

October 2026



Thu, October 1

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Going to the Doctor

District: Lowell**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Murray Lake Elementary

Address: 3275 Alden Nash Avenue NE, Lowell, 49331

Playgroup will be in the YMCA Room.

The KDL Bookmobile will be there! For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Fun!

District: Rockford**Parent Educator:** Emily Elliott**Early On Provider(s):** Denise Mathison
Parkside ECC**Address:** 156 Lewis St, Rockford, 49341

For information contact Emily at 616-425-9819

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Autumn Days

District: Sparta**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Sparta ECC

Address: 480 S State St, Sparta, 49345

Pre-Registration is required. Contact Ainot via TEXT your name, number of adults, and number of children who will be attending at 616-287-0442

Dinner is provided. Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

Fri, October 2

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pumpkins

District: Comstock Park**Parent Educator:** Heidi VanOverloop**Early On Provider(s):** Erin Calkins

Greenridge Elementary

Address: 3825 Oakridge, Comstock Park, 49321

For more information call Heidi 616-552-9931.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Autumn Days

District: Grandville**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Wedgewood Park

Address: 3391 Wilson Ave SW, Grandville, 49418

Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Going to the Doctor

District: Kelloggsville**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Kelloggsville ECC

Address: 977 44th Street SW, Wyoming, 49509

Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866. The KDL Bookmobile will be there!

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Apples, Apples, Apples

District: Godfrey Lee**Parent Educator:** Teresa Gastaldi-

Balhorn

Godfrey Lee ECC

Address: 961 Joosten St SW, Wyoming, 49509

Please stop at the office and sign in.

This is a bilingual playgroup English/Spanish. For additional information call Teresa at 616-337-9715.

Mon, October 5

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Going to the Doctor

District: Kentwood**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

KDL - Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch

Address: 4950 Breton Rd SE, Kentwood, 49508

Join us in the Program Room. Call

Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

Tue, October 6

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Amazing Corn

District: Kent City**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Kent City Elementary

Address: 29 College Street, Kent City, 49330

Enter through the East Muskegon Street

Entrance. Look for the Bright

Beginnings sign and ring the door bell.

The KDL Bookmobile will be there! For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Dino-mite Discoveries

District: Caledonia**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Lakeside Park

Address: 370 N Lake St SE, Caledonia, 49316

Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Pumpkins

District: Kenowa Hills**Parent Educator:** Heidi VanOverloop**Early On Provider(s):** Alli Soukup

Walker Community Park

Address: 700 Cummings Ave NW, Grand Rapids, 49534

This is an outdoor playgroup and will be cancelled in event of inclement weather. Call Heidi at 616-552-9931

Wed, October 7

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Autumn Days

District: Cedar Springs**Parent Educator:** Lora Jenema**Early On Provider(s):** Ami Parke

Cedar Springs ECC

Address: 204 E Muskegon Ave, Cedar Springs, 49319

For more information call Lora at 616-439-1745. Use entrance#2 off of Northland Dr. Enter in the Early Childhood Entrance.

Vision and Hearing Screening

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Amazing Corn

District: Grand Rapids**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Wellerwood ECC

Address: 800 Wellerwood Street NE, Grand Rapids, 49505

Please sign in at the front office.

Playgroup will be in the School Library. Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

Thu, October 8

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Amazing Corn

District: East Grand Rapids**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Manhattan Park Pavillion

Address: 430 Manhattan Rd, East Grand Rapids, 49506

This is an outdoor playgroup and will be cancelled in the event of rain. For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

October 2026



Fri, October 9

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Dino-mite Discoveries

District: Thornapple Kellogg**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Thornapple Kellogg ECC

Address: 3316 Bender Rd., Middleville, 49333

For more information please contact Ainot at 616-287-0442.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Amazing Corn

District: Godfrey Lee**Parent Educator:** Esther Gomez,

Marlene Raffler

Godfrey Lee ECC

Address: 961 Joosten Street SW, Wyoming, 49509

Bilingual- Grupo de Juego en Espanol. For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Going to the Doctor

District: Northview**Parent Educator:** Kaley Rogers**Early On Provider(s):** Lindsay

VanGelderren

West Oakview Elementary School

Address: 3880 Stuyvesant Ave NE, Grand Rapids, 49525

For questions please call or text Kaley at 616-419-8204

Mon, October 12

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pumpkins

District: Lowell**Parent Educator:** Rebecca Hodges, Pam Skinner**Early On Provider(s):** Jackie Roepcke

Lowell Administration Building

Address: 300 High St, Lowell, 49331

Park in the main lot by the playground and enter in the classroom door. Please contact Rebecca at 616-447-3101 with any questions/concerns

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Dino-mite Discoveries

District: Cedar Springs**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Spencer Library KDL

Address: 14960 Meddler Ave NE, Gowen, 49326

Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Amazing Corn

District: Sparta**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Sparta ECC

Address: 480 South State Street, Sparta, 49345

For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

Tue, October 13

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Harvest

District: Kenowa Hills**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Walker Community Park

Address: 700 Cummings Ave, Grand Rapids, 49534

This is an outdoor playgroup and will be cancelled in the event of rain. Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Dino-mite Discoveries

District: Grand Rapids**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Kent County Health Department

Address: 700 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids, 49503

Please NOTE the start time! This is a bilingual English/Spanish Playgroup. Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

Wed, October 14

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Harvest

District: Wyoming**Parent Educator:** Julie Woody**Early On Provider(s):** Heather Tamminga

Wyoming ECC

Address: 4334 Byron Center Ave. SW, Wyoming, 49519

For more information: Julie 616-370-6748

Vision and Hearing Screening

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Harvest

District: Comstock Park**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Greenridge Elementary

Address: 3825 Oakridge Avenue NE, Comstock Park, 49321

Come join us for 2 classrooms of fun!

For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Dino-mite Discoveries

District: Kentwood**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Langley Child Care

Address: 4220 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Kentwood, 49508

Pre-Registration is required. Contact Ainot via TEXT your name, number of adults, and number of children who will be attending at 616-287-0442

Dinner is provided. Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

Thu, October 15

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Harvest

District: Cedar Springs**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Cedar Springs ECC

Address: 204 East Muskegon Street, Cedar Springs, 49319

Enter at the main entrance and Bright Beginnings Staff will accompany you to the Playgroup Room. For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Pumpkins

District: Grand Rapids**Parent Educator:** Sherry Reinbold

Richmond Park

Address: 1101 Richmond St NW, Grand Rapids, M, Grand Rapids, 49504

This is an outside playgroup and will be cancelled in event of rain. Please call Sherry if you have any questions at (616)320-0884. No bathrooms available.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Fall Fun!

District: Sparta**Parent Educator:** Emily Elliott**Early On Provider(s):** Emily Grix

Sparta ECC

Address: 480 S. State St, Sparta, 49345
For information contact Emily at 616-425-9819

October 2026



Fri, October 16

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Dino-mite Discoveries**District:** Kelloggsville**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Kelloggsville ECC

Address: 977 44th St SW, Wyoming, 49509

Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Harvest**District:** Grandville**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Wedgewood Park

Address: 3391 Wilson Ave SW, Grandville, 49418

This is an outdoor playgroup and will be cancelled in the event of rain. Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

Mon, October 19

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Harvest**District:** Caledonia**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Duncan Lake ECC

Address: 9751 Duncan Lake Ave SE, Caledonia, 49316

JOIN US in a BRAND NEW playgroup space! Please present your Michigan ID at the main office. Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866

Tue, October 20

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Harvest**District:** Byron Center**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Whistlestop Park

Address: 2120 76th St SW, Byron Center, 49315

Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pumpkins**District:** Godwin Heights**Parent Educator:** Esther Gomez,

Marlene Raffler

Address: Godwin Heights Early Childhood Center (GHECC)**Address:** 28 Bellevue Street SE, Grand Rapids, 49548

Please enter at the main entrance and present your Michigan ID in the office. Bilingual- Grupo de Juegos en Espanol. For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866

Wed, October 21

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Harvest**District:** Grand Rapids**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Yankee Clipper Library

Address: 2025 Leonard St NE, Grand Rapids, 49505

Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Pumpkins**District:** Forest Hills**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

KDL - Cascade

Address: 2870 Jacksmith Ave SE, Grand Rapids, 49546

Please NOTE the start time! For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Fall Harvest**District:** Godfrey Lee**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Godfrey Lee ECC

Address: 961 Joosten St SW, Wyoming, 49509

Pre-Registration is required. Contact Ainot via TEXT your name, number of adults, and number of children who will be attending at 616-287-0442

This is a bilingual English/Spanish Playgroup. Dinner is provided. Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

Thu, October 22

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pumpkins**District:** Rockford**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Parkside ECC

Address: 156 Lewis Street, Rockford, 49341

JOIN US in the School Library. Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

Fri, October 23

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Apples, Apples, Apples**District:** Godwin Heights**Parent Educator:** Esther Gomez

Southlawn Park

Address: 4125 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids MI, 49508

Bilingual Playgroup English/ Spanish. For more information please call Esther at 616-447-4902..

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Apples, Apples, Apples**District:** Forest Hills**Parent Educator:** Laura Westdale**Early On Provider(s):** Sarah Kugler,

Jackie Roepcke

Robinettes Apple Haus

Address: 3142 4 Mile Rd NE, Grand Rapids, 49525

Pre-Registration is required. Contact Laura Westdale at (616) 287-2924

Register here after October 1st.

No charge to enjoy our learning activities, circle time, a snack, a scavenger hunt and the playground. You can purchase additional items onsite. Limit to 25 families. Meet by the big bouncy pillow behind the market! This is an outdoor playgroup and will be cancelled in the event of rain.

Mon, October 26

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Harvest**District:** Northview**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

We Rock the Spectrum Gym

Address: 4550 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids, 49525Pre-Registration is required. Contact Ainot Crees at 616-287-0442 Sign up opens on October 19th at 8:00 AM.

Space is limited to 30 children! Join us in this inclusive indoor playground with swings, trampoline, and so much more! Socks need to be worn in the play area.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pumpkins**District:** Cedar Springs**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

KDL - Nelson Township Branch

Address: 88 Bass Lake Rd, Sand Lake, 49343

Costumes encouraged - we love to see your creativity! Come see us at the KDL! For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

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Tue, October 27

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pumpkins

District: Byron Center**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Byron Center ECC

Address: 2300 84th Street SW, Byron Center, 49315

Costumes encouraged - we love to see your creativity! We will be in Room #152. Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Autumn Days

District: Grand Rapids**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Grand Rapids Public Library Main Branch

Address: 111 Library St NE, Grand Rapids, 49503

Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fall Fun!

District: Kentwood**Parent Educator:** Julie Woody

Hamilton ECC

Address: 3303 Breton Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, 49508

Use the entrance at the far end (west end) of the parking lot. Questions: call Julie 370-6748

Wed, October 28

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Monster Size Fun

District: Wyoming**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

Wyoming ECC

Address: 4334 Byron Center Avenue SW, Wyoming, 49519

Costumes encouraged - we love to see your creativity! The KDL Bookmobile will be there! Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Fall Harvest

District: Caledonia**Parent Educator:** Ainot Crees

Stomping Grounds Play Cafe

Address: 9028 N Rodgers Ct SE Suite E, Caledonia, 49316

Pre-Registration is required. Contact Ainot via TEXT your name, number of adults, and number of children who will be attending at 616-287-0442

SOCKS MUST BE WORN IN PLAY AREA. Dinner is provided. Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

Thu, October 29

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Fun!

District: Kent City**Parent Educator:** Lora Jenema

Kent City Elementary

Address: 29 College St., Kent City, 49330

For more information call Lora at 616-439-1745. Enter through the East Muskegon St entrance. Look for the Bright Beginnings sign and ring the door bell. The KDL Bookmobile will be there!

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Monster Size Fun

District: Northview**Parent Educator:** Marlene Raffler

DW Richardson Park

Address: 5225 Grand River NE, Grand Rapids, 49525

Costumes encouraged - we love to see your creativity! This is an outdoor playgroup and will be cancelled in the event of rain. Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

Fri, October 30

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Autumn Days

District: East Grand Rapids**Parent Educator:** Laura Westdale**Early On Provider(s):** Sarah Kugler

East Grand Rapids Library

Address: 746 Lakeside Dr SE, East Grand Rapids, 49506

We will meet in the Lilypad Room downstairs!

Vision and Hearing Screening

Pre-registration for special playgroups

You may notice on the calendar that some playgroups require pre-registration and others do not. Each Parent Educator has different space within the school district and various materials that are needed for every playgroup. In order to maintain safety and quality of each playgroup, the Parent Educator may have to close registration after a certain number of families have registered. Please pre-register as indicated on that playgroup.

Playgroup Cancellation Policy

If the local school district in which the Bright Beginnings playgroup is being held cancels school, then the playgroup is also cancelled. Typically, a playgroup that is cancelled due to weather will not be rescheduled. School delays may affect playgroup scheduling, please contact your individual Parent Educator for information.



Supported by the Kent County Ready by Five Millage

Pre-Enroll Online:

New to Bright Beginnings?
Check out our new ONLINE
enrollment option:

KentISD.org/BBEnrollment

