



# Billings Community Playgroup

Where fun and family go hand in hand!



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May 2008

## May Dates to Remember

- Playgroup will be open on Tuesday, May 6 after all since the school voting was changed to mail-in ballot!
- On May 6 and 8, Gail Grossman with Usborne Books will be visiting Playgroup with a great selection of her books to share with us.
- On May 13 and 15, Lynette Nealy will be back to share free child fingerprint kits with Playgroup families.
- On May 12 and 13, "Winnie the Pooh" will be performed at the Alberta Bair Theater with 9:30 am and 12:30 pm shows.
- Tuesday, May 20 is the last day of the session. There will be a week off in between the Winter-Spring and Summer sessions.
- The Summer session of Playgroup will begin on Tuesday, June 3. 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 hats and sunscreen!
- If you would like to help Julie wash and pack away toys for the summer, please let her know.

## Overwhelmed with Donations

Thank you SO much to all of you who donated items for us to sell in the Kids Stuff Consignment sale this month. Thanks to our donators, we had 152 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 Joanna and Colette (and kids!) who helped to transport all of the big items to the Shrine. All of you will have your names listed in our brochure!

Come check out the new additions to Playgroup that Julie picked up last weekend at the consignment sale...new books for both buckets and the parent

bookshelf, a Mr. Potato Head set, a new tea set (that actually has a teapot!), and a wooden train set for the littler ones.

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

## 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!

- Small pink fleece jacket
- Rubber turtle toy
- Red/blue Mickey baseball cap
- Purple straw/sippy cup
- "Princess" kitty plush toy
- Purple/black mask apparatus

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Summer Class and Camp Enrollment begins Mar. 31st! Register today!

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*Early Childhood Intervention will be holding a free preschool screening for families in School District 2 on May 9 at the Shrine Auditorium. Call 247-3800 for more info.*

### **In Search Of...**

One of our Playgroup moms is looking for the following:

- A toddler bed for a boy with Thomas the Train, dump truck, or car theme.
- The child attachment with a seat, back wheel, and pedals that would hook onto the back of an adult bike.

If you have one that you would like to sell or know of someone else who does, please contact Darci Hertz at 254-8554.

### **Skip Breakfast at Home!**

On Thursday, May 15, 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 1. 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.

### **Calling All Checked-Out Books**

If you have a book checked out from the Parent Bookshelf at Playgroup, please return it by May 20 so that Julie can get the books packed away for the summer. Thank you!

### **Summer Rec. Brochure Available**

Copies of the Parks and Recreation Department's "Summer in the City" brochure will be available on the front desk at Playgroup and online at *prpl.info*. This guide lists all the fun summer activities being offered through Parks and Rec.!

### **Thought for the Month**

Can anyone relate to this poem? ☺

"I'll share your toys, I'll share your money,  
I'll share your toast, I'll share your honey,  
I'll share your milk and your cookies too—  
The hard part's sharing mine with you."

--Shel Silverstein

### **Spring Survey Results**

Thank you to all of you who took the time to fill out a survey last month. Your feedback is always

appreciated, as it helps us to continually review and improve the program. We are pleased to know that people enjoy Playgroup as much as they do. It is Julie's sincere hope that the Playgroup program will have a long and happy life in this community.

Listed below are some questions or requests that people had expressed and our responses to them.

- "Can we do a field trip?" Yes! Our summer program is chock full of adventures around town, so be sure to check out the summer session special events schedule, due out in late May.
  - "Can we have Playgroup every day?" Unfortunately, not at this time. Having that type of schedule in a public-use building like Zimmerman Center would be challenging and would likely involve needing to pay someone to run the program, which would mean that Playgroup could no longer be offered for free. Julie is willing to work as a volunteer but can only commit to two days a week.
  - "Can we have more theme days?" We typically schedule one special event day a month, which allows us to keep our supply budget in line. Needing to plan, prepare, execute, and clean up from only one special event a month keeps things manageable for us.
  - "Can we have guest parent readers?" Yes! If you would like a turn sharing a story with the group, please talk to Julie.
  - "Can you put a list of the books you read in the newsletter?" Usually, there would not be enough room in the newsletter to do that, but Julie tries to list some good seasonal picks every few months. If you are interested in knowing more about a specific title or author, please talk to Julie.
- "Can we do more art projects?" Art activities are offered every day at Playgroup, but they tend to be very open-ended, more exploration-based activities. Young children typically enjoy simply experimenting with the different mediums and are more focused on the process of creation than on producing anything specific. As such, the art activities offered are very simple in nature, are repeated often, are intended to be easy to replicate at home, and have unlimited possibilities. If you need ideas on how to adapt the activities to meet your child's needs, please talk to Julie.

Join the summer reading program at the public library!  
Open to families with children of all ages!