



THANKS TO OUR



COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

While a strong commitment to serving the needs of young children has given our Playgroup its roots, community sponsorship has given it wings! We have been able to offer this program at no cost to your family thanks to the generosity of the businesses, organizations, and individuals listed below. Please be sure to acknowledge each group's contribution by telling them how much you enjoy the Playgroup and appreciate their support of the program.

Businesses & Organizations

Walmart Foundation	The Little Gym
Breakfast Exchange Club	Costco
Target—Billings Heights	Stepping Stones
Walmart—Billings Heights	Fun Loving
Walmart—Billings West End	
<i>The Billings Gazette</i>	
Gymboree Play & Music	
Kids Stuff Consignment	

Individuals

Anonymous Estate	Therese Bieber
Dianna Ewing	Brenda Moore
Shari Fedin	Pam Wilkinson
Dana Jefferson	Mindy Spencer
Kristi Brenden	Anna Holmes
Anna Nentwig	Henry Morgan
Reagan Brown	Nikki Tetrault
Lori Vincent	Karen Dutton
Kelly Smith	Chris Capetanakis
Nicole Depew	Leanne Grover
Kirk & Catherine Blee	Rie Kuroki
Brian Aden	



For more information on playgroup, please visit the Parks & Recreation website at www.prpl.info

Reminders

Please sign in every time you attend Playgroup. We use attendance tallies to help us evaluate the success of our program.

Out of respect for your child's needs and the group's well-being, please refrain from attending Playgroup if your child is sick.

Your input is valued! Constructive criticism can help to improve our program and diversify its offerings. Please feel free to discuss your ideas with us.

We strongly believe that our Playgroup adds a unique dimension to the area's offerings for young children. Please spread the word and encourage your friends to bring their children!



Playgroup honors the child...

"The child, at birth, bears within him constructive possibilities, which must unfold by activity in his environment."
--Maria Montessori

and the family!

"The family is the nucleus of civilization."
--Ariel and Will Durant



Billings Community Playgroup



"Where fun and family go hand in hand!"



Sponsored by the Billings Parks and Recreation Department, the Billings Community Center, and Our Community Partners.

Welcome!

We are pleased to have you join our Playgroup. Please take a moment to review this brochure for important information regarding our program.

What is the purpose of Playgroup?

- To provide an opportunity for early childhood aged children to spend quality time with their primary caregiver(s).
- To encourage children to observe and to interact with other young children.
- To expose young children to art, music, and language-based activities in a novel play environment.
- To provide parents with an opportunity to learn from each other.
- To give parents ideas for enriching activities to use at home with their children.

The Playgroup Schedule

Playgroup will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Zimmerman Center, 1801 Virginia Lane.

(Sessions 1 and 3: Find us in the small red brick building at the top of the hill behind Senior High. Session 2: Find us at the toddler play structure in Pioneer Park.)

Session 1: January 6—May 14, 2009

Session 2: To be announced

Session 3: To be announced

Why is Playgroup important?

Involvement in a playgroup fosters a strong parent-child bond while nurturing children's developmental and social needs. Research indicates that young children benefit immensely in terms of their social, cognitive, and linguistic development as a result of frequent parent-child interaction in a positive climate. Playgroup promotes all three types of development through the carefully constructed interaction of parents, children, and quality activities.

Furthermore, children learn through play, and Playgroup provides an environment for young children to engage in hands-on, exploration-based activities. Parents are strongly encouraged to interact with their children to augment the play experience.

Our Playgroup Program

Each Playgroup session lasts 1½ hours. The first hour is designated for free-play time and art activities. The last half hour is devoted to eating snack, reading stories, singing, and doing finger-plays.

Playgroup will be open to children, ages birth to five years old, and their primary caregiver(s).

All family units, regardless of race, ethnicity, religious preference, or configuration are welcomed. Diversity makes for a rich social experience!

Playgroup Policies

Participation in Playgroup is free, however parents must fill out a registration form for each child who will attend. Registration may be done in advance or on the first day of attendance. Participants must re-register for each session.

Our Playgroup program is flexible, since we operate on a drop-in basis. Regular attendance is encouraged but not required.

At Playgroup, children need to be accompanied by at least one adult (aged 18 or older). The adult will be required to remain on the premises throughout the duration of each visit to Playgroup.

Parents are responsible for providing a healthy snack and drink for their child. We ask parents to refrain from bringing any peanut-based products, out of respect for those who may experience life-threatening allergic reactions.

Parents are responsible for their child's behavior and safety at all times.

