squirt water on the sidewalk and time how long it takes to evaporate. Ask, “How long do you think it will take?” |
| 29 | Play hopscotch. |
| 30 | Memorial Day |
| 31 | Help your child write his/her name. |

**Good books to read with your child:**

- *Let’s Count Goats* by Mem Fox, Illustrations by Jan Thomas
- *Drum Girl Dream: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music* by Margarita Engle, Illustrations by Rafael López
- *Dog’s Colorful Day* by Emma Dodd
- *Let’s Play!* by Hervé Tullet
- *How Do You Say? / ¿Cómo Se Dice?* by Angela Domínguez
- *Big Bug* by Henry Cole
- *Brown Rabbit’s Shape Book* by Alan Baker

A digital copy of many of these books can be found at the Michigan Electronic Library at [www.mel.org/kids](http://www.mel.org/kids) or access here:

**Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library**
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Application for FREE preschool to qualifying families can be found at [michiganpreschool.org](http://michiganpreschool.org).
1. Cut out pictures or gather items that go together and ask your child to match: shoe & sock; flower & vase; car & tire; fork & spoon, etc.
2. When your child becomes frustrated while playing a game or playing with a friend, refrain from jumping in and solving the problem. Instead, ask questions and guide your child by asking “How did that happen?” and “What can you do differently?”
3. Cook in the kitchen together and ask questions as you mix and stir and bake. “What will happen when we add this milk to the flour?” “What will happen to the frosting when I add this drop of food coloring?”
4. Ask your child for their opinion on simple problems such as “Should we wash the car or take a walk?” Then follow up with “Why?” Or in the grocery store ask “Chicken or fish for dinner?”
5. Hide common objects from the house in a box or bag. Ask your child to close his/her eyes and reach inside. Don’t pull the item out but feel it and try to guess what it is.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cut out pictures or gather items that go together and ask your child to match: shoe &amp; sock; flower &amp; vase; car &amp; tire; fork &amp; spoon, etc.</td>
<td>When your child becomes frustrated while playing a game or playing with a friend, refrain from jumping in and solving the problem. Instead, ask questions and guide your child by asking “How did that happen?” and “What can you do differently?”</td>
<td>Cook in the kitchen together and ask questions as you mix and stir and bake. “What will happen when we add this milk to the flour?” “What will happen to the frosting when I add this drop of food coloring?”</td>
<td>Ask your child for their opinion on simple problems such as “Should we wash the car or take a walk?” Then follow up with “Why?” Or in the grocery store ask “Chicken or fish for dinner?”</td>
<td>Hide common objects from the house in a box or bag. Ask your child to close his/her eyes and reach inside. Don’t pull the item out but feel it and try to guess what it is.</td>
<td>Practice writing numbers 1-20 in the air, in sand, in shaving cream, etc.</td>
<td>Play a matching game like Memory or Go Fish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Have you scheduled an eye exam for your child?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Match socks with your child as you fold laundry. Talk about how they are the same/different.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Flag Day Have a play date/find a play group.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Cut up an old greeting card in puzzle-like shapes. Work with your child to fit the pieces back together.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Count groups of ten using a cereal like Cheerios™.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Blow bubbles with your child.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Practice pouring water into empty containers outside, in the bathtub, shower, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Father’s Day Going to preschool or kindergarten in the fall? Continue teaching your child his or her phone number and address.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Summer Begins Take a walk and talk with your child about what you both see.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Let your child set the table. Point out that you need the same number of plates, cups, spoons, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Make a picnic lunch with your child and eat outside.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Draw shapes outside using sidewalk chalk.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Read a story to your child. Point to each word as you read.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>As you pick out fruits and vegetables at the grocery store, name the colors with your child.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Find small scoops, cups, and balls around the house. Use them for water play outside.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>We are excited to assist you in finding a high quality preschool program for your child! Free preschool is available for qualifying 3 and 4 year olds throughout Gratiot and Isabella Counties. Families qualify based on income and program factors. Please fill out our interest form at michiganpreschool.org to help us determine if your child is eligible for FREE preschool through the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) or Head Start.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Good books to read with your child:**

- *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* by Mac Barnett, Illustrations by Jon Klassen
- *Up! Tall! And High!* by Ethan Long
- *What’s Up Bear?* by Frieda Wishinsky
- *Have You Seen My Trumpet?* by Michaël Escoffier, Illustrations by Kris Di Giacomo
- *Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?* by Susan A. Shea, Illustrations by Tom Slaughter
- *You Are Not Small* by Anna Kang, Illustrations by Christopher Weyant
- *Flora and the Peacocks* by Molly Idle
- *Duck and Hippo in the Rainstorm* by Jonathan London, Illustrations by Andrew Joyner
### JULY 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help your child write their address in their book and draw a picture of where they live.</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>Cut out numbers from a magazine that match the numbers in their address.</td>
<td>Take a walk and count things that are red.</td>
<td>Take a walk and count things that are blue.</td>
<td>Take a walk and count things that are white.</td>
<td>Make up a “secret handshake” with your child and practice it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Howe Memorial Library**

Breckenridge, Michigan

- Make a book by stapling or tying blank pages together with yarn.
- Find photos of your child to put in the book. Give them magazines to cut out pictures of things they like.
- Ask your child questions and write the question and their exact answer in the book:
  - My name is ___________________________; I like to ___________________________.
  - My favorite food is ___________________________; My favorite color is ___________________________; I like it when my mom ___________________________; etc.
- Make another page of personal information your child should know and practice this often:
  - My name is ___________________________; I am a ___________________________;
  - My address is ___________________________; My phone number is ___________________________; I’m allergic to ___________________________; In an emergency I should call ___________________________; etc.

---

**JULY 2022 Calendar**

- Find blank paper, staple it together and label it “All About Me” to make a book!
- Help your child write your cell phone number in their book, and practice saying it.
| 10 | Cut out pictures of things you like to do and put them in your book. |
| 11 | When you are at the store, count the number of red objects you see with your child. |
| 12 | Talk about community helpers (police, firefighters, etc.). |
| 13 | Eat a red apple, yellow banana or a blueberry. |
| 14 | Talk about the houses on your street. How are they the same, how are they different? |
| 15 |  |
| 16 |  |
| 17 | Practice naming opposites, like on/off, up/down, front/back, etc. with your child. |
| 18 | Practice saying your phone number AND address with your child. |
| 19 | Walk to the end of your driveway with your child. Count your steps as you walk. |
| 20 | Put the date you were born in your All About Me book. |
| 21 | Hop like a bunny! Count how many times you can hop. Can you hop 10 times in a row? |
| 22 |  |
| 23 |  |
| 24 | Put the city where you were born in your All About Me book. Talk about interesting things about the city. |
| 25 | Library Day! |
| 26 | Practice saying your address. |
| 27 | Cut out pictures of things you like to eat. Put them in your book. |
| 28 | Have your child practice saying your phone number. |
| 29 |  |
| 30 |  |
| 31 | Good books to read with your child: |

- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña, Illustrations by Christian Robinson
- *What I Like About Me* by Allia Zobel Nolan, Illustrations by Miki Sakamoto
- *The Family Book* by Todd Parr
- *Fred Stays with Me!* by Nancy Coffelt, Illustrations by Tricia Tusa
- *Bigmama’s* by Donald Crews
- *I Like Myself* by Karen Beaumont, Illustrations by David Catrow
- *Be Who You Are* by Todd Parr
- *I’m Gonna Like Me: Letting Off a Little Self-Esteem* by Jamie Lee Curtis, Illustrations by Laura Cornell

Application for FREE preschool to qualifying families can be found at michiganpreschool.org.
**GET READY!**

- Before the first day of school, choose school supplies and label them.
- Play school together and take turns being the teacher.
- Eat a meal from a lunch box or tray. Show your child how to clean up and open milk/juice cartons.
- Two weeks before school starts, adjust your child's bed time to what it will be during the school year.

- Talk about the kinds of things they will be doing at school.
- Visit your child's school and explore the classroom and playground.
- Create a healthy routine that allows time for family meal, homework, play, bath, teeth brushing and a bedtime story.
- Practice zippers, buttons, opening backpack, putting on tennis shoes. Not all children have mastered shoe tying by the first day of school and that’s okay. Just remember to practice once in a while.

---

### AUGUST 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Read a book with your child.</td>
<td>2 Help your child find words that rhyme with “me.”</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 Library Day!</td>
<td>5 Make extra time to snuggle today.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Talk about silly sounds in the environment.</td>
<td>8 Play “I Spy Colors.”</td>
<td>9 Practice zipping, buttoning and getting dressed in the morning.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 Point to pictures in books — help your child describe the picture.</td>
<td>12 Read your child's favorite book as often as they want.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Practice bouncing a ball. Count the number of bounces.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Draw a picture together. Talk about it. Write what your child says.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Count how many purple items you have around the house.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Look for things that begin with the letter “P.” Point out the letter “P” in print.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Cut pictures out of magazines and talk about them.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Practice taking turns and sharing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Play with ice cubes outside. Predict how fast they will melt. Talk about what happens.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Talk about your day at dinner.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Help your child write his/her name and identify each letter.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Read an extra book. Spend extra time snuggling.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Play dress up with your child and let them direct the play.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Make a tent inside with your child and read books in it.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Name all the foods on your plate. What is your favorite?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Use addition and subtraction words like “I have one cookie and you have two cookies. That makes three cookies.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Count how many purple items you have around the house.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Look for things that begin with the letter “P.” Point out the letter “P” in print.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Cut pictures out of magazines and talk about them.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Practice bouncing a ball. Count the number of bounces.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Good books to read with your child:**

- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Splat the Cat* by Rob Scotton
- *Chu’s First Day of School* by Neil Gaiman
- *How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?* by Jane Yolen
- *Monkey Not Ready for Kindergarten* by Marc Brown
- *Mission: Back to School: Top-Secret Information* by Susan Hood, Illustrations by Mary Lundquist
- *Mom, It’s My First Day of Kindergarten!* by Hyewon Yum
- *School’s First Day of School* by Adam Rex, Illustrations by Christian Robinson

A digital copy of many of these books can be found at the Michigan Electronic Library at [www.mel.org/kids](http://www.mel.org/kids) or access here:
**BACK TO SCHOOL!**

- It’s never too early to start reading to your child! Even newborns learn from hearing you read to them.
- Store your child’s books in a special place that’s easy to reach such as a basket, drawer or a low shelf.
- Get a library card for your child (and yourself if you don’t already have one).
- Find a place to read together away from distractions.

- Hold your child as you read to help develop a positive attitude toward reading.
- Talk about the story as you read. Ask questions, point out details in the pictures.
- Ask your child to tell you everything they remember about the book you just read.
- Talk about characters as you read together.
- Children enjoy and learn by repetition so it’s okay if they want you to read the same books over and over!

---

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Week: Look for things that are yellow this week and talk about them.</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Pick a new book and encourage your child to guess what the story will be about by looking at the cover.</td>
<td>Do a finger play such as “Itsy Bitsy Spider” with your younger child or play a board game with your older child.</td>
<td>Count out loud with your child every day while reading, cooking and shopping.</td>
<td>Woo hoo! You are doing great!</td>
<td>Sing a nursery rhyme with your child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Practice writing your child’s name together. Name each letter as you write it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Good books to read with your child:

- *Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt
- *Goodnight Moon* Board Book by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Touch and Feel Baby Animals* by Scholastic
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Baby Faces* by Joseph Eleyinte
- *Five Little Monkeys Reading in Bed* by Eileen Christelow
- *This Book Just Ate My Dog!* by Richard Byrne

A digital copy of many of these books can be found at the Michigan Electronic Library at [www.mel.org/kids](http://www.mel.org/kids) or access here:
- Draw pictures together about family events, daily experiences, etc.
- Praise your child’s efforts with high 5’s or telling them “well done.” Perfection is not the goal.
- Plan a healthy meal together and make a grocery list.
- Pick a letter sound and find things that begin with that letter.
- Keep 2-3 books in the car for your child to look at while traveling or for you to read to them at an appointment.

## October 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orange Week:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Look for things that are orange this week.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Child Health Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Immunization check — is your child up to date? Talk to your child about healthy things.</strong></td>
<td><strong>While outdoors, allow your child to draw on the sidewalk with chalk.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read your favorite children’s book to your child.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about fall and have your child draw a picture of a tree.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Faith Johnston Memorial Library*  
*Rosebush, Michigan*
| 9 | Draw letters on a window or mirror with dry erase markers. Say what letter it is and the sound it makes. |
| 10 | Columbus Day |
| 11 | Practice saying letters and numbers while in the tub. |
| 12 | Read a book using a funny voice. |
| 13 | Draw a picture using your feet, rather than your hands. |
| 14 | Sort or count things like socks, canned soups, buttons, etc. |
| 15 | Practice zipping. |
| 16 | Practice buttoning. |
| 17 | Arrange a playdate for your child. |
| 18 | Read your favorite book to your child. |
| 19 | Count steps as you walk with your child. |
| 20 | Make the bed together. |
| 21 | Practice tying shoes. |
| 22 | Practice zipping. |
| 23 | Read a fire safety book. |
| 24 | Talk about your family’s fire safety plan. |
| 25 | Do jumping jacks together. Count as you do them. |
| 26 | Clap your hands to the beat of a song today. |
| 27 | A digital copy of many of these books can be found at the Michigan Electronic Library at www.mel.org/kids or access here: |
| 28 | Good books to read with your child: |
| 29 |  |

- Go to Bed, Monster! by Natasha Wing, Illustrations by Sylvie Kantorovitz
- Mix It Up! by Hervé Tullet
- Henri’s Scissors by Jeanette Winter
- The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt, Illustrations by Oliver Jeffers
- Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson (also available in Spanish)
- Red: A Crayon’s Story by Michael Hall
- Monster Trouble by Lane Fredrickson, Illustrations by Michael Robertson
- Blue Chicken by Deborah Freedman
- Chalk by Bill Thompson

- Encourage your child to say “thank you” while trick-or-treating. |
| 30 | Halloween |
| 31 |  |
Have a dance party.

Daylight Savings Time Ends
Ask your child to predict the end of a story before you read it.

Go for a walk and find 3 things that are red, 3 things that are orange, 3 things that are yellow and 3 things that are brown.

Have a dance party.

Toss bean bags or socks in a basket.

Visit a safe outdoor space so you can run and play together.

Balance books on your head while walking.

Suggest your child try to move like different animals: hop like a rabbit, slither like a snake, fly like a bird.

Have your child tell a story to a family member or tell your child a story from your childhood.

Teach your child the ABC song.

Practice saying your phone number and address with your child.

Hum or sing a song as you pick up toys together.

Help your child draw a picture or write a note to a family member about something he/she is thankful for.

Look in books and magazines for different facial expressions: happy, sad, excited, scared, etc. Talk about the differences.

Teach your child to predict the end of a story before you read it.

Toss bean bags or socks in a basket.

Visit a safe outdoor space so you can run and play together.

Balance books on your head while walking.

Suggest your child try to move like different animals: hop like a rabbit, slither like a snake, fly like a bird.

Have your child tell a story to a family member or tell your child a story from your childhood.

Teach your child the ABC song.

Practice saying your phone number and address with your child.

Hum or sing a song as you pick up toys together.

Help your child draw a picture or write a note to a family member about something he/she is thankful for.

Look in books and magazines for different facial expressions: happy, sad, excited, scared, etc. Talk about the differences.

Teach your child to predict the end of a story before you read it.
Make a necklace using dental floss and cereal like Cheerios™.

Show your child how to set the table. Talk about what you are doing and why.

Go to the grocery store and have your child help pick items for Thanksgiving.

Read a Thanksgiving story (www.mel.org/kids).

Go outside and kick a ball back and forth with your child.

Make a picture or decoration for Thanksgiving together.

Exercise with your child. Count the number of arm circles or hops.

Sing the ABC song.

Put on some music and dance with your child and a friend or other family members.

Thanksgiving Day
Tell your child 3 things you are thankful for and ask them to do the same.

Practice saying your phone number and address.

Help your child draw a picture of your family. Talk about the number of people.

Library Day!

Make a necklace using dental floss and cereal like Cheerios™.

Show your child how to set the table. Talk about what you are doing and why.

Go to the grocery store and have your child help pick items for Thanksgiving.

Read a Thanksgiving story (www.mel.org/kids).

Go outside and kick a ball back and forth with your child.

Make a picture or decoration for Thanksgiving together.

Exercise with your child. Count the number of arm circles or hops.

Sing the ABC song.

Put on some music and dance with your child and a friend or other family members.

Thanksgiving Day
Tell your child 3 things you are thankful for and ask them to do the same.

Practice saying your phone number and address.

Help your child draw a picture of your family. Talk about the number of people.

Make a necklace using dental floss and cereal like Cheerios™.

Show your child how to set the table. Talk about what you are doing and why.

Go to the grocery store and have your child help pick items for Thanksgiving.

Read a Thanksgiving story (www.mel.org/kids).

Go outside and kick a ball back and forth with your child.

Make a picture or decoration for Thanksgiving together.

Exercise with your child. Count the number of arm circles or hops.

Sing the ABC song.

Put on some music and dance with your child and a friend or other family members.

Thanksgiving Day
Tell your child 3 things you are thankful for and ask them to do the same.

Practice saying your phone number and address.

Help your child draw a picture of your family. Talk about the number of people.

• *I Got the Rhythm* by Connie Schofield-Morrison, Illustrations by Frank Morrison
• *Ninja!* by Arree Chung
• *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle
• *On the Ball* by Brian Pinkney
• *My Daddy is a Pretzel* by Baron Baptiste, Illustrations by Sophie Fatus
• *Move Your Mood!* by Brenda S. Miles, Illustrations by Holly Clifton-Brown
• *Spunky Little Monkey* by Bill Martin, Illustrations by Brian Won
• *Is Everyone Ready for Fun?* by Jan Thomas
Rhyme time: What rhymes with black? Come up with rhyming words with your child.

Read a holiday story at bedtime.

Practice stretching and wiggling fingers and toes.

Have your older child practice tying his/her shoes. Help your younger child dress dolls or stuffed animals.

Make animal noises and then have your child guess what animals make those noises.

Make cookies with your child to share as a gift. Count the number of cookies as you take them off the cooled cookie sheet.

Happy Holidays!

Tate Memorial Library
Blanchard, Michigan

DECEMBER 2022

Library Day!
**Red Week:**
Look for things that are red this week.

**White Week:**
Look for things that are white this week.

**Christmas Day!**
Take a walk inside or outside and talk about what you see, smell and hear.

**Christmas Eve**
Have a pretend countdown to midnight earlier in the day (for example at noon).

**New Year’s Eve**

**Good books to read with your child:**
- *Yoko Finds Her Way* by Rosemary Wells
- *8: An Animal Alphabet* by Elisha Cooper
- *Creature ABC* by Andrew Zuckerman
- *LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault
- *Z is for Moose* by Kelly L. Bingham, Illustrations by Paul O. Zelinsky
- *Oops, Pounce, Quick, Run!* by Mike Twohy
- *Alpha Oops!* by Alethea Kontis
- *Alphabet Under Construction* by Denise Fleming

A digital copy of many of these books can be found at the Michigan Electronic Library at www.mel.org/kids or access here:
**Winter Wonderland**

- Picture Walk: Look at a book and talk about the pictures on each page.
- Use math words such as more, less; longer, shorter; heavy, light; etc.
- Count out LOUD every day. Start at 1 and count as you walk, put plates on the table, add apples to your grocery cart. Ask your child to count with you. Pause and ask, “What number comes next?”
- Hold up 5 fingers in front of your child then quickly hide your hand. Ask, “How many fingers did you see?”
- Name and describe shapes when you see them: “That is a square napkin,” “That box of cereal is a rectangle,” “That tire is a circle.”
- Count: “Let’s count the blocks.”
- Compare: “Which plate has more crackers?”
- Explore: “Let’s go on a shape hunt — can you find circles?”
- Question: “I wonder how many cars we can fit in this basket?”
- Sort: “Let’s put all the yellow pieces in this pile.”

**January 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sing some of your child’s favorite songs (YouTube has many simple songs for young children).</td>
<td>Practice counting objects to 10 (or higher!).</td>
<td>Act out a favorite story with your child. Use puppets, dolls or stuffed animals.</td>
<td>Scavenger hunt for shapes around the house. Talk about the shapes you find.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Play the “Simon Says” game with your child.</td>
<td>Find things around the house that begin with the same letter sound. Name the letter and make the sound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read two books today.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Blue Week:
Look for things that are blue this week.

15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

16

Label the parts of your child’s favorite toy.

17

Teach your child to play a board game with a friend.

18

Make a pattern using food items.

19

Make or draw a snowman with your child.

20

Go on a winter walk. Talk about what you see and what you hear.

21

Chinese New Year

22

Build a snowman. Talk about what to do first, second, and so on.

23

Make a grocery list. Ask if each item is a fruit, a vegetable, a meat, etc.

24

Sort laundry together. Match socks, identify colors and textures.

25

Look at family pictures together and talk about them.

26

Library Day!

27

Make a piggy bank together out of a coffee can and start saving coins.

28

Play “I Spy Numbers.”

29

Point out numbers around town as you run errands.

30

Make a grocery list. Ask if each item is a fruit, a vegetable, a meat, etc.

31

Sort laundry together. Match socks, identify colors and textures.

Good books to read with your child:

- *Dog Loves Counting* by Louise Yates
- *Count the Monkeys* by Mac Barnett, Illustrations by Kevin Cornell
- *20 Big Trucks in the Middle of the Street* by Mark Lee, Illustrations by Kurt Cyrus
- *One Little Blueberry* by Tammi Salzano, Illustrations by Kat Whelan
- *City Shapes* by Diana Murray, Illustrations by Bryan Collier
- *One Two That’s My Shoe!* by Alison Murray
- *Ten Little Caterpillars* by Bill Martin, Jr., Illustrations by Lois Ehlert
- *Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons* by Eric Litwin, Illustrations by James Dean
- *Is That Wise Pig?* by Jan Thomas
- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
**LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH**

- Teach calming techniques when you see your child becoming upset. “Stop, take a deep breath, relax,” etc.
- Turn off the music/movies in the car and talk about where you are going, what you are going to do and what might happen when you get there.
- Turn off the TV and put down the phone at meal times. Talk about what you did or are going to do today.
- As you read together, ask your child to tell you what he or she sees in each picture.
- Ask your child to predict what will happen before you turn the page.
- Ask your child to draw you a picture and then tell you about it.
- Model sympathy and caring for others, “Dad isn’t feeling well. Let’s make him some soup.”
- Encourage your child to talk about and label his or her feelings.
- Talk about situations and how they might make people feel happy, sad, frustrated, angry, scared, etc.

---

**FEBRUARY 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read a book about feelings. Talk about when you experience those feelings.</td>
<td>Find 5 things around the house that begin with the sound of the letter “M.” Say the name of each item emphasizing the sound.</td>
<td>Practice using “please” and “thank you.”</td>
<td>Dental Health Month: Talk to your health care provider about caring for your child’s teeth.</td>
<td>Groundhog Day</td>
<td>Play a game as a family.</td>
<td>Look outside and talk about what you see.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a meal together. Talk about the ingredients and how to make it.</td>
<td>Hide a book in a place your child can find. Give them clues, “Look in the place where you hang your coat,” “Look in a place where you eat,” etc.</td>
<td>Use a spoon and bowl to tap out the beat to your favorite song.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Count out loud to 100 while waiting in line, driving, etc. This repetition will help build your child’s number knowledge.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Use the list you made yesterday to make a photo album of people you love that your child can picture read.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day Work on a puzzle together.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sing the ABC song and dance as you sing!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Before your child goes to bed, recap your day. “First I woke up, then I had breakfast, next we….”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Count all the doors and windows in your home.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day Let your child choose the location for reading a book (in the bathtub, under the bed, in the hall closet, etc!).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Play a board game or card game with your child.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Play musical chairs. Make a fort using furniture and sheets. Play inside with your child.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Have your child invite a friend over to play.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Zip up! Take your child for a walk and invite your child’s friend.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Use the list you made yesterday to make a photo album of people you love that your child can picture read.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Good books to read with your child:**

- *Starring Me and You* by Geneviève Côté
- *Sadly Ever After?* by Elise Allen, Illustrations by Daniel Holland
- *Maya Was Grumpy* by Courtney Pippin-Mathur
- *Grumpy Pants* by Claire Messer
- *Llama, Llama Mad at Mama* by Anna Dewdney
- *Grump Groan Growl* by Bell Hooks, Illustrations by Chris Raschka
- *Wild Feelings* by David Milgrim
- *I Used to Be Afraid* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- *My Friend Is Sad* by Mo Willems

---

**Veterans Memorial Library**
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

A digital copy of many of these books can be found at the Michigan Electronic Library at www.mel.org/kids or access here:
All parents/legal guardians of children who will be five years of age on or before September 1 are encouraged to register their child for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration begins as early as March 1 for some schools. Check with your local school district for kindergarten registration information.

In most cases, the parent/legal guardian will need to bring the following for Kindergarten registration:

- Child’s official birth certificate
- Proof of residency (required for all registrants) – copy of signed mortgage, contract to build, or lease agreement showing the owner/resident’s name and address OR TWO of the following items:
  - Utility bills which have the name and address of the registrant
  - Valid driver’s license or state ID card
  - Voter registration card
  - State medical card
  - Notarized affidavit of residency from the parent or person with whom the child is residing, affirming that the child eats and sleeps at the residence

All students entering kindergarten must provide documentation of current immunizations prior to starting school.

Whenever children are brought into group settings, there is a chance for diseases to spread. Students must follow state vaccine laws in order to attend school. These laws are the minimum standard to help prevent disease outbreaks in school settings.

It is recommended that you make sure that your child’s immunizations are up to date by April or even earlier! Students who do not have an up-to-date immunization by the first day of school may not be allowed to attend school.

VACCINES REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL ENTRY IN MICHIGAN

During disease outbreaks, incompletely vaccinated students may be excluded from school. Parents and guardians choosing to decline vaccines must obtain a certified non-medical waiver from a local health department.

The following schedule from the CDC will ensure that the state requirements are met.

**Required Vaccines for all Kindergartners or 4 - 6 year old transfer students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP, DTaP)</td>
<td>4 doses DTP or DTaP. 1 dose must be at or after age 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>4 doses (or 3 doses if dose 3 was given at, or after, age 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)*</td>
<td>2 doses at or after 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B*</td>
<td>2 doses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella (Chicken Pox)*</td>
<td>2 doses after 12 months of age or current lab immunity or history of varicella disease.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If the student has not received these vaccines, documented immunity is required.*
LIBRARIES IN GRATIOT AND ISABELLA COUNTIES

GRATIOT COUNTY
• Alma Public Library
  500 E. Superior St.
  Alma, MI 48801
  (989) 463-3966

• Ashley District Library
  104 New St.
  P.O. Box 6
  Ashley, MI 48806
  (989) 847-4283 ext. 1007

• Howe Memorial Library
  128 E. Saginaw St.
  P.O. Box 398
  Breckenridge, MI 48615
  (989) 842-3202

• Seville Township Public Library
  6734 N. Lumberjack Rd.
  P.O. Box 160
  Riverdale, MI 48877
  (989) 833-7776

• T.A. Cutler Memorial Library
  312 Michigan Ave.
  Saint Louis, MI 48880
  (989) 681-5141

• Thompson Home Public Library
  125 W. Center St.
  Ithaca, MI 48847
  (989) 875-4184

ISABELLA COUNTY — CHIPPEWA RIVER DISTRICT LIBRARY SYSTEM
• Veterans Memorial Library
  301 S. University Ave.
  Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
  (989) 773-3242

• Faith Johnston Memorial Library
  4035 N. Mission
  P.O. Box 147
  Rosebush, MI 48878
  (989) 433-0006

• Tate Memorial Library
  324 Main St.
  P.O. Box 39
  Blanchard, MI 49310
  (989) 561-2480

• Shepherd Community Library
  257 W. Wright Ave.
  P.O. Box 463
  Shepherd, MI 48883
  (989) 824-6801

• Fremont Township Community Library
  7959 S. Winn Rd.
  P.O. Box 368
  Winn, MI 48896
  (989) 866-2550

• Mt. Pleasant High School Media Center
  1155 S. Elizabeth St.
  Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
  (989) 775-2200

OTHER ISABELLA COUNTY LIBRARIES
• Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries
  7070 E. Broadway
  Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
  (989) 775-4508

• Sherman Township Library
  3453 N. School Rd.
  Weidman, MI 48893
  (989) 644-5131
ALMA SCHOOLS  
www.almaschools.net  
Luce Road Early Childhood Learning Center (PreK-1)  
6265 N. Luce Rd.  
Alma, MI  
(989) 463-1012  
Hillcrest Elementary School (2-3)  
515 Elizabeth St.  
Alma, MI  
(989) 463-3113  
Pine Avenue Elementary School (4-5)  
1025 N. Pine Ave.  
Alma, MI  
(989) 466-7651  
St. Mary Catholic School  
(PreK-6)  
220 W. Downie St.  
Alma, MI  
www.nativityparish.net/school  
(989) 463-4579  
ASHLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
www.ashleyschools.net  
Ashley Elementary (PreK-4)  
104 N. New St.  
Ashley, MI  
(989) 847-4000  
BRECKENRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
www.breckhuskies.org  
Breckenridge Elementary (PreK-5)  
515 Summit St.  
Breckenridge, MI  
(989) 842-3182 ext. 2  
CHIPPEWA HILLS SCHOOLS  
www.chsd.us  
Weidman Elementary (PreK-4)  
3311 N. School Rd.  
Weidman, MI  
(989) 644-3430  
FULTON SCHOOLS  
www.fultonpirates.net  
Fulton Elementary (K-6)  
8060 Ely Hwy  
Middleton, MI  
(989) 236-7234  
ITHACA SCHOOLS  
www.ithacaschools.net  
Ithaca South Elementary (PreK-2)  
400 Webster St.  
Ithaca, MI  
(989) 875-4741  
Ithaca North Elementary (3-6)  
201 Arcada St.  
Ithaca, MI  
(989) 875-3047  
Ithaca SDA School (K-8)  
935 N. Pine River  
Ithaca, MI  
www.ithaca22.adventistschoolconnect.org  
(989) 875-4961  
Countryside Christian School (K-8)  
4308 S. Luce Rd.  
Ithaca, MI  
(989) 875-2313  
MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOLS  
www.mtpleasantschools.net  
Ganiard Elementary (K-2)  
101 S. Adams St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
(989) 775-2240  
Pullen Elementary (K-2)  
251 S. Brown St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
(989) 775-2270  
Vowles Elementary (K-2)  
1560 S. Watson St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
(989) 775-2280  
Fancher Elementary (3-5)  
801 S. Kinney Ave.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
(989) 775-2230  
Mary McGuire Elementary (3-5)  
4883 E. Crosslanes  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
(989) 775-2264  
Renaissance Public School Academy (K-8)  
2797 S. Isabella Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
www.renaissancepsa.com  
(989) 773-9889  
Sacred Heart Academy (K-12)  
316 E. Michigan St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
academy.sha.net  
(989) 772-1457  
Saginaw Chippewa Academy (K-5)  
7498 E. Broadway Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
www.sagchipschool.net  
(989) 775-4453  
SHEPHERD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
www.shepherdsschools.net  
Shepherd Elementary School (K-5)  
301 S. Fourth St.  
Shepherd, MI  
(989) 828-6601  
Winn Elementary (K-5)  
8190 Church St.  
Winn, MI  
(989) 866-2250  
ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
www.stlouisschools.net  
Carrie Knause Early Childhood Learning Center (K-2)  
113 E. Saginaw St.  
St. Louis, MI  
(989) 681-2545  
Nikkari Elementary (3-5)  
301 W. State St.  
St. Louis, MI  
(989) 681-5131
PARENT RESOURCES

GREAT START COLLABORATIVE
www.greatstartgi.org
A Great Start for every child in Gratiot & Isabella Counties — safe, healthy, and eager to succeed in school and in life.

GREAT START TO QUALITY
www.greatstarttoquality.org
Great Start to Quality helps families find the best early learning settings for their children and helps educators improve the care they provide to children.

KIDS MATTER
www.michigan.gov/mikidsmatter
News, information, and advice on parenting and family life designed for parents and grandparents of children ages newborn to teen. Features include articles with research-based information, video clips of parents and experts discussing timely age-based topics, breaking news and commentary, newsletters, and recommendations to the best parenting resources on the web.

MICHIGAN 2-1-1
www.mi211.org
A FREE confidential phone hotline available 24/7/365 to answer questions and provide referrals. Call whenever you need assistance with emergency shelter, food pantries, day care, rent or utility assistance, elderly care, mental health services, employment, health resource, domestic abuse, education, vocational training, disability resources, counseling, disaster recovery, or drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

MICHIGAN eLIBRARY
www.mel.org/kids
Administered by the Library of Michigan in partnership with Michigan's libraries, the Michigan eLibrary provides all Michigan residents with free access to online full-text books and articles and other valuable research information at any time via the Internet; and provide an easy-to-use interlibrary loan system to allow Michigan residents to borrow books and other library materials for free from participating Michigan libraries.

READING ROCKETS
www.readingrockets.org
Reading Rockets offers a wealth of strategies, lessons, and activities designed to help young children learn to read.

REGIONAL PRESCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
www.preschoolpartnership.org
Assistance to help you in find a high quality preschool program for your child! Free Preschool is available for qualifying 3 and 4 year olds throughout Gratiot and Isabella Counties. Families qualify based on income and program factors. Please fill out the interest form at MichiganPreschool.org to help us determine if your child is eligible for FREE preschool through the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) or Head Start.

SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES
www.sesamestreetincommunities.org
Your care and support can make a huge difference in the life of a young child. Sesame Street is here for you with activities and tips for the challenges and joys along the way.

SCHOLASTIC
www.scholastic.com/parents
Provides information, activities, and advice for parents with a focus on literacy.

STORYLINE ONLINE
www.storylineonline.net
The Screen Actors Guild Foundation brings you Storyline Online, an online streaming video program featuring SAG’s members reading children’s books aloud. Each book includes accompanying activities and lessons ideas.

PBS PARENTS
www.pbs.org/parents
Information about child development and fun educational activities for children to help get them ready for school.

ZERO TO THREE
www.zerotothree.org
Provides information about child development and care in areas such as early brain development, early language and literacy, and play.
40 DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Search Institute has identified forty building blocks that are essential for helping children become healthy, caring, and responsible individuals. These building blocks, also called Developmental Assets™, are competencies that children develop through their experiences with people in their world (parents, teachers, child care providers, librarians, bus drivers, and others).

The more assets children have, the better. Research shows that adolescents who report having more assets are more likely to be successful in school and in their personal life. The Search Institute has found that most adolescents have only 18 to 20 of these 40 Developmental Assets™.

Starting early is critical to helping children build assets. Your use of this Readiness Calendar is a great start.

Review the Developmental Assets™ list below and see how you can help children build their assets.

EXTERNAL ASSETS

SUPPORT

1. Family support—Parent(s) and/or primary caregiver(s) provide the child with high levels of consistent and predictable love, physical care, and positive attention in ways that are responsive to the child’s individuality.

2. Positive family communication—Parent(s) and/or primary caregiver(s) express themselves positively and respectfully, engaging young children in conversations that invite their input.

3. Other adult relationships—With the family’s support, the child experiences consistent, caring relationships with adults outside the family.

4. Caring neighbors—The child’s network of relationships includes neighbors who provide emotional support and a sense of belonging.

5. Caring climate in child-care and educational settings—Caregivers and teachers create environments that are nurturing, accepting, encouraging, and secure.

6. Parent involvement in child care and education—Parent(s), caregivers, and teachers together create a consistent and supportive approach to fostering the child’s successful growth.

15. Positive peer relationships—Parent(s) and caregivers seek to provide opportunities for the child to interact positively with other children.

CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME

16. Positive expectations—Parent(s), caregivers, and teachers encourage and support the child in behaving appropriately, undertaking challenging tasks, and performing activities to the best of her or his ability.

17. Play and creative activities—The child has daily opportunities to play in ways that allow self-expression, physical activity, and interaction with others.

18. Out-of-home and community programs—The child experiences well-designed programs led by competent, caring adults in well-maintained settings.

19. Religious community—The child participates in age-appropriate religious activities and caring relationships that nurture her or his spiritual development.

20. Time at home—The child spends most of her or his time at home participating in family activities and playing constructively, with parent(s) guiding TV and electronic game use.

30. Responsibility—The child begins to follow through on simple tasks to take care of her or himself and to help others.

31. Self-regulation—The child increasingly can identify, regulate, and control her or his behaviors in healthy ways, using adult support constructively in particularly stressful situations.

SOCIAL COMPETENCIES

32. Planning and decision making—The child begins to plan for the immediate future, choosing from several options and trying to solve problems.

33. Interpersonal skills—The child cooperates, shares, plays harmoniously, and comforts others in distress.

34. Cultural awareness and sensitivity—The child begins to learn about her or his own cultural identity and to show acceptance of people who are racially, physically, culturally, or ethnically different from her or him.

35. Resistance skills—The child begins to sense danger accurately, to seek help from trusted adults, and to resist pressure from peers to participate in unacceptable or risky behavior.
Peaceful conflict resolution—The child begins to compromise and resolve conflicts without using physical aggression or hurtful language.

Positive Identity

Personal power—The child can make choices that give a sense of having some influence over things that happen in her or his life.

Self-esteem—The child likes her- or himself and has a growing sense of being valued by others.

Sense of purpose—The child anticipates new opportunities, experiences, and milestones in growing up.

Positive view of personal future—The child finds the world interesting and enjoyable, and feels that he or she has a positive place in it.
# Places to Go in Gratiot and Isabella Counties

Young children are curious about the world around them. Introduce your child to new things: parks, zoos, museums, hiking, sporting events and restaurants. Invite a friend! Here are some fun places to go with your child.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong></td>
<td>Play in the Spray Park in the summer season at Island Park and ice skate at Isabella Community Sports complex in the winter season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong></td>
<td>Explore nature at the Chippewa Nature Center or Forest Hill Nature Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.</strong></td>
<td>Tour the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum or the Gratiot County Area Historical Museum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4.</strong></td>
<td>Use local public transportation to go on an adventure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.</strong></td>
<td>Check out one of the parks in Gratiot or Isabella County.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Participate in one of the great festivals happening throughout the year.

7. Take a bike ride on the Pere Marquette Trail or Fred Meijer Heartland Trail.

8. Pick pumpkins at Papa’s Pumpkin Patch or Uncle John’s Cider Mill.

9. Go to the Jump Station and try out some new bounce moves.

10. Get a library card and participate in a library program at your local library.
MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL EARLY LITERACY COLLABORATIVE THAT WORKED ON THIS CALENDAR:

- Foster Grantparents, Isabella County
- Life Choices of Central Michigan
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- United Way Director of Development
- United Way Creative Director
- Chippewa River District Library
- Gratiot-Isabella RESD
  - Associate Superintendent for Instruction
  - Supervisor for Early Childhood Programs
  - Great Start Collaborative Director
  - Great Start Collaborative Parent Liaison
  - PreSchool Partnership Early Childhood Specialist
  - Early Literacy and State & Federal Programs Consultant

United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties is dedicated to bringing people and resources together to create positive change and lasting impact in our communities. We focus a portion of funds raised locally on strategies that provide a firm foundation for our youngest residents so they can grow and develop into successful middle and high school students. Ultimately, graduating with a plan and the skills needed to implement that plan so they can be productive, contributing members of their community. Learn more at [www.uwgic.org](http://www.uwgic.org).

Gratiot-Isabella RESD (GIRESD) is one of 56 intermediate school districts (ISDs/RESDs/RESAs) established in Michigan in 1962. ISDs are regional service agencies that offer support services to school personnel that are best delivered regionally. Gratiot-Isabella RESD serves nine K-12 public school districts, one public school academy, and eight private/parochial schools in Gratiot and Isabella Counties. In addition to serving various school entities in the two counties, the district provides educational services to special non-school populations and employment services to employers, employees, and the unemployed. Learn more at [www.giresd.net](http://www.giresd.net).

DEVELOPMENT SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING:

Members of the Regional Early Literacy Collaborative want to acknowledge the calendar inspiration and resources provided by United Way of Champaign County.