

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM IDEAS

High 5 at I-5

Age: 5

Event was held on 5-5-05 at Impression Five Science Museum for 5 year olds. Fee was \$5 and high "5's" were given out at every opportunity. Children were able to tour Museum, make slime, make t-shirts with hand-prints (5 fingers), and play in an inflatable. Basically just a large celebration for all Lansing 5 year-olds.

Contact: *Emily Stevens, Lansing (MI) Parks and Recreation*

<http://parks.cityoflansingmi.com/>

Culture Connection

Ages: Birth – 6 yrs plus parents

This program is designed specifically for families who have or are in the process of adopting from a foreign country. Time is allowed for singing, crafts, playing, and meeting new friends. Meetings will be enhanced with crafts, snacks, stories and culture experiences of different popular international adoption destinations. Come prepared to meet other families and share your experiences. Pictures of your adoption journey are welcome.

Class meets the second Wednesday of September, October and November. Parent attends class with children.

Contact: *Schaumburg (IL) Park District*

www.parkfun.com/dir/publications/progcat/earlychildhood.pdf

Kitchen Chemistry

Grab your apron and mix up some fun! Each week we will make some crazy concoctions and silly fun recipes. Some of our creations will be edible, and some will not; all will be fun!

Creations will be nontoxic and made with easily found ingredients. Aprons are suggested, but not provided. Parents attend class with children.

Contact: *Schaumburg (IL) Park District*

www.parkfun.com/dir/publications/progcat/earlychildhood.pdf

Let go of my "Lego"

Ages: 4-7

Only expense is cost of Lego's.

This program incorporates both preschool and youth age children with a change in theme each week. Activity provides participants with the chance to get together and build with Lego's.

Themes include such ideas as transportation, space building, build the tallest object and partner build.

Contact: *Mike Delivn, Meridian (MI) Township*

http://www.meridian.mi.us/Parks/MasterPlan/Master_Plan_2006-2010.pdf

Old McDonald's Sing-a-Long Breakfast

Ages: 2-11 with adult

One 2-hour session, Fee: \$8/child ages 2 to 11, \$11/adult (includes all day Farm park admission and breakfast).

Meet Old McDonald and enjoy a musical farm breakfast. Join Old McDonald for a sing-a-long wagon ride and visit with the Farm park animals.

Contact: *Bill Keener as Old McDonald*

<http://lakemetroparks.com>

Super Sand Day

Ages: 2-5 with parent

Running out of things to do with your active preschoolers? Join us in the backyard of the City of Bloomington Banneker Community Center, where we'll provide the sand and the toys - you provide the preschooler!

Contact: *Pamela Dunscombe, City of Bloomington (IN)*

dunscomp@bloomington.in.gov or (813)349-3731

Teddy Bear Sleepover

This program is so much fun and little staff needed. Kids bring in their favorite teddy bear on a Friday night during a designated time. During that time a staff member reads a story and does a craft. The kids say good bye/night to their teddy bears and return on Saturday morning to find a small photo album with pictures of their bear eating popcorn, playing with other bears, playing cards, etc. (staff take staging pictures of the bears after drop off, develop pictures and arrange them in dollar store photo albums for the kids to pick up the next morning!

Contact: Charla Lucas or Jennifer McMahon, City of Largo; www.largo.com or 727-518-3125 – clucas@largo.com

Chip Shots Program

This fun program is designed to give golf instructions to those who are too young for Junior Golf Program. It gives youngsters a basic understanding of golf fundamentals with 30 minute instruction followed by parents bringing their child to a designated area of the golf course reserved for Chip Shots and may play for up to an hour under supervision of parent.

Contact: Boulder Parks and Recreation; (303)442-7851

Diaper Movement

Ages: 12-18 months

Develop tiny muscles and make new friends using music, equipment and toys.

www.auroragov.org/recreation

Super Safari

Ages: 3-7

Class is offered over a six week period. Each week different animals are brought in for an “up close and personal” learning experience about that particular animal. Animal craft.

Contact: Karen Myers, South Bend, Indiana

www.ci.south-bend.in.us or (574)299-4765

Camp Caterpillar

Camp for the little ones. Each day was a new theme based on the books by Eric Carle: Hungry Caterpillar, Very Grouchy Ladybug, Very Lonely Fire Fly, Very Busy Spider and Quiet Beetle. The week ended with circle time, guest reader to read book, craft related to theme, snack time, exploratory time, games, etc.

Contact: Kelly Hyer, Independence Township, Clarkston (MI)

<http://www.twp.independence.mi.us/Services/ParksandRec/ParksandFacilities.htm> or (248)625-8231

Diggin' in Deep with Dad

Night out with Dad. Started off with surprise visit from front end loader. Kids able to go inside, blow horn, lift bucket, etc. Muddy jewels consisted of inflatable pool, filled with mud, with marbles inside. Had to pick out with feet.

Contact: Judean Slogar, City of Willoughby (OH) jslogar@willoghbyohio.com or (440)953-4204

Learning through Lego's

Learn basic skills with Lego's. Add and subtract with Lego's, build things, and have contests.

Contact: Karrie Miletic, Deerfield Park District (IL) <http://www.deerfieldparkdistrict.org/> or (847)657-3204

Life-Size Candyland

All game pieces were enlarged so kids could find King Kandy and his castle. Along the way, children collected candy from each character. As a reward for finding the King, Queen Frostine treated the kids to ice cream sundaes.

Contact: Jen Vosters, Dublin Recreation Services (OH)

www.dublin.oh.us

'Suess'picious Behavior

Free Event. Partnered with Monroe County Library and Read Across America to celebrate Dr Suess' birthday. Teens produced The Lorax, life-size Dr. Suess board games, stories told, create own picture book, and "suessical chairs."

Contact: Leslie Kaiser, Bloomington Parks and Recreation (IN)

<http://bloomington.in.gov/parks/> or (812)349-3705

The Great Pumpkin Hunt

Place candy inside plastic orange eggs and hide outside. After dark, let the children out to find the "pumpkins". Only one had the grand prize. That one is the "great pumpkin."

Contact: Deanna Hermes, Town of Addison Parks and Recreation (TX)

<http://www.ci.addison.tx.us/departments/parks/>

Brunch with the Grinch

Ages: 2 & up

Join the Grinch for a light continental brunch.

Contact: Perinton Recreation and Parks; (585)355-9212

Dance with the Sugar Plum Fairy

Sugar Plum and her friends from the Nutcracker, invite you to come dance with them, listen to a story and make a craft. Come dressed in your favorite ballet outfit and don't forget your camera.

Contact: Perinton Recreation and Parks; Margaret Carlston at (585)-355-9212

Itsy Bitsy Yoga

Yoga for babies! Designed for the newborn to almost crawling (0-9 mos. average), this class is a great opportunity to bond with your baby through yoga. Developmentally nutritious postures can help with digestion, sleep and ease fussiness while the Itsy Bitsy Yoga Sing & Do technique creates a sweet and engaging environment. There's always a nurturing moment for moms too!

Contact: McKenzie Shields, Bloomington Parks and Recreation (IN)

LANGUAGE FOR INFANT/TODDLERS – Hola Niño's! www.largo.com; contact Charla Lucas at clucas@largo.com