

Van Buren Great Start Parent Coalition

Activities For ALL Families!

September, October, and November 2017



September is Safe Sleep Month!

You've likely heard the ABC's of Safe Sleep: Babies should sleep

A Alone **B** on their Back & **C** in a safe Crib

To keep babies safe AND sleeping well, try these tips for getting babies to sleep:

- At night, set up a soothing routine.
- As baby is getting sleepy put him in a quiet, darkened room.
- Rock your baby till she is sleepy, but not asleep.
- Put baby down for a nap as soon as he acts sleepy.
- Try to feed baby when she starts to wake up and is still calm.
- Keep the light off during nighttime feedings.
- Settle baby down to sleep as quickly as possible if he is not acting hungry during a nighttime feeding.
- Stay calm, and use a soft voice.
- Be consistent in how you handle nighttime crying and sleep routines.

You can find more information at
www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71548_57836_69566--,00.html
or
www.webmd.com/parenting/baby/tc/quick-tips-getting-baby-to-sleep-get-started#1

5 Things Parents Can Do to Help Their Children Get Ready to Read

Talking with children helps them learn oral language, one of the most critical early literacy skills. The experience of self-expression also stimulates brain development, which underlies all learning.

Singing—which also includes rhyming—increases children's awareness of and sensitivity to the sounds in words. This helps prepare children to decode print (written language).

Reading together, or shared reading, remains the single most effective way to help children become proficient readers.

Writing and reading go together. Writing helps children learn that letters and words stand for sounds and that print has meaning.

Playing is one of the primary ways young children learn about the world. General knowledge is an important literacy skill that helps children understand books and stories once they begin to read.

TALKING
SINGING
READING
WRITING **PLAYING**

Join us at the Parent Coalition meetings in October to learn how you can prevent lead poisoning.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 22-28, 2016.

- Children under age 6 are most at risk for lead poisoning.
- Prevent lead poisoning. Get your home tested. Get your child tested. Learn about drinking water. Understand the facts!
 - Was your house painted before 1978? Protect your family from lead exposure.
 - Remodeling the home? Renovate right with lead-safe work practices. Talk to your health department about testing home paint and dust for lead.



Check out the
Calendar page for fun events,
and ways you can get involved
this this fall!



Are you looking for child care?

If you are looking for childcare or preschool options, check out
www.greatstarttoquality.org



Thank you Geneva Wrens 4-H Club!!
A HUGE thank you to the Geneva Wrens 4-H club in partnership with the Parent Coalition for setting up a safe and comfortable
Book Nook at DHHS!

We are collecting gently used books!

If your bookshelves look like this and you're ready to do some cleaning, bring your books to the next Parent Coalition meeting (or any other Parent Coalition event) to help the Geneva Wrens stock up the shelves at DHHS.



Van Buren District Library



www.vbdl.org
(269)423-4771

Van Buren District Library is pleased to offer story time at each of its seven locations. Each offers a unique blend of stories, songs, crafts, games & social interaction.

- **Webster Memorial Library: 200 North Phelps St., Decatur**
Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am
beginning Wednesday, September 13th till December 20th.
- **Bangor Branch: 420 Division St., Bangor**
Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am
beginning Wednesday, August 16th till December 13th.
- **Bloomington Branch: 109 East Kalamazoo, Bloomington**
Thursday mornings at 10:30 am
beginning Thursday, September 14th till December 14th.
- **Covert Branch: 33680 M-140 Hwy., Covert**
Tuesday mornings at 11:00 am
beginning Tuesday, September 6th till December 20th
Story Time sessions will be offered in English and Spanish!
- **Gobles Branch: 105 East Main St., Gobles**
Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am
beginning Wednesday, September 6th till December 13th.
- **Lawrence Branch: 212 North Paw Paw St., Lawrence**
Wednesdays at 10:30 am and 3:30pm
beginning Wednesday, September 6th till December 20th.
- **Antwerp Sunshine: 24823 Front Ave., Mattawan**
Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am
beginning Wednesday, September 6th till December 20th.

Other Van Buren County Libraries' Story times. Check it out!

- **Hartford Public Library: www.hartfordpl.michlibrary.org**
Wednesdays at 10:30 am, begins Sept. 20 (269) 621-3408
- **Lawton Public Library: www.lawtonlibrary.com**
Tuesdays at 10:30 am, begins Sept. 12th. (269) 624-5481
- **Paw Paw District Library: www.pawpaw.lib.mi.us**
Mon. at 10 am & 11 am: Toddler Story Hour
Thurs. at 10 am: For Babies and Toddlers (269) 657-3800
- **South Haven Memorial Library: www.shmlibrary.org**
Tues. at 11:00 am, begins Sept. 12 (269) 637-2403

Parenting
Expo
at LMC



Don't miss the
FREE Kiwanis Parenting Expo!

Saturday, September 23, 2017

9:00am-3:00pm

Lake Michigan College

125 Veterans Blvd, South Haven

Register at:

www.kiwanisparentingexpo.wordpress.com

Keynote: Dr. Jim Henry is an amazing speaker who has worked to help children all over the country. Listen as he shares how you can better understand children's behaviors and how YOU can help children thrive after traumatic events.

Pick the sessions of most interest to you:

- Bullying Prevention
- Social Media /Internet Safety
- Fun Family Activities
- Children Dealing With Traumatic Events
- Getting Children to Try New Foods
- ADHD
- Conscious Discipline
- Money Management/ Credit Repair
- The Importance of Reading to Children
- Suicide Prevention
- Families and Nature
- The Importance of Play in Learning
- AND MANY MORE!

Limited child care is available for children up to the age of 11, you MUST pre-register!

Free Child Care!
Free Admission!
Door Prizes!
Free Lunch!



Van Buren Intermediate School District
 490 S. Paw Paw St.
 Lawrence, MI 49064

NONPROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE PAID
 LAWRENCE MI
 PERMIT NO. 27

Or Current Resident

**2017-2018
 FREE PRESCHOOL**

Van Buren County offers free preschool to eligible children.* Preschools are run by Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP) and Head Start. To begin the application, families need to complete an Early Childhood Education Intake Form.

Find the form:

- Online at www.vanburencountypreschools.org
- Online at www.greatstart-vanburen.org
- Call: VBISD Early Care and Education: 269-539-5214
- Call: Head Start: 1-800-792-0366

***Who's Eligible?**

Programs are funded by state and federal grants. Eligibility is based on child's age, family income and risk factors. Some tuition slots may be available in GSRP. We encourage all families to apply. The age requirements for 2017-2018 school year are:

Child's Age	Program
Age 5 on or before 9/1/17	Eligible for kindergarten. Contact your local school for information.
Age 4 on or before 9/1/17	May be eligible for FREE PRE-SCHOOL (GSRP or Head Start).
Age 3 on or before 9/1/17	May be eligible for Head Start.

**FREE Developmental Screening
 for your child**

Your answers will show your child's strengths and any areas in which your child may need more help or practice.

**Available online click on the ASQ link
 At www.greatstart-vanburen.org**

- * **Confidential**
- * **Receive activities to do with your child**
- * **Know what to expect from your child**

*The sooner you address a developmental delay or special need, the better long-term success you can expect for your child's overall well-being.
 Early intervention is key.*



It is the policy of the Van Buren Intermediate School District that no discriminatory practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, Protected Classes), be allowed in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. Inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies should be directed to Barbara Matthews, Director of Finance & Operations or Dave Manson, Assistant Superintendent, 490 S. Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064, 269-674-8091.