



# Billings Community Playgroup

Where fun and family go hand in hand!



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January & February 2010

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## Mark Your Calendar

The Winter-Spring session of Playgroup runs through Thursday, May 13. The new activity schedule for the Winter-Spring session is ready and will be posted on the Parks and Rec website, [www.prpl.info](http://www.prpl.info) under "Youth Enrichment."

- No Playgroup on Tues., Jan. 19
- Sledding Day will be on Thurs., Jan. 21 (weather permitting). Bundle up and bring your sled! We'll venture out into the great outdoors behind Zimmerman Center for sledding, and then we'll come inside for snowy stories and songs while we sip cocoa!
- On Tuesday, February 11, an extra dose of love will be in the air! We will celebrate Valentine's Day with special activities, stories, songs, and snacks. Don't forget to dress in red or pink! If you would like to bring a treat, please choose a healthy snack that is nut/nut butter-free. Please note: Cupcakes, muffins, and brownies are not allowed.
- No Playgroup on Thurs., Feb. 25

## Thought for the Month

"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about."

--Angela Schwindt

## Upcoming Events at Alberta Bair

### *Out on the Town*

On Tuesday, March 9, there will be an optional outing in place of the regular Playgroup session. We will be headed to the Alberta Bair Theater to see a performance based on the classic children's picture book, *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson. The performance begins at 9:30 am and will last approximately one hour. Please note: We will be reserving block seating for this event. **Attendance fee is \$5 per person, and advance payment will be required in order to reserve seats. Deadline to be part of the Playgroup block seating is Thursday, Jan. 28.** If you would like to attend, please sign up or email Julie.

### *A Performance to Plan on Seeing*

The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia returns for a performance of *Stellaluna*, a delightful children's picture book by Janell Cannon. This is sure to be a great show! Mermaid Theater is the same group that did the *Runaway Bunny* and *Goodnight Moon* show last fall. Performances are on Thurs., Jan 28 at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Seats are \$5 per person. Call the theater for more information (256-6052).

### *Free Children's Concert*

Don't miss out on all the fun at the annual Billings Symphony's free children's concert at the Alberta Bair Theater on Saturday, January 23. The

performance, *Pecos Bill*, will take place at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Seats are free, but they fill up quickly so arrive early! Call the theater for more information.

### Rhyme Time

Here are the words to our snowman rhyme!

Five white snowmen sitting on the ground.

*(Kneel down to sit on ground.)*

Five white snowmen big and fat and round.

*(Hold arms out to side, in a rounded fashion.)*

Five white snowmen made out of snow.

*(Hold hands up, wiggle fingers as you move arms downward, as if it's snowing.)*

Out comes the sun, and away they go!

*(Put arms overhead in a rounded fashion to indicate sun, then let body slowly "melt" into the ground.)*

### Great Books for the Snowy Season

Cuddle up with your child, and enjoy some great books on these chilly days!

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Tracks in the Snow by Wong H. Yee

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert

The Snowman by Raymond Briggs

Snow by Uri Shulevitz

The Snowy Day by Anna Milbourne

Sledding by Elizabeth Winthrop

One Winter's Night by Christina Butler

The Three Snow Bears by Jan Brett

Snowsong Whistling by Karen Lotz

The Very Special Valentine—by Maggie Kneen

Where is Baby's Valentine: A Lift the Flap Book—by Karen Katz

The Valentine Bears—by Jan Brett

Silly Tilly's Valentine—by Lillian Hoban

Guess How Much I Love You—by Sam McBratney

### Be on the List to Be in the Know!

With it being the prime time of year for illness, it is a good idea to be on the Playgroup email list in order to find out about any last minute cancellations that may occur. Email is the easiest way for me to notify the group when I am unable to find a substitute, and it is also the environmentally-friendly way to receive the monthly newsletter!

### For You, Valentine

Here's an idea for a fun valentine project that your child can give to someone special.

4 c. flour

1 c. salt

1 ½ c. water

Red food coloring (if desired)

Yarn or ribbon

Mix flour and salt together in a large bowl. Add several drops of food coloring to the water, if desired. Add water to the flour and salt mixture. Mix dough with hands; knead until smooth. (If dough seems crumbly, add more water one tbsp. at a time.) Mold dough into a heart shape or roll dough flat (but not too thinly) and use heart shaped cookie cutters. Use one end of a straw to poke a hole near the top of a shape to hang. Heat oven to 300° F for colored dough or 350° F for plain dough. Bake for one hour or more until hard. String some yarn or ribbon through the hole to hang.

