



# Billings Community Playgroup

Where fun and family go hand in hand!



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March & April 2010

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## Mark Your Calendar

- **March 30 and April 1: No Playgroup**
- **April 8: The Very Talented Artist**—Come celebrate the artistry of Eric Carle, a renowned children’s picture book creator. Bring a copy of your favorite Carle book to share at story-time! We will do a “Carle-esque” art activity, and there will be a special snack for very hungry “cater-players.” Please sign up in advance for this event.
- **April 15: No Playgroup**

## Rhyme Time

Here’s a fun finger-play to do at home!

This is the sun high in the sky.  
*(Raise arms over head to form a circle.)*

Here comes a dark cloud sailing by.  
*(Spread fingers, move flat hands side to side, touching one to the other.)*

These are the raindrops, sprinkling down.  
*(Make fingers wiggle, imitating rain.)*

They water the flowers that grow in the ground.  
*(Close fingers to thumb and point toward sky, move hands upward, and spread fingers outward to mimic growing flowers.)*

## Feedback Welcomed

During the second half of March, we will be doing a brief annual survey. We would appreciate it if you would take a moment to fill one out by email or during your next visit. The information provided will be critical to planning for the future of the group. Thanks!

## It’s Almost Consignment Sale Time

The Kids’ Stuff Consignment Sale will be held at the Shrine Auditorium from March 25-28. This is a great place to buy all things kid-related from clothes to books to toys to furniture. They now even have fun stuff for the grown-ups too! Flyers with additional details will be available at Playgroup.

Thanks to all those who donated items for us to sell at the sale! Please talk with Julie if you are interested in helping to label items and/or transport items to the Shrine.

## Interested in Making a Difference?

As you may know, the school board for School District 2 will be losing a large number of trustees after May. The district is currently accepting applications to fill those vacancies. Visit [www.billingschools.org](http://www.billingschools.org) for more information.

## Thought for the Month

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”

--Emilie Buchwald

## Celebrate Earth Day Everyday

Below is a list of books and activity ideas that get children out into nature and teach them about taking care of the natural world.

Earthsong by Sally Rogers

Earthdance by Joanne Ryder

Hush Little Baby by Sylvia Long

Grover's 10 Terrific Ways to Help Our

Wonderful World by Anna Ross

Long Live Earth by Meighan Morrison

Farewell to Shady Glade by Bill Peet

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

Our Earth by Anne Rockwell

The Wump World by Bill Peet

- Plant a tree together and help add oxygen to the air while reducing air pollution levels at the same time!
- Conserve paper by using both sides of a piece of paper for art work. Rather than throwing away old art work, have your child cut it into pieces (scissor practice!) and paste the pieces together to make a new collage.
- Teach your child to shut off the water while he/she brushes teeth. (Doing so saves around 9 gallons of water each time.)
- Dig in the dirt, and observe worms at work. Discuss how their holes help to aerate the ground and make the lawn healthier.
- Help children to put snack wrappers and tissues in a trash bin rather than on the ground.
- Teach children to turn off the lights when they leave a room to help conserve energy.
- Make a birdhouse out of a milk carton, and hang it in a tree in the backyard for your feathered friends.
- Decide on an area in the lawn to create a pizza garden. When the weather is warm enough, plant tomatoes, basil, oregano, green peppers, onions, broccoli, or any other vegetable or herb that your child likes on pizza. Spend the summer teaching your child how to tend the garden. Don't forget to leave off the pesticides!
- Recycle as much as possible at home. Have your child help you sort through the newspapers, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, etc. and put them into the correct bins at the recycling center.
- Buy recyclable batteries for toys. Better yet, buy toys that run on imagination!

## Finger Paint Fun

Here's a fun recipe for your little artist!

- 1 c. flour
- 2 tbs. salt
- 1 ½ c. cold water
- 1 ¼ c. hot water

Put flour and salt in a saucepan. Add cold water and beat with a whisk until smooth. Add hot water and boil until the mixture is thick. Beat again until smooth. Color with several drops of food coloring, if desired. Store covered in the refrigerator.

