Bright Beginnings Kent ISD Early Childhood Playgroups

December 2026

Tue, December 1

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

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

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Penguins and Polar Bears
District: East Grand Rapids
Parent Educator: Ainot Crees
Early On Provider(s): Jackie Roepcke
East Grand Rapids Library
Address: 746 Lakeside Dr SE, East Grand Rapids, 49506
Please note the start time. Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

Wed, December 2

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Dino-mite Discoveries
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. A staff member will meet you at the door.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Penguins and Polar Bears
District: Caledonia
Parent Educator: Ainot Crees
Duncan Lake ECC
Address: 9751 Duncan Lake Ave SE, Caledonia, 49316
Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Holly Jolly
District: Grand Rapids
Parent Educator: Marlene Raffler
Early On Provider(s): Nicole Mulder
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, December 3

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Holly Jolly
District: Lowell
Parent Educator: Marlene Raffler
Early On Provider(s): Rachel Denhof
Murray Lake Elementary
Address: 3275 Alden Nash Avenue NE, Lowell, 49331
Playgroup will be in the YMCA Room. The Bookmobile will be there! For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Holly Jolly
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

Penguins and Polar Bears
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, December 4

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Penguins and Polar Bears
District: Grandville
Parent Educator: Ainot Crees
Early On Provider(s): Emily Clay
Grandville ECC
Address: 3481 Fairlanes Ave. SW, Grandville, 49418
Join us in partnership with WGVU for extra playgroup fun, including special activities and take-home learning kits! Please note the earlier start time. Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Winter Wonderland
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 with your ID. For additional information call Teresa at 616-337-9715.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Gingerbread and Gumdrops
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.
Vision and Hearing Screening

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Holly Jolly
District: Kelloggsville
Parent Educator: Marlene Raffler
Kelloggsville ECC
Address: 977 44th Street SW, Wyoming, 49509
NOTE: NEW ENTRY PROCEDURE! Please enter through the back door by the playground. Look for the Bright Beginnings sign. The Bookmobile will be there! Questions: 616-528-0866.

Mon, December 7

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Holiday Fun
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.

FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION, GO TO BBPLAYGROUPS.KENTISD.ORG
OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE Kent ISD Bright Beginnings

Phone: 616-365-2276
bb.kentisd.org

Kent ISD

Bright Beginnings Kent ISD Early Childhood Playgroups

December 2026

Tue, December 8

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Holiday Fun
District: East Grand Rapids
Parent Educator: Marlene Raffler
Early On Provider(s): Sarah Kugler
KDL - East Grand Rapids Branch
Address: 746 Lakeside Dr SE, East Grand Rapids, 49506
Join us in the Lily Pad Room. Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fire Station field trip
District: Kenowa Hills
Parent Educator: Heidi VanOverloop
Early On Provider(s): Alli Soukup
Alpine Township Fire Station 1
Address: 1100 Henze St NW, Comstock Park, 49321
Pre-Registration is required. Contact Heidi VanOverloop at 616-552-9931
Pre-Registration is required. Contact Heidi vis TEXT your name, number of adults and children that will be attending
.

Wed, December 9

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Holiday Fun
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.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Gingerbread and Gumdrops
District: Wyoming
Parent Educator: Julie Woody
Early On Provider(s): Heather Tamminga
Wyoming ECC
Address: 4334 Byron Center Ave. SW, Grand Rapids, 49519
For more information please call Julie 616-370-6748

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Penguins and Polar Bears
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, December 10

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sleigh bells and snow
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 Bookmobile will be there!

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Holiday Fun
District: Caledonia
Parent Educator: Marlene Raffler
KDL - Caledonia Branch
Address: 6260 92nd Street SE, Caledonia, 49316
JOIN US at the KDL after LUNCH! Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866

Fri, December 11

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Penguins and Polar Bears
District: Northview
Parent Educator: Kaley Rogers
Early On Provider(s): Lindsay VanGelderen
West Oakview Elementary School
Address: 3880 Stuyvesant Ave NE, Grand Rapids , 49525
For questions please call or text Kaley at 616-419-8204

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Penguins and Polar Bears
District: Thornapple Kellogg
Parent Educator: Ainot Crees
Thornapple Kellogg ECC
Address: 3316 Bender Rd., Middleville, 49333
Join us in a brand new dedicated playgroup classroom space fully stocked with toys, activities, pretend play, and more! For more information please contact Ainot at 616-287-0442.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Holiday Fun
District: Godfrey Lee
Parent Educator: Esther Gomez, Marlene Raffler
Godfrey Lee ECC
Address: 961 Joosten Street SW, Wyoming, 49509
Bilingual- Group English/Spanish. The Bookmobile will be there! For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

Mon, December 14

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Penguins and Polar Bears
District: Lowell
Parent Educator: Ainot Crees
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 Ainot Crees at 616-287-0442 with any questions/concerns.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sleigh bells and snow
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, December 15

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Winter Wonderland
District: Byron Center
Parent Educator: Ainot Crees
Early On Provider(s): Brianne Blevins
Byron Township Branch Library
Address: 8191 Byron Center Ave SW, Byron Center, 49315
Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sleigh bells and snow
District: Godwin Heights
Parent Educator: Esther Gomez, Marlene Raffler
Godwin Heights ECC (GHECC)
Address: 28 Bellevue Street SE, Grand Rapids, 49548
Please enter at the main entrance and check in at the office. Bilingual- Group English/ Spanish. For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866

parents as teachers

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Kent ISD

Bright Beginnings Kent ISD Early Childhood Playgroups

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Wed, December 16

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Winter Wonderland
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.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sleigh bells and snow
District: Forest Hills
Parent Educator: Marlene Raffler
Early On Provider(s): Rachel Denhof
KDL - Cascade Township Branch
Address: 2870 Jacksmith Ave SE, Grand Rapids, 49546
Come JOIN US at the KDL! For more information contact Marlene at 616-528-0866.

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Winter Wonderland
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, December 17

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sleigh bells and snow
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

Holly Jolly
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

Fri, December 18

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Sleigh bells and snow
District: Grandville
Parent Educator: Marlene Raffler
Grandville Education Center
Address: 3481 Fairlanes Avenue SW, Grandville, 49418
JOIN US for GROSS MOTOR FUN! We will be in the Gym with the BOUNCE HOUSE! The Bookmobile will be there! Call Marlene with questions at 616-528-0866.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Winter Wonderland
District: Kelloggsville
Parent Educator: Ainot Crees
Early On Provider(s): Heather Tamminga
Kelloggsville ECC
Address: 977 44th St SW, Wyoming, 49509
NOTE: NEW ENTRY PROCEDURE! Please enter through the back door by the playground. Look for the Bright Beginnings sign. Contact Ainot at 616-287-0442 for more information.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Gingerbread and Gumdrops
District: Godwin Heights
Parent Educator: Esther Gomez
Godwin Heights ECC
Address: 28 Bellevue St. SE, Grand Rapids , 49548
Bilingual- Grupo de Juego en Espanol. Please enter at the main entrance and present your Michigna ID. Bilingual groups

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.

First Steps Kent
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

parents as teachers

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