



# Billings Community Playgroup

Where fun and family go hand in hand!



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## May Dates to Remember

- Thursday, May 14 is the last day of the session. This is also the day of our Parent Potluck Brunch. More info on the brunch is listed below.
- There will be two weeks off in between sessions for washing toys and packing them away for the summer. The Summer Session of Playgroup will begin on Tuesday, June 2. Meet us at the toddler play structure in Pioneer Park for playing, bubble blowing, sidewalk chalking, and more! Bring a small blanket for snack & story time, and don't forget the sunscreen!
- The Summer Session special event schedule can be picked up at Playgroup on May 14 or by visiting the Parks & Rec. website ([www.prpl.info](http://www.prpl.info)) starting May 15. It will also be emailed to members of the Playgroup E-List at that time.
- If you would like to help Julie wash and pack away toys for the summer, please let her know. There are volunteer slots open on 5/19, 5/21, and 5/28 from 3 to 5 pm. You do not have to stay the entire time—half hour or hour slots will work great too.

## Overwhelmed with Donations

Thank you SO much to all of you who donated items for us to sell in the Kids Stuff Consignment sale. Thanks to our donators, we had 226 items in the sale! Even though we don't have our final total in sales just yet, Julie feels that we did very well overall. A big thank you also goes to Rachel Kantor for her help with labeling items and to Marcie Zink who helped to transport items to the Shrine.

We will participate in the fall consignment sale as well, so keep us in mind as you're doing any spring/summer cleaning out!

## Skip Breakfast at Home!

On Thursday, May 14, we will be having a Parent's Potluck Brunch during the regular Playgroup time. Bring your favorite brunch dish/item to share with the other grown-ups. Beverages will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be posted at Playgroup starting on May 5. If you would like to join us but won't be at Playgroup before then, you can email Julie and indicate what dish you plan to bring.

## Lost and Found

Please check this list and see if any items belong to your family. Anything left by the end of May will be donated to Family Services!

- Purple sippy cup
- Pink sunglasses
- Blue rubber-top snack cup
- Pink rattle
- Bottle of sunscreen
- White receiving blanket with flowers

Also, please be sure to look through the pile of homeless artwork that we have in order to claim any masterpieces before the end of the Spring Session.

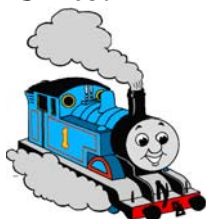
## Calling All Checked-Out Books

If you have a book checked out from the Parent Bookshelf at Playgroup, please return it by May 14 so that Julie can get the books packed away for the summer. Thank you!

## Seeking Volunteer Readers

Due to minor scheduling conflicts, Julie is looking for a handful of volunteers who would be willing to lead story and song time during a few days of the summer session. If you are interested, please talk to Julie. A sign-up sheet with specific dates will be available on the first day of the summer session.

## Thomas Fans Unite!



The “Day Out with Thomas: Hero of the Rails Tour” will be visiting Billings from July 10-12! This event, which benefits the Billings Depot, includes a 25 minute air-conditioned train ride, a chance to meet Sir Topham Hatt, storytelling, live music, and many other children’s activities providing several hours worth of fun. We will be trying to secure a block of seats for Playgroup at a discounted rate. If we can get reservations for 20 or more tickets, the price goes down from \$18 per ticket to \$14. We will be trying to get tickets for the **11 a.m. ride on Saturday, July 11**. Payment needs to be made up front in order to secure tickets. The deadline for signing up will be Friday, May 22. There will be a sign-up sheet at Playgroup until the 14<sup>th</sup>; after that, you may call or email Julie indicating your interest and a check can be mailed.

## Thoughts for the Month

In celebration of our wonderful group of Playgroup parents and grandparents...Happy Mother’s Day and Happy Father’s Day!

“I love my mother as the trees love water and sunshine - she helps me grow, prosper, and reach great heights.”

--Adabella Radic

“A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty.”

--Author Unknown

“The phrase ‘working mother’ is redundant.”

--Jane Sellman

“Any man can be a father, but it takes a special person to be a daddy.”

--Author Unknown

## Tom Chapin Concert Update

For those who reserved seats for the Tom Chapin concert, don’t forget that the date is rapidly approaching! On Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, you will want to arrive at the Alberta Bair Theater a little bit ahead of 12:30 pm, when the concert starts. There are no paper tickets; all you have to do is identify yourself to an usher as being part of the Billings Community Playgroup block seating, and he/she will show you where our group of seats is located. Please email Julie if you have any questions on this.

## Spring Art Activity Idea

Making coffee filter butterflies is a fun way to celebrate spring. You can use fishing line to hang the butterflies from the ceiling or attach them to a coat hanger for more of a mobile effect.

### Supplies

black pipe cleaner  
bleached coffee filters  
water color paints  
paintbrush  
water

### Directions

1. Flatten the coffee filter and place it on a plate or newspaper.
2. Have your child use the watercolor paints to decorate the filter. Encourage your child to add color to the entire filter. Set it aside on paper towels to dry.
3. Cut the pipe cleaner in half. Gently bend one section of the pipe cleaner in half.
4. Fold the coffee filter accordion style, in about ½" pleats.
5. Position the pleated coffee filter into the looped end of the chenille stem. Center the filter at the bend. Twist the chenille stem around the filter to secure it in place. Bend the tips of the chenille stems over about ¼" to create the antennae.
6. Fan out the butterfly wings. If you plan to hang it, tie a piece of fishing line around the twisted spot where the antennae meet the top of the filter.